

# RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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## SCHOOL NOTES.

Lent and Summer Terms, 1935.

Lent Term, 1935, opened uneventfully, without snow, without ice. Without any hint of the unforeseen. The familiar faces back again in the accustomed places. Hockey and athletics in full swing, and several plays in process of rehearsal. Yet within a few weeks of our resumption, with unexpected suddenness, we were swept by an outbreak of influenza. It was of short duration, but it took away one from our midst. We deeply regret to chronicle the death of J. H. Gwinnell. Events like these are fortunately exceedingly rare. When they come, they remind us very forcibly of the mysterious uncertainty of life. The sense of our common loss binds us more closely together. At school prayers and in the simple memorial service in the Church, we paid tribute to the life that had one from us, and the School was represented by the Headmaster, members of the staff, and Prefects, on the day of the funeral.

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We have pleasure in recording two births. To the Headmaster and Mrs. Lee-Browne, on the 15th February, 1935, a daughter (Hermione), and to Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Granston Richards, on the 1st of April, 1935, a son (Stephen). Already the two new-comers have established themselves securely in our affections.

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We should like to express our regret at the departure of Miss McCabe, and to wish her every success in the new and responsible position to which she has gone.

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We offer a cordial welcome to Miss Finlayson and to Miss Brimlow, who have joined the Matron's staff of the College.

Mr. J. H. Woodroffe left at the end of the Summer Term to join the staff of the Skinner's School, Tunbridge Wells. Of his labours in the lab. one might well say "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice." He leaves with our wishes for his future prosperity and happiness. In his place we welcome Mr. E. G. Neal, who comes to us fresh from his London career at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the Chelsea Polytechnic.

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Mr. Lange's all too short visit to us came to a close at the end of the Summer Term. It is not necessary to say how much he did for us in the field of athletics<sup>1</sup>; we know that. But there was another aspect in which his stay at Rendcomb was of value. It brought us in touch with the outlook and ideas of a foreign country, a country that is destined to play an increasingly important part in the New Europe. Such contacts are exceedingly valuable, and, unfortunately, only too rare. In Mr. Lange Germany had an excellent ambassador, and his departure leaves a real gap. The Meeting presented him with a silver cigarette case in recognition of his services. We all wish him every success in his new life in the Far East.

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Dr. Alex Wood, Fellow and Tutor of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, paid us a visit on the first weekend of the Summer Term, and reached in church. We hope that we may be privileged to hear him soon again.

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The year of the Silver Jubilee should remain fixed in the memory of every present Rendcomb boy. Mrs. Noel Wills had the happy idea of celebrating it by inviting the whole school, boys and staff, to be her guests at a performance of the Aldershot Tattoo. An impression of that most enjoyable outing will be found elsewhere. Here we should like to express to Mrs. Wills our thanks for her generosity. The Headmaster

had already done so by a telegram on the day itself. And if Mrs. Wills had been with us she would have no doubt as to how her kindness was appreciated.

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On Saturday, 1st June, 1935, the Lord Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev. A. C. Headlam, D D., held a Confirmation Service in Rendcomb Church, at which a number of boys were confirmed.

His Lordship gave an address to the candidates, and on Sunday, 2nd June, celebrated Holy Communion and preached at the morning service.

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A pretty wedding was celebrated in Rendcomb Church on 22nd June, when Mr. Walter Telling was married to Miss Bertha Tarrant.

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The following left the College at the end of the Summer Term: E. D. Boulding, J. H. A. Muirhead, T. D. Wright, R. M. Campbell, N. Dalton, A. W. F. Abbott, J.W.Gillham, J. Gardner, and A. Gilmour. E. O. Collett joined the College from Reigate Grammar School during the Term.

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We congratulate T. D. Wright on obtaining an Art Scholarship at Reading University.

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The scientific expedition to the South Wales sea coast was favoured with the worst of weather. Accompanied by the Headmaster and Mr. Woodroffe, a party of nine in all left in two cars for Roscilly. Despite the adverse conditions, a good number of specimens were collected for the marine aquaria.

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The Library Committee desire to acknowledge, with thanks, the following gifts:

The King's Grace, by John Buchan, from Mrs. Noel Wills. Master Minds of Modern Science, The World of Nature, Scientific Progress, from Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Browne. European Journey, by Sir Philip Gibbs, from Mr. Lange. The Testament of Youth, by Vera Brittain, from Mr. Richards. Arcadian Adventures with the Rich, by Stephen Leacock. Four Faultless Felons, and The Secret of Father Brown, by G. K. Chesterton, from A. E. Knowles, Esq. The Life of Lord Kitchener (2 vols. ), from Alfred Bullen, Esq. The Story of Mankind, and The Home of Mankind, by Hendrik Van Loon, from Miss M. D. Awdry.

## FOUNDER'S DAY AT RENDCOMB COLLEGE,

We reprint the following from "The Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard": —

Founder's Day was observed on Saturday, 15th June, 1935, the customary large assembly of friends and parents accepting the invitation of the Governors and Staff to an interesting afternoon.

The Rev. Canon H. Sewell, LL.D., Chairman of the Governing Body, presided, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Noel Wills, Lord Dulverton, Sir Russell J. Kerr, Mr. Frank James, Mr. H. W. Household, Mr. D. W. Lee-Browne, Headmaster, and members of the School staff.

