

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 10. No. 7.

December, 1954

SCHOOL NOTES.

Summer Term, 1954.

Term began on Friday the 30th of April and ended on Friday the 23rd of July. Once more reference has to be made to the weather and this time with complete justification! We are used to reporting that so many hockey fixtures have been abandoned and so many games interrupted, but this year must surely be unique in that the bad weather extended right through the summer term, and very seriously interfered with the cricket. Reference to this is made, very understandably, in the Games Report on page 13.

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We offer our best wishes to the following who left at the end of the Summer Term: D. G. Vaisey, T. Gay, R. M. Sumsion, J. M. Harrison, J. K. Comrie, M. D. Richards, F. S. G. Richards, O. S. David, M. J. Edwards, P. S. Rose, P. B. Marwood and J. R. Gosden.

And we welcome the following new boys who entered the College at the beginning of the Christmas Term: J. G. Scudamore, A. K. Bowley, J. A. van Coillie, D. B. Brook, M. J. N. Bryant, J. Goodborn, R. P. S. Harrison, M. C. Jones, J. C. Malpass, N. J. Price, D. Rawcliffe, R. H. Tingle, J. M. Webb.

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Founder's Day was celebrated on Saturday the 3rd of July, 1954. An account appears on page 7.

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The new fencing round the playing fields is now complete, though there are not many rabbits to keep out at the moment.

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The choir took part in the Public Schools' Festival Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral on the 1st of June. This annual event is organised by the Royal School of Church Music, to which the College Choir is affiliated. This year, for the first time, we were joined by the choir of Rugby.

A party went to the Three Counties' Agricultural Show at Staverton on the 8th of June. Wellington boots were an essential part of their attire.

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A unique event took place on the Asphalt on the 12th of June. In pouring rain the Games Committee organised a six-a-side Hockey Tournament for both seniors and juniors. The prizes were presented by the Headmaster after Sunday dinner, the next day. The Senior Prize, incidentally, was shared by four teams. Prizes were edible.

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A small party went to see the match between Gloucestershire and Essex, at Gloucester, on the 28th of June.

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Arrangements were made for the Senior School to see "Romeo and Juliet" at Stratford on the 9th of July, and to hear the Hallé Orchestra at Cheltenham on the 14th. Notices of both entertainments appear elsewhere.

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Several months work was brought to an end by Founder's Day when the new Biology Laboratory was finished. This project owes a tremendous amount to Mr. Fell, who not only superintended the building operations, but was largely responsible, with Mr. Swaine, for the plans. Everyone concerned must be congratulated on this excellent work.

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We are indeed sorry for the tardy acknowledgement of our gratitude to Miss G. M. Kennard for several gifts of books for the Library. Up to now the editor had not known of them. We are also grateful to Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Vaisey for a similar gift, and to Brigadier General E. B. Hankey and Miss Hankey for continuing to send us "Country Life", and to Peter Binks for the "T. C. I. Magazine".

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At the time of going to press, the new organ which Lord Dulverton has given to the church is being erected, and the building is strewn with pipes and cables. Unless something unforeseen transpires, it will certainly be ready for the Carol Service in December. Since the old instrument was taken away in July we have been using a piano very kindly loaned by Mr. L. W. H. Hull. We understand Mr. Hull has now offered to give the piano to the church and his offer has been accepted with gratitude by the Church Council.

The following passed the General Certificate of Education Examination in one or more subjects at Midsummer, 1954.

At Ordinary Level. —P. G. Auden, J. B. R. Browne, M. G. Cooper, O. S. David, P. Gilbert, D. A. Godfrey, H. A. Gough, A. P. Hayes, G. H. G. Herbert, R. J. Lawson, A. C. Lucker, G. E. Page, B. R. Paish, R. C. Pilkington, R. F. Stimson, P. J. L. Swaite, C. H. Thomason, A. G. B. Wallace, J. K. Walter.

At Advanced and Scholarship Levels. —R. W. Alder, J. K. Comrie, M. J. Edwards, T. Gay, B. Glastonbury, J. R. Gosden, J. Gough, M. V. Harley, J. M. Harrison, R. N. Horne, P. B. Marwood, R. A. Powell, M. D. Richards, M. G. Richards, P. S. Rose, R. M. Sumsion.

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We were recently having tea with two ladies. As a girl one of them lived at Rendcomb when it was a private house, and the other used to come to stay. They asked us several questions about our use of various rooms, but we confess we were rather startled when one turned to the other and said: "Do you remember how we used to roller-skate round the top-floor?"

HONOURS.

M. J. Edwards—State Scholarship in Arts.

G. W. Ivens—D. Phil. (Oxon).

J. J. North—W. K. Kellogg Agricultural Foundation Fellowship.

J. W. Sumsion—M. A. (Econ.). Yale University, U. S. A.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Christmas Term, 1954.

Prefects—R. N. Horne, B. Glastonbury, R. A. Powell,

T. D. A. Semple, M. V. Harley.

College Workman—J. Bolton King.

Music Warden—T. W. Rowley.

Senior Music Librarian—R. W. Alder.

Choir Librarians—A. D. Thomas, J. M. Webb.

†**P. W. Man**—A. G. B. Wallace.

Church Collections and Deck Chairs—M. G. Cooper.

Librarians—R. A. Powell, M. V. Harley, J. R. Ellis, S. R. Merrett.

Pictureman—A. Harrison.

