

Rendcomb College Magazine

SEPTEMBER 1929.

Vol. III, No. 1.

SCHOOL NOTES.

It was with deep regret that the decision was made to abandon the celebration of Founder's Day in July. The disappointment was, perhaps, the less in that we had already learnt that Colonel John Buchan, who was to have been our principal speaker, would be prevented by ill-health from being present. Nevertheless, the disappointment was real, and we must particularly commiserate with those who had put so much energy and enthusiasm into preparing the school play which was not destined to be produced.

A change in organisation which will be of particular interest to old boys is that in future there will be only three groups for games and other purposes, the North Group being abolished. For some time past it has been found that the area comprised in the old North Group has not sent nearly so many boys to the College as the other groups. This is purely a question of population, which was not sufficiently taken into

account when the areas were first set. To have made the North Group equal in numbers to the others, it would have been necessary to allot to it nearly all the boys coming from outside the County, and this would have been for many reasons undesirable. It has seemed best to abolish the North Group altogether, dividing its area between the West and East, who in turn each give something to the South. As a result, the standard of Group teams will now be definitely higher, and there will be a greater number of boys available for performing the weekly duties that fall to each group in turn.

We heartily congratulate D. Dakin upon gaining a Goldsmiths' Exhibition at Cambridge University, and also upon being placed in the First Class of Part I of the History Tripos; also F. C. Raggatt upon being placed in the First Class of History Finals at Bristol University.

J. A. Davis and N. A. Perkins obtained the Higher Certificate of the

Oxford and Cambridge Examination Board. The latter is to be congratulated on winning this success at the age of sixteen.

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The following gained Certificates on the result of the General School Examination of London University in June:

A. P. Browning, C. Eyles, J. E. Eyles, D. Field, C. W. Honeybone, W. Jones, C. H. Nawton, H. J. Phillips, C. G. V. Taylor, R. Townsend, A. C. Wager, C. W. Wells, P. H. Wyon.

Of those mentioned above we congratulate Field, Honeybone, Jones, Phillips, Taylor, and Wells on having Matriculated, and Browning, Field, Jones, Taylor, and Wells on having obtained Certificates in Honours. We also congratulate M. R. Weaver on being admitted to the Royal Air Force as an Aircraft Apprentice.

The number of boys in the College this term is 65, the largest number that there has yet been.

The following left the College in July:—F. H. Jones, C. E. Hartland, R. A. Childers, C. Eyles, A. C. Wager, F. Knifel, H. J. Phillips, M. R. Weaver, C. Price, R. Townsend, T. Evans.

The new boys who have joined the College this term are:—J. G. Atkinson (Soberton Towers, Hants), A. E. Brain (Bitton Council), R. C. Brain (Littledean C. Of E.), T. L. Cambridge (Minchinhampton Boys), C. E. Coles (Bitton Council), J. R. Davies (Staple

Hill Council), H. C. Hanks (Minchinhampton Boys), R. T. Humpidge (Duncan House School, Clifton), G. A. Lowe (Berkeley Senior), H. E. Miller (Cirencester Council), V. W. Pullin (Newtown Council), D. A. Richards (Woodchester Endowed), M. C. Richardson (Downs School, Colwall), J. F. Roberts (Powells C. of E.), A. E. Shield (Berkeley Senior), C. Sidgwick (Dragon School, Oxford), R. A. Skelton (Lydney Junior), N. Slade (Chipping Sodbury C. of E.), P. S. Soso (Gordon Hall School, London), A. D. Thomas (Painswick Boys), G. D. Waters (Chipping Sodbury Grammar School), W. Y. Willetts (Staple Hill Council), A. M. Wilson (Northcliffe House School, Bodnor).

The following are prefects for the Autumn term:—J. A. Davis, C. W. Honeybone, N. A. Perkins, D. Field, W. F. Jones (East); D. B. Haes, J. Eyles (West); C. H. Nawton, C. W. Wells, P. H. Wyon (South).

The principal positions of responsibility to which the General Meeting has elected for this term are: — Chairman: J. A. Davis; Secretary: V. Page; Captain of Football: J. A. Davis; Entertainments Committee: D. Field, C. W. Wells, W. F. Jones, D. B. Haes, N. Durham; Games Committee: J. A. Davis, J. Eyles, C. W. Honeybone, C. W. Wells, J. Allen; Finance Committee: J. Eyles, J. Lambert, D. Uzzell; Shopmen: N. A. Perkins, J. Maslin, A. Browning.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

H. R. A. Jones and R. A. Childers go into residence at Cambridge in October, the former at Jesus College, and the latter at Trinity College.

F. H. Jones goes into residence in October at St. John's College, Oxford.

R. G. Daubeny is at present A. D. C. the Governor General of his Province.

H. I. Barwell writes from Buchanan, Saskatchewan, Canada, where he is entering the Drug Stores business. He goes to the University at Saskatoon in October. He writes very happily, and adds "I cannot explain what the attraction of this country is, but even now I do not want to come back to England to live—not for £5,000 a year."

