

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

The tennis posts on the front lawn of the College have been permanently embedded in concrete, and this will obviate the time-honoured difficulty of driving wooden pegs into solid rock. It is hoped to treat the posts on the courts at "The House" in the same way next year.

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During the Easter Holidays the old kitchen range was removed and a battery of three up-to-date and highly efficient Aga Cookers installed. At the same time a plate-warming cupboard was put in and new washing-up arrangements were made in the pantry. These have resulted in a considerable saving in labour for the domestic staff and should also prove to be an economy for the College.

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We were all sorry to lose Miss Steele-Smith at the end of the Easter Term. Her place as assistant matron has been taken by Miss M. McCabe.

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The usual consignment of models from the workshop was sent to the Three Counties' Show at Worcester. A flap table with a revolving top, made by O. G. Morel, was highly commended for design but we did not win a full award on this occasion.

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Early in the year the laurels and bushes in front of the College and on either side of the back drive were cut down to within about two feet of the ground. Although it left the grounds rather bare during the Summer, the

change was, nevertheless, a great improvement. When the shrubs have sprouted and the whole area has thickened this improvement will be even more marked.

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More than the usual amount of work was done on the theatre during the term, and the stage men, under A. E. Shield, are to be congratulated on the excellent state of the theatre and precincts on Founder's Day.

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E. D. Boulding, A. R. Curtis, R. C. V. Waters and J. R. Wheeler gained Higher School Certificates of the University of Cambridge at the Examination held in July.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We are sure that all Old Boys will join with us in congratulating Robert Childers on his marriage to Miss Christabel Manning in June.

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It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Leonard Stevens, who met with a fatal motoring accident at Shrewsbury in May. One of the early members of the College, he came to Rendcomb in January, 1921, and left in April, 1924. On leaving the College, he joined his father in his business at Brimscombe, and later became associated with a well-known tea firm, being in charge of a large district with headquarters at Rhyl. Leonard Stevens will be remembered by his contemporaries as a remarkably good footballer—he was, throughout his time

at Rendcomb, always a very useful member of the College first eleven—and as one of the earliest and best helpers in the College Shop. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife, baby and parents in their great loss.

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In June Tony Perkins was elected Secretary of the Oxford University Chess Club.

FOUNDER'S DAY, 1933.

We reprint the following account of Founder's Day from the "Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard":

"Founder's Day was celebrated at Rendcomb College last Saturday, when, as usual, there was a large gathering of parents and of educationists from many parts of Gloucestershire.

The Rev. Canon H. Sewell, LL. D., Chairman of the Governing Body, presided, others on the platform being Mrs. Wills, the Earl of Dunmore, V. C., D. S. O., M. V. O., Lieut.-Colonel Russel J. Kerr, Mr. H. W. Household, Mr. J. Cookson, Mr. D. W. Lee-Browne, headmaster, and other members of the teaching staff.

The Chairman said in these days of extremely quick motion people were apt to forget what those who had gone before them had done for them. Therefore on a day like that he always liked to call to mind what they in Gloucestershire owed to their Founder for the work he had done.

He read a telegram from Lord Dulverton saying that his thoughts and good wishes went towards Rendcomb on that anniversary of Founder's Day. He hoped everyone would enjoy the occasion, and much regretted his inability to be present. From Mr. and Mrs. Simpson he read a telegram conveying their best wishes.

Extending a welcome to the Earl of Dunmore, he said they were very pleased to have him because he was a distinguished man, a man of the world who absolutely knew human nature, which was one of the things which they all wanted to learn if they were going to live the life before them.

It was a pleasure to welcome for the first time Mr. Lee-Browne as their headmaster. One thing he could say without reservation about him: he was extremely human. He had every confidence that he would do his very best for the boys in the school, and he would make the school a success. It was a great trust to place in the hands of anyone, but he personally had a great belief in him.

The school was doing well, had done well, and they now had boys of promise in the school. Those who had got brains and promise in them should not be in too vast a hurry. The plant that grew with some slowness very often became a better plant. There was very little in this world that was done without thought if it was really going to last.

Headmaster's Report.

The Headmaster, Mr. Denis W. Lee-Browne, prefaced his report by expressing his pleasure to see such a fine gathering that afternoon. It was good to know that old friends were continuing their interest in what the College was doing, and delightful to see so many people there for the first time.

The health of the College had been uniformly good. They had a not serious outbreak of chicken-pox last July—their only attempt at a proper epidemic during six years. Since September only one boy had been out of school for anything other than minor games' injuries. They might say the College had had an amazing run

of luck. He agreed that it was hard to believe that chance did not enter into it. At the same time they got from Dr. Gladstone medical supervision of a very high order, and without fussing. His contribution to their health is a most important one, not least because he was as keen on prevention as he was sound at cure. He was more than ably supported by Miss Simmons, whose sympathetic care and skill had proved to be more than ready for all emergencies. The health of the College was, he was convinced, also greatly influenced by diet. There again Miss Simmons was one of the foundations of the place. She brought both enthusiasm and great knowledge to her work, and it was difficult adequately to express his appreciation of her loyalty and help to the College in that and countless other ways. Lastly the place was a happy one, and he was sure that counted towards bodily fitness.