Manual Foremen—J. Gough, M. G. Richards, D. J. B. Forster,
J. R. Ellis, D. A. Godfrey.
Poultrymen—G. H. G. Herbert, C. H. Thomason, H. A. Gough,
D. T. Hart, M. D. Naish, S. D. Flicks, F. A. G. Ferguson.
†**Furniture Committee**—D. R. G. Griffiths, J. Gough,
M. A. B. Forster.
Stagemen—R. O. G. Hayter, G. IF. Richards, M. A. B. Forster,
P. G. Auden, D. T. Hart, G. H. G. Herbert,
I. A. N. Campbell.
Lamp Men—J. K. Walter, J. A. Richards.
†**Billiards Committee**—M. G. Cooper, D. W. Brown, J. R. Alder.
† General Meeting Elections.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1954.

Chairman—R. N. Horne.
Secretary—B. Glastonbury.
Captain of Football—R. A. Powell.
Games Committee—T. D. A. Semple and J. M. Astill.
Field Secretary—D. A. Godfrey.
Meeting Banker—R. W. Alder.
Boys' Banker—J. R. Ellis.
Senior Shopman—T. W. Rowley.
Games Committee Treasurer—M. G. Richards.
House Committee Treasurer—R. F. Stimson.
Finance Committee Treasurer—D. W. Brown.
Finance Committee—J. G. A. Dainty and I. A. N. Campbell.
Shopmen—T. D. Hart and R. D. White.
Auditors—R. N. Horne and M. G. Richards.
Breakages Man—P. J. L. Swaite.
Entertainments Committee—J. B. R. Browne, P. J. L. Swaite,
C. H. Thomason, P. F. Barter, P. C. R. Burns.
Record Committee—M. V. Harley, J. M. Astill, G. H. G. Herbert,
G. H. Richards and M. G. Richards.
Magazine Committee—D. W. Brown, R. D. Comley, R. W. Taylor.

Cycle Committee—R. F. Stimson, J. K. Walter, J. D. R. Paine.
Amplifier Technicians—M. V. Harley and T. W. Rowley.
Paperman—D. W. Brown.
Drying Room Committee—A. T. Brooks, C. Handoll and G. H. G. Herbert.
Rugby Games Wardens—H. A. Gough, M. G. Cooper.
Cricket Games Warden—J. A. Richards.
Tennis Games Warden—J. E. Gooding.
Cricket Groundsman—J. A. Richards.
Tennis Groundsman—J. F. W. Beard.
Rugby Groundsmen—J. Bolton King and A. P. Hayes.
Junior Rugby Groundsman—I. A. N. Campbell.
Cricket Secretary, 1955—H. A. Gough.
Council—R. N. Horne, J. Gough, T. D. A. Semple,
G. H. Richards, A. G. B. Wallace, R. O. G. Hayter,
R. A. Powell.
End of Term Entertainments Committee—A. G. B. Wallace,
R. A. Powell, G. H. Richards, R. O. G. Hayter, D. A. Godfrey.
Selection Committee—B. Glastonbury, R. N. Home, J. Gough,
G. H. Richards, M. G. Richards.
Record Committee Treasurer—G. H. G. Herbert.
Rule Committee—R. N. Horne, M. G. Richards, R. W. Alder.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

J. G. Sterry has become a partner in Messrs. Kingscott, Dix and Co.,
Incorporated Accountants, Gloucester.

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J. W. Sumsion has become M.A. (Econ.) of Yale University, U. S. A.

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We congratulate John Owen on the award of a Fellowship jointly by
the Royal Society and the United States National Academy which will
enable him to do research in the University of California for at least one
year.

* * *

W. N. Durham has been appointed Postmaster of Saltash, Cornwall.

An extraordinary coincidence took place in August, 1954, when entirely by chance, Charles Carus-Wilson (Cambridge University) and Christopher Brisley (Bristol University) found each other as members of the crew of the same liner, the Princess Patricia, plying between Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle. They had independently decided to go to Canada during the summer vacation (Charles to see his brother John, who is working in Vancouver) and they had had no previous communication with each other.

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F. R. Dodds and his wife have gone out to New Zealand where he has joined his two elder brothers in their dairy farm at Richmond, Nelson.

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R. J. Kendal has been elected Secretary of the Bristol University Hockey Club for the season 1954-55.

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The following old boys visited the College during the summer term: Martin Knight, Roland Short, Keith Statham, Peter de Iongh, Bill Prime, John Smith and J. W. J. Reed.

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J. J. North has been awarded one of the six W. K. Kellogg Foundation Scholarships, offered by the Ministry of Agriculture to enable members of its staff to study agriculture abroad. North is going to the U. S. A. to study irrigation, and is hoping to be able to take an M. Sc. degree during the period. He also reports that during the past season he has played hockey once or twice for Lincolnshire County.

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The following Old Boys accepted invitations to Founder's Day on July 3rd, 1954: F. Batten, R. G. Betterton, P. Binks, R. J. Bird, B. J. Brooks, E. R. Cooper, W. N. Durham, J. Gilchrist, A. E. Godsell, D. D. Haig, E. J. M. Jefferies, A. C. Magor, A. R. Margetts, K. E. Payne, T. Price, W. J. Prime, E. B. Smith, J. G. Sterry, J. W. Sumsion.

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J. C. Waterton is working in Newcastle-upon-Tyne with a firm of consulting engineers who specialise in power-stations.

FOUNDERS' DAY.

3rd of July, 1954.

