

RENDCOMB COLLEGE Magazine.

May, 1931.

Vol. III. No. 6.

SCHOOL NOTES.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to N. A. Perkins on being awarded on Open Scholarship in Mathematics at St. John's College, Oxford.

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We also congratulate F. H. Jones on being awarded a Lord Kitchener Memorial Scholarship.

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Many Old Boys and others will be interested to hear that Mr. R. Richings, who was a Master at Rendcomb from September, 1923, to July, 1927, is leaving England in August for Canada. He is to begin working at a new school which is to be opened in Montreal.

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We offer very hearty congratulations to Mr. E. C. Hessing on his being elected to the Headmastership of Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, Bengal.

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No boys left the College at the end of last term. We have one additional member this term, N. Dalton, from Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

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On February 24th a Chess Match of three a side was played against Burford Grammar School at Burford. Each player played only a single game, and the match was decided by two games to one in favour of Burford. N. A. Perkins won at the top board in less than half-an-hour, but in the ensuing half-hour the other two Rendcomb representatives, A. P. Browning and K. Noble, were defeated.

The Senior Lawn Tennis Tournament was not completed last year, as owing to bad weather the final tie between C. W. Wells and C. W. Honeybone could not take place.

The postponed match will be decided this term.

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Founder's Day will take place this year on Saturday, June 20th, when Sir Alan Anderson, K. B. E., will give the address.

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The Old Boys' Cricket Match will take place on Saturday, 18th July.

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We welcome a number of improvements that have taken place in connection with the Library, the management of which has, for general purposes, been taken over by the Meeting. The re-covering of the chairs has been greatly appreciated, as also the addition to the annual grant made by the Governing body. The books have been re-arranged and re-catalogued, and the large bookcase in the hall has to be utilised increasingly for books that cannot find a place on the shelves of the Library itself.

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The former Common Room, adjoining the hall, has been made into a Quiet Room for anyone who wants to read or write in comparative seclusion.

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The following are prefects for the Summer Term: C. W. Honeybone, N. A. Perkins, D. Field, W. Jones, A. Browning, C. Taylor (East); C. W. Wells, J. Allen (South); T. Greenway, V. Page, A. G. Ensor (West).

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Some of the positions of responsibility to which the General Meeting have elected for

the Summer Term are: Chairman: J. H. Dixon; Secretary: A. R. Curtis; Captain of Cricket: C. W. Honeybone; Secretary of Cricket: F. J. Batten; Banker: E. J. Miller.

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All contributions to the Magazine not written by boys are signed by names or initials in brackets.

OLD BOYS* NOTES.

H. L. Theobald has obtained a post with Messrs. Cope, a firm of Piano Manufacturers, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and sailed on April 30th in the Llandovery Castle of the Union Castle Line. His address is: c/o Messrs. Cope, [REDACTED] Port Elizabeth.

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F. L. Stevens is representing Messrs. Harden Bros, and Lindsay of Mincing Lane, Tea Merchants, in North Wales.

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R. G. Daubeny, writing from Bhagalpur, Bihar, gives a frank and lively account of the realities of the Indian situation as they confront a Police Officer. He had recently been playing in the winning team of a Hockey Tournament.

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C. Jones has been lecturing at the Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, Devon.

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H. R. A. Jones was rowing in one of the Jesus Lent boats at Cambridge.

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A. J. Stanley is an agent of the Prudential Assurance Company, and is living at Wellesbourne, Warwick.

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M. R. Weaver, who writes very happily from Halton, is captain of his Squadron Association Football team, and plays for the Station first eleven.

A. Smith sends from Northern Nigeria the following account of an interesting experience:—

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Having nothing much to do before Christmas for a few days, I went to a strange place named Zul, which nobody knows much about, in order to find out a little about the inhabitants. They are wild pagans and consequently it is difficult to get any news from them. But by taking lads of the town out to hunt with me and shooting off the odd question when they were excited and thus likely to let out a secret, I did get a little information.

The town is situated on a slight rocky eminence about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the main motor-road, and was very confined until recently, when people began to leave for bush farms on land stretching away to the north and east.

The chief sent word saying that since I might like to see his lads and lassies, he had arranged for a dance to begin at dusk. This he did, and my impression was of a very healthy, virile, and vigorous crowd. The ladies all have discs about the size of a shilling in the upper and lower lips, cover the body with a brown paint and have hair cut and dressed in such a way as to resemble a Ronuk mop. The dancing that I saw is delightful to watch. The main idea in this particular dance—and there are many kinds—is that the youths stand in line providing the music on drums and pipes, calling in turn upon their chosen favourites to dance a sort of "shimmy shake." When a youth is satisfied that a lady's charms have been sufficiently demonstrated, he politely tells her to return to the ranks.

The men go to the mines for work, but not to any great extent. They all return, I am told.