The Governors recently decided to modernise the kitchen, with the result that the old range had given place to a gleaming battery of Aga cookers, while a new plate warmer and other improvements had also been added. Those who were interested would later have an opportunity of seeing those improvements. Mrs. Wills came over and was of great help in this connection.

In December last the Governing Body purchased the Old Rectory, in future to be known as "Rendcomb House." Central heating and adequate domestic hot water were installed during the Christmas holidays, and the building was at presently being used, for increased dormitory accommodation.

For reasons which would be clear, and of which he hoped they approved, his wife and he went to live in the main College building in September last. That was not really a new departure, but a reverting to the original scheme. He was sure it was the right thing to do, at any rate for two or three years.

It was not altogether easy to attach the religious service of a boys' boarding school to a parish church service for adults. He would like to take the opportunity of putting on record how much the College appreciated the kindness and consideration of Mr. Inge in that respect. He had done everything he could to make matters run smoothly, and his cooperation had been most valuable.

For his teaching staff he had nothing but admiration, and he wished to express his appreciation of their enthusiasm for their work and their loyal co-operation with himself. In September Mr. Fogden moved into Rendcomb House, and since then had there looked after a succession of happy groups of people. He was personally grateful to him for his help as his senior master, and also for his keenness in organising reading parties, visits to churches and other activities.

Mr. James continued to carry high the standard of History. Out of school he gave much time and skill to the cricket, which was already showing a marked improvement.

Mr. Woodroffe, a Demy of Magdalen College, Oxford, and holder of a brilliant degree from that university, joined the staff at the beginning of the year to take charge of Biology. He shared the laboratory with Mr. Richards, and the scientific exhibition which they and the boys had organised, and which he hoped they would all make a point of seeing, was adequate testimony to the vigour and keenness of their work. This year, for the first time they had Science Members of the Sixth Form, and two boys were in process of taking their Higher Certificate in that department.

Mr. H. W. Hosken, of St. Peter's College, Oxford, also joined the staff in September last. He brought with him another innovation in that, as well as French, they now had German as a post-certificate subject. Last term he produced the best French play they had had at Rendcomb for the past seven or eight years.

Miss McCabe, came there in April as assistant matron, to take the place of

Miss Steele-Smith, who left to look after invalid parents.

Mr. Shimmin was the oldest inhabitant and continued to do fine work with the Music in spite of all the difficult circumstances of a visiting master. He was sorry to say that Miss Leavey, who had for some years most ably taught Drawing in the school, was leaving at the end of the term to take up other work. They wished her every success and happiness.

What he would have done during the year without Mr. Rawlins and Mr. Perkins the clerks to the Governing Body, he did not know. In all kinds of ways and over many difficult problems, their help and advice had been of the greatest assistance.

The number of articles on show from the workshop this year was smaller than usual. That was due to a number of contributory causes, of which the main were that during the School Certificate year only one senior form was doing manual work. Much time had also been spent by a keen group of boys in reorganising and adding to the stage equipment, and during the last 18 months he himself had been able to give less time to the workshop in out of school hours. That he hoped to be able to remedy in the coming year, but even so, now they had a keen Science department, he thought that inevitably, and rightly, a number of boys who would formerly have gone to the workshop would gravitate to the laboratory in their spare time, and that would undoubtedly, decrease their output. Two pieces of furniture were sent to the Three Counties' Show, and, as in past years, aroused considerable interest.

Out of school activities continued to flourish. During the year a group of boys completed Sheet XLIII. of the Survey of England, organised by the London School of Economics, and some of them were now co-operating in a scheme set on foot by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

After a period which was not conspicuous for its successes the games were once again looking up.

Acting had always been one of their strongest activities, and this year they had produced something like 22 plays. He was sure that was sound, and did more almost than anything else to overcome self-consciousness. As an experiment they entered two plays for the County Drama Festival, and, there being no juvenile class, the College team competed on equal terms with adults. Although they did not receive an award, the adjudicator commented very favourably on the work done, and he hoped to make that an annual event. He was grateful to his wife for taking over the costumes for acting, for helping with singing when Mr. Shimmin was not there, and for accepting major responsibility for the gardens.

One completely new interest had come to the College in the cinema. The more he saw of it, the more firmly he believed that cinema must be tackled by the schools. That it had come to stay was certain, and that it presented a problem was equally true. The adults of today grew up—and then came the cinema. Enormous numbers of the coming generation were being brought up in the cinema. Internally, as an educational instrument, it presented attractive possibilities, and dangerous shallows. Outside it stood as a vast organisation about which and its productions he believed their boys and girls should at least have a critical faculty. Here they had started to explore, and he hoped to have more to report when they met next year.

People often asked him, "What do your boys do when they leave?" What some of them have done would be seen from the programme, and mention of a few others might be of interest. R. G. Daubeny who was in the Indian Police, had recently been appointed A. D. C. to the Viceroy, a

post which had never before been given to a member of the police service. Anthony Perkins had been made a secretary of Oxford University Chess Club. F. Knepfel and D. B. Haes had successfully launched a business for making high-class hand-made furniture. M. H. Gleeson-White, having gained a fine degree in forestry at Edinburgh University, and having been in the Indian Forestry Service, had, on account of conditions caused by the crisis, decided to study medicine in London. D. Terrett, after experience on the Stock Exchange, had been appointed a sub-editor on the financial side of a well-known newspaper. D. Dakin held a fine teaching post in History at Aske's School in London. Several Old Boys were teaching in elementary schools.