A. A. Caley writes happily from Training Ship "Conway," where he will be for two years.

C. Eyles has entered the Post Office at Cirencester.

C. Price has entered the employment of Bon Marche, Limited, Gloucester.

A. C. Wager is working in the offices of Messrs. J. S. Fry & Sons, Limited, of Bristol.

F. Knefel has started work with Messrs. John Lewis & Sons of London.

T. Evans is an apprentice with the Western Electric Company at Cainscross.

R. H. Newport has been awarded a scholarship for a year at the Central School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Editor will be glad to receive immediately all outstanding subscriptions to the magazine for the year ending July 1929. He also wishes to remind subscribers that subscriptions (4/6) for the year ending July, 1930, are now due. He would like to point out to those who find it difficult to remember to send their annual subscriptions that an increasing number of subscribers find it convenient to pay in advance for a number of years.

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

This number of the Magazine is the first of Volume III. Volume II can be bound, for a small charge, if sent to the printer, Mr. S. Walker, Hinckley, Leicestershire.



GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

From a number of events, and problems, and decisions that marked the history of the General Meeting during the Summer term, I will only select a few that may be of interest to our readers who are not, or are no longer, members of the College; these, it is hardly necessary to say, are not always those that were really most important to the individuals concerned, or most absorbing at the moment.

It was decided with very little, if any, opposition to have no Rugby football matches next season, and to restrict the playing of the game to the second half of the Easter term. Almost certainly this was wise. On the other hand it may be desirable that boys before leaving the College should have a chance of learning something about both kinds of football, or at least to the extent of becoming familiar with the rules, and the general principles of play. Further, the introduction of Rugby half-way through the Easter term is a welcome change after four or five months of the other game. On the other hand, it is doubtful whether a small school can really maintain both games with much success, particularly as regards external matches, without devoting to them an amount of energy and thought altogether incommensurate with their importance. If the change is to be made, next season, when the

school will be decidedly young, is the most suitable time to make it.

From time to time certain games have been permitted in front of, or near to, the College buildings at the players' own risk, on the understanding, that is to say, that the not altogether unfamiliar sound of a crashing window does not mean expenditure on the part of the Governing Body. It has sometimes been maintained at the Meeting that the cost of such disasters should fall equally upon all the players, and not only on the one immediately responsible. One of the last term's decisions seems to have established the precept that the responsibility is a private one, and not a public one, unless, of course, the game is a compulsory one, arranged and organised by the Games Committee.

Complaints had for some time been accumulating about the organisation (or disorganisation) of the cycle shed—to such an extent that the cycling of the school was in danger of being seriously restricted. The Meeting took this in hand, made a new code of rules to regulate the use of the building, and, to enforce them, elected two officers, who carried out their duties admirably. Most useful of the rules, perhaps, was that forbidding anyone to use the shed whose cycle is not equipped with a complete outfit of “accessories.” This will eliminate an indiscriminate “borrowing” that was bound to cause ill-feeling.

