

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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SCHOOL NOTES.

Easter Term, 1954.

Term began on Friday the 15th of January and ended on Friday the 26th of March. The severe frost which lasted for several weeks, greatly hampered Hockey, and several fixtures had to be cancelled. The teas were considerably handicapped by lack of practice, and this was, no doubt, reflected in the results of the earlier matches. By this can be measured the warm welcome given to the three victorious teams on their return from Marlborough College, having won three matches on the same day.

The falls of snow were not heavy, but the prolonged frost made going difficult, and also made us particularly grateful for the efficient stoking of Mr. Mabbett and his colleagues; all the more so because, for a short time on one day, the central heating did fail for reasons beyond their control. Kennel Bottom and Cowleaze became a local St. Moritz, and four inches of ice on the lake provided safe skating.

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The gift of a new organ to St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, by Lord Dulverton, has recently been announced. Provided that permission can be obtained from the Chancellor of the Diocese, it is hoped that the new instrument (in which some of the present organ will be incorporated) will be installed in time for the Carol Service in December. Further details will be given in a later issue of this journal.

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There were several expeditions during the term; accounts of them appear elsewhere. Parties went to see "The Shoemaker's Holiday" at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, on February 20th, and to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Stratford on March 24th.

Dr. Gladstone gave a lecture on "The Grand Fleet" in Big School on Thursday, 11th of February. An account appears on page 7.

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Performances of "Charley's Aunt" were given in Big School on Monday and Tuesday, March 22nd and 23rd.

We are grateful to Mr. G. F. Graty and to Mrs. H. Willmore for gifts of music, which make useful additions to our Music Library.

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The School Concert was given in Big School on Sunday the 14th of March. The main items were two movements from Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G minor, and Grieg's Holberg Suite for Strings.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1954.

Prefects—D. G. Vaisey, T. Gay, R. M. Sumsion, M. J. Edwards,
M. D. Richards, F. S. G. Richards.

College Workman—R. A. Powell.

Pictureman—A. Harrison.

Music Warden—J. M. Harrison.

Senior Music Librarian—R. W. Alder.

Choir Librarians—S. D. Hicks, D. R. Poole.

Lampmen—J. B. R. Browne, J. K. Walter.

†**P. W. Man**—T. D. A. Semple.

Church Collections and Deck Chairs—O. S. David.

Stagemen—M. D. Richards, R. O. G. Hayter, G. H. Richards,
M. A. B. Forster, P. G. Auden, D. T. Hart,
G. H. G. Herbert, I. A. N. Campbell.

Manual Foremen—T. Gay, J. Gough, M. G. Richards,
D. J. B. Forster, J. R. Ellis, D. A. Godfrey.

Librarians—R. M. Sumsion, D. G. Vaisey, R. A. Powell,
M. V. Harley.

Poultry men—R. A. Powell, C. H. Thomason, H. A. Gough,
G. H. G. Herbert, D. T. Hart, M. D. Naish, S. D. Hicks,
F. A. G. Ferguson,

†**Furniture Committee**—R. O. G. Hayter, D. A. Godfrey,
D. T. Hart.

† General Meeting Election.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1954.

Chairman—F. S. G. Richards.

Secretary—R. A. Powell.

Games Captain—D. G. Vaisey.

Games Committee—J. M. Harrison, J. M. Astill.

Field Secretary—B. Glastonbury.

Boys' Banker—M. V. Harley.

Meeting Banker—J. B. O'Brien.
Senior Shopman—R. O. G. Hayter.
Games Committee Treasurer—T. D. A. Semple.
House Committee Treasurer—J. R. Ellis.
Finance Committee Treasurer—H. A. Gough.
Finance Committee—I. A. N. Campbell, D. W. Brown.
Shopmen—J. E. Gooding, R. D. Comley.
Auditors—F. S. G. Richards, J. M. Astill.
Breakages Man—G. H. G. Herbert.
Entertainments Committee—G. H. Richards, R. N. Horne,
T. W. Rowley, A. P. Hayes, D. Griffiths.
Record Committee—T. Gay, M. J. Edwards, M. D. Richards,
A. G. B. Wallace., G. H. Richards.
Magazine Committee—D. W. Brown, R. D. Comley,
M. A. B. Forster.
Cycle Committee—T. W. Rowley, O. S. David, J. F. W. Beard.
Amplifier Technicians—M. G. Richards, M. V. Harley.
Paperman—R. F. Stimson.
Hockey Games' Warden—P. G. Auden.
Drying Room Committee—J. A. Richards, D. T. Hart,
I. A. N. Campbell.
Cricket Games' Wardens—R. J. Lawson, H. A. Gough.
Cricket Groundsman—J. R. Ellis.
Junior Cricket Groundsman—C. H. Handoll.
Junior Tennis Groundsman—J. F. W. Beard.
Tennis Captain—F. S. G. Richards.
Tennis Games' Wardens—A. P. Hayes, B. R. Paish.
Record Committee Treasurer—D. J. B. Forster.
Hockey Secretary, 1955—D. A. Godfrey.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