The Old Boys' Association was in a flourishing condition, and on June 3rd they had a gathering of some 24 Old Rendcombians. It was a pleasure to see a number there that day.

He could not go further without mentioning his Prefects. J. R. Wheeler was senior prefect. E. D. Boulding, C. Sidgwick and A. R. Curtis were group leaders. Together with five other prefects, they constituted an executive body of older boys of whom it was difficult to speak too highly. He was deeply grateful for their loyalty and for the spirit of co-operation in which they had worked with him. The College owed much to their tact, enthusiasm and efficiency.

It was impossible to let his first Founder's Day as headmaster go by without acknowledging his great personal debt to his predecessor, Mr. Simpson. As a chief he had the gift of making his staff really think for themselves, even though they did not necessarily agree with him. He was always alive, always stimulating, always ready to help a younger man out of difficulties. Much of his teaching, both of staff and boys, and many of his ideas, had the spark of educational genius in their forging. No master served under him without taking away something that was worthwhile. He created many things there that were new and interesting—

often new in spirit rather than in the letter—and he counted himself fortunate in having been with him for so long.

To the Chairman he said it was a very real pleasure to tell him how glad they all were to have him with them there. There were many of them in that room who were too young to remember him when he was the keystone of secondary education in that county, but that did not prevent them from knowing about it, and about the way the University had honoured him, or from being as proud as they were that he was the Chairman of their Governing Body.

His last word was to thank the parents for all that they had done to make things easy for him and for his staff. He was convinced that co-operation was of vital importance. They could do little or nothing for their sons unless they had the parents whole-heartedly behind them. With that the school would go forward, without it—well, that would not happen, so it was a waste of time contemplating it.

Address by Lord Dunmore.

The Earl of Dunmore said he had come to address them in place of a very old friend of his, Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, who unfortunately died only a few months ago, after having accepted their invitation.

The Chairman just now described him as being distinguished, a man of the world, with a great knowledge of human nature. Their Chairman was a Canon, and he was Chairman of the Governing Body, so he would merely remark that he was afraid he was a man of great imagination. (Laughter). He was not going to contradict him, because he was only trying to solace them for the fact that he was a very poor substitute for the very distinguished soldier who was to have come there to address them.

At the same time it was rather a peculiar happening that he should be asked to replace him for Sir William Robertson and he both commenced their Army career

in the 16th Lancers. The great difference between them lay in the fact that Sir William Robertson started his career at the bottom of the ladder as a trooper, and rose to the highest rank in the British Army, that of Field-Marshal, whereas he started his career further up the ladder as a lieutenant, but never got beyond the somewhat modest rank of Colonel, and that only in the war.

He could wish that Sir William Robertson had been able to come there and address them, if only for the fact that his career testified, more than that of any other man he knew of, to the fundamental truth of the theory upon which that College was based. For that College, he understood, was founded on the theory that brains and character were the requisites for leadership, and that what was required of education was to give those the environment and the opportunity to develop along the right lines.

He thought it would be very interesting to know whether brains or character was the vital factor in shaping Sir William Robertson's wonderful career. Personally he thought it must have been character, for he was a man who was always out to do his job, whatever that job might be. For a great many years the position he occupied was by no means distinguished or prominent. He was just a trooper in the Army, but whatever it was he always did his job to the best of his ability. He did not think—and he knew him very well—that he was ever out for honour and glory for himself, and he thought that was the reason why eventually every honour and every glory came to him. And with it all he was a happy man. He was happy in the sense, in the feeling that he had found his place in the world, a thing which a great many of them today would like very much to be able to do.

He sometimes wondered why it was that in the world of today it seemed so very difficult for many of them to find any sort of place for themselves; for there must be a place for each of them, a place which was intended for them, and which no other person in the world could fill.

Otherwise it was a world of chance, a world without meaning, without guiding principle or practice.

He knew it was very difficult sometimes to believe there was a place for them, when one saw all around so much unemployment, so many people who failed to find any sort of success or happiness in life. Most of them sooner or later from their own experience reached the conclusion that it was because they looked for success in a mistaken way, lacking in the understanding of the meaning of life and its wonderful possibilities.

He was very sorry that he never knew Noel Wills, who was responsible for that College, for if ever any man had understanding of the subject it was Noel Wills. In founding Rendcomb College he tried to devise a system of education which was really going to help boys to find their places in this somewhat complicated business of life.

Many men had founded schools, but Noel Wills did a little more than that. He founded Rendcomb, which was a sane idea aiming at something more human, and at the same time much more practical than anything which had ever been conceived before by our educational authorities. He thought that, seeing all the wastage—wastage of brains, character, and everything else—all around him in the world, Noel Wills must have said to himself, "I am going to give some portion at least of the rising generation the opportunity not only of finding their career but of finding happiness," in the doing of which he showed an understanding of what a very happy thing life is meant to be.