An intricate affair concerned with some actions (not harmfully intended,

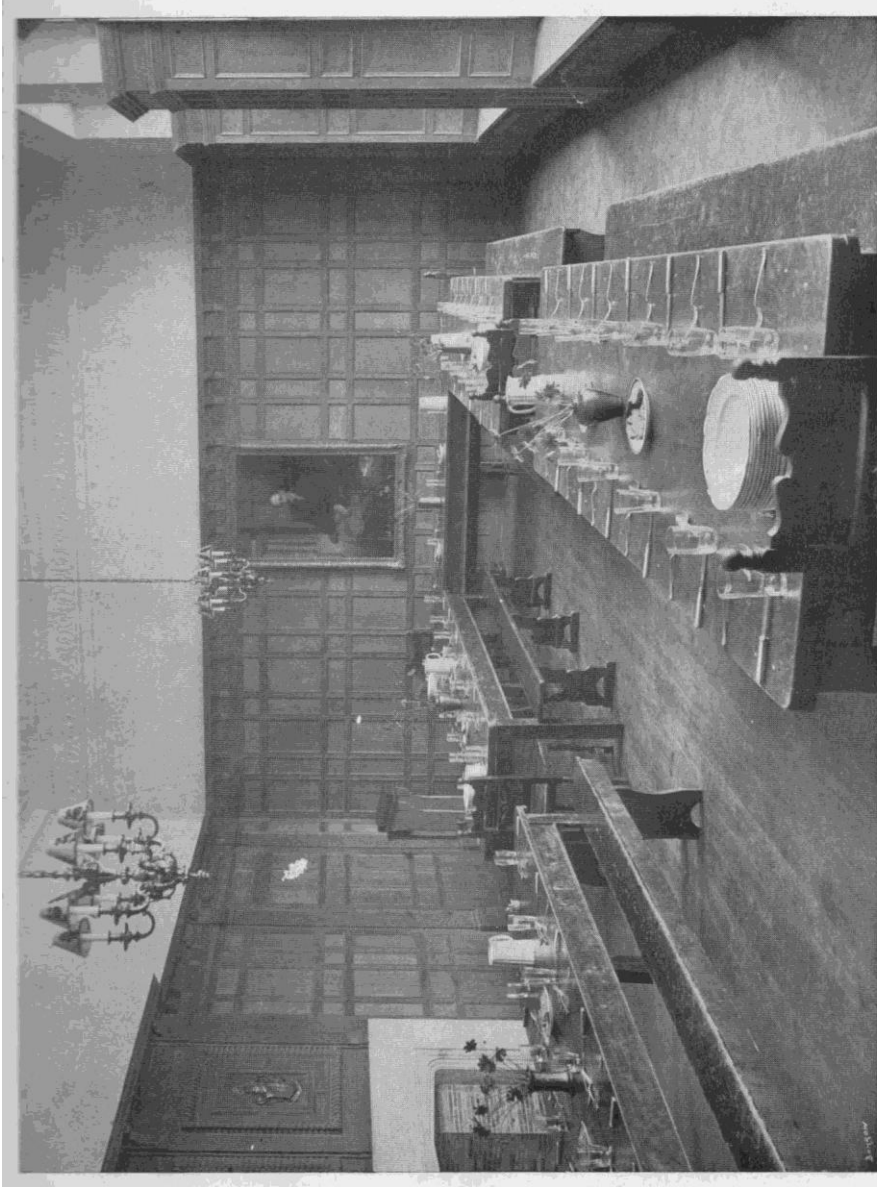


Photo : Dennis Moss, Cirencester.

THE DINING-ROOM.

THE DINING ROOM.

but unfortunate in their consequences) on the part of the shopmen, is too long and too personal to be recorded. It is unsatisfactory to note that the profits of the first term under the new system were adequate.

In ending my remarks about a satisfactory term's work I should like to include a word of praise for the Chairman, who conducted business with firmness, and insight, and the Games Committee, whose work was carried on in rather exceptionally difficult conditions.

[J. H. S.]

DAWN.

The sea has many splendours, none
more fair
Than when at dawn the glinting sun
appears,
And the soft mist of early morning
clears,
Unfolding to all eyes that sight so rare,
High up above, the seagulls scream and
wheel,
Scooping and gliding through the thin,
cool air.
Like them I'd fly, fearless with naught
to care,
And keen delight at break of day to
feel.
Drifting through glass-smooth waters
at her ease,
With sail full set to catch the faintest
breeze,
There rides a solitary fishing smack.
Quickly or slow she goes, as moments
please,
And leaves behind a dying, bubbling
track
To point the mystic highway of the
seas.

D. B. H.

In our May issue we mentioned the beautiful oak panelling with which the walls of the dining-room have been clothed by Mrs. Noel Wills and Lord Dulverton as a memorial of the Founder of the College. We are able to present with this issue a photograph, taken by Mr. Dennis Moss of Cirencester, showing part of the room in its present condition, and we think our readers will at once appreciate how wonderfully the room has been adorned. The panelling itself has an additional personal interest for those connected with the College, in that the greater part of it was originally on the walls of Misarden Park before the fire that took place there in 1919. The two end walls of the room, and the side facing the windows, have been almost completely covered with the original material. The spaces between the windows, the covering of the doors, and certain other parts have been fitted with new panelling which, under the direction of Mr. R. A. Berkeley of South Cerney, has been most skilfully harmonised with the old. In fact the whole workmanship of the adaptation is highly creditable to those who carried it out.

Over the fireplace are the Arms of the Founder and of the College, and at one end of the room hangs the portrait of the Founder, painted by Hugh Riviere (R. A.)

Fine pieces of oak form useful seats above the radiators, and a handsome oak table has already replaced the old unsightly sideboard.

Our very grateful thanks are due, and will be given, to those who have bestowed this gift upon the College.

CRICKET.

During the past season we had several difficulties to face. This was all the more unfortunate, as the outlook at the beginning of the season appeared very promising. It was hoped that for the first time it would be possible to run two games at once, thereby encouraging talent and increasing the interest of the younger forms. Unfortunately the new junior pitch laid down on the extension to the field was not ready for use, and it was therefore decided not to use it during the season, but to let it improve for next year. The net pitch was also found to be unsatisfactory. But fortunately two nets were set up on the enclosed tennis lawn. With a practice ground close at hand matters were improved, and both nets were very much in demand during the first half of the term. As a result the batting improved throughout the school, and a straight bat became more evident. The keenness of some junior members was greatly encouraged by an hour's practice for several weeks, under the supervision of the Head Master. Mr. Hessing consistently coached the team with marked results. In spite of casualties to members of the team during the Easter term, it was hoped that everyone would be fit for the season. Unfortunately Weaver, Meadows, and Honeybone were off games for the first match, but the first two were on again by the second. However, misfortune seemed to dog the team, and Weaver was out of action for the third and succeeding matches. He left a large gap in the team which was never satisfactorily filled, as his bowling would have been exceedingly useful.