There are five important religious festivals in the year: the biggest being in February. Others are at harvest and sowing time, in the wet season and in March. As far as I can gather there is only one sacred grove.

Guinea corn and groundnuts are the main crops—the latter being left in the ground until December, when they are dug out with a pointed stick.

When a man dies, a hole is dug in the compound refuse heap. Here he is buried

with his head to the South, feet to the North and face turned to the East. After an interval of about seven days, the family kills five or six goats, beer is made and friends are invited to the feast. Outside every entrance one sees a collection of animal skulls. When an animal is caught in the bush by a member of the family, the head is eaten by the head of the compound and the skull preserved and hung up with the rest. Upon the death of the head of the household, these are taken down and burnt.

This man alone has the right to name children. Seven days after his wife has given birth, a husband kills a dog and presents it to her that she may eat and rejoice.

If a youth desires to marry, he makes a large farm outside the town. His family may assist him in doing this. When the work is completed he calls someone who witnesses its completion. When the farm is finally completed, the girl is taken off at night to her new home. At dawn a great feast at which oxen, etc., are killed is prepared by the bridegroom's parents. Presents of food and beer are then sent to the bride's parents. At any time after this the bride may leave her husband and seek another. Wife stealing is not practised as among the Jarawa. There is a decided richness in wives, and this possibly accounts to some degree for the fact that there is no bride price and no premarriage present.

Every three years each man brews beer and prepares a great deal of food. This is taken to the site of a new farm. The whole town turns out with him to assist in its preparation. One day is devoted to each farm. While they are working, the witch-doctor is hidden away in the bush. A signal is given, and the owner of the farm takes up the ceremonial head dress and presents it to the magician. This gentleman with a long scourge in his hand proceeds to the labour gang and beats the women if they are late with the food. If a man after completing one ridge does not return at full speed to begin another he, too, suffers under the lash. This goes on from 6 a. m. to 4 p. m. If, however, a man elects to work upon his old farm because it is still fertile, and he therefore does not require a new one, he may do so, but only under the rules of the game. It is, I imagine, a compulsory form of rotation, or shifting cultivation. Most farmers welcome the system, which is very necessary

here owing to the continuous cultivation of guinea corn.

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Addresses of former members of the College may be obtained from the Headmaster or the Secretary.

LECTURES.

On Thursday, January 22nd, Dr. Habberton Lulham, who is always a welcome visitor at Rendcomb, lectured to us on "Rolling Stones"—a title that included gypsies, poachers, circus-performers, and a number of other kinds of wandering folk. Once more Dr. Lulham delighted us with his humour and sympathy, and we admired the skill with which from rather slender material he contributed an admirable entertainment. His slides were good, and he brought to illustrate his remarks a number of interesting objects, including poachers' guns, sword-sticks, and the very latest thing in handcuffs. An unexpected and unrehearsed incident connected with the latter was among the amusing features of an enjoyable evening.

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On Thursday, February 12th, Captain Frewen, R. N., gave us a lecture on "The British Navy at War." Dealing only with actions in home waters, he was compelled to omit some of the most interesting episodes, such as the duel between the "Sydney" and the "Emden" and the battle of the Falkland Islands, two of the most attractive encounters to those who know little about the Navy. He related the chief events of the war between the date when the Grand Fleet took up its base at Scapa Flow until the time when the German High Seas Fleet anchored there as British captures of war. The Battle of Jutland was omitted, as it needs a lecture for itself in order to be appreciated. The lecture might, perhaps, have been improved if Captain Frewen had been more technical, and had given us plans of the main battles such as the Battle of the Bight and the Battle of the Dogger Bank. His slides gave ample chance of comparing the sizes of the opposing ships, and he also showed us pictures of typical North Sea weather. If one compared his pictures with some representing the Navy to-day, it would be easy to see the great development in battleship construction since the war.

W. T. G.

On Tuesday, February 17th, Mr. J. R. Eccles gave a lantern lecture on the Tyrolese mountain range known as the Dolomites. Even apart from the lecture the visit of Mr. Eccles to Rendcomb would have been interesting, on account of his personal associations with the College as headmaster of Gresham's School, Holt. No fewer than three old boys of that school have at different times been on the staff at Rendcomb, and Mr. Simpson was at one time assistant-master at Gresham's under the well-known headmaster, G. W. S. Howson. Perhaps it is unfair to speak of a "lecture," for the word implies a kind of formality which does not help towards an appreciation of beauty in Nature, and was certainly absent from Mr. Eccles' talk. It would be truer to say that what we appreciated was the excellent collection of slides depicting some of the grandest of mountain ranges, and that, if any further encouragement was needed, it was certainly supplied by Mr. Eccles' real enthusiasm for the subject. The best artificial representations of natural beauty are bound to be inadequate, but the slides which Mr. Eccles showed were certainly the next best thing to an actual visit to the Dolomites.

C. T.

HOCKEY.