It must seem somewhat odd—putting it in that way—at a time when there was so much unhappiness, misery and unemployment, but it was just because there was so much wrong with the world today that they had got to try and see the why and the wherefore, and, if they went into the root of the matter, he thought they would always find that fear and lack of co-operation between nations was responsible.

He thought fear was the procuring cause and foundation of all the trouble in the world. It took many forms, but he thought the only thing they needed to know about it was that it was always useless and always unnecessary. He recalled the tale of the old lady who always curtsied when the name of the devil was mentioned in her presence. She was asked why she did so, and replied, "It costs very little, and one never knows."

If they looked round the world today they would find many nations and many individuals with much the same mental outlook as that old lady, not only very fearful of what was going to happen in the future life, but fearful of what was going to happen to them in this life. And yet we knew that fear and lack of cooperation were absurdities in a world of intelligent human beings.

Fear and lack of co-operation led, not so long ago, to the most disastrous war that had ever occurred in the history of this little race. Fear and lack of cooperation had led since then to a selfish nationalism which had gone very near to ruining the world. Broadly speaking, the only reason for the summoning of the conference now sitting in London—the conference of representatives of all the nations—was that nationalism had broken down, and the terrible need of some sort of international action had been brought home to every nation in the world.

It was almost incredible that ever since the war nations should have failed to cooperate with each other in any form or fashion. It reminded him of the story of a ship wrecked on a desert island, the only survivors being two Irishmen, two Scotsmen, and two Englishmen. At the end of a fortnight the two Irishmen had fought each other to a standstill, the two Scotsmen had formed an Aberdonian club with membership limited to two, and the two Englishmen were still standing there waiting to be introduced. That was very much like what they saw in the world. For a great many years nations

had been either fighting each other or trying to get a monopoly of the trade of the world for themselves, or standing aloof waiting as it were to be introduced to each other. And that attitude was what had led to this enormous problem, in every country in the world, of unemployment. There were thirty million unemployed today, and it meant that nations had got to give up trying to get everything for themselves; otherwise it would end in neither of them getting anything.

The only bright spot that he saw in the situation was that events were always forcing us to move onward, whether we liked it or not. We were all at school in a sense and we were always learning some lesson. As we learnt our lesson there we came out of that particular trouble and that was what progress was.

Look around the world today. One could realise there was nothing to be afraid of. However badly things seemed to be going there was never anything to fear, for it was events forcing us as a human race to go forward. That was borne out if we looked at what was happening in London at that moment. There were the representatives of 66 nations trying to think out economic relations with each other. That, surely, was the beginning of co-operation between the nations of the world, and, if so, it was an entirely new departure for the human race. It was the first instance in the history of the world of a world conference of nations.

He remembered hearing of a conference at the Tower of Babel, and he also had an idea it ended in chaos. The conference in London was not going to end in chaos. The nations had got too near the edge of disaster to let it end in nothing. He would have them remember, especially when they heard criticisms, that, whatever the immediate result of any of those things, one thing was certain: it was a symptom of the change coming over men's minds, and it was

only by change in the minds of men that they were ever going to achieve any of the things they were aiming at.

He never went to Canada without being deeply impressed by the fact that one could travel there for three thousand miles on the frontier without finding a single fort or a single soldier. The safety of that frontier obviously lay in the minds of the men on either side of it. The Americans and the Canadians knew that under no circumstances would they ever resort to force to settle their difficulties. And that was what we had to get to in Europe. But until we did reach that very happy solution we should not only belong to the greatest madmen the world had ever seen, but also to the most peaceful people who had ever inhabited this earth, we had to maintain a navy and army to keep the peace of the world.

He was not saying one word in favour of either war or armaments. He hated them both, and would be glad to see both abolished. He had been in four wars and during those wars he had lost nearly all his personal friends. But all the same he would point out that disarmament was not necessarily a prelude to peace. They could well imagine that disarmament might be a direct incentive to war, so long as any country in Europe maintained an aggressive mental attitude, and he thought recent events and speeches of eminent statesmen of one particular country in Europe were by no means reassuring.

We could not look to the League of Nations to ensure peace. The League of Nations was doing a great work, and had done great work, and would go on. The League was maintaining and inculcating an ideal of peace and co-operation between nations which we must all aim at and support. In other words, the League of Nations was very largely educational, but until the education was continued it could not ensure peace. Some day, if we went on working—and England was always working—if we went on trying for that ideal, we should attain it, and we should see the dawn of the brotherhood of nations and of a cooperative spirit in industry. When that time came he hoped we would have more

time for the important thing in life, for scientific research, for studying the wonders of this very wonderful world.

He wished with all his heart that there were colleges like Rendcomb College dotted all over the country, providing the rising generation with scope for development in every relation of life that was of benefit to them and to the community; for in that atmosphere he saw every incentive to enterprise and initiative.

None of them ever need be afraid that he would not get the opportunity for enterprise or initiative. They were both badly needed by the world, and if they were ready to do their job the opportunity would come.

He was only sorry it had fallen to him to address them, instead of the very distinguished soldier, who would have done it very much better. Anyway, it had been a very great pleasure to him to come down there and see Rendcomb in all its loveliness. If he had been educated there he thought he would have kept throughout his life a love for Rendcomb and its beautiful surroundings.