The principal speaker this year was the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, Sir Phillip Morris. He began with the remark that the family of the Founder had also brought Bristol University to its present position of distinction in the academic world. The University and the College were "brothers under the skin". Rendcomb, he said, had justified its place in the great story of educational attainments in this country, and continued, "I believe that Rendcomb has much in store for it, and I hope very much that it will not lose the idea of versatility and practicability and the level of academic achievement which it has attained."

Founder's Day gave all those who really made (or marred) a school the opportunity of meeting together and sharing in the same ceremony. We had in this country a great and almost unequalled tradition of education based more on action than on words, achievements rather than prophecy or writing. Rendcomb was an example of what had been happening in this country for a very long time. "Schools are not only teaching shops", Sir Phillip went on, "they are places of education in which, by co-operation between parents and staff, men are built and made."

In his report the Headmaster referred to the epidemic which had immobilised the school for a fortnight and caused the cancellation of the P. T. display, and to the very bad weather which had rained-off so many hockey and cricket fixtures.

We were very sorry not to have Lord Dulverton with us on this occasion. He has been ill, and this was the first time for many years that he has not proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

After tea visitors saw the usual exhibition of work done in the Workshop, and the Choir gave two performances of a Recital of Anthems and Motets in the Church. Mr. Tooze conducted and the organist was Mr. Eric Suddrick, a member of the music staff at Cheltenham College. Each performance was preceded by a "touch" rung by the Senior Group of Ringers.

There was no Laboratory Exhibition this year, but visitors were shown round the new Biology Laboratory which had just been completed.

THE NEW ORGAN.

We briefly reported in the last issue of the "Chronicle" that Lord Dulverton had most generously given a new organ to St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb. As we go to press it is being installed, well in time for the Carol Service.

The old organ had been giving trouble for many years. Its history is most obscure. There is no mention of acquiring it in the Churchwardens' Accounts (which incidentally are available from 1689 onwards), and the first reference to one is in the report of a Vestry Meeting in 1889 when Twenty-six Shillings were spent on "tuning the organ". There is a strong recollection among the villagers that it came from Gloucester Cathedral, possibly from one of the chapels, but the late Rector was of the opinion that it came from a private residence. We do know however, that it was built by a small firm in London in 1871, and, musical evidence tends to support that it was intended for a Music Room or Drawing Room. Research is going on in the Parish Registers, and something of interest may come to light in the Cathedral Library at Gloucester. We hope to give further information in our next issue when we shall give a description of the new organ.

We have been interested to discover how many people are not aware that an organist plays with his feet; the good player does not have to give any more thought to them than the good pianist to his fingers. But the old pedal board did not conform to international standards, and was about fifty years out of date. It was useless therefore for a player to rely on his pedal technique because of this variation, and he had to learn a new one by trial and error—mostly by error!

By far the greatest handicap was that the mechanism was either worn out or, in common with many of the wooden pipes, destroyed by dry rot. This meant that pipes would not stop "speaking" after the keys had gone back into place, or worse still certain keys would not go back as they should, on their own accord. Therefore the organist had to keep a "weather finger" rather than a weather eye ready for such emergencies.

About four years ago it became apparent that things were serious, and expert advice was that about £400 would be required for urgent repairs which would only postpone disaster for some years.

At this time there was a small Organ Fund which had been collected from Carol Services and proceeds of Jumble Sales and so on. With more faith than judgement, an Organ Committee was formed and the appeal launched with a Recital of Choral and

Orchestral Music which Mr. Tooze conducted and in which the School Choir took part, in 1952.

The Governors at their next meeting made a contribution to the fund and at Christmas of that year, Lord Dulverton privately gave instructions for preliminary enquiries to be made either for a thorough rebuild or for a completely new instrument.

In the event these preliminary enquiries took a whole year, they involved visits to factories and churches; and throughout we were very grateful for the expert advice of Mr. Hubert Crook, the Chief Commissioner of the Royal School of Church Music, with which the College Choir is affiliated. Mr. Crook twice came to Rendcomb and made a thorough examination of the old organ and prepared a specification on which builders were asked to submit plans. The quotations from the big, well-known companies were, on the whole, staggering, and in addition we were told that the work could not be completed for three or four years owing to their long waiting lists. Accordingly, it was decided to deal with a smaller firm and Mr. Tooze visited several churches in widely separate parts of the West Country and the London area. As a result of these journeys and of opinions solicited from other musicians, Messrs. Osmonds of Taunton, Somerset, were invited to undertake the work.

It was at this point that the main obstacle presented itself. In the last century a great deal of irreparable damage had been done to Cathedrals and churches by renovators and restorers, and to prevent the continuance of such disasters, each Diocese of the Church of England has an Advisory Committee to whom all plans for even a small alteration to a church must be submitted. Accordingly our proposals were sent to them. One was that the organ was badly placed in the south-east corner of the church and would be heard to better advantage if it could be brought forward into the Manor Pew. The Chairman of the Committee for the Gloucester Diocese is Mr. Croome of Bagenden, who will be known to many of our readers, and he very kindly made several visits to the church to discuss the matter with those concerned. He pointed out that our church was almost unique in Gloucestershire in not having an apse and that his Committee had always been eager to see the organ removed from the East end altogether, thus allowing a flood of light in the chancel, hitherto prevented by the organ being placed in front of a clear window. His Committee asked that consideration be given to putting the new instrument on a platform at the back of the church, in front of the tower arch.

This plan was immediately opposed by the musicians on the grounds of "division of forces", i.e. the organ at one end and the choir at the other, but they were, nonetheless, well aware of the

visual advantages of the Board's suggestion, and willingly gave it very careful consideration.