Also on the platform was the Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Arnold Robertson, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.M.B E., who has had a long and distinguished career in the diplomatic service, and who later gave an inspiring address.

Canon Sewell, having extended a welcome to the company, said as the years passed by old signs tended to become obliterated, but they never ought to forget the enormous debt of gratitude which was due to the memory of Noel Wills for what he did in founding that very wonderful institution.

The Headmaster, in his report, stated that with the exception of a sharp attack of influenza, which passed through the College last term, but which lasted only for 14 days, the health of the College had been good throughout the year, and once again Dr. Gladstone and Miss Simmons were to be congratulated on their forethought and care.

There had been a number of changes on the staff since that time last year. The place of Mr. C. A. E. Fogden had been taken by Mr. R. N. D. Wilson, who, apart from the distinction of a first-class degree, was a poet and writer of some standing. He was responsible for all the English teaching, and his previous experience of librarianship was proving of value in the reorganisation and extension of the library. Miss McCabe, who gave up her work as assistant matron at the end of last term, had been succeeded by Miss Brimlow, who was a trained nurse of wide experience.

Mr. K. A. C. Gross came in September, and had tackled the Latin and the hockey of the School with advantage to both. At the same time Mr. J. B. Fell joined the staff, and had taken charge of the physics. An able scientist, he also had considerable gifts with his hands. Miss Finlayson had come to take charge of the mysteries of the linen room.

Of the already established members of the staff, Mr. Hosken had taken over Mr. Fogden's duties as house tutor at Rendcomb House, and was making a success of that important position. Mr. Woodroffe had continued to develop the aquaria, which, in their new setting, were an attractive feature of the Science work. His secretary, Mr. Newport, grew in merit, in patience, and in the power of producing plays. The pageant to be seen that day was a fine achievement, and reflected great credit upon him. That was the biggest production the College had so far attempted.

This section of the report concluded with acknowledgment of the work of the two senior masters, Mr. James and Mr. Richards, and that of Miss Simmons.

The School started in 1920 with a regular staff of four, shortly increased to five, and in 1926 to six, not counting visiting staff for drawing and music. That number was maintained till last September. During the last four and half years there had been appointed from Rendcomb four heads of educational institutions, one house master, an assistant director of education, a senior mathematical master; and, prior to 1931, the principal of an adult school, an inspector of the Board of Education and a senior History master; a total of ten men going to posts of responsibility out of about a dozen and a half who had spent a year or more on the College regular staff.

Work and games during the year had been of a sound order. Examination results had been satisfactory if not outstanding. In general it had been a year of quiet but undoubted progress. The reorganisation of the School into six forms had been a success, and he had great hopes both for the form which was taking its School Certificate next December, and for the present Form I., which had completed only two and a half terms of its career. Applications for entry to the College continued to increase from all quarters. The candidates for the Gloucestershire Foundation Scholarships awarded in May were as fine a lot as they had yet seen.

The Governors had provided them, through the help of Mr. Iredale, with a new and well-equipped laboratory. Primarily intended for Sixth Form work in Physics and Biology, it also made Chemistry possible for those boys who needed it for examination purposes.

The Governors had also seen them through the difficult business of changing over to the mains electricity supply. The lighting throughout the College had been improved and

increased, while both laboratories were equipped with electricity at three separate voltages for experimental work.

Additional bookshelves had been added to the library, and he had to thank a number of very kind donors for gifts of books, including Sir Alan Anderson, who sent them a splendid cheque.

With the co-operation of Mr. Inge, they were trying out a very short mid-week service on Wednesday evenings, designed to be simple, non-denominational, direct and practical, the result of suggestions and discussions, both among the boys and his own colleagues. It was by no means perfect, but he thought most parents would find that their sons felt they were trying something worthwhile.

They all wanted boys with confidence, high spirit, initiative and courage—in a word, self-controlled individuals. He was convinced that the foundations of these characteristics could be laid in the early stages by the right kind of physical activity. He had come to the conclusion that organised games and physical training were not enough in the age in which we were living. He believed field athletics had power to meet the situation of the present age, when more than ever it was the one man who got on. Those athletics enabled a boy to pit himself against actual hard feet and inches or against the clock. He could actually measure his progress in a way that he could not with a football or cricket bat. If his physical power grew in the right way, his mental and spiritual development would go forward parallel with it.

They had entirely reconstructed their timetable. Exercise before breakfast—for the seniors, a short run, skip and cold bath; for the juniors walk and skip; academic work, 8:30 to 12; athletic work every day from 12:5 to 12:50. At the moment, he believed, that Rendcomb was the only School in England where that experiment was being tried of putting field athletics in the time table on a level with other lessons.

He acknowledged here his indebtedness to that great schoolmaster, Mr. Kurt Hahn, whose help, encouragement and experience had been of great assistance. They had been fortunate in having with them for the past year one of Mr. Hahn's old pupils, Mr. Wolfram Lange, as athletic coach, a magnificent all round athlete, who had brought keenness, hard work, patience and skill to his job, and they would all be sorry when he left at the end of this term.

The scheme, although not complete and still experimental, had already had its beneficial effect on the life of the School. They started at the end of October and at the beginning of April they entered a team of four boys for the Public Schools Sports at the White City—150 schools competing with 750 entrants. Harry Selby got into the semi-final round of the junior 250 yards. John Muirhead and Arnold Brain acquitted themselves very soundly in the open 100 yards, the discus and the weight; while Trevor Wright obtained a standard performance in the weight and won a place in throwing the javelin. He was sixth in the final classification, but he was actually third among boys from the British Isles.