The fielding was, on the whole, fairly good, but the team never really had a chance of getting going on its own

ground, as all the home matches came at the end of the term and were cancelled owing to illness.

Batting remained a weak point, though some improvement was made. A rather large strain for making runs was imposed on the first few people. The outstanding batsman this season was A. Wager, who played well throughout the term, and hit up some useful scores when they were needed. He also bowled well, though a little inconsistently at times.

D. B. H.

THE TEAM AND MATCHES PLAYED.

A. Wager batted well throughout the season. As opening batsmen, W. Jones and J. Eyles did not come up to expectations, though occasionally they did well. The former, despite some slowness, satisfactorily filled the position of wicketkeeper, while the latter, in his first season's bowling, kept a steady length. C. W. Honeybone, who was unable to play in all the matches, batted well. A. J. Davis, who had not played for several years, proved a useful member of the team. C. Eyles fielded well at cover and mid-wicket. His batting, which continues slightly unsteady, has improved. Haes, who captained the team, was the best fielder, and has greatly improved as a batsman. Meadows bowled more consistently, and with a steadier length than anyone else. Wells and Langdon-Davies were sound fielders, while Curtis proved a useful change bowler.

Swindon.

The match with Swindon College at home resulted in a victory for our opponents, with the score of 63 to 41 runs. The team batted badly, and scoring was slow. The result of the return match was even less favourable to us. Swindon won by 95 runs for 8 wickets, to 52.

Timbrell's fast bowling on a hard pitch was fatal to us. C. Eyles alone played well to make 19 runs.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

The away match against Wycliffe 2nd XI was probably the best of the season. It end amidst intense excitement, our score being 83, and that of Wycliffe 66 for 9 wickets. Haes and Wager combined in a second wicket partnership for 52 runs Bowling and fielding were both good.

BURFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This was an away match which we won by 57 to 37 runs (Jones 9, Wager 15).

MISARDEN.

We succeeded in winning the away match with the help of Mr. Hessing, L. B. White, K. J. Morgan, and C. W. Clarke, by 39 runs to 17. Mr. Hessing bowled extremely well. (L. B. White 12, Wager 10).

We were, however, overwhelmed in the return match, losing by 70 runs. Major Dawson with 23 runs and Mr. G. Hayward with 38, batted well for Misarden.

RENDCOMB VILLAGE.

The Village beat us by 30 runs, J. Mann batting well and making 35. (Haes 21, Wager 14).

J. E.



TENNIS.

Tennis suffered from a lack of the competitive element so prominent last year. An apologist has plenty of excuses for this; a weakened cricket team and important examinations prevented the developing of five really good players. The majority of the team devoted the greater part of their scanty leisure to practice, but lack of real competition tended to stereotype their play. We hoped we should have been able to increase our fixture list this season, but the same reasons responsible for difficulties at cricket restricted our ambitions. There were only the two Wycliffe matches. These were very much enjoyed, and produced fairly good tennis.

In the first match on July 8th, we almost snatched a narrow victory. The first pair, consisting of C. Wells and C. Eyles were beaten easily in straight sets. They were both somewhat off their game. J. Eyles and C. Hartland, the second pair, gave a really spirited display, and had established a substantial lead, needing only two games to win their match. Eventually they were beaten by two sets to three. J. Eyles was very effective at net, while Hartland, in the back of the court, was able to produce a strong forehand drive which won many points outright. F. Jones lost the first two sets in the singles, but settled down to win the next three.

The return at Wycliffe on the 15th of July proved another defeat. This time we were obliged to play F. Knefel instead of J. Eyles. The first pair gave a worthier account of themselves, but were beaten by superior tactics in straight sets. Their opponents lobbed well and gave few chances at the net. Hartland and Knefel played well, and managed to wrest one set from their opponents. Again the

ANNUAL SPORTS *v.* BURFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

lob played an important part in their defeat. F. Jones was beaten by two sets to three after a protracted struggle. His service was erratic, but the games ran close through all five sets.

The chief criticism to be levelled at the team¹ as a whole was lack of severity in serving. It should be possible to reckon on winning one's own service practically every time. Speed is essential for surety, whether one relies on placing or on' spin, and by itself it is quite capable of winning points outright. Players should hit hard first of all, and strategy, which is born of experience, will come later.

The School competitions, except for the Open Doubles, were devoid of excitement. F. Jones won the Open Singles against C. Wells in the final. The latter was not on form, but played exceedingly well to win the third set when losing by 4—0. The Junior Singles was won by R. Curtis without any great difficulty. In the Open Doubles the draw counts for much. An attempt is made to handicap by partners, but as a rule, one pair will find little obstruction in reaching the final. This year, both pairs were well matched, and only after a great struggle did J. Eyles and J. Dixon manage to beat C. W. Honeybone and J. Miller. The junior partners played for safety. The game in this respect resembled mixed doubles, the older players studiously avoiding each other and playing to the weaker opponent. On the whole both pairs played with good combination and used their leads well.