Mr. Tooze then began another series of journeys to churches where there was a West End organ. First, the Headmaster and Mrs. Lee-Browne drove him to Cheltenham College; the Chapel there is large and resonant and the problem of "time-lag" and division of forces is as acute as it is likely to be anywhere other than a cathedral. Then he went to a village in North Gloucestershire where in order to gain musical cohesion, they had a robed choir in the chancel and another up in the organ loft at the West End. Then a few members of our own choir were taken to Colesbourne, where the organ is also at the West End. The result of the experiments were not encouraging.

None of these organs had a detached console near the singers which it was proposed we should have, and we discovered that the nearest church having this arrangement was at Shaftesbury in Dorset. And so to Shaftesbury. There were four cars altogether: the Headmaster's, Mrs. Lee-Browne's, Mrs. Gladstone's, and Mr. David Gladstone's. Our journey proved that the west-end position still was not entirely satisfactory even with the organ console close to the choir stalls, and it was with great reluctance the Committee were informed that their suggestion was not practicable in our case.

By this time it was December, 1953. Our next plan was to see whether the shape of the new organ could be altered so that it could be built against the wall and not unduly interrupt the line of vision up the South Aisle. This proved too costly. After further delay the original plans with some modifications were formally submitted to the Board for transmission to the Chancellor of the Diocese praying for a Faculty to undertake the work.

It was not until August of this year that this Faculty, giving formal permission, was received, and it is a tribute to Messrs. Osmonds that whereas their competitors, or at least most of them, required three or four years, they have done most of their work in as many months.

And so, the old organ has been taken away and the Manor Pew cleared of seats. It is hoped that at some future date the two cenotaphs can be put back in their old position from where they were moved to make room for the old organ and the site once again made into a chapel or Sanctuary.

We are glad to express our profound and grateful thanks to Lord Dulverton for this magnificent gift. We are also most grateful to the Reverend L. G. Allum, who has always been available not only to smooth over difficulties and to advise, but to give

active help. The members of the Organ Committee are: The Rev. L. G. Allum (Chairman), Mrs. F. C. Gladstone, Mrs. S. D. Lane, Mrs. A. A. McLachlan, Miss C. M. Savage (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. F. Holmes and H. E. Farnsworth (Churchwardens), and Mr. J. Tooze.

In our next issue we shall give a description of the new organ and of the excellent work done by the boys, under Mr. G. F. Graty's direction, in the clearing of the site, and the re-fixing of pews.

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF BRITISH CONTEMPORARY MUSIC.

A party from the Senior school went to hear one of the concerts given, as usual, by the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli. "The Times" Music Critic wrote that this concert may well prove a landmark in the history not only of this valuable festival but in our English music, for the first performance of Stanley Bate's Third Symphony revealed a new force among contemporary composers. Third symphony, be it noted, composed moreover as long ago as 1940, yet Bate's name though not unknown, has disappeared from our ken by reason of his residence abroad. He once was a pupil of Vaughan Williams, Nadia Boulanger and Paul Hindemith in turn, and his mastery by then was complete.

The symphony, which received a sympathetic performance, is tragic but free from self-pity, and that in itself is a musical tonic of the first order. (Who was it who said, not long ago, that so many modern composers mistake neurosis for a reflection of our times? Nor, need that remark be confined to serious music.) It is organised on a large scale, though not quite on conventional lines, the themes are short and easy to follow; perhaps it would have been better if the three movements had been more decisively separated since in any complex work one likes to have an idea of where one has got to. But the symphony made an instant appeal to the audience and we were gratified that, for once, we found ourselves in agreement with contemporary music criticism.

“ROMEO AND JULIET.”

Having seen “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” earlier in the season at Stratford, we went to “Romeo and Juliet” with some misgivings. It is not one of Shakespeare’s greatest tragedies; he was, when he wrote it, a gay, light-hearted man as the lyrical quality of the verse shows, and it is virtually impossible for a light-hearted man to write a great and convincing tragedy. Even the best actors have never made an enormous success of the play— what would it be like in the hands of this young and inexperienced company?

The set, as always at Stratford in recent years, was basically the same for the greater part of the play; only once was it changed, and that was for the scene in Mantua, when it was replaced by something representing either a house or the city wall, patchily painted in a curious purple. The main set in a light-coloured wood reminiscent of modern furniture, served its multitudinous purposes very well; with few alterations it served as Juliet’s balcony, the interior of her room, other parts of the Capulet house, Friar Lawrence’s cell, the streets of Verona, and the Capulet house—the latter with the various characters climbing up from the distance at the back of the stage was especially effective. The sole fault to be found in the scenery was that the window blinds reminded one more of Southend than Verona.

The biggest difficulty in “Romeo and Juliet” is the portrayal of Juliet; she must have the appearance of a girl who “come Lammas Eve at night shall be fourteen”, and the acting ability of an experienced “star”, Zena Walker overcame this difficulty with the greatest skill. In the early scenes she was excellent as a chubby effervescent child, the impatience and quick change of mood of a child being particularly well brought out; and although she matured enormously during the action she never really ceased to be a child. Those of us who had seen her as Hermia in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, were impressed by Miss Walker’s versatility—the difference between the cattish Hermia and the roguish Juliet was quite remarkable.