Athletics had now become a permanent part of the curriculum.

Closely connected in some ways with the spirit of the athletics, they had adopted as a regular outdoor activity what had come to be known there as “digging”—work with pick, shovel and barrow. Where the pen and the typewriter were given too much importance there was something to be said for boys gaining an insight into both the dignity and the real satisfaction of what one part of the community considered to be “real work.” Apart from the ethics of the question, it was a valuable activity in that it was sound exercise and in that they had jobs to do. All the pits and the run-ups on the athletic ground had been prepared by the boys, involving the removal of many tons of stone and clay. In addition, two new tennis courts were being constructed at Rendcomb House, and there were other schemes in view. Like athletics, digging had come to stay.

The Bishop of Gloucester visited the College on Saturday and Sunday, June 1st and 2nd, and held a Confirmation Service in the Church and subsequently officiated at the Sunday morning service.

On Tuesday, June 18th, the entire College and teaching staff were going to the Aldershot Tattoo as the guests of Mrs. Noel Wills. It was hardly necessary to tell her how much they were all looking forward to the expedition, but he thanked her for them all for thinking of such a delightful plan.

Comparatively few boys were leaving this term: A. W. Abbott was going to London to study electrical engineering; N. Dalton was taking up dentistry; R. M. Campbell was going into a publishing firm.

J. H. A. Muirhead was also going to London University to study electrical engineering. He

had been a sound, reliable prefect and had done much to help the games of the School. He had held important posts in the General Meeting, and was a boy who had learned to take responsibility.

E. D. Boulding, the senior prefect, was also leaving at the end of the term. Boulding and he shared the position of oldest inhabitant, as they came to Rendcomb in the same term. He had developed into a very useful actor, and had helped to further interest in pictures and music in the School. He had been an unusually appreciative member of the College, and a loyal prefect, one of a body with whom it had been a pleasure and inspiration to work.

The report concluded with an expression of thanks to the Governing Body and their secretaries, Mr. H. St. G. Rawlins and Mr. H. L. Perkins, for their kindness and consideration during the last year. As the College developed there was always the comfortable feeling that the Governing Body would be ready and keen to help that development forward.

Rendcomb continued to excite a great deal of interest, and visitors came there from all parts of the British Isles, while during the past year he had had two or three American visitors, who were anxious to see how things were done at Rendcomb.

#### **SIR MALCOLM ROBERTSON'S ADDRESS.**

Sir Malcolm Robertson, in an address more in the nature of a friendly talk than a set speech, gave the boys some useful advice on the study of foreign languages they might be called upon to use.

Sir Malcolm said: I would like all you boys going out into the world to realise that one of the most important things you should endeavour to do is to learn foreign languages. The great advantage you have now over the boys of my time is that you have an infinitely greater facility of travel. You can get about more easily, more comfortably, more quickly, and far, far more cheaply than was possible in my time, and I should be very much surprised if all of you don't eventually go abroad, either for pleasure or for instruction, to learn what it looks like outside this funny little island of ours. And if you do that you cannot travel with benefit to yourselves or with interest unless you know something about the languages of the countries to which you are going.

Most people think that the first thing you must do is to learn French. That is very right and very proper. French bears the same relation to the educated community of this

country and other countries of today as Latin did a century or two ago. We must get out of our heads the idea that French is spoken everywhere in the world, wherever you like to go. Curiously enough, it isn't. Supposing a German came over here and went into a hat shop in Gloucester and addressed the salesman in French. I wonder what he'd say! And yet we think we can go to a village in the Argentine or to a township in Germany and address the people in inferior French, and expect we should be understood. It really isn't true. You must know the language of the country in which you are.

The difficulties in these languages are not the foreign words that are entirely different from ours, but the foreign words that are very similar to ours. Two experiences which I personally had when High Commissioner on the Rhine are important as showing how international misunderstandings can arise through the similarity of words. When I first arrived I was Assistant High Commissioner and I had to succeed my chief, an Englishman innocent of the knowledge of all languages except English and Hindustani, neither of much use on the Rhine. The French High Commissioner had a very adequate and splendid knowledge of French.

And there we were with a treaty drawn up both in English and in French, and the pundits of Versailles, who knew nothing about each other's languages, asked that each should be of equal severity. There was an argument as to whether we had any right to control the railways in the Rhine. My chief argued that under the treaty we had no right whatever to control the railways. He explained that at great length to me and showed me the treaty. Next day we went to the meeting together, and the Frenchman argued with very considerable force and cogency, in French, that we had every right to control the railways. The argument waxed hot and strong, and I asked if I might say a word. I said "I have been listening to you for the last fifteen minutes and I am pleased to be able to tell you that you are in complete agreement." "Controller" meant to supervise, and we had every right to supervise the railways.

International misunderstandings could and very nearly did arise over misinterpretation of words.

You may think "I know French; I can speak it adequately and I can understand it; I am going to France and I shall understand all about the country." You will speak the idiom, but do you speak the language? Suppose I

asked one of you boys what you thought of Tom, Dick or Harry. "He's quite a nice fellow but we don't speak the same language." What do you mean by that? He talks English and you talk English. You talk the same idiom, but you don't talk the same language. That is the whole point.