M. W. Crump has retired on pension from the Police Force after 25 years service. He and his wife have taken a farm high on the hills above Stanton, near Winchcombe.

Michael C. Harries was out in the Gold Coast for three months surveying on the Volta Dam site.

Stuart H. Groves is with the Soap Division of I. C. I. in Glasgow.

P. D. B. Levett has transferred to the sales side of the Plessey Engineering Company.

T. R. Morris was married on 17th April, 1954, at Reading to Miss Elizabeth Jean Warren.

D. G. Knight was married on 20th March, 1954, to Miss Mary Wash.

P. W. Sumsion has been playing for the Spencer Hockey Club 1st XI.

E. A. Jones has played for London University 1st XI (Hockey).

R. I. G. Hale is on the Staff of an Army Cadet Training School near Cinderford.

G. J. Ash is now working with Messrs. Electrolux Ltd. as an Assistant District Manager, in charge of the Company's business in Norfolk and Suffolk. He and his wife now have two sons.

The following O.R.s came on Saturday, March 20th. for the hockey match: P. Binks, J. Gilchrist, P. W. Sumsion, R. W. Smith, J. R. Smith, D. J. Payne, P. G. Cockell, R. Gready, M. W. Brain, P. D. Quick, R. J. Kendal.

The following O.R.s visited the College during the Easter Term: P. M. Gerrard, R. W. Muchamore, D. J. Payne.

“THE SHOEMAKER’S HOLIDAY.”

Whatever we may have expected of a play written by a contemporary of Shakespeare, we were perhaps quite unprepared for the boisterous good humour which seemed to fill everyone at the Bristol Old Vic's production of “The Shoemaker's Holiday,” at the Theatre Royal, Bristol.

The story is simple. Rowland Lacy, the nephew of the Earl of Lincoln, is in love with the daughter of the Lord Mayor of London. But Lacy's parents find his tender feelings for a girl so much lower than him in social rank quite unbearable. And so it is arranged that Lacy is given a commission in the army engaged in the French wars. However, with the help of his brother, Askew, he manages to remain behind in London, and becomes an apprentice to Simon Eyre, master shoemaker. Lacy learned the trade in Antwerp, where he also learned to speak with a wonderful Flemish accent. Thus he completely deceives everyone but his uncle. The latter demands that the King punish him for his desertion.

However, by this time Simon Eyre has become rich enough to get himself elected Lord Mayor—this was largely due to fruitful trading on the advice of his mysterious foreign apprentice. As Mayor Simon is able to argue on behalf of Lacy, and the latter is eventually reunited with Rose, his lady love. On this occasion the King fulfils his usual royal function of granting everyone special gifts and privileges, and of course he is merry and bluff, and one is certain he must be King Hal himself.

It is not only the King who is merry and bluff; his subjects are also. The play is dominated by Simon Eyre, played by Douglas Campbell, who, with his great voice every now and then bursting into a merry guffaw, kept the audience in the best of humours.

Simon's foreman, Hodge, always seemed to be absolutely bubbling over with mirth; so were the two journeymen, Firk and Ralph. Firk was always ready for any situation with an incredibly amusing remark or expression.

Ralph was a little too cultured in his speech perhaps; but that did not matter very much, for he went to the wars at the beginning of the play, and when he returned—about three-quarters of the way through—he was only interested in finding his wife, Jane. The latter was a gentle, thoughtful girl, played with great pathos, always remaining faithful to her husband, until she is sure he will not return. Then reluctantly she promises to marry Hammon, an earnest young city merchant, who loves her devotedly. Eventually Ralph discovers his wife, and the other shoemakers rescue her at the Church door. Reluctantly Hammon parts with Jane, and she and Ralph are reunited.