Colonel Russell J. Kerr, moving a vote of thanks to Lord Dunmore, said his address to the boys contained much for many of them who had left boyhood and youth behind them, for which they might very well be thankful. They were there to honour the memory of one who had a vision, and on the fulfilment of that vision depended the ability of the staff, the character and conduct of those who were in school, and furthermore, the estimation in which the school was held by those who had passed through it, and still more by the relation between past and present students.

He did not know how it might have appeared to Lord Dunmore or what impression might be left upon his mind, but he sincerely hoped that he would take away with him the impression that that school at Rendcomb, young as it was in years, was a very live organisation. Then he would feel that his coming there had not been in vain.

Mr. J. Cookson seconded the vote of thanks, which was warmly accorded

The speeches were followed by a short display of Physical Training, given by junior boys on one of the lawns, the very smart execution being testimony to the care of the instructor, Mr. A. G. G. Richards.

A number of visitors then inspected the modernised kitchen, an exhibition in the laboratory and the woodwork, which was displayed in the hall.

After tea a performance of Harold Brighthouse's pretty play, *Maypole Morning*, was commenced in the woodland theatre. This, however, was interrupted by heavy rain, and after a second interruption, abandoned. But it had proceeded far enough to show the quality of the entertainment arranged, which was of the high order visitors had long since learned to associate with Rendcomb productions.

The scene was a green near Tunbridge Wells early on the May Morning of 1665, after the restoration of the Monarchy, but while much of the severe puritanical atmosphere yet remained.

So far as it was unfolded, the story dealt with the love of a Royalist soldier and a Puritan maid, whose father had arranged for her the cheerless prospect of union to an atrabilious, grim-visaged Parliamentarian. The father, too, was a dismal, melancholic personage, and in his capacity of squire exercised a stern, "Dora"-like repression of all the "pagan" practices associated with May morning.

The large audience were deeply disappointed at not being able to follow the play to its conclusion, but they saw some exceedingly fine characterisation in the chief male parts, while not one of the thirty odd boys engaged showed any trace of self-consciousness—a complete justification of the faith held in acting as a cure for this distressing condition.

It should be added that, with the exception of the wigs, shoes and swords, all the costumes were made at the College. A word should be given also to the assistance rendered by the Pipers, who had been trained by Miss O. M. Perrott, of Gloucester.

HONOURS.

During the past year the following honours have been gained by old Rendcombians:

N. A. Perkins: The Junior Mathematical Exhibition, Oxford.

C. G. V. Taylor: Goldsmith Company's Exhibition for History.

D. Field: £20 Scholarship for Drawing.

N. A. Perkins: 1st Class Mathematical Moderations, Oxford.

"MAYPOLE MORNING,"

by Harold Brighthouse.

Dramatis Personae.

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|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Phoebe | R. O. J. Cooper |
| Susan | P. H. Tuft. |
| Richard Pitchcroft | C. Sidgwick. |
| Patience Crosby | J. D. Timpson |
| Hugh Windham | E. D. Boulding. |
| Zerubbabel Petch | M. H. C. Martin |
| Sir Giles Crosby | J. R. Wheeler. |
| Man-servants | A. R. Curtis and R. C. V. Waters. |
| Charles II. | D. C. Uzzell. |
| Lady Castlemaine | N. Slade. |

Dancers and Villagers: A. E. A. Brain J. R. V. Davies, H. C. J. Hanks, G. A. Lowe, H. E. Miller, V. W. Pullin, D. A. J. Richards, J. F. Roberts, A. E. Shield W. Y. Willetts, O. G. Morel, G. M. Wilson, R. M. W. Campbell, J. H. A. Muirhead, M. C. Richardson, R. A. T. J. Skelton, R. M. Ingleton, R. H. Bettison.

Village Green near Tunbridge Wells,
May Morning, 1665.

Before commencing work on the production of an outdoor play two main difficulties must be overcome. The first is the selection of a spot suitable for the stage setting, and the second the choosing of a really suitable play. The first difficulty presented little anxiety as the College is very fortunate in possessing such a beautiful natural woodland theatre. The second difficulty can only be fully appreciated by those who have attempted to select for an outdoor theatre a play other than the usual Shakespearian piece. The selection of "Maypole Morning" contributed greatly to the success of the Summer production, and must have been a great source of satisfaction to those who spent so much time and care before making their final choice.

The interest of the play centres round the love of Hugh Windham and Mistress Patience, whose father, Sir Giles Crosby, forbids the match, having promised his daughter to Zerubbabel Petch, a theologically minded scholar, who presents a direct contrast to the courtly manners and bearing of Hugh Windham. Mistress Patience is torn between sentiment and duty, and is faced with the problem of rejecting her lover or disobeying her father. Sir Giles bases his methods of local government on strictly puritanical conceptions, and rules his estate in a manner portraying a very narrow mind. His restrictions on the pastimes of the villagers prevent the enjoyment of any pleasure forbidden by his written or unwritten law. Even the pleasures of a rural May morning are banned as a survival of pagan worship. The atmosphere of restraint and awed respect which surrounds all who come under Sir Giles' rule is partly relieved by the arrival of a sea-faring stranger, but is only finally dispelled by the royal *deus ex machina* in the person of Charles II., who unravels Mistress Patience's dilemma, and brings universal joy by over-ruling Sir Giles' ban on the Maypole dance.