Don't you really mean his whole psychology, his mentality, his outlook on life, his view of life, his morals are fundamentally different from your own? You are talking from a different standpoint, and you cannot understand each other. That doesn't necessarily mean his point of view is a wrong one, and that your point of view is right, or that yours is wrong and his is right. One of the most important things in this life of ours is to learn the language of other people.

There is no such thing as an evil or wicked nation. There are nations with different points of view, nations with different upbringing. A good way of getting at that when you begin with their languages is to try to find out a phrase or expression in general use. Let us start with our own. We are a very easy going people. In fact, a lot of other nations cannot understand what they think is our frivolity. What is the greatest compliment we can pay to a countryman of our own That he has always played the game—played cricket—is a good sportsman—all sporting expressions, which the foreigner cannot understand. He has to understand it before he gets to the heart and soul and the mentality of the Englishman.

In Buenos Aires, when the general strike was on in England, a telegram came to say that English policemen were playing football with the strikers. That angered my French ambassador colleague. "How can we understand you? You didn't take the war seriously. Now you won't even take your own revolution seriously."

Let us now go to Germany. There you have a terribly serious proposition. There you are dealing with a military people, a people who glory in being soldiers, in wearing uniforms, a people whose main idea is to serve the State, whose women are to breed children to be soldiers. Their ideals do not agree with ours. Do not let us therefore think they are infamous or wrong. When an Englishman gets into a uniform he rushes off to a photographer, and the moment he leaves the photographer's he puts on flannel bags. The German likes to wear a uniform and to fight with a sword—these things are facts, and you cannot get behind them. He hates freedom, he loathes democracy, he wants to be told what to do.

He gets up in the morning and likes to have orders given him exactly how he is to spend his day. That is not our idea, but does it necessarily mean that the German is an infidel, a scoundrel? Not at all. Don't imagine that what we like must necessarily be good for all those people too.

China is a very difficult country, for the very adequate reason that in point of fact there is no such thing as a Chinese language. You have a vast area with five hundred millions of people, and they write the same language, but every person pronounces these words differently. No Chinaman of one province understands one single syllable that a Chinaman of the next province says to him. But you can have generalisation. You can generalise about almost every country, but be careful how you do it, and be very careful about the East, because the East is inscrutable.

What do the Chinese really feel about this? Let me quote an answer given to me: "My dear boy, fifty years ago I could have answered your question without any shadow of a doubt — without even a peradventure—but I have been fifty-five years in China, and I have no idea." That is a good thing to remember when you are going to those places, and it is extremely difficult to understand a new language. Two things with the Chinese: saving face, keeping face and losing face is the foundation, with ancestor worship, of the whole Chinese philosophy.

Bargain with the Chinese and you find there is nothing in any self-respecting Chinese stall or shop that has any price. The price is what you are ready to give and what I am ready to sell for. You see a vase and ask, "How much?" "One hundred dollars" "You're a rogue; I'll give you five." Eventually you buy it for fifty dollars, the price at which the merchant was prepared to sell and you were prepared to pay. The seller has saved face by not selling at the price you offered, and you have kept face by not giving what was first demanded. I once walked through the boys' quarters of my house, and the boys said "Master has lost face by walking through the boys' quarters." I said "No, you have gained face because I walked through your quarters" You have to keep your end up, and you have not got to make the other fellow lose his level.

Ancestor worship—there it is a rather different issue. The first thing a boy asked me was "Have you a grandfather or grandmother alive?" "No." "A father alive?" "No." "A mother?" "Yes." A few months later I bought a vase. He looked at it and said :

"Will your mother like it?" That was more important than whether I liked it myself.

Evil peoples don't exist, and what you have to do is to endeavour to understand the other man's point of view, its full value, and give it full realisation.

To refer for a moment to some of the words your Headmaster used, I beg and implore you never, never to lose hold on your religion, whatever you do. Times will come—they are bound to come to all of you—times of sorrow and of suffering, and unless you have religion you have nothing to fall back upon. I will quote to you the words of a great preacher of a hundred years ago. "Always remember this, that the first commandment of Christ is this, Be true, and the second this, Be true, and the third this, Be true"

Sir Russell Kerr, moving a vote of thanks to Sir Malcolm Robertson, said it was no disparagement to the predecessors of Sir Malcolm Robertson when he said that he had never listened to an address which was more inspiring, more interesting or more human. He hoped Sir Malcolm himself would consider that his coming there had been worthwhile. The best thanks they could give him would be to take to heart the words he had spoken, and endeavour to live up to that standard.

Mr. Frank James seconding, said Sir Malcolm had put before them the most profound and deep and far-reaching thoughts in such an entertaining way that not one of them had felt he was listening to a sermon or even to a lecture.

Sir Malcolm Robertson, in reply, said all that really mattered to him was that he might be able to say something in the spirit and in accordance with the wishes of the Founder of that School, Mr. Noel Wills. If he had done that he had fulfilled the object with which he came.

After the speeches a number of the boys gave a short exhibition of field athletics.

The visitors were then entertained to tea in the College, after which they visited the exhibition of aquaria, experiments and other scientific work in the laboratories.

They then repaired to the woodland theatre to see a capital performance of John Drinkwater's play, "An English Medley."

Probably the most ambitious venture of the kind which the College has yet undertaken, this play, which surveyed the history of England from the coming of the Romans to the 19th Century, was given a most admirable

presentation, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The careful hand of the producer was as visible in the lesser characters as in the greater, and in the clear and perfect enunciation.