Unfortunately Laurence Harvey’s Romeo was not as good. As a lover he lacked passion, and as a member of the house of Montague he seemed strangely unconcerned with the quarrel between his family and the Capulets; he was in fact entirely aloof from all others in the play save Juliet and Friar Lawrence. His speech was monotonous and often indistinct; thus he spoilt the finest part of the play—its verse. These faults, coupled with his ungainly appearance, made him a most unsuitable Romeo; although in his defence it must be said that no actor has made his name as Romeo

and most actors of renown have had great difficulty in maintaining their reputation in the part.

The Mercutio of Tony Britton was excellent; a loud-mouthed, devil-may-care young man who made his bawdy jests with obvious relish, who completely stole the first half of the play, and whose death was much lamented by the audience. Tybalt, whom Mercutio so roundly ridiculed, was shown by Keith Michell to be a brutish bully and it came as a surprise when Juliet mourned his death so much.

The Nurse played by Rosalind Atkinson was also very convincing, though she tended to mumble her words, and some of her bawdier remarks were difficult to catch; but this was in character and in no way spoilt the performance.

The music was, for once, conventional; it was not the jangle of discords which we have come to expect at Stratford in recent years. It gave agreeable support to a satisfying production which was only marred by the deficiencies of the chief character.

R. N. H.

CRICKET REPORT.

The Cricket season of 1954 will long be remembered as probably the worst in the history of the college to date. The rain, which we were not altogether surprised to see in May, pursued us into June, and from June into July, relentlessly, and seemed to batten, with particular zest, on Thursdays and Saturdays. Not a single First or "A" XI match was played between May 26th and July 14th. For all Elevens, twenty-one matches had been arranged, and of these, ten were cancelled outright, all but two of them because of the weather; and three more were abandoned as draws. In the second of these latter, against Dean Close 2nd XI, we played in conditions which would certainly have daunted many cricketers, but in spite of the utmost efforts of our sporting opponents and ourselves, we were not able to obtain a definite result in a closely contested game.

In such circumstances an objective report on the cricket, as opposed to the weather, is somewhat difficult to write. It is difficult also to say how much enthusiasm there would have been if there had been a summer in which to play the "summer game". As it was, a small nucleus of keen cricketers defied the weather whenever possible, and put in a lot of practice at the nets.

The 1st XI was potentially quite a strong side, with plenty of batting, and bowling of the quicker variety. The fielding varied

between excellent and mediocre: in the main, the stopping and catching were better than the throwing. There was an unfortunate lack of slow bowling of any accuracy, though R. N. Horne bowled his off-breaks intelligently if his length was not above reproach.

D. G. Vaisey, who had been elected Captain, was unfortunately ill and unable to play after the end of May; towards the end of the season, after a long period of bad weather and cancelled games, J. M. Harrison was elected in his stead. Neither Vaisey nor Harrison had the opportunity, in the circumstances, to show what they could have done if given a chance, but in their different ways both managed their teams well.

Of the batsmen, J. M. Astill played a fine innings of 57 against Sir Thomas Rich's on a difficult pitch, but did not otherwise quite fulfil expectations. He has an excellent defence, but when not on form he is apt to make the bowling look more difficult than it is. He is, however, full of promise for the future.

R. A. Powell showed the ability to hit the ball hard, but not always with a straight bat. As a result, his innings were inclined to be hectic, though often very useful.

H. A. Gough had the power to make good-length bowling look extremely easy, but he must learn to concentrate more. Too often he was out when apparently well set owing to a bad error of judgment. He is, however, well equipped as a batsman.

D. A. Godfrey had a disappointing season, mainly owing to lack of confidence. A beautiful forward player, he looked so good in the nets, that it was sad to see him out, time after time, to a tentative stroke in games and matches. He did, however, play one good innings, against Cheltenham Town.

J. M. Harrison, though somewhat impetuous and in need of practice against slow bowling, played some excellent aggressive innings and hit the ball as it ought to be hit. His running between the wickets was especially good.

D. G. Vaisey never really had a chance to find his form and to repeat some of the useful innings he had played in 1953. His forward play is good and he has thus a useful basis on which to build in the future.

J. R. Ellis was a good forward player, but was in trouble when playing back, mainly through not getting properly behind the ball. He played a very good innings against Cheltenham College 2nd XI, but thereafter never again succeeded in finding this form.

R. W. Alder came into the side towards the end of the season and proved a competent and stylish player whose driving was especially good. He must learn, however, to deal more effectively with balls on and outside his leg stump.

R. N. Horne came on a great deal and developed into a useful forcing batsman, whose hitting might have been invaluable to the side if there had been more opportunities. His bat is scarcely straight, but he showed the ability to pick the right ball to hit.

B. Glastonbury, R. J. Lawson, M. G. Richards, J. Gough and J. A. Richards showed, on various occasions, that they could make runs, but their opportunities were, naturally, few.

J. M. Harrison, who bowled 79 overs in the six matches in which he played, bore the brunt of the bowling. The wickets seldom suited him, but he developed a new-found ability to bring the ball in from the off and took, in matches, 22 wickets for less than 8 runs apiece. We shall miss him sorely next season.

D. A. Godfrey bowled with some hostility, but his length was uncertain, and he did not make sufficient use of his height. For all that, he bowled extremely well in the first match against Dean Close.

R. N. Horne found difficulty in pitching his off-breaks to a length, and was somewhat expensive. If the weather had allowed us more practice games, he would almost certainly have done better.

R. W. Alder, R. A. Powell, B. Glastonbury and J. M. Astill all bowled on occasion with varying success.

The holding, as has been said, was erratic. Powell, Godfrey and Harrison were quite outstanding; Powell was an alert and athletic slip, who was rewarded in the last match with two splendid catches, and both Harrison and Godfrey saved many runs by good anticipation and hard throwing. H. A. Gough kept wicket with much efficiency, and Mr. Extras never looked like occupying a prominent place on the score-sheet.