The leading personages were, on the whole, admirably portrayed, and seemed in most cases to present the type of character which each player was suited to represent. This reflects credit on the producer's foresight and character-sense, and also on the players who succeeded so admirably in creating the atmosphere demanded by complete understanding of their parts. Each character spoke well, and (with one or two exceptions) was quite audible from all parts of the auditorium.

R. O. J. Cooper and P. H. Tuft made two charming girls as Phoebe and Susan, and winsomely displayed their charms to Richard Pitchcroft. Except for some slight indistinctness in their words, they played their parts very commendably.

Richard Pitchcroft was the only main personage who was not one of a pair of characters each one of whom reflected the other or supplied a background for the other's personality. The part was excellently portrayed by C. Sidgwick, who, from his first appearance, created an atmosphere typical of a care-free sailor with Spanish doubloons in his pocket, and with the sea-breezes of the Spanish Main in his face. His words and song were very distinct, and he played with the very real sense of self-assurance demanded by the part. In the presence of the King' the sailor's forceful personality was always visible, and the respect paid to His Majesty though sincere, did not deduct from the strength of the character in any way, but rather emphasised Sidgwick's attractive interpretation of a difficult part.

Hugh Windham and Patience Crosby presented quite a charming pair of young lovers. The courtier was well played by M. H. C. Martin, whose natural ease on the stage fitted the part admirably. His words were very distinct and his acting good, but he tended to create the impression that he was a dandy rather than a courtier possessed of a very natural and pleasing charm. This impression, however, though visible throughout the play, was often dispelled by actions and words

which revealed a purposeful character beneath a dainty exterior, and which Martin interpreted with sufficient spirit to show he is capable of some very fine acting.

J. D. Timpson, as Patience Crosby, was quite attractive, and filled the role with some zest, even if his words were not always distinct, and he appeared at times to be rather self-conscious. On the whole his interpretation of the part was quite good, but the atmosphere the part demanded was, perhaps, too negative to allow him to act as well as he otherwise might have done.

J. R. Wheeler and E. D. Boulding were excellent as Sir Giles Crosby and Zerubbabel Petch, and their acting demonstrated perfect understanding and interpretation of two very difficult characters. The slightest over-acting would have entirely spoilt the effect desired, but the action and expressions of both players were not at all overdone, and supplied a background which never left any doubt as to the sincerity behind their glib puritanical utterances. Their exits and entrances were good and Wheeler's bearing in that particular, when in the presence of the King, and when forced to join in the Maypole dance at the latter's request, was well worthy of note.

The scene in which Zerubbabel Petch and Hugh Windham wrestle on the green before an audience of villagers was well played, and the bout was sufficiently realistic to appear genuine. It was followed by a really good exit on the part of Petch to whose parting threat the crowd reacted well. Their consternation and sudden silence at Petch's words, following immediately on their boisterous praise of the stranger during the bout, served to show their dread of Sir Giles Crosby.

The entrance of Charles II. and Lady Castlemaine restores an atmosphere of gaiety. The King exercises his royal precedence over the Lord of the Manor to grant permission for the Maypole dance.

Charles II. and Lady Castlemaine, played by D. C. Uzzell and N. Slade respectively, were quite well represented, although their words were often indistinct, and at times inaudible, due perhaps

to an unfortunate tendency to gravitate to the right of the stage and talk into the wings. Uzzell's acting was much better than his words. His short, jerky actions were well in keeping with the part he was playing, and gave him the appearance of being amused and quite at ease while exercising his authority in a playful way over one whose outlook on life was entirely opposed to his own. His acting in the "love trial" scene was quite commendable, and had his words been as good as his actions, his part would have been more completely successful.

Lady Castlemaine conveyed the impression of being rather too buxom, but was, nevertheless, quite attractive in appearance. Her displeasure at the King's interest in Mistress Patience was shown well by quite realistic pouting, and whenever the scene demanded it she supported Charles II. quite capably by words and expression. She had, perhaps, too little to say during a long period on the stage, and seemed to find this comparative inactivity rather trying.

Sir Giles Crosby's two stalwart manservants, A. R. Curtis and R. C. V. Waters, made their only contribution to the action of the play by the arrest of Hugh Windham in a spirited scene, and ably filled an essential if none too difficult role.

The crowd as a whole was a definite success. In most scenes in which they featured as onlookers while the main action proceeded, they conveyed the impression of being really alive. Their entrances and exits were effective. They evinced real enthusiasm during the wrestling scene, and later by quite clever mumbling and by facial expression in their asides, manifested their evident dislike for Sir Giles Crosby's measures of government. The dancing was particularly good and featured in two scenes, the first of which was opened by the attractive entrance of six folk-dancers, this being followed by Richard Pitchcroft's song, in which the whole throng of villagers joined: the chorus, and then by the Maypole dance. The scene was full of colour and gaiety, and visibly heightened the rural atmosphere which pervaded the play, and which was next most apparent in the final scene, when

the Maypole dance was repeated, and the play brought to a happy ending by all joining in the country dance which led the players from the theatre.

Miss Perrott and her musicians, by means of natural reed pipes, supplied very excellent music, without which the Maypole dances and the play as a whole might well have been impossible. The music coming from behind the scenes was both light and attractive and proved very useful in helping to create the required atmosphere.