The choice of "An English Medley," by John Drinkwater, was a singularly appropriate one for Jubilee Year. Indeed it is not so much a play as a highly coloured pageant of English History, a ringing call not merely to rejoice, but to be up and doing. If we have one fault to find with it, it is the fact the chronicle ceased with the accession of King George V., and omitted the Great War period, and the no less stern realities and glories of the years since then. But for the rest, it was very good indeed,

It is a play that makes great demands on the producer, and taxes his ingenuity to the full. There are crowd scenes to be handled. The declamation of the verse, and the robust prose is a problem in itself, while the costumes for such a large cast entailed a vast amount of preparation. All we can say is that it came off splendidly. It was beautiful, it was amusing, it was profoundly stirring by turns.

The characters, in order of their appearance were: 1st Chorus, E. D. Boulding; 2nd Chorus, W. Y. Willetts; 3rd Chorus, G. M. Wilson,

"The Building of the Ryknield Street."

Leader of the Britons, N. Slade; a Briton, R. H. Bettison, Roman Captain, T. D. Wright; Britons and Romans, A. W. F. Abbott, H. H. Selby, J. F. Spencer, J. W. H. Neads, G. Wintle, J. R. Billany, P. Alder, F. J. Willis, M. A. C. Levett, E. J. Clissold, B. H. Peacock, A. W. Wyon, R. L. Short, A. C. Magor, R. M. W. Campbell, J. Gillham.

"Gingerbread Fair"

Lady de Birmingham, P. D. B. Levett; William de Birmingham, J. D. Sinclair; The Crier, W. J. Harris; Merchant, P. J. Dyke; Will of Northfield, E. R. S. Gillham; Constable, J. F. Roper; Messenger from Simon de Montfort, J. Gardner; Merry Andrew, G. G. Constable; 1st Citizen, J. W. B. Whall; 2nd Citizen, T. W. Kitchen; Merchants, etc., D. W. Stone, P. S. Jackson, R. J. Eley, N. Dalton, G. J. Ash, E. R. Morris, A. E. Godsell, D. F. Gallop, A. S. C. Smith, J. R. Harmer, A. Gilmour, M. C. B. Russell and M. D. Bateman.

"The Story of a People"

The Spirit of History, D. D. Haig; 11th Century, J. H. A. Muirhead; 12th Century, J. H. R. Thornhill; 13th Century E. R. Cooper; 14th

Century, P. L. Field; 15th Century, M. H. R. Dowding; 16th Century, P. H. Tuft; 17th Century, R. O. J. Cooper; 18th Century, D. G. Morison; 19th Century, P. Lambert.

### HONOURS, 1934—1935.

N. A. Perkins, O R—1st Class Honours of Mathematics, Oxford.

T. D. Wright—Art Studentship, Reading University.

Higher School Certificate, 1934—D. C. Vaughan, D. C. Uzzell.

London Matriculation, 1934—J. H. R. Thornhill, N. Slade, J. H. A. Muirhead, J. F. Roper.

School Certificate, 1934—T. D. Wright, N. Dalton, R. Brain, R. A. Skelton.

### THE SCHOOLMASTER.

A master met me on the stair,  
And saw my feet were wet,  
Said, "Go and get another pair,  
And mind you don't forget."  
To say that I'd no more to wear  
Did not seem etiquette.

"And brush your teeth, and part your hair,  
And clean your shoes, and go  
Away from me. Yes, anywhere  
But don't forget to show  
The Matron that enormous tear  
In your—oh, I don't know."

"And always answer 'yes' to me  
And don't speak here until  
I ask you to: you seem to be  
Upset, or are you ill?  
Been eating sweets that don't agree  
With you? Here, have a pill"

"And don't make faces here like that  
And go away, I say.  
Come here. My boy, you're much too fat.  
Did I say 'go away'  
Your hands are as black as a bowler hat—  
O Heavens, what a day!"

"Clear out. Come here. Shut up, you fool.  
Now what *are* you about?  
You think that you can break each rule  
You think you will, no doubt;  
We can't have things like you at school—  
Sit down! Stand up! Get out!"

G. M. W.

## ACTING.

During Lent Term three plays were produced. "The Prince who was a Piper," by Harold Brighthouse. This is a pleasant fantasy, in which the Prince seeks to escape from the conventions of the Court by assuming the disguise of a wandering piper; and the Princess Maie, unwilling to accept without choice the suitor offered to her in marriage, disguises herself as a statue, to be charmed into life again by the piping of her unknown lover. It ends with their revealing their identities to the irate king, and his consenting to their wedding. The cast was as follows:

The King, A. Gilmour; Prince Denis, G. Constable; Jegu (The Lord Chancellor), R. Morris; Bernez (Equerry to the Prince), H. Palmer; a Sentry, A. Tenty; Princess Maie, J. Luton; Lizina (her governess), J. Gardner; Tephany (her maid-in-waiting), E. Clissold; Marzinne (a peasant girl), M. Levett; Helene (a shoe-maker's daughter), P. Jackson; a country lad, R. Eley.

Considering the youthfulness of the actors, it was a very creditable performance. Constable and Morris deserve special mention for the way they played their respective parts. Godsell provided the music off.

A double bill was presented, when members of the Middle School gave performances of "The Golden Hind," by Louis N. Parker, preceded by Chin-Chin-Chinaman (a thriller), by Percy Walsh.