After some useful preliminary practice on the asphalt during the Christmas term, when in spite of primitive equipment we learnt the rudiments of the game, thirty boys started hockey in earnest in January.

With one or two exceptions everyone was new to the game, and the first three weeks were freely spent in a steady shuffling and reshuffling of positions to enable us to get some idea of individual capacity. It has been interesting all along to note where players have changed their positions on the field in changing from football to hockey.

Then came rather more than a fortnight of really keen games—at the end of which time we began, owing to increased speed and a general improvement in play, to feel the need of a formal referee.

Up to now the ground had been very heavy and slow, and at this stage, when we might reasonably have expected it to improve, luck

entirely deserted us, and until training for the sports was well under way, hockey was stopped by hard frost.

At the same time, in spite of definitely second-rate conditions, it has been in many ways a good first season.

D. Field has been a useful and promising goal-keeper. Lack of foot-pads hampered his learning the value of hard kicking.

T. Greenway and F. J. Batten have developed into a remarkably good pair of backs, taking into consideration the short time they have been playing; and they can feel in a position to join a good provincial club when they leave. Greenway has learnt the art of interception better than anyone else, and much of his following-up and passing has been good. On his best days Batten's clean hitting has been a delight.

After the several changes the place of centre-half has been ably filled by J. E. Allen, who was also Captain of hockey. By his own keenness and tireless working on the field he has done much for the game in its initial stages here. He has got the "feel" of a hockey side more than any other individual and his general grasp of centre-half play (which presupposes this) has steadily improved. He should be well able to take his place in a good side later on.

P. W. Harding has been the outstanding forward, and with practice and the strengthening of his wrists should make a really good player. He and A. R. Curtis have been the only forwards who have seriously developed any stick-work, and until the others follow their example the standard of forward play will remain mediocre. C. W. Wells played a keen forward game, but contented himself too much with "hit and run" tactics.

J. C. Maslin, J. E. Miller, E. D. Boulding and K. H. Nelson should be mentioned as useful players and deserve commendation for sticking to their men. A. G. Ensor, M. J. Kirkman and O. G. Morel have improved steadily throughout the season. Miller, Boulding, Kirkman, Morel, R. C. Waters, Dixon, Noble and Wheeler should provide a useful nucleus for next year.

It has been a very enjoyable first season, and not least from the point of view of the Headmaster and staff, all of whom played.

Even though no match has been possible, we can look back with considerable satisfaction upon the term, for the foundation of a tradition by hard and clean play has been laid for subsequent years. It has also been an interesting season in showing how a second winter game enables a different group of boys to get their opportunity to excel, and should thus in the future allow a larger number of individuals to represent the college.

(D. W. L. B.)

THE HOME OF St. FRANCIS.

(Contributed by two members of the College after a short visit to the Home.)

The Home of Saint Francis is situated in a lonely spot in Dorsetshire, some ten miles from Yeovil, and three and a half miles from the nearest railway station, Evershot.

The idea of forming such a place began after the war, when so many men returned home only to find their jobs taken by someone else. Hence many of them went off on the roads, tramping from town to town in search of work. It was Brother Douglas' idea to get the young men—those who still had life before them—off the roads, and to train them for some work in which they were interested, with a view to giving them a far better chance of obtaining employment in the future. And with this idea the Home started. Everything has been going well, and lack of funds to extend the activities has been the only drawback. However, tremendous interest was taken in the Home, an interest which has been growing quickly during the last ten years, and particularly in the last ten months. The Home has to-day several thousand friends, and is well-known over the county. Everyone in the Home is a Brother. Those in charge—they are generally ordained—are Brothers, and the actual inmates are Brothers, and the visitors—of whom there are generally at least one in The Home—are Brothers.

The Brothers in charge, of whom Brother Douglas is the chief, number five or six. These wear the habit of monks.

The tramp Brothers wear their own clothes, which are any that they can obtain. Nevertheless, in spite of this difficulty, nearly

all of them manage to keep a respectable suit for wear on Sundays and other special occasions. "How did the inmate Brothers come to hear of The Home?" is a question which has been asked often. I do not know how the first lot came in 1921, but ever since that time it has been far from difficult to fill The Home. Men who have passed through The Home tell their friends on the road, and news of such a place goes quickly to the ears of such men as those who tramp the highways. Men are often turning up—during the first night of our stay two men turned up in the pouring rain, soaked through, at 2 o'clock in the morning. The Home was full, but they were given a bed and a meal before they started off again the next morning.

The routine of The Home might quite well be the routine of a boarding school.

The Brothers get up at 6:15, and have breakfast at 7:25. Work for the day begins at 8 o'clock, and they work until 12:45, when a "down-tools" bell sounds and the men assemble for lunch. After lunch work is continued until 4:45, when the Brothers have tea, after which they are free until bed-time, which is at 9:30.