There were several promising performers in the middle and lower schools. Of these special mention may be made of R. C. Pilkington, D. T. Hart, C. Handoll, C. H. Thomason, P. Mew, R. F. Stebbing, D. R. C. Griffiths, M. R. Horton, R. A. Cockrell and A. D. Thomas.

In closing this account, we must express our thanks firstly to the efficient groundsmen, J. R. Ellis and C. Handoll, and secondly to those members of the first game who made up by keen fielding for their deficiencies in the "finer" points of the game. The names of P. B. Marwood, T. D. A. Semple (who also made a big advance as a wicket-keeper), R. O. G. Hayter, B. R. Paish and T. Rowley spring to mind most readily. And in conclusion, a word of gratitude to Mr. Telling for all the work he did on the field, often in climatic conditions more reminiscent of February than of midsummer.

1st ELEVEN MATCHES.

May 15th. v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI Lost by 9 wickets.

Our batsmen failed on a perfect pitch, but J. R. Ellis in his first match played a stylish innings.

Rendcomb 97 (Harrison 25, Ellis 21).

Cheltenham College 2nd XI. 132 for 2.

May 25th. v. Dean Close "A" XI. Drawn.

Going for the runs we lost wickets steadily on a drying pitch after a good stand between Astill and H. A. Gough.

Dean Close "A" 129 (Harrison 4—38).

Rendcomb 82—7 (H. A. Gough 30, Astill 25).

May 26th. v. Sir Thomas Rich's. Won by 73 runs.

A brilliant innings by Astill on a lively pitch was the feature of this game. When our opponents batted they were defeated by the speed of our bowling.

Rendcomb 113 for 6 declared (Astill 57).

Sir Thomas Rich's 40 (Godfrey 4—13, Harrison 4—18).

July 15th. v. Cheltenham Town 2nd XI. Won by 6 wickets.

This was our first match for over a month. Our opponents left us an hour and five minutes to get the runs and we had ten minutes to spare at the end. Both H. A. Gough and Godfrey played very well.

Cheltenham Town 2nd XI. 103—6 declared.

Rendcomb 105—4 (Gough 31 not out).

"A" XI.

May 8th. v. Kingham Hill 1st XI. Won by 14 runs.

Rendcomb 53 (H. A. Gough 26).

Kingham Hill 39 (Harrison 6—20, Godfrey 4—12).

June 5th. v. Dean Close 2nd XI. Match abandoned.

Dean Close no for 4.

July 17th. v. Dean Close 2nd XI. Drawn—rain.

Rendcomb 100 (Alder 27, H. A. Gough 25).

Dean Close 63 for 6 (J. Harrison 5—22).

SECOND XI.

June 5th. v. The Cotswold School. Match abandoned.

Rendcomb 113 for 6 declared (Lawson 50).

Cotswold School 18 for 1.

July 14th. v. King's School, Gloucester. Won by 65 runs.

Rendcomb 108 for 9 dec. (J. Gough 32, Lawson 22).

King's School 43 (J. Gough 7 for 15).

JUNIOR XIs.

Under 14 v. Kingham Hill. Tie.

Rendcomb 42. (Stebbing 5—25, Mew 3—5).

Kingham Hill 42.

Under 16 v. Cheltenham College Juniors. Lost by 4 wickets.

Rendcomb 42.

Cheltenham College 69 (Ellis 3—9, J. A. Richards 3—17).

THE NORTH CERNEY RACE.

Run on Wednesday, June 2nd, 1954.

1. A. G. B. Wallace, 23 mins. 7 secs.
2. R. A. Powell, 23 mins. 10 secs.
3. R. N. Horne, 23 mins. 29 secs.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

December 1954.

In the July issue the publication of systematic lists of species was started and is continued in the present number. In the case of large groups like the birds it has been decided to present lists by instalments, so that the available space in any one issue is not limited to a treatment of one group only.

Lepidoptera, Part 1: Butterflies.

The following is a list of species which have been recorded within a few miles of Rendcomb. The classification is from Ford: 'Butterflies' (Collins).

Satyridae.

Speckled Wood. (*Pararge aegeria* L.). Common in woods and glades.

Wall Butterfly. (*P. megera* L.). Fairly numerous.

Marbled White. (*Melanargia galathea* L.). Common in suitable places.

Hedge Brown. (*Maniola tithonus* L.). One record for Rendcomb by Mr.

E. G. Neal on July 24th, 1945. The species is surprisingly rare in the Cotswolds.

Meadow Brown. (*M. jurtina* L.). Abundant in grassland.

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus* L.). Common on downland, etc.

Ringlet. (*Aphantopus hyperanthus* L.). Fairly plentiful.

Nymphalidae.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Argynnis selene* Schiff). Two near

'Withington Common', in 1942. (Mr. E. G. Neal). Pearl-bordered

Fritillary. (*A. euphrosyne* L.). Numerous in various places.

Dark Green Fritillary. (*A. aglaia* L.). Moderate numbers in scattered localities.

High Brown Fritillary. (*A. cydippe* L.) Scarce: recorded from a few places.

Silver-washed Fritillary. (*A. paphia* L.). Fairly plentiful in suitable places.

The pale form, *valesina*, has been recorded at Withington.