The first is a highly successful historical play, the scene being laid upon Drake's famous vessel in which he sailed round the world, and the action concerned with the plot of Doughty against Drake and his lieutenants. The production was singularly effective. One forgot the limitations of a small stage, and the absence of elaborate scenery. The costumes were beautiful and appropriate, and the handling of the crowd scenes moving and convincing to a degree.

The cast was as follows:

Diego, M. Russell; Captain Wynter, P. Tuft; Mr. Caube, J. Sinclair; Rev. Francis Fletcher, P. Field; Captain Chester, P. Dyke; Captain Thomas, D. Morison; Mr. Charles, R. Gillham; Francis Drake, D. Haig; Tom Moore, J. Harris; Bright, H. Selby; Gregory, A. Magor; Thomas Doughty, R. Cooper; Cooke, R. Short.

In a play where team work was the chief merit, it is perhaps invidious to single out individual performances, but Haig as Drake, Tuft as Captain Wynter, and R. O. J. Cooper

as Doughty, the villain of the piece, deserve special commendation.

"Chin-Chin-Chinaman," produced as a curtain raiser, provided a very effective contrast. It is a crook play, in which a jewel thief is brought to book by means of a fair lady who insinuates herself into his favour, and a smiling Chinaman, who professes to be an old friend. Both are acting in collusion, and unmask themselves at the critical moment as none other than detectives in disguise. Ingleton, as the crook, Richardson as the beaming Celestial, and Levett P., as the seductive female, all gave realistic interpretations of their parts.

During the Summer Term two plays were produced in the woodland theatre. An account of the School play will be found under the report of Founder's Day. In the last week of Term the staff gave us a pleasant surprise by their performance of scenes from Shakespeare's "As You Like It." Appended is a criticism by one whose leaving at the end of the Summer Term has made us miss a personality we had almost come to imagine a permanent Rendcomb fixture.

## "AS YOU LIKE IT."

To the average audience, "scenes" from Shakespeare are apt to be either largely unintelligible, or merely dull. Neither of these adjectives could be applied to the performance of "As You Like It," which was given us by members of the staff at the end of last term. That a cast of nine was able to perform, in the space of an hour and a half, a coherent version of a five-act play, which normally contains more than twenty major characters, is in itself something of an achievement. Yet the adaptation might have been even more successful, and a certain amount of confusion avoided, if the fact that a number of parts were doubled had been more fully emphasised. We might also, with advantage, have been given a brief summary of the adopted play, or, at least, a description of the change of scene. Yet these were but minor faults, and though there may have been a few uncertainties, the main outline of the plot was perfectly clear. The woodland theatre made a perfect setting for the Forest of Arden.

The acting was of the usual high standard which we have learned to expect from staff plays and the parts were admirably cast. Mrs. Lee-Browne was outstanding as Rosalind. Whether as a love-sick maiden, or posing as a merry,



teasing youth, or feigning anger at her lover's tardiness, or fainting at the sight of his blood, she was always convincing. She adapted her voice, her mannerisms, and her whole attitude to every changing mood. Mrs. James made the most of the essentially feminine common-sense and worldly wisdom of Celia, making an excellent foil to the more volatile and passionate Rosalind. Even when the latter dominated the stage, she never forgot to act, and her very movements during the dialogues between Rosalind and Orlando formed a witty and illuminating commentary upon the action.

As the whole sub-plot of Audrey was omitted, Mr. Richards, as Touchstone, was deprived of some of his best scenes. Those that remained to him were, for the majority of the audience, far too few. By a combination of verbal and pantomimic humour, he created an impression of the very spirit of foolery. No less effective was Mr. Wilson as the melancholy, philosophical Jacques—though his was a more subtle kind of humour and one less easy to convey. It is a pity that the effect of his celebrated speech "All the world's a stage ..." was largely diminished owing to the distraction caused by a piece of ill-managed stage business. His slow, moody, and most expressive exits were especially delightful.

These were the most outstanding performances. The other parts were all creditably played. In particular one liked Mr. Gross's foppish Le Beau, though he might, with advantage have spoken more loudly. Mr. Hosken made a spirited Orlando, and Mr. Woodroffe a benevolent, but surely rather young, Duke Senior, and it is difficult to imagine a more appropriate Charles the Wrestler than Mr. Lange. To Mr. Newport, who in addition to making a high-spirited Duke Frederick, produced the play, special thanks are due, and to the whole cast our gratitude for an entertainment, which was the more enjoyable for being so little expected.

### LECTURES.

Mr. C. F. Cook is no stranger to Rendcomb, and when he visited us again during Lent Term to give a lecture on "Some aspects of Florentine Painting" he was given a warm welcome. In the limited time at his disposal he succeeded in giving us a wonderfully vivid account of the development of the art of Florence from its earliest emergings from Byzantinism to the climax of its Renaissance maturity. His slides as ever were memorable. Among them reproductions of such notable masterpieces as Fra.

Angelico's "Annunciation," Botticelli's noble trilogy, "The Madonna of the Magnificat," "Primavera," and the ecstatic "Nativity." Leonardo da Vinci was represented by the mysterious "Virgin of the Rocks," "La Gioconda" and "The Last Supper," and Michael Angelo by his "Entombment" and "The Holy Family." Mr. Cook has the happy knack of blending anecdote with his critical survey, and this lecture had something for everyone to remember.

The Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce's lecture was in direct contrast, both in subject matter and manner. She began with an account of her expedition in an A. C. car to the Arctic circle. Then followed a description of winning the trophy at the Monte Carlo Rally, after a hectic journey that selected her Lapland pinnacle as its starting point. Was she satisfied after that rough ride? Not she. She whisked off at once down through Italy, passing in breathless haste monuments of classical art, and overcoming difficulties of antediluvian roads, from the tip of Sicily into Algeria. And continued her talk with an account of her attempt to make a record by remaining in the air for the longest time in a flight only made possible by refuelling.

Her lecture was nothing if not racy. Her slides showed her in every sort of vicissitude. And when she had finished we felt like echoing Mr. Shaw's hero when he remarked of Lady Cicely—"How magnificent! How splendid! But Oh, what an escape!"

### IMPRESSIONS OF THE ALDERSHOT TATTOO.

It wasn't the tattoo only. It included the journey there and back. Two big "Black and White" coaches, filled with boys and, staff leaving the asphalt, and making their way carefully down the Cheltenham Drive to the open road. Crawling up the steep ascent to the Marlborough Downs, and then by valley roads through Hungerford and Newbury to the lofty common where we stopped for tea. The view was marvellous, the fare excellent, and do I remember taking a rather singular snapshot of certain (highly-placed) members of the staff in definitely "day-off" attitudes?

Afterwards came the excitement of our arrival at Aldershot in the middle of that very curious country, all sandy heath, full of wide spaces and sharply wooded bluffs. The immense car park, and then suddenly the skirls of Scottish pipes, the swing of kilts, troops in

long lines converging on the arena. We were caught up into the thrill at once. Whether one looked at the towering ranks of the Grand Stands with their batteries of flood-lights mounted on top, at the surging crowds, at the beautiful billiard-table green of the arena itself or beyond to the scenic splendours of the Tower of London, and the distant view of Windsor Castle, one had plenty to marvel at.

And now the community singer man, aided by the lungs of loud speakers, is giving up his rather forlorn attempt to persuade the British crowd to become mass conscious. The lights are going on. A fanfare of trumpets from the Tower blazes out, and the show has begun. I cannot hope to give any idea of its spectacular variety. There remains a vivid impression of the splendour of vast bodies of men marching and counter-marching under sweeping changes of light. Colour and music combine to reinforce the effect. Humours, too—"Grenadiers, take care of your fire-locks," "Grenadiers discharge your fire-locks" Horrors—the dead falling, in a modern, mechanised attack—though, somehow, this was the least effective episode in the long programme. Surprises—as when the lights came on upon the massed formation in the Jubilee pageant. If one could criticise it at all one's only comment would be that with all these masses of men and quantities of light, a producer could hardly fail to be impressive, and a director like Max Reinhardt, for example, would probably contrive touches of both magic and mystery that were somewhat lacking.

However, it was over all too soon. One last look at the deserted arena, and the emptying rows of seats. Admiration at the excellent arrangements made for the disposal of the vast crowds, and the fleets of cars and buses. And then the midnight journey home. A series of sleepings and awakenings. Cirencester in the pearly light of dawn. The unusual experience of going to bed in daylight. The absence of bells. Not a stir in College until we came down to a very appetising "brunch"

And one memorable day and night well and successfully over.

### **HOCKEY, 1935.**

Judging from the results of the season's matches, it would seem that the hockey has improved considerably. This improvement is mainly due to the fact that all the people playing in the Senior game have been playing for some time, as was not the case in preceding

years. Also we had the expert advice of four masters, the Headmaster, Mr. Gross, who was officially in charge of hockey, Mr. Hosken and Mr. Lange. The latter showed all those who play as goal-keeper how to keep goal, making some marvellous saves. The second and Junior games nearly always had someone in charge who was able to act as a coach.

The results of the six matches played were definitely encouraging.

The first match on the 23rd of February against M.H.C., Martin's XI., consisting mainly of Old Boys, provided us with a win, the score being 6—3. At half-time we were losing 2 nil, but early in the second half, with the slope to help us, we quickly scored four, and then put the issue out of doubt by scoring two more towards the end.

The match against Dean Close 3rd XI. was a close game. Up to five minutes from the end we held our opponents, but a breakaway by their outside right led to the deciding goal being scored in their favour.

On the 9th March we had the first game against Hanley Castle in very cold weather; the ground was bumpy, and it was altogether too cold to play good hockey. The match ended in a draw 1—1. The return match against Hanley Castle (again on their ground) we won 3—0.

On Tuesday, the 16th, we played a match against the staff and three boys. It was a very even game, and but for the superb work of the staff goalkeeper it might well have finished differently. The Staff won 2—1.

The last match of the season was against Dean Close at Cheltenham. At half-time we were winning 2—1, but for a mistake of the goal-keeper, our opponents would not have scored their second goal. In the closing minutes the team seemed to tire quickly, and it was through this that Dean Close scored their last goal to make the score 3—2.

The following regularly played in the team: Cooper, E. R., goal-keeper; Ingleton and Wilson, G., backs; Muirhead, Brain, Wilson, A., half-backs; Selby, Wright, Richardson, Willets, Thornhill, forwards.