The food is not cheap and very plain as might be expected, but a varied diet is aimed at, and the food is a great deal better than any food a man would get while out tramping.

The men get three good meals a day, as well as a supper of cocoa, bread and butter and dates.

After tea the Brothers are free to amuse themselves, and for this purpose most, if not all, go towards the Recreation Room. This room is of a spacious size, with a stage at one end. There is a good fire on cold nights, and a billiard table, books, gramophone and ping-pong, all for the amusement of the inmates.

The stage was very good, and we were fortunate in being in The Home on the evening of a delightful variety entertainment, given by a troupe named The Dorchester Follies. A luxury of this sort is rare for the inmates and Brothers in charge alike, and therefore enjoyed all the more. After supper, either prayers or a talk by one of the wardens immediately precedes bed.

The work of the men referred to previously is of a mixed nature. Gardening is one of

the industries, and any men who enjoy this work, or are skilled in it, are put on to the plots. Fruit and vegetables are supplied to the local markets. Poultry-keeping and beekeeping are carried on, and from the latter industry over a quarter of a ton of honey was sold last year. Printing is another industry, and this was very interesting to watch. At the time of our visit the printers were engaged on the production of "The Flowerette," The Home's bi-monthly magazine. All sorts of work are done at the press, and several testimonials as to the quality of the work were hung up on the walls. We would suggest that the General Meeting see to it that fixture cards, both for football and cricket, are printed there, because work is of far more value than donations in money. Weaving is also carried on, and scarves, mats, table runners and the like are exquisitely made, and are of a quality which would put any production of The Hobbies Club in the shade! Here again I think the College scarves might be made, rather than in some factory.

Basket-making is another industry, although there was not anyone working on them at the time of our visit.

There is also a wood-carver, an oldish man, a cripple, who is a native of Sussex, and who was engaged on the carving of a bull's head. We were shown several of his carvings, which were extremely good.

The whole of the inhabitants of The Home of St. Francis are very proud and fond of their Chapel—very well decorated and furnished. The services are numerous, and short. No one is forced to attend, but the men would not think of missing morning prayer any more than Mr. Snowden would think of forgetting about his Budget! In fact, no visitor to The Home could help being struck by the generally religious atmosphere and the appreciation of the services by the men themselves.

The inmate Brothers receive 1/6 per week for pocket money and tobacco, and a certain sum per week is put into a bank account for them, so that by the end of their stay in The Home—normally about three or four months—they have a nice sum to help them on when they face again the tide of life.

A typical example of the type of inmate is shown by the following story, about a man

there from whom one of us asked the story of his life before entering The Home. He had been a perfectly honest worker, a carman, driving a lorry for a firm "whose directors," he said, "drank too much whisky and backed too many horses", and finally went bankrupt. He was thrown out of his work and was unable to find any more. Such was the story, more or less, of many of the men in that truly remarkable place, The Home of Saint Francis.

ATHLETIC SPORTS WITH BURFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This was the first time that the annual contest with Burford Grammar School took place in the Easter Term. The chief objection to sports in early Spring is the weather, but on March 21st competitors and spectators were fortunate. Rain and cold winds will make even the most keenly fought-out competition a misery for all concerned; a pleasant day will provide exhilaration. Not many old boys were able to attend but Burford was well supported and altogether there was a fair crowd of spectators.

The Open and Junior Quarters came first of all. It is a pity that such an exhausting race should open the afternoon, particularly since the same runners often compete in the Hundred Yards. The Quarter Mile is generally a most interesting race: it demands an extraordinary co-ordination of speed, stamina, and judgment. The distance is too great for a sustained sprint and failing the power to make a blind dash the runners should know their own powers exactly and endeavour to gauge their opponents as soon as the race opens.

Honeybone and Field ran a good race; the former kept a steady, long stride and won by five yards. Field made a good finish and twenty yards from the end secured second place. They used their heads well. But the Junior Quarter showed a good runner who could not hold himself in. H. Miller made a fine start and after two-thirds of the race led by over fifteen yards. He quickly faded out but made a commendable effort to keep moving, but was beaten by both

R. H.

Pearman (Burford), whose race was coolly run, and G. K. Sowerby (Burford).

In the hundred yards sheer speed is the essential, but no matter how fast the runner be, he must pay heed to his start, for it can easily cost him five yards. Not only must he be up quickly, but it is essential that he get up smoothly so that his stride is even and his body well balanced. Again, in the finish so many runners have a habit of flinging their arms up; it may be a natural gesture, but an athlete must learn to control his body and whoever loses a race through this fault only receives his deserts. The runner should imagine another ten yards remain after the tape and bring his body forward – nothing else. Honeybone's win was due to his excellent start; he beat G. D. Badger (Burford) by two yards. H. Miller started excellently but his hard quarter told on him and K. S. Sowerby (Burford) just won. The decided slope down the hundred yards course helps to make a fast time.