Marsh Fritillary. (*Euphydryas aurinia* Rott). First records for this district were apparently in 1941. Later found in numbers near Monkham Wood, and this year in Cotswold Bottom.

Red Admiral. (*Vanessa atalanta* L.). Numbers vary annually from many to none.

Painted Lady. (*V. cardui* L.). Many in some years, few or none in others.

Small Tortoiseshell. (*Aglais urticae* L.). Abundant in most years.

Peacock Butterfly. (*Nymphalis io* L.). Not usually very plentiful, but numbers vary.

Comma Butterfly. (*Polygonia c-album* L.). Numbers variable. It is usually rather scarce.

White Admiral. (*Limenitis Camilla* L.). Several scattered records from the district. The species is rare round here at present.

Riodinidae.

Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. (*Hamearis lucina* L.). Several colonies are known.

Lycaenidae.

Small Blue. (*Cupido minimus* Fuessl.). A very few records from the district by Mr. E. G. Neal and I. S. Menzies, 1941 to 1945-

Brown Argus. (*Aricia agestis* Schiff). Locally plentiful.

Common Blue. (*Polyommatus icarus* Rott). A common species.

Chalk-hill Blue. (*Lysandra coridon* Poda). Plentiful at Chatcombe. Recorded in two places near Rendcomb, 1952.

Adonis Blue. (*L. bellargus* Rott). Reported to have been taken by I. S. Menzies at Seven Springs.

Large Blue. (*Maculinea arion* L.). One, and perhaps two colonies are now occupied within reasonably easy reach of Rendcomb. First recorded here by Mr. E. G. Neal in 1942. This species requires absolute protection.

Holly Blue. (*Celastrina argiolus* L.). Scarce or rare. Some years provide no records.

Small Copper. (*Lycaena phlaeas* L.). Fairly plentiful locally.

Green Hairstreak. (*Callophrys rubi* L.). Recorded from several places but not very common.

Purple Hairstreak. (*Thecla quercus* L.). Fairly numerous in scattered localities.

White-letter Hairstreak. (*Strymonidia w-album* Knoch). Small numbers occur in various places.

Pieridae.

Large White. (*Pieris brassicae* L.). Numbers have been very variable in recent years. Often common.

Small White. (*P. rapae* L.). Usually fairly plentiful, but numbers fluctuate.

Green-veined White. (*P. napi* L.). Fairly common in some years, scarce in others.

Bath White. (*Pontia daplidice* L.). One reported seen but not caught over the College back drive, by I. S. Menzies in 1947.

Orange-tip. (*Anthocharis cardamines* L.). Plentiful in most years. Clouded

Yellow. (*Colias croceus* Fourcroy). Small numbers seen in some years, but often none.

Brimstone. (*Gonepteryx rhamni* L.). Quite a common species.

Hesperiidae.

Dingy Skipper. (*Erynnis tages* L.). Fairly common in suitable places.

Grizzled Skipper. (*Pyrgus malvae* L.). Locally fairly common. Small

Skipper. (*Thymelicus sylvestris* Poda). Common or fairly common in various places.

Large Skipper. (*Ochlodes venata* Bremer and Grey). A plentiful species.

D. A. Semple.

Birds. Part 1: Grebes' to Owls.

The English names and classification used here are those of the "Check-list of the birds of Great Britain and Ireland" prepared by the B. O. U. List Sub-committee, and published in 1952.

Up to the present time one hundred and eight species have been recorded with certainty in the Rendcomb district. Since the boundaries of this area, which have been selected arbitrarily, do not include any big lakes, gravel pits, etc., the ducks and wading- birds will probably always be poorly represented in the district.

Podicipidiformes.

Little Grebe. Fairly frequent on Rendcomb Lake and the Churn, Suspected of breeding occasionally.

Ardeiformes.

Heron. Frequent along the Churn at most seasons. Bred near Rendcomb Lake in 1953 and perhaps rarely in earlier years.

Anseriformes.

Mallard. Present all the year round along the Churn, where it breeds in some numbers. Ditto, Rendcomb and Colesborne Lakes.

Teal. Occasional visitor to the Churn and its lakes. Sometimes heard on migration at night in spring.

Pochard. Two in the Marsden valley, 23. 2. 54. (J. R. Alder).

Velvet Scoter. A half-dead specimen was found by Mr. S. Lane, 28. 11. 34. Probably it had been blown in by a gale.

Mute Swan. One or more birds are often present on the Churn for variable periods.

Falconiformes.

Buzzard. Mr. E. G. Neal recorded two in 1942 and two in 1945. The species began to occur more regularly about 1948 and probably bred first then or in 1949. There were probably two nests within the area in 1952, three in the following year and three in 1954.

Sparrow-hawk. Breeds annually in small numbers.

Peregrine Falcon. An old record (1920) by Mr. S. Lane.

Kestrel. Almost certainly breeds every year, but numbers are very small.

Galliformes.

Partridge. Fairly plentiful in open country.

Quail. An irregular visitor. There are few records so far.

Pheasant. Fairly plentiful in wooded parts.

Ralliformes.

Corncrake. No recent records, but the species used to occur here many years ago in some numbers.

Moorhen. Very plentiful on the Churn and its lakes. Tree nests are frequent.

Coot. A scarce visitor to Rendcomb and Colesborne lakes.

Charadriiformes.

Lapwing. Breeds in rather small numbers on the higher ground, notably towards the Fosse Way. Autumn flocks of twenty or more are sometimes seen.