Some special comment on the costumes worn by the players is necessary. Nothing which can be said here can amply repay all who spent so much time and care in producing them. The choice of materials in colours which would not clash with the natural surroundings was a difficulty not to be ignored, and, moreover, the style of costume to be worn required a great deal of careful study. Only those who have some knowledge as to the amount of time and energy spent over the costumes before they finally appeared can fully appreciate the contribution of those who worked behind the scenes.

The theatre and approaches were in excellent condition, and reflected credit on the theatre men and their work during many weeks preceding the production.

On Founder's Day rain unfortunately prevented the production of the whole play. The standard of acting displayed in the scenes presented, was very high, and fully justified the hard work which had been expended on the production. All concerned may look back on it as a very distinct success.

TENNIS, 1933.

We were fortunate this year in having good weather almost throughout the term. Only during the first fortnight of term and the first week in July was it really impossible to play.

Coincident with this improvement in conditions, was a marked improvement in the standard of tennis. This was most conspicuous in the tournaments, which were played with great enthusiasm and for the most part with skill and a strong sense of court play. Backhands and footwork improved also.

In the Junior Doubles D. Richardson and Harris beat Ingleton and Kitchen by 6—4, 6—3. In the Junior Singles Ingleton beat G. Wilson by 6—3, 6—4.

The Open Singles was won by Curtis, who defeated Martin by 7—5, 6—3, 7—5. This match was more even than the score would suggest and it is probable that a more even game would have resulted had not Martin been preoccupied as captain of cricket.

Tennis is becoming more and more popular, and with the increased number of non-cricketers it is hoped that the tennis matches with Wycliffe College will soon be renewed. These matches are a great stimulant to tennis, and it would be a pity if they ceased completely. The chief difficulty is the condition of the courts. The meeting has realised the importance of taking the greatest care of the courts during the winter, and to this end it has created the special office of tennis groundsmen who will be responsible for this.

Tennis has been, this term, a really popular game, and from this enthusiasm and keenness a much improved standard of play has ensued.

A. R. C.

CRICKET, 1933.

We were fortunate this summer in having at our disposal two cricket pitches, and three net pitches. This greatly helped the Games Committee to arrange for sufficient practice, which subsequently justified itself. To make net practices more pleasant, they removed the new double-wicket net from the distant cricket field to the enclosed lawn, and this move proved to be most successful. The back lawn was used for fielding practice, and on two evenings of every week a voluntary fielding practice was organised and attended by a large number of enthusiasts. We hope that this enthusiasm about fielding practice will continue, for half the battle in cricket is the smartness and virility of the fielding.

The 1st XI. had its weak points. Firstly, the two bowlers, Martin and Waters, although both very consistent,

were overworked, due to the absence of two good change bowlers. Curtis helped them in most of the matches, but it was not entirely his fault that he was out of practice. Again the prominent batsmen failed to find their form until late in the season. The fielding was good at times, but in some places very weak indeed. Summing up, we can say that in times of emergency it was good, but when the weather was very hot and the opposing batsmen were digging themselves in and hitting hard, it was too often mediocre. Muirhead stumped successfully for the team, but he must learn to hold the ball tighter when he receives it. Wilson A. proved quite efficient as a change wicket-keeper. All wicketkeepers must bear in mind that if they mean to be a success they must be good batsmen as well. Muirhead towards the end of the season showed himself to be a promising batsman, and if he steps out and hits a little harder, he will be a valuable asset to the team next year.

Curtis was the best batsman this year, and could always be relied upon to score double figures. He hits all round the wicket, and is especially clever on the off side. Martin did not find his form until late in the season, and should not be afraid of hitting out when once he has made up his mind.

Waters, Uzzell and Brain A. batted with good judgment, but Brain A. must remember not to play a cross-bat.

Roberts and Wilson A. hit hard, and are both to be congratulated on scoring 60 runs.

H. Hanks, Davies and Willets showed themselves to be promising cricketers, and next season they ought to be able to score well.

Mr. James, as usual, put his whole heart into coaching at nets, and his work proved most useful. We must thank him very warmly for his constant help and encouragement.

In conclusion, a word must be said about the Juniors. Although they did not win a match, they at least showed that they enjoyed the game, and found it good to play. They improved beyond measure, and at the end of term were able to give Oakley Hall a very good

game. When the juniors understand the game more they will be a very useful team. They must realise the need for constant practice.

The College v. Dean Close 2nd XI.
At Dean Close, May 20. Lost by 48 runs.

We fielded first in the heat of the afternoon, and dismissed Dean Close by tea-time for 98. However, we failed after tea to retaliate to the slow 98, and the last men were not able to stand up against the good bowling. Ten minutes before the close of play the score board stood at 50, and we had lost.

Bowling: Waters R., 5 for 25.

The College v. Old Boys.
At home, June 3rd. Won by 94 runs.

We batted first, and thanks to a brilliant display by A. R. Curtis of 69 runs, were able to complete the innings with a total 143. The Old Boys seemed out of batting practice, for they were soon dismissed for 49. Old Boys: D. Dakin (captain), R. G. Daubeney, R. H. Newport, M. H. Gleeson-White, N. A. Perkins, C. W. Honeybone, C. Wells, B. J. Meadows, W. F. Jones, J. E. Allen, and V. D. Page.