The Mile is another race where judgment tells. Again the runner must know his own powers thoroughly. If he has not much speed but plenty of stamina he should begin with the intention of running his opponents off their legs. A runner with a strong sprint but little stamina will let others make the pace, stick to their heels, and try to "kill" them in the last few hundred yards. J. C. Maslin ran a good race, but a faster pace in the early stages might have been better for him – one must punish oneself in a mile race and this unpleasant business is best done early. One of the best milers in the world says, "Stick with the rest till you feel good – then make them run." Perhaps J. B. Cook (Burford) had something like this in his mind. He certainly ran well and finished hard to beat Maslin by ten yards.

In relay racing the old argument that athletics encourages selfishness is nullified (if it ever did hold ground anywhere in team competition). This form of racing makes a special call on the individual's judgment because the whole team is dependent on his finishing to hand on the baton. This year the relay events were much more interesting. Instead of 4 x 100 yards they were 2 x 230 yards plus 2 x 100 yards, and they were therefore run round the track. The Open Relay was won easily by Rendcomb and a close finish seemed likely in the Junior

till Burford made a bad change over in the last stage. This incident will illustrate the absolute dependence on detail in sprint races – the baton further implicates both start and finish.

The Jumping was probably the most disappointing of the events. So much practice is necessary that people seem to shirk it; this is a pity since anyone with an active body and a certain amount of spring can develop into a moderately good jumper. Burford won both Open and Junior High Jumps – by G. D. Badger and A. N. Gorton respectively. J. M. Kirkman, of Rendcomb, was second in the Open and he should, with plenty of practice, become a good jumper. Second place in the Junior event was shared by the three remaining competitors – four feet is hardly a reasonable performance.

The Long Jump was won by D. Field, while Badger (Burford) came second by a few inches. It is essential to know one's run up perfectly – to experiment during competition is both firing to oneself and annoying to others. The other field event, throwing the cricket ball, is hardly worth rank as a serious field event, unless an average be taken of throws with either hand. Burford won first places in the Open and Junior throws.

The Tug-of-War was a climax of the afternoon since both teams were equal in points up to this, the last event. But Rendcomb won the two pulls convincingly; they had much better style although about equal in weight.

Generally these annual sports are well "worthwhile," and it is a pity they do not receive more attention. It is true that they demand a great deal of concentration, but it is the very discipline they incur which is valuable. No other sport demands such a high level of fitness, and a good runner will excel in most games being equal in other things with his fellows. It is true that much depends on natural ability, but anyone with a normal physique and perseverance can become proficient; this is especially true in field events. Rendcomb has had a good tradition in athletics and this is a reflection of the general high standard of fitness maintained. It would be a great pity if enthusiasm for these sports should flag.

(F. H. J.)

ORDER OF EVENTS.

1. QUARTER MILE, OPEN.
1st, C. W. Honeybone (Rendcomb), 55 2/5 secs.
2nd, D. Field (Rendcomb).
2. QUARTER MILE, JUNIOR.
1st, R. H. Pearman (Burford), 67 1/5 secs.
2nd, K. Sowerby (Burford).
3. CRICKET BALL, OPEN.
1st, G. D. Badger (Burford), 91 yards.
2nd, V. D. Page (Rendcomb).
4. 100 YARDS JUNIOR.
1st, K. Sowerby (Burford), 12 2/5 secs.
2nd, H. Miller (Rendcomb).
5. 160 YARDS OPEN.
1st, C. W. Honeybone (Rendcomb), 10 3/5 secs.
2nd, G. D. Badger (Burford).
6. CRICKET BALL, JUNIOR.
1st, E. J. Hackling (Burford), 65yds. 1ft.
2nd, V. W. Pullin (Rendcomb).
7. HIGH JUMP, OPEN.
1st, G. D. Badger (Burford), 4ft. 8in.
2nd, J. M. Kirkman (Rendcomb).
8. MILE, OPEN.
1st, J. B. Cook (Burford), 5mins. 15secs.
2nd, J. C. Maslin (Rendcomb).
9. HIGH JUMP, JUNIOR.
1st, C. Elderfield, 4ft. lin.
2nd, A. L. Gorton (Burford).
10. LONG JUMP, OPEN.
1st, D. Field (Rendcomb), 18ft.
2nd, G. D. Badger (Burford).
11. RELAY RACE, OPEN.
Rendcomb: 1min. 17secs.
12. RELAY RACE, JUNIOR.
Rendcomb: 1 min. 31 secs.
13. TUG-OF-WAR.
Rendcomb.

RESULT:

Rendcomb 21 points.
Burford 18 points.

EFFORT.

With all his strength he pulled, but with no effect. The metal bars remained firm and yielded not an inch, and they remained prisoners as before. Then he relaxed himself to prepare for a final effort; again he pulled with all his might, and slowly the bars parted, and at last they were free.