- Golden Plover. Reported occasionally as early spring migrant on the high ground towards Chedworth, etc.
- Common Snipe. Reported occasionally from marshy ground in spring.
- Woodcock. First Cotswold breeding record was 3.4.43, by Mr. S. Lane, in his wood towards Marsden. Otherwise it is a rather scarce visitor in autumn and winter.
- Curlew. An infrequent visitor on spring and summer passage.
- Whimbrel. One passed low over Rendcomb, calling, on 4.10.53 (C. M. Swaine).
- Green Sandpiper. An irregular visitor on the Churn and its lakes. Recorded on both spring and autumn passage.
- Common Sandpiper. A rather uncommon migrant in April and May along the Churn. Reputed to have bred at Rendcomb Lake, but this has not been confirmed.
- Redshank. Recorded once 'on migration' in an old Rendcomb Col lege fauna list, but without date or locality. Probably a correct report.
- Greenshank. One at Rendcomb Lake, autumn 1950, was very tame. It was seen and photographed by J. R. Gosden, who sent a print to the R. S. P. B. for a check on his identification.
- Herring-gull. Occasional visitor, which seems to be rare.
- Common Gull. Autumn and winter visitor in fairly large numbers. First arrivals appear about the first week in August and most have left by mid-April.
- Black-headed Gull. Fairly frequent in small numbers. Usually seen in flight or with Common Gulls in fields.
- Little Auk. Mr. S. Lane reports finding a dead one near Rendcomb on 13.2.50. Probably blown inland by a gale.
- Puffin. The immature Puffin now preserved in Dr. Gladstone's surgery was found alive near Calmsden in October, 1935, after a westerly gale. It lived in captivity for many weeks.

Columbiformes.

- Stock-dove. Resident and quite common.
- Wood-pigeon. A common breeding species. Numbers are greatly enlarged in the autumn by immigrants either from abroad or from other parts of Britain.
- Turtle-dove. Fairly widespread as a summer resident in the more wooded parts of the district.

Cuculiformes.

Cuckoo. Breeds throughout the district but in smaller numbers than might be expected.

Strigiformes.

Barn-owl. Relatively common in the district. The majority of nests and roosts appear to be in hollow oaks and elms.

Little Owl. Resident, breeding in moderate numbers throughout the district.

Tawny Owl. A fairly common resident breeding species. Long-eared Owl. One reported by Mr. S. Lane was seen by his gamekeeper early in 1953, near Rendcomb, and described as having conspicuous ear-tufts. Mr. Lane also has a record of one near Rendcomb 'some years ago'.

To be continued.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.

Great Northern Diver near Cheltenham.

On January 17th, 1954, we heard that a Great Northern Diver was present on Dowdeswell Reservoir, Cheltenham. In sunny weather following a westerly gale a small party from the College watched this bird for nearly two hours.

With the aid of a telescope we were able to observe the characteristic features of the species. The thick and heavy-looking bill was whitish grey with a dark tip; there was an obscure scaly pattern on the back, due to pale edgings to the feathers; the crown was as dark as or darker than the back. These details were carefully noted to avoid confusion with the Black-throated Diver in winter plumage.

As the bird preened and flapped its wings the white under-parts and very short wings were fully displayed. The times of twelve dives were taken as follows: in seconds—25, 28, 25, 32, 31, 27. 27, 35. 34- 34- 27, 34.

D. A. Semple.

Miscellaneous Notes, January to July, 1954.

Pigmy Shrew. Several of this tiny mammal have been found in Rendcomb village, where there is evidently a thriving colony.

Yellow-necked Mouse. (*Apodemus flavicollis wintoni*). Two of these were caught in the College Laboratory block in April.

This species was previously unrecorded at Rendcomb, nor have we heard of it in the surrounding district.

Tree-sparrow. A pair were seen near Calmsden in April.

Green Sandpiper. One was seen on spring migration on the Churn near the College.

Pied Flycatcher. A male was seen at Colesborne Lake at the end of April.

This bird is very uncommon in the Cotswolds.

Hoopoe. On May 10th, a Hoopoe was watched by Mr. Swaine for nearly two hours near Cowley. During much of this time the bird was less than ten yards away. It was feeding on earthworms which it prodded vigorously and then shook free from adhering soil before swallowing.

Spanish Cave-spider. (*Meta bourneti*). This large and very rare spider was first found some years ago in Suffolk. Rendcomb provided its second known British locality, where the species is still present in its original haunts. Two were found also in a hollow tree which was felled recently.

Lepidoptera. The following species of moths, not previously listed round Rendcomb, were taken recently: Purple Clay (*Diarsia brunnea*). Flounced Rustic (*Luperina testacea*). Rustic Shoulder-knot (*Apamea sordens*). Chestnut-coloured Carpet (*Thera cognata*). Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet (*Xanthorhoe ferrugata*). Wood Carpet (*Epirrhoe rivata*). Brindled Pug (*Eupithecia abbreviata*).

Pasque Flower. (*Anemone pulsatilla*). This species had an exceptionally good flowering-season last April and May, when there were from three to four thousand flowers out at one time in the best locality near to Rendcomb.

Rusty-back Fern. (*Ceterach officinarum*). Many plants of this attractive fern were found growing on an old ruin near Combend (Cotswold Park area).

Scarlet Earth-Cup (*Sarcoscypha coccinea*). In the middle of February A. T. Brooks and J. R. Alder brought in a three-foot branch of Scots Pine covered with moss and bearing fourteen fructifications of this fungus. They found this most attractive collection in Withington Woods. The fungus resembles an egg-cup, white without, scarlet within.

R. J. Lawson.