Simon Eyre's wife, Margery, was a perfect opposite to Simon. She loves her men-folk, is ambitious for them, and is really kindly to them, but she hides all this under a veil of humorous shrewishness. She gives and takes all their jollity with equanimity. Eyre is devoted to her, and he shows all his triumphs to her like a proud schoolboy. When they are given the opportunity, they both play the lady and gentleman with honest enjoyment of their new life, and both appreciate the humour of their new social status.

As is quite common nowadays, the set remained practically the same throughout the whole play. Backdrops were raised and lowered, nondescript Elizabethan youths ran on with stools and removed small articles of furniture. But for the whole play a beautifully constructed semi-mediaeval street scene took up both wings. This became the shoemaker's shop, and the Lord Mayor's mansion with little or no imaginative effort from the audience.

In the centre of the stage was a raised platform, which by the mere lifting of a board, miraculously transformed itself into the Mayor's fireplace, complete with glowing embers.

Maybe the play was too boisterous, perhaps the humour mere slapstick. The jokes were maybe a trifle crude, as the modern prologue seemed to suggest, but we didn't notice. As we left the theatre with the merry guffaws of Simon Eyre still ringing in our ears, we felt mildly amused that the twentieth century citizens of Bristol were not Morris dancing through the streets, as the Master Shoemakers did.

A. H., R. H.

“A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM.”

There can be few of us who do not think that since 1951 when the “Richard II” tetralogy was performed, the standard of Stratford Shakespeare has declined. We have seen Michael Redgrave, Sir Ralph Richardson, Michael Hordern and Marius Goring in productions which have never satisfied us as much as did Redgrave, Anthony Quayle, Richard Burton and Harry Andrews in “Henry IV”, part 1. But since 1951 a break with tradition has occurred. Striking sets have been created—a cold monolithic structure in “King Lear,” lush undergrowth and shimmering fish ponds in “The Tempest” and “As You Like It”. Weird unconventional music and brilliant costumes have startled our ears and eyes. These have all achieved a measure of success. But when they reappear in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” we begin to be shaken. As a play it demands a more gentle approach than any other. It combines rustic humour, whimsicality, majesty, beauty of verse writing and consummate dramatic technique. Perfect material, one may say, for original production—and indeed originality is essential: but when a wedding masque—the most perfect and fragile example in dramatic form of Shakespeare’s lyric writing—is transformed and put on a big stage, our minds cannot accept unconventionality so readily as they can when huge and tragic actions are being beaten out, as, for example, in “King Lear”. Played in these circumstances, however, the play was certainly not without merit.

While waiting for the play to begin we stared at a drop-curtain depicting a drab view of a Greek temple, which rose revealing a most modern representation by Motley of a wood near Athens. The undulating earth and short spiky trees, hung about with gauze, only needed a few fishes to turn it into the sea bed. But as the action progressed, the mind, absorbed in the play quickly accepted the set, which with its varied levels was extremely useful.

The “hempen homespuns” were undeniably the highlight of the production. Anthony Quayle as Nick Bottom—a hayseed turned tragic hero—was perfect. His clever movements and facial expressions—often just a round gaping “deadpan”—made us feel the clumsy workings of the slow rustic mind. Despite his foolishness he emphatically deserved his hesitant handshake with nobility. Though Leo McKern’s Quince could only shake the hand that shook the Duke’s, his acting too was excellent: and of the rest one would pick out the toothless tailor Starveling (Peter Duguid) whose concern for the fit of Thisbe’s dress outweighed the worry of his part in the tragedy. The dim-witted solemnity of the Pyramus and Thisbe interlude was indeed “very tragical mirth” and their final bergomask was a triumph of organised disorder,

The mortals, too, were spiritedly acted: the contrast between the girls being well brought out. Zena Walker made of Hermia a dark little firebrand who contrasted well with Barbara Jefford's tall, blonde and gawky Helena. Lysander and Demetrius, lovers at cross-purposes, acted well and Keith Mitchell brought to the part of Theseus a superior royalty. Jean Wilson was indeed a muscular queen of the Amazons.