The master picked up the mangled fragments of toast and put them on his plate, while the rack was returned whence it came.

N. A. P.

DISCUSSION SOCIETY.

(Owing to lack of space in the last number, the notes on meetings that took place during the Autumn Term had to be held over.)

On October 20th, Mr. P. B. Haigh opened a discussion on the problem of Indian government by giving a short summary of the history of India from the Mutiny until the present day; he accompanied it with statistics relating to the geography and ethnography of the country. He dealt more fully with the functioning of the Central Legislature during the last few years—a subject on which he was particularly well qualified to speak as a former member of that body, and a former Government Whip—and also with the present political situation. With regard to the Simon Report he spoke chiefly of the controversial part of its recommendations. He admitted that the issue was impossible to foresee, but his own view was that India, given more autonomy for its central government, will eventually make the Delhi Legislature work beneficially.

The discussion which followed showed the interest of members in the subject and the speaker's treatment of it. Mr. Haigh was asked for further information on many aspects of the problem, notably the racial question. Over England's position and duty in India there was some disagreement, but everyone agreed that the speaker had taken an impartial point of view, and had dealt with a difficult but intensely interesting subject in a very informative manner.

C. O. V. T.

On November 30th, following his lecture of the previous evening, Mr. Thomas opened a discussion on some of the problems of modern Egypt. He remarked that the first difficulty in dealing with this country was that of the large proportion of resident foreigners, for he thought that if British control were completely withdrawn, and the Egyptians given complete independence, it would almost certainly result in France and Italy establishing a large army there, nominally to protect their own citizens, but ultimately to control Egypt themselves. The question of Justice also was not an easy one. While most people would agree that the Egyptians themselves were on the whole a friendly nation, they were thoroughly corrupt and inefficient; this could be seen from the fact that as they were now directing their own system of law, justice was meted out according to wealth. He also touched on the questions of the Suez Canal and the Sudan. The general trend of the discussion afterwards concurred with Mr. Thomas' conclusion that Egypt was not ready for independence, and that the peasants, who comprise the greater part of the population, had no national aspirations whatever: all they wanted was to be able to settle down in peace and work on their land, hoping not to be imposed upon by the higher classes.

C. W. W.

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At a meeting held on Sunday evening, December 3rd, Mr. Burford drew for us a contrast between Classical and Western Culture, as revealed in their architectures.

Mr. Burford began by describing Greek ornament and showed how the limitations of Greek culture imposed a limiting line on Greek ornament. Similarly the limitations of Western Culture had a corresponding effect upon further architecture and ornament. The Gothic builders were not content with constructing what they saw: they expressed what they felt.

Similarly in the buildings of both civilizations Mr. Burford brought out this contrast. In Greek architecture the horizontal and vertical lines balance; and a single structure has these limiting lines, imposing definite boundaries to the whole. In Western architecture the predominance of the vertical line is at once apparent.

Mr. Burford maintained that Gothic and Modern Architecture have the same basic ideas; the expression only of these ideas is different. Where the Gothic builders employed the vertical line, modern architects produce indefinitely the horizontal line; where in the one case elaborate and often fantastic ornament is used, the modern tendency is to dispense almost entirely with decoration.

Mr. Burford illustrated his talk with some excellent lantern slides.

Now we are eagerly anticipating Mr. Burford's next visit, when we hope he will tell us something about town planning.

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On February 15th, Mr. Harvey addressed the Discussion Society on "France and the French." His remarks made those present realise that the French are, on the whole, a more thorough people than the English, and this impression was strengthened by his description of the French system of education, and of the devotion and obligations of the average Frenchman to his family. Mr. Harvey gave some of the reasons why we are apt rather to despise the French, and emphasised the effect upon that nation of its recent conflicts with Germany.

The numerous questions asked at the close of the talk proved that the subject had been one of general interest, and indeed Mr. Harvey's remarks succeeded in providing us with a new and more sympathetic outlook upon the subject of France and her people.

A. P. B.

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On Thursday, March 12th, Mr. Haines read to the Discussion Society some extracts from the works of modern poets. In particular he selected those connected with this county, with many of whom he was personally acquainted. There were the Poet Laureate's associations, shown not only in his poetry, but in his "Tragedy of Nan"; but there were other poets who were more permanently and intimately connected with Gloucestershire, such as W. W. Gibson, Lascelles Abercrombie, Frost, Thomas, Harvey, and Gurney. The discussion which followed centred around subjects varying from the possibility of the abandonment of poetry by Rupert Brooke, had he survived the Great War, to the "teaching of poetry" in schools.

C. W. H.

THE HOBBIES CLUB.

Last term was chiefly noteworthy in so far as it concerned the gardening section. The gardens were re-allotted, and the general plot divided to form three more private plots. Moreover it was decided to make members a small grant to defray the cost of flower seeds and bulbs, and to hold a competition for the best plot, to be judged on Founder's Day.