F. H. J.



The annual sports versus Burford Grammar School took place at Burford on May 11. An exciting contest ensued under excellent weather conditions, and we were finally defeated by one point only.

One feature of the event was that not a single point was contributed to our total by the Juniors. This is certainly alarming, but should not unduly discourage our younger members in future. This can be attributed to the fact that our Juniors are all small and still comparatively young. It would be untrue, however, to say that they were not good, for despite their disabilities they gave an adequate display.

F. H. Jones and A. C. Wager both gave excellent performances. The former won the Quarter Mile, Hundred Yards, High Jump, Mile, and Throwing the Cricket Ball. His distance in the last event was 86 yards. Wager too, gained second place in most of the senior events, and did particularly well in winning the Long Jump with 17 ft. 8 ins. Langdon-Davies came a good second in the Senior Cricket Ball event, but in the High Jump he had to retire owing to a strained thigh.

Butt and Hunt were too good for Waters and Martin in the Junior events, but Waters was only just beaten in the High Jump.

In the Relay Races the Senior Team consisting of Davies, Knefel, Morgan and Wager gave a good display and easily outpaced their opponents. Our Juniors in this event were on the contrary well beaten by the Burford Juniors.

At this point we were leading by two points, but in the Tug-o'-War, Burford won the toss and were able to defeat our team by two pulls to one.

Thus ended a keenly contested and equal counter which, but for the lack of good juniors, would have undoubtedly resulted in a win for us. The following represented the School: Jones, F. H.; Wager, A. C.; Langdon-Davies, W.; Maslin, J. C.; Eyles, C.; Davies, J. A.; Knefel, F.; Morgan, G. T.; Childers, R. A. Field. D.; Greenway, W. T.; Hartland, C. E. Wells, C. W.; (Seniors); Waters, R. C. Martin, M. H.; Harding, P.; Curtis, A. R.; Boardman, W. S.; (Juniors).

C. W. H.

THE SCOUTING GAMES.

During the past three years, the older people in the school have regarded Scouting games with disfavour, and consequently they have been few and far between. This term, however, they have again become very popular, and have provided a welcome change from cricket.

To play one of these games successfully it is necessary for the leaders to make plans, which require much thought and foresight, hitherto neglected. Every man must be alert and ready to make a quick decision.

The first game took place at half term. Operations were conducted within a radius of one-and-a-half miles of the College. Everyone carried a ticket which had to be given up to an opponent after "kill"; a man's "life" taking the shape of a piece of wool tied round the arm. But the chief object of the game was to capture enemy camps, which stood upon hostile territory. The value of thirty tickets was distributed among five camps on each side. The party which was in possession of the greater number of tickets at the end of the game, was the

Field, who was the leader of one side, chose the Cirencester side of the village and Woodmancote roads, as base. Each of his camps was defended by two or three men. This area, being rather open, gave the opposing side a slight advantage. The offensive force was divided into three parties of four, which searched the valley of the Chum and Kennel Bottom. The opposing captain, Haes, instructed his men to scatter, and search for camps, but to avoid encounters with hostile parties, his own camps were left undefended. When an hour had elapsed and the majority of the camps had been spotted, this force met, and divided into two parties which were strong enough to defeat either of the three opposing groups, and to capture the camps. These movements were carried out efficiently, and Haes' side completed their victory by defeating a rather inferior party of the enemy near the Aerodrome.

If the radius had been less, say one mile, the game would have probably proved more exciting.

The second game, which took place several days before the end of term, was held at night. This was a completely new experience to everyone, for the last game of this kind took place six years ago. Flag Raiding, which was the game proposed by Mr. Hessing, is better if held at night. Ten flags are placed within a radius of 15 yds., and guarded by twenty men. The defenders must be at least one hundred yards from the flags, and fifty yards apart. They cannot move from their positions. If an attacker comes within twenty yards of one of the defence, and is recognised, he is caught, and remains with his captor for the remainder of the game, unless the latter is captured by a reverse of circumstances. But the main object of the offense is to capture flags, for a captured defender only becomes a nuisance. The defenders can be so

arranged that after an attacker has evaded one man, he is captured by another. The flags in the first game were posted in the wood which fringes the top of the far side of the Kennel Bottom. Defenders held positions in the copses in front, and below the flags, in Smith's Wood, and near the road leading to the Whiteway. Attackers succeeded in reaching the objective by walking straight up the side of the valley, but were careful to keep out of the twenty yards range of the copses, also by partially encircling the wood, and gaining entrance to it from the back. They captured three flags. The second game that night had as its centre the Upper Wilderness. But unfortunately the more intense darkness and the density of the undergrowth, caused confusion on both sides, which rather spoilt the game. The attackers succeeded in capturing two flags. The game ended at midnight.