The production's weakness was in the Spirits. Puck was played as a peculiar cat-like little second-cousin to Caliban—small and crabbed. One felt that the bow-legged way in which he walked and tumbled made his estimate of the speed at which he could put a girdle round the earth somewhat of an exaggeration. Muriel Pavlow faded into the dark background as Titania—never once did she show an individual personality. And Powys Thomas—in whom we have a great interest—played Oberon with such a dramatic and sinister air that his king of the fairies would have made a better Mephistopheles. The mute followers of the fairies—weird and colourful little animals—were definitely good and added something to the production. They served the purpose of mysterious mobile scenery—necessary for a quick change of atmosphere on a permanent set.

But how difficult it must have been for the fairies to feel at all sprite-like against the background of Roberto Gerhard's music. Sharp trumpet calls and xylophone taps stabbing through Motley's jungle did much to destroy the lyric quality of Shakespeare's verse. One felt that Mr. Gerhard might well have taken a lesson in harmonic composition from Theseus' hounds.

Altogether it was a disappointing production. There seemed no point in introducing this sinister element, so foreign to the play as written, in the guise of "modern production". A production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" always draws many children to the theatre—and serves as a good introduction to Shakespeare for them. But—alas, how alien from any of a child's conceptions was this production of the most gentle and whimsical of Shakespeare's plays.

D. G. V.

THE GRAND FLEET, 1914-18.

On the evening of February 11th, Dr. Gladstone gave a lecture on the Grand Fleet, 1914-18. The lecture was based on personal reminiscences and was illustrated by many excellent lantern slides made from photographs taken by Dr. Gladstone during the war. The slides are extremely rare owing to the fact that apart from official photographers, no one was allowed to have a camera on board.

He first explained what comprised the Grand Fleet in the 1st World War and that Scapa Flow was used as a base because of its immunity from submarine attacks. He followed this with a slide of the ship in which he was surgeon for the greater part of the war, the "Centurion," one of the most up-to-date Dreadnoughts; the ship in which Anson circumnavigated the world was one of a long line of famous ships with this name.

We were shown slides of a great many ships, including Admiral Jellicoe's flagship, the "Iron Duke," the "Agincourt" with its fourteen 12in. guns; and two battle cruisers, "the Orion" and the "Ajax".

More slides illustrated well the dreariness of Scapa Flow; the size of the ships guns; and the cramped medical quarters.

We were told of the vibration and the din at the firing of a gun; and the foolhardiness of building a ship without flash doors to the magazine; of tragedies such as ships loaded with children and nurses exploding; and of mysteries such as the "Vanguard" exploding for an unknown reason. Of the dreariness of an English sailor's life with leave only about every nine months; of the cramped quarters of the German sailors; and of the fearful atmosphere below decks in all ships.

A happier note was struck with slides showing men fishing and picnics on the islands of Scapa; and with these ended an extremely enjoyable evening.

R. N. H.

"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

On the Monday and Tuesday of the last week of term two performances of Brandon Thomas' play "Charley's Aunt", were given in Big School. After the first few minutes it became clear that, in spite of the fact that it was written in the 1890's, the play has aged remarkably little, though in some of the romantic interludes in the latter part of the play, the sentimentality was too heavy for modern ears. On the whole, however, the dialogue and production combined to give the play a modern air, and the producer had judiciously pruned out the more violently sentimental passages.

The whole cast brought enthusiasm to their parts, and much of their obvious enjoyment of the play was transmitted to the audience, amply making up for any slight imperfections in the production, and the comparative inexperience of the majority of the cast. The standard of acting was high, and all the actors without exception were well fitted to the parts they had to play.

In the principal part, that of Lord Fancourt Babberly, T. Gay again showed us his acting talent. He tackled this large part very ambitiously. From the beginning he got well inside the character. It is essential that the actor starts off well with this part,

for the humour of the main situations with "Babs" acting as Charley's aunt is lost if the actor has not established the gay young lord in the opening scenes. Gay succeeded in this; whenever we saw through the "aunt" we had a glimpse of Lord Fancourt Babberly. The creation of this double illusion complete with two assumed voices and various mannerisms and gestures which continually reminded us of the "Babs" of the opening scenes, made Gay's performance something of a tour de force.

Both R. A. Powell and B. Glastonbury as Jack Chesney and Charlie Wykeham, gave good performances; both of them managed to give an impression of ease and naturalness when they were on the stage. Although they are more or less a pair as far as the plot is concerned, the essential difference between the resourceful and confident Jack and the more reticent Charlie, was successfully brought out by the actors.