Mr. Pymont very kindly came and gave a talk to the section on the maintenance of gardens.

The Field Section organised several expeditions and games, but the more strenuous of them were badly attended; maybe the inclemency of the weather can be brought forward as an excuse.

It is a pity that the activities of the section should be confined to so large an extent to Sundays, on which day people most often want to follow their own pursuits.

The Stamp Section were unable to maintain the activity which prevailed last term, owing to a general lack of funds and the fact that most of the possible "swapping" had been done.

Some other sections suffered through the absence of Vaughan, who was their leader, and unfortunately there was no one to be found who could replace him satisfactorily.

Next term the Field Section hope to do some camping out, and if the weather is at all reasonable the Model Boat Section should have an excellent opportunity to show their worth.

N. A. P.

RUNNING.

March 28th, North Cerney Race. — There was a good entry for this race. Maslin and Field ran together until they reached the village road, but then Maslin gradually drew ahead, and finished the course in good time. Amongst the other competitors Nelson must be given credit for gaining fourth place.

Times:

1. Maslin, 22 mins. 11 secs.
2. Field, 24 mins. 50 secs.
3. Waters, R., 25 mins. 2 secs.
4. Nelson, 25 mins, 35 secs.

Harding, Boardman, Dixon, Batten and J. Miller also competed.

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March 31st, Junior Lodges.—It was unfortunate that there were only seven competitors for this event. Moreover some of those who refrained from running were in no way lacking in ability, if we may judge from their previous performances in the race. The winner covered the course in good time, while Pullin, after challenging him for the lead on several occasions, eventually finished second.

Times:

1. Roberts, 14 mins, 35 secs.
2. Pullin, 14 mins, 50 secs.
3. Bettison, 16 mins, 24 secs.

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March 21st, Senior Lodges. —Only five entered for this race, which was won by Maslin, who took the lead from the start. To the onlooker one defect in style was particularly prominent. Both in this and the Junior race the majority of the competitors carried their arms too high. The defect was even more pronounced at the finish, and as a result much of the extra energy which was put into the last sprint was wasted. If a runner finds it beneficial to swing his arms across his body, he should endeavour to keep them below his chest.

Times:

1. Maslin, 13 mins, 33 secs.
2. Field, 14 mins, 25 secs.
3. Waters,R., 14 mins, 47 secs.

C. W. H.

OLD BOYS' NOTES TWENTY YEARS HENCE.

We congratulate the prominent Old Boy who is popularly know as "Speedway Geoff" on winning the Chipping Sodbury Silver Helmet.

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Mr. C. W. Wills, the recently elected Conservative member for Swindon, in presenting the prizes at a local secondary school, said that some of his happiest hours as a boy had been spent in learning Greek. An interruption was caused at this point by an unknown, but heavily bearded, individual who was promptly ejected. The latter has not yet been identified, but it is believed that he has been traced to the vicinity of Upton Cheney.

We congratulate W. T. Gr. nw. y on passing the cycling test.

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We are informed that J. H. D. xonhas opened aschool for Decorous Dancing and Deportment near Manchester.

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Among a number of recently published testimonials to the excellence of the "Rhodian" cigarette we noticed that one came from Cirencester and another from Coalpit Heath.

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Sir Ch. rl. s T. yl. r, addressing the annual meeting of Commercial Airways Ltd., of which he is Chairman, said that railways could still, no doubt, afford a great deal of harmless amusement to children (laughter), but that their day was over.

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We note the publication of a volume of "Cricketing Reminiscences" by C. S. dgw. ck.

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A re-union dinner of the Brotherhood was held recently, at which, we understand, the usual decorations were worn.

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We understand that the final tie of the 1930 tennis tournament will—weather permitting—be definitely played off in the near future.

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We congratulate W. P. rk.ns, J. All. n, and V. P. g. on passing the London Matriculation Examination.

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N. A. P. rk. ns, the eminent statistician, is shortly publishing a pamphlet entitled "Cycles and Circles," or "Punctures per Hour."

J³

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RECITAL.

A delightful recital of violin and piano music was given in the Music Room on Sunday, March 29th, Mr. Shimmin bringing over Miss Grace Adams, of Malvern, to join with him in playing sonatas by Handel, Mozart and Brahms.

The programme opened with Handel's Sonata in A major—a fresh and enjoyable work, in which the lovely Andante shows how effective was his use of simple tunes. The very typical Allegro lost none of its

joviality in a spirited performance. Perhaps of the three works the Mozart Sonata in B flat major was most generally appreciated and was beautifully played. Had it been possible to increase the distance between the artists and the audience the result would have been still better, but it is, perhaps, ungracious to cavil at an unavoidable difficulty.