Batting: Curtis 69, Brain A. 20.

Bowling: Martin 5 for 11, Waters 5 for 30.

The College v. Miserden C. C.
At Miserden, June 5. Lost by 79 runs.

Again we had the misfortune of losing the toss and being put into the field to wilt under the strong sun. In spite of the hard hitting and the hot sun the fielding was always alive, although in one or two cases it proved to be a little slow. Miserden batted well, and scored 167 for six wickets by tea-time (Martin 3 for 26). We were then left with an hour and a half to bring the score to this level. Some fast bowling proved too good for us, and we finished with the score at 88.

Batting: Curtis 26.

The College v. Swindon College.
At home, June 10. Lost by 36 runs.

Swindon batted first, and scored 117 runs. We failed to score rapidly enough, and ended with a total of 81.

The College v. Dean Close 2nd XI.
At home, June 15. Lost by 4 runs.

We batted first, and for a score of 58. Thanks to the excellent fielding and the consistency of the bowling we were able to dismiss Dean Close for 62. This proved to be one of the most exciting matches.

The College v. Rendcomb C. C.

At home, June 24. Match drawn.

We batted first and scored 85 (Curtis 21). The weather changed from fine to wet and completely damped the otherwise good chances of victory. The village were only 27 runs for five wickets, when it was decided to abandon the game.

Bowling: Martin 3 for 17, Waters 2 for 10,

The College v. Burford Grammar School.

At Burford, June 29. Won by 31 runs.

We batted first on a good bowler's wicket, and were dismissed for 45 runs. Our bowling was excellent, especially that of R. Waters, who took 7 wickets for 6 runs. We managed to dismiss their first four men for no runs and Burford ended their score with only 14 runs, three of which were byes.

The College v. Swindon College.

At Swindon, June 1. Lost by 50 runs.

Our bowlers found difficulty in getting used to the Swindon pitch, but Waters occasionally put down some good balls, and by tea-time we had dismissed Swindon for 104 runs (Waters 6 for 37). We then faced fast bowling and a bumping pitch, with the result indicated above.

The College v. Rendcomb C. C.

At home. The evening of 6th July.

Lost by 11 runs.

We batted first, and scored 76. The village then batted, and nine of their wickets fell for 44 runs. Unfortunately for us their last men were hitters, and scored freely off our bowling, with the

result that the score went up by 43 runs, making a total of 87.

We were disappointed in having to cancel out return match with Miserden C. C., but Rendcomb C. C. very kindly offered us a two-innings match on July 22nd.

We batted first, and scored 68. Rendcomb C. C. then replied with a fast 72 (Martin 6 for 22). Our 2nd innings was an improvement on the first, and we finished with a total of 103 (Curtis 21, Martin 18, Brain 17, and Wilson A. 16). The light became increasingly poor, but the village played their innings to a finish at 9:15, with a total of 90. Thus the College won their last match of the season by 9 runs.

OLD BOYS DAY, 1933.

Old Boys' Day, 1933, was June 3rd— one of the many fine days in a particularly fine summer. There was a fairly large attendance of slightly over 20 Old Boys, of whom about half arrived in time for lunch.

After lunch a meeting of all the Old Boys who were present took place, for elections and other business. D. C. Terrett, the secretary of the Old Rendcombian Society, was resigning, owing to his appointment as assistant financial editor of the "Sunday Express"— a post which entailed absence from London for considerable periods. C. W. Wells was elected secretary in his place. D. Dakin, though continuing to be chairman of the Society, resigned from the post of Magazine Representative. C. G. V. Taylor was elected to this. Afterwards other matters were discussed, including the vexed question of the College tie, concerning which it was found impossible to arrive at any definite decision. The meeting concluded by thanking the Headmaster for his kind hospitality.

The central feature of the afternoon was the cricket match between the Old Boys XI. and the College XI, captained respectively by D. Dakin and A. R. Curtis. The College won the toss, and batted first, thus the Old Boys XI. had the onus of fielding during the hottest

part of the day. The outstanding feature of the game was an innings of 69 by Curtis. Dakin did some good bowling for the Old Boys, so too did Newport, who produced a tricky, swerving ball. Otherwise the Old Boys' bowling was weak, and the College score stood at 143 at the close of their innings. Wells, Honeybone and D. Jones were the most successful batsmen on the other side, but the bowling of Martin and Waters kept the final score at 49, thus producing a handsome victory for the College. The match was attended by the remaining Old Boys and members of the College, whose enjoyment of the occasion, together with that of the teams, was enhanced by the brilliant sunshine.

When the game was over the teams had tea in the pavilion, and everyone else in the dining room. Later in the evening the Headmaster and Mrs. Lee-Browne kindly entertained all the Old Boys to supper. After this most of the Old Boys had to return home, but the College was good enough to accommodate for the night seven of their number who would otherwise have been unable to be present. Altogether the day proved most successful, and enjoyable, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Lee-Browne, on this first Old Boys' Day since he became Headmaster, and to that spirit of friendship and hospitality for which we never look to Rendcomb in vain.

C. G. V. T.