J. E.



LONGING.

This is the heaven that I desire—
 No huge abode with soaring spire
 And marble domes with gold afire—
 But a Cotswold house in
 Gloucestershire,

With gardens green and flowers gay,
 And mellow walls of limestone grey,
 And the setting sun at the close of day,
 Lighting my heart with its last fond
 ray.

And from my window, I long to see
 The Cotswold fields, like some green
 sea,
 With poppies red to welcome me,
 And noble elms and a chestnut tree.

C. T. G.

THE HOBBIES CLUB.

The Hobbies Club was founded in the Autumn Term, 1927, and since then it has steadily grown in every way. It has come through many vicissitudes, and has come through successfully. At first the Club was regarded merely as a small collection of people which would probably "fizzle out" in a short time. Only a few realized its possibilities. Now the situation is changed. The Hobbies Club has now become an established institution, and that is a very good thing.

The constitution of the Club is very simple. There is a central committee of seven, who look after everything except the terminal subscription, which is decided by the Club as a whole. Each section has its own constitution, usually a committee of three, which, of course, must come under the central committee in everything. Each section carries on a different pursuit, and although it may raise funds of its own, as a rule it obtains its money from the central funds of the club.

People naturally expect the Hobbies Club to show something material at the end of any term. So far, there has been four exhibitions, and at every one there has been a very good show. The Hobbies Club has only members who are keen on at least one hobby, and so everyone has something to show. At the end of this term the Weaving Section's exhibit was really good. The Section possesses or has been lent, one large treadle loom, one smaller loom, and four small looms, besides a spinning wheel and various other appliances. Weaving takes a long time and there are not many people in the section; nevertheless their show was very good. There was cloth of many kinds, and scarves of every hue. The Weaving

Section is certainly one of the most active sections of the Club.

The Gardening Section, a good second the Weaving Section in the amount and quality of its produce, showed flowers of all colours, and not only was there quality but also quantity. There were comparatively few vegetables, perhaps because they have disappeared during the term! Other sections were represented by some exhibits, but in the summer term indoor work does not find favour with the majority of people. They like to be out-of-doors, and so the Hobbies Club has instituted a new section for out-door work. This section is called the Field Section.

The Field Section was formed to take the place of the old Field Club. Its object is to interest people in natural history, and in the beauties of the Cotswold country. It has organized expeditions to Chedworth Woods and Duntisbourne Roys, places known for their beauty. They went to Barnsley, where they played scouting games on the Wold. And they organized three scouting games, twice only for members of the Club, and once for the whole school. These scouting games were interesting, and at the same time instructive. The chief difficulty seems to be about "killing" a man, but no doubt a solution will be found soon.

Altogether, in every way the Club has had a most successful term. It has become a real part of the school, and is gaining more and more members.

D. FIELD.



LIFE IN AN ENGINEERING WORKS.

As, no doubt, it will be of interest to many of your readers, I should like to give some idea of what an engineer's life entails. Everything is so strange and utterly unlike anything else he has experienced before, that the newcomer is lost for two or three days in wonder. After spending four years in an engineering works, I find it difficult to recall my first impressions since everything has become so familiar as to be an important part of my everyday life.

It is usual to begin an apprenticeship, or period of practical training, with a short period in the Machine Shop'. (The different parts of a complete Engineering Works are usually called Shops, e.g., Moulding Shop, Machine Shop, Fitting Shop, etc.). Hours of work are forty- seven per week, eight and a half a day. Here we start at 7-30 a. m. —12, and then from 1—5 p. m. Both morning and afternoon a buzzer blows a ten minute warning, and then promptly at the hour for work. There is always a system of "check in" at the right time; a person may have a little piece of brass with your number on it (there are so many men in the Works that it is much more convenient to have a number instead of a name), which he has to place in a box before the buzzer blows, or he may have a card which you push into a machine which automatically stamps the time of the card. Punctuality is the first thing learned; there is no dashing down the stairs just after the bell has rung: either you have checked in before the buzzer blows or you are late. If you are one minute late, you don't go before the Works Manager unless you are regularly late, but at the end of the week you will find a quarter of an hour's wages has been stopped.

As soon as the newcomer gets inside the Machine Shop he sees hundreds of lathes and drills and all kinds of machines, making an awful noise which seems at first to be almost deafening. But after an hour or so he finds it not at all necessary to shout, and he soon learns to distinguish the different sounds. After watching another man for two or three days he goes on to a machine on his own, and begins work in earnest. There is no practising on odd bits of steel: the apprentice begins to machine parts which are actually going to be used in the final product. Everything is made to size, and there is no "roughly right." The machinist is allowed only one or two thousandths of an inch error. A thousandth of an inch is not easily seen or felt and at first it is quite easy to make an article too small. A sense of humour is indispensable and leg-pulling is often indulged in: for instance, if you have made some article too small you want to be able to laugh at the man who comes to you with a serious face and advises about using a 'putting-on' tool to make it right.