The concert ended with the lovely A major Sonata of Brahms—perhaps the most enthralling of his three violin sonatas. One sees here, as in so much of his music, how close was his affinity to Wagner—the main theme of this work being so reminiscent of the "Preislied" in the "Meistersinger" that it is frequently called the "Meistersinger" Sonata.

The work is marvellously alive, and shows us Brahms in one of his most romantic moods, and the opportunity of listening to it in a setting such as stretched before our eyes through the big windows of the Music Room—the great avenue of trees looking as though it must inevitably lead to some mediaeval castle—gave an added joy that seldom falls to the lot of the average concert-goer.

The whole recital made one wish more than ever that it were but one of a series of many such happy hours, rather than a much-appreciated, but all too rare, event among us.

(F. R. B.)

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

Since the upper part of the school played hockey during the Easter term, football was confined almost entirely to the Juniors.

In one way the term was disappointing. Although five matches were arranged, only one could take place, owing to illness in our opponents' schools.

The football itself was very promising. In many practise games the Juniors beat far heavier teams, and showed that they were not afraid to go hard against far bigger opponents. This culminated in the match against Cheltenham Central School in which, although not at full strength, they played hard throughout the game against a far heavier side than they have ever met before. Altogether, although they lost 10–0, it was a very creditable performance.

W. J.

GRAIN STORAGE.

(Contributed by an Old Boy in the employment of one of the great Port Authorities.)

There is something romantic, an irresistible attraction, about ships, whether it be the trans-Atlantic luxury liner with its bullion, or the dirty little coaster with its cargo of cabbages; and there exists an activity, an unsettling bustle, and a glamour in a sea-port town that is never found in an inland city. Every tide brings in fresh vessels, with fresh cargoes and fresh people, and there is a continuous coming and going. A port may be cursed with a wretched climate, may be, and generally is extremely dirty, but uninteresting, never. So it is that one who lives in a sea-port, and has to do with the great commerce of shipping finds an additional interest in his work.

Shipping!—a concise bi-syllabic word, but what a colossal field it covers—navigation, naval-architecture, docks and harbours, cold storage, warehousing, cargo operations—there seems no end to its branches. A man may spend his life specialising in one branch and still have more to learn.

At present I am concerned with the warehousing of grain, one particular operation of one particular commodity. Yet the field it covers is enormous. Fortunately it is extremely interesting, which makes the task of attempting to learn a little about the work much easier. The work falls roughly into three sections—housing, storage and delivery. The grain is entered into store by means of elevators, either from vessels or from barges, into which the grain from vessels has been transferred. We own a fleet of barges whose whole-time occupation is bringing grain from ships at other docks to our warehouses.

While in store, the condition of the grain has to be ascertained at frequent intervals, and the menace of vermin kept as small as possible. Besides rat-killer and an army of cats, skilled rat-catchers patrol the premises, and their "bag" is sometimes enormous.

The deliveries are made into coasters, flats, railway wagons, motors, and carts. Except for flats, most deliveries are made in sacks, at about two hundred-weight for wheat, barley and maize, and a hundredweight and a half for oats. It is interesting that grain, especially for small quantities, is

reckoned in centals (a cental being a hundred pounds) and pounds. This system proves very straightforward and convenient, but the conversion to the avoirdupois scale, which we use for large quantities and approximations, is somewhat cumbersome.

The system of warehouse records and ledgers, the result of half a century of perfecting, is almost a work of art. There may be twenty-five thousand tons in store with a thousand tons passing through our hands daily, dozens of different classes of each cereal, and to the account of numerous dealers all over the country, and every pound has to be accounted for. A little elementary arithmetic will show that when the warehouse is full, our ledgers are correct to less than one five-hundred thousandth per cent, of the stock.

The corn market, with which acquaintance must be made, is also interesting. For instance the reasons for the fluctuations in the prices of the different classes of grain, and the niceties of the dealings of the merchants. We have to be very diplomatic in our relations with the different firms. For example, supposing a corn dealer A sells to a dealer B ten tons of wheat, and B sells it to a miller C, the last thing in the world we must do is to let A know who C is.

In addition to the work connected with the housing and delivery, various returns and costings have to be made out, and statistics framed, so that we find plenty to do.

The more practical side of the work, however, holds most attraction. The warehouses enclose the dock on three sides, and at a busy period it is possible to walk across from one side to the other. There may be two vessels in, one perhaps with Russian wheat from Odessa, the other with Plate Maize from Rosario. In addition to the grain going into store by the elevators, numerous barges are clustered round the ships, loading by means of portable elevators. Then at the same time there may be a coaster taking a cargo from store, tugs awaiting the barges, and coal bunkers. So that, with the drone of the elevators, the rattle of the donkey engines, the bawling of the stevedores, and the hundred-and-one other noises of dockland, the dock presents a scene of such bewildering activity that it seems incredible that all the grain gets to its right destination. And yet, as I said before, our ledgers are correct to the nearest pound.