Cooper, E. kept goal well, except for one mistake in the Dean Close match. Ingleton and Wilson, G, produced good stock-work, but were a little too slow to be good backs. Muirhead, Brain, Wilson, A., the half-backs, got through a fine amount of work in the

matches, and were the mainstays of the team. Thornhill was a very fair outside left, while Willetts as inside left, was a very good worker, who had bad luck on many occasions. Richardson was too slow for centre forward, and cannot shoot quickly enough yet. Wright was a good inside right, making openings for his centre forward, whilst Selby, though not good at hockey, produced some long runs down the right wing, and was sometimes dangerous. R. Gillham played well in two matches, and should be useful next season.

A.E.A.B.

### RUNNING.

The times of the North Cerney and Open Lodges Races this term were fast, though no individual persons had practised these runs seriously.

There are only two possible ways to account for these fast times, and they are that either the school possesses five or six good runners, or else we are more fit than our predecessors were. Probably the latter reason is correct.

On the last Saturday of term, the North Cerney Race was run. There was rain in the morning, but the condition of the course was pretty fair. Muirhead was leading all the way, and finished first in 22mins. 50 2.5 secs. If he had been pressed we might have seen the best time for this race beaten. Dalton ran well, to finish second in 23. 33½, Brain was third in 23.38. There were other people who could probably have done under 25 mins., but who did not enter for the race.

The Lodges Relay Run took place on the following Tuesday. The East won by about 50 yards in 11 mins. 9 4-5, beating last year's time by 7 1-5 seconds. The West were second in 11.35 2-5, and the South third in 11.32.

The Junior Lodges Race was run on Friday, the 29th March, and was won by Billany in 15.12 4-5 secs. He was leading all the way, and was never pressed. Two Form I. boys, Tyldesley and Jackson, did very well to finish second and third respectively in 16 mins., in front of much bigger entrants.

Muirhead also won the Open Lodges Race in 13 mins. 17 3-5 secs, which is 10 seconds outside the existing record. Selby kept up with Muirhead until the Cirencester Lodge, when Muirhead went ahead. Selby's time was 13.38, a good time for so young a competitor. In

time, and with determination, he should be a really good runner. Willetts, Brain, Gillham, R., Thornhill, in that order, all finished in 14.45.

The times registered by some of the younger boys show that there is no lack of good runners in the school, even though the interest is not as great as it might be.

A.E.A.B.

### CRICKET SEASON, 1935.

The College v. Swindon College, at Swindon, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

This, our first match, not only damped the inevitable optimism present at the beginning of a season, but made the team realise the necessity for practice, if future success were desired. The College batted first, and scored 115, Willetts making a useful 53, and Wilson A. 16, in his usual rapid manner. Turnbull proved a formidable bowler, taking five of our wickets for 9 runs. The opponents batted well, and stumps were drawn with the score at 134 for four wickets. Our fielding was weak, while lack of sufficient good bowlers put us at a grave disadvantage.

The College v. Miserden Cricket Club, at Miserden, June 10th.

Considerable improvement in fielding was visible in this match, and Miserden was dismissed after scoring 108 runs. Wright took four wickets for 38, and Wilson A. 3 for 30. We scored 150 for seven, thus winning comfortably. Willets made 25, while Wright scored a lucky 53, not out.

The College v. Swindon College, at Rendcomb, June 22nd.

Our first four batsmen collapsed rapidly at the beginning of the match, making 31 runs between them, but Wilson A. and Wright were able to restore a little confidence by taking the score up to 111 for 8, after which no more runs were scored. Wilson A. batted well, making 25, while Wright contributed a useful 53. The result of the match was a draw, we having taken eight wickets for 63, when all play ceased. Muirhead took three wickets for 0, and Wright two for 9.

The College v. North Cerney Cricket Club, at Rendcomb, June 27th.

The visitors batted first, scoring 75 runs. Wilson A. took three wickets for 23, while Brain, who had several chances missed, took two for 14. Our team was soon dismissed for a total of 41. It is difficult to account for this poor performance against bowling which seemed easy enough.

The College v. Burford Grammar School, at Burford, July 4th.

Once more our batting proved a failure, though here the pitch caused a certain amount of confusion. The ball rose, kept to the turf, or broke quite unexpectedly. We scored 57, of which Brain made 29. This contribution saved us from too severe a loss. Burford declared with a score of 69 for 4. Although Brain only took two wickets for 13, he bowled well, with an accurate and consistent length.

The College v. Miserden Cricket Club at Rendcomb, July 20th.

The uncertainty of the weather in the early afternoon delayed the match considerably, but

play eventually opened in a mild drizzle. Miserden opened the batting, and scored 79. Brain again bowled accurately, taking five wickets for 29, while Muirhead's slow off-breaks puzzled the visitors considerably. He took three wickets for 3 runs. The College scored 88 for eight, Brain contributing 21, Wilson A. 15, and Muirhead 14. Each batted well and confidently, especially Muirhead.

The College v. Rendcomb Old Boys, at Rendcomb, July 27th.

Enthusiasm in this, our last match, was not lacking, but as in the first our spirits were a little damped when the team was dismissed for 62 runs. Kitchen scored 16, and batted with remarkable steadiness, while Haig, a recent addition to the team, made his first 12 runs with style and confidence. The Old Boys performed vigorously, and entered into the match with a whole-hearted spirit. They scored 120, thus handsomely winning the match. Wright took three wickets for 17, and Muirhead three for 22. The fielding, though better than at the beginning of the season, still has much room for improvement, and we hope that more practice all round will be possible in the future.