It is still a source of wonder to me how the intricate organisation of a large works runs so smoothly. Punctuality and accuracy help so much in getting things done quickly and efficiently. At first there is all the routine to fall into; it takes some weeks to be able to be on your feet for eight-and-a-half hours a day, without feeling any strain. In any modern Works there is always repetition work, and it is easy to feel bored after having done the same thing a number of times. Some of the work will be hard manual work too; at other times perhaps there will be little to do, and then it seems ages before five o'clock comes round. But, however much time has been spent in the Works things are always cropping up which are new and incomprehensible.

The intelligent apprentice uses any slack periods for finding out things he doesn't understand and wondering how things can be done better and more cheaply. It is so easy to mope around doing nothing and becoming bored, when a little initiative will make such times of real use to himself and probably to his firm.

After Machine Shop experience comes Fitting, Erecting (which means building), and Testing, then finally fixing the sold engines or machinery on the working site. With fitting comes the use of hand tools such as hammers, chisels and files. Everyone starts with a period of black nails. It is much easier to hit your hand instead of the chisel, but this period soon passes. In the Machine Shop all the work is done individually, but in the Fitting and Erecting Shops most of the work is done in 'gangs.' This is more interesting, since each job is more complete in itself and socially it is more congenial. One of the workmen is a 'ganger'—a man who works with the rest but who organises the job; he also does all the booking up of the work done—very exact records are kept of everything that is done, because usually the gang is on 'piece work,' which means that they are paid according to what work they turn out.

In the majority of cases the gangers and men are willing to show beginners anything that is in their power. It is interesting when working one's way round the different gangs to find out the men's politics, religion, and points of view. Naturally most men in such works are "Labour," although quite a number are not. The 'gangers' have control of their special job only, and have no disciplinary powers. The Foremen are the real "policemen."

After Fitting and Erecting comes Testing. This is the most interesting, because the whole machine is in front

of you and under your charge. If the engine you are testing is running well there is little to do except watch it, and often you will begin to wish that things would go wrong to make work. Fixing the tested engine on the site is the most exciting work of all, and calls for more initiative than all the rest. In the Works big electrically driven cranes lift parts about for you, but if you are putting an engine down somewhere in the wilds, small hand cranes only are available, so that large and heavy parts, such as flywheels and engine beds, have to be rolled or lifted bit by bit into position. In this work there is more scope than in the Shops for anyone wishing to remain a practical engineer.

I hope the above will give some idea of what the interior of an Engineering Works is like. A full apprenticeship should last five years, from sixteen years of age to twenty-one, but this is not at all rigid, and depends on the starting age, and whether one has had any previous theoretical training.

An Engineer may be Electrical, Mechanical, practical, technical, or he may be a salesman. Engineering offers a large variety of openings, but a practical grounding is essential. Nowadays each branch of the trade is specialised; but before specialising it is advantageous to get as good and as general a practical experience as possible. It means hard manual work, but so long as you pull our weight everything goes well. It is wise to remember that there are other branches of engineering as well as the one you are in, and that by knowing your own work you will understand and appreciate what others are doing. Except for the highly technical positions, Engineering simply means applying common sense to any set of conditions.

Since the trade is specialised so much, it is difficult to get a general practical

experience, but in many places there is an excellent Engineering Society, which has a series of lectures during the winter months given by first rate men, and organises visits to all kinds of Works. Again most towns have a Technical School, where it is possible to take practically any subject during the winter months. It is usual for most firms to send several apprentices to the Technical School for one whole day in each week, which besides giving a good opportunity for technical work makes the weeks pass far more quickly.

[AN OLD BOY.]



THE TRAVELLER.

Down the long glade, 'neath the dark
green pine-trees,
Shading from the sunshine, whispering
in the breeze,
Down the long glade, where the flowers
bloom cheerily,
Down the long glade, tramping slowly
and wearily,
Down the long glade a traveller goes.
Down the long glade, in the silence of
the pine-trees,
Through the whispering silence, broken
only by the bees
Drunk with the honey, and droning
homeward wearily,
Past the lone traveller, who walks on
drearly,
Past the lone traveller staggering by.
Past the dark hollow where the clear,
cool water flows,
Past the green glade where the fox-
glove blows;
Past the white anemone, blooming
cheerily,
Walks the poor traveller, staggering
wearily,
Past trees and flowers the traveller
goes.

D. F.

RENDCOMB PAST.

Rendcomb lies high on the top of a projecting headland with converging alleys on either side. As Samuel Rudder, the topographer, remarks:

“There can not be a more healthy situation for the rational and gentlemanlike exercises of riding and shooting.” It may be that its earliest owners chased wolves to their lairs, and it is certain that there was an abundance of deer during the four hundred years it was in the hands of the Staffords, Dukes of Buckingham.

About 1460, Rendcomb was given to the Earl of Warwick as a token of royal favour, but on his attainder it again became crown property. In the heyday of Cotswold prosperity it was held by the Tames, a celebrated family of wool-merchants, and from them it passed to the Berkley family. After the Restoration the estate, was bought by Sir Robert Guise, who built the large, grey, square, stone house. The site of this, it was partly destroyed by fire and levelled half-way through the nineteenth century, was a little to the south of the present building.

The Guises, who are commemorated by an interesting altar-tomb in the Church, had left Rendcomb by the end of the eighteenth century. For many years they represented the county at Westminster. One of these parliamentarians, a notorious dueller, met his death in a hand to hand contest at Perrott's Brook, near North Cerney.

The present church, previously described in this Magazine, was built in Henry VIII's reign by Sir Edmund Tame. He was the son of John Tame to, whom Fairford church owes its famous windows. Rumour has it that the mediaeval glass belonging to Rendcomb was left over from the latter building. The many

crest and armorial bearings in the nave and chancel have a unique appeal to anyone interested in heraldry.

R. G. C.

TWILIGHT.

The sun has set; in the west the sky
glows golden,
With elm trees standing black against
the gold.
The bat begins his silent twilight
swooping.
The sheep are long since gathered in
the fold.
Across the sky the west-bound rooks fly
homeward;
The last, long call comes lingering down
the breeze.
Lone in the distance, heralding the
darkness,
The owl flies hooting out between the
trees.
In nestling villages beneath the down-
land,
Past narrow meadows fringing hillside
streams,
The village children, loitering by the
brook-side,
Turn from their play to where the
hearth- fire gleams.
The hour grows late: the western glow
fades slowly.
High overhead the first faint star peeps
out.
Night thickens, and encouraged by the
darkness.
The fox, midnight marauder, slow
creeps out.

D. F.

SIR ROGER FLIES TO PARIS.

Some time ago I received a lengthy and quaintly worded telegram from my Friend Sir Roger, informing me that he intended to make a journey to Paris, "both for the purpose of transacting business, and at the same time of extracting pleasure and education from the sights of that foreign metropolis," as he aptly put it. This message was so lengthy as to be more in the nature of a letter than a telegram, and must have cost Sir Roger a large sum of money. I learnt later that the old knight, with his characteristic obstinacy, had refused the advice of the post-mistress, and succeeded in using no less than six telegram forms. Moreover, he had the greatest difficulty in deciphering the ordinary abbreviated reply, which I sent him.

Sir Roger had decided to cross from Dover to Calais by boat, but I, thinking that he would enjoy travelling by air, eventually persuaded him to alter his plans, and make the journey in this manner. But I had a hard task to convince him that the saying 'If man had been meant to fly he would have been given wings' need not be taken literally.

When the fateful day arrived, Sir Roger reached the aerodrome fully two hours before the plane was due to start, and I found him in a brown study, "contemplating my past life to see what place of destiny has the more claim on me" he afterwards told me. His old servants, he added, had begged him to send them a message immediately he arrived in Paris, if he ever did arrive, for they regarded his flight as a direct challenge to Providence. He informed me that he was by no means free from fear himself.

When the machine in which we were travel at last arrived, and we had

entered it, my friend expressed his surprise at the comfort of the interior, adding that he always imagined people in aeroplanes as sitting on the floor, and gripping on to the sides like grim death for fear of falling out. He was so busy talking to me that he did not observe the start of our journey, and when I assured him that we were flying high over the English Channel, he replied that he would have thought we were in a rail way carriage, but for the fact that there was nothing to be seen out of the window.

We arrived in Paris without mishap, and made a perfect landing. My friend, having passed the customs barrier, hurried off to assure his friends of his safety.

E. D. B.

FROM A COLLEGE WINDOW.

As I sit here I watch the hillside in front of me. A sombre line of fir trees, darker than the rest of the wood runs parallel to me. Over their tops light green nut thickets stand out, with here and there a gaunt old beech or stately oak. Between these bushes and the firs the road runs, with its quiet hum of traffic. The clearings of the wood are splashed with many-coloured plants, the pink of the wild columbine predominating. The light green hazel bushes and beech trees give place to stretches of grass land further up the hill, over which the slowly moving cows tread softly. Last comes the plough lands, now green with young wheat or red with sainfoin. and crowned with a thin line of shadowy trees.

In the valley the river trickles, with ever and again a trout jumping or a wild duck swimming. Haymakers are finishing

their task, while a horse-rake collects the last wisps of hay. A huge beech tree stands out in the middle of this field, with its spreading branches swaying in rhythmical motion. The leaves of a copper beech glitter above the garden beneath me, where bright delphinium blue is backed by the laurel bushes.

Circular

plots of many coloured flowers lie open to the sky.

The sun is setting and a dull haze begins to cut across the view. The leaves no longer sparkle in the sunlight, the trees have lost their rhythmic swaying, and the landscape hides its beauty for a while.

B. J. M.