In the character of Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, R. N. Horne had exactly the right military bearing and spruce business-like air. He suffered rather from the fault of not speaking loud enough, however, and acted rather too quietly and unostentatiously to fit in very well with the rest of the cast. This is the first time he has acted in a large part at Rendcomb, and the experience he has gained should stand him in good stead in future productions.

Another person without previous acting experience was A. Harrison. To the part of Stephen Spettigue, the irascible old businessman with his old-fashioned frock coat and his equally out-of-date views on bringing up children, he brought a natural flair for caricature. As a character study his performance was exceptional: but at times it was rather over-acted and did not always dovetail in with the other performances; this was especially true when he was on the stage with Sir Francis, and the author's intention that these two characters, both suitors to the hand of the "lady" whom they believe to be Donna Lucia, the famous millionairess, should act as foils to one another, was not fully conveyed to the audience. Spettigue's tender advances to the "aunt" nevertheless caused some of the funniest moments of the play. We can only hope that we may soon have another play with a part which will allow Harrison as much scope and cause us as much amusement.

The traditional manservant of the drawing-room comedy, Brassett, was played by A. P. Hayes. Not a large part, this is a very rewarding one. Brassett is very tolerant of the doings of "college gents" (he has seen many of them) and we are given his opinion of them in a number of comments, gestures and speaking glances. Hayes handled these and his many telling entrances and exits with competence, but a few of his lines were lost through his fault of not speaking sufficiently loudly to be heard above the noise of the audience.

P. Mew (Kitty Verdun) and R. D. Comley (Amy Spettigue) played the young ladies with whom Jack and Charlie are in love. Their characters are both very similar, and their performances can easily be regarded as a pair. They both lacked the feminine graces, but made up for this by their confidence and assurance. Mew in particular was very amusing in the scene where Jack proposes to Kitty.

Only at the end of the play does the real Donna Lucia appear. She provides an increase in the possibilities for dramatic irony, and prevents any possibility of the humour flagging at the end of the play. J. R. Ellis provided the feminine grace which had previously been absent, acting with poise and elegance. Donna Lucia brings with her her niece, Ela Delahay (M. H. Morton) whom she has taken into her care as an orphan. Morton too managed to portray a certain feminine graciousness. These feminine characters miraculously rediscover old lovers in Sir Francis and Lord Babberly, and the play ends with all the characters paired and ready for the marriage ceremonies except Stephen Spettigue who stumps off with suitably explosive speechlessness.

On the production side both wardrobe officials and stagemen deserve the highest praise; it was very largely due to them that the production was so polished. The reserves of the stage wardrobe were stretched to capacity by the necessity for a complete change of clothing in Act III, where six sets of men's evening dress were called for.

The stagemen had to devise three complete sets of scenery, and managed to do this, as well as making a very convincing piano which was most skilfully synchronised with a genuine instrument backstage. The set for Act II, the garden of an Oxford College, in particular, had a professional air of solidity and depth.

The few faults of this production were readily forgiven when the final impression was apparent. It was remarkable for at least one fact—the amount of laughter that it provoked in all who had the good luck to see it.

M. J. E.

HOCKEY REPORT, 1954.

Conditions this year thwarted hockey. Deep frosts and lingering snow stopped games for over a month, and then intermittent heavy rain forced us to abandon many practice games. Three matches had to be cancelled, including a new fixture with Bristol University 2nd XI.

When weather permitted, three games were run on Top— though throughout the season only two pitches were used as the

junior Soccer pitch had to be rested. This meant that on each day two games were played on one pitch. The second games were umpired by a member of the Games Committee.

We are very grateful to Mr. Lee-Browne and to Mr. Bird who umpired and coached us both on Top and on the Forecourt: and also grateful to Mr. Hull who helped us out when we were short of an umpire.

We had at our disposal a potentially strong 1st XI, but the lack of games robbed us of the finer techniques that only come with practice. On the whole our tackling and stickwork were good, as both of these can be practised on the Forecourt: but the lack, in our early matches, of good, clean hitting and long cross-passes was very noticeable. There was a good spirit in the first game and though we won only two of our five matches, enjoyment of games and matches was keen.

On the whole the weakness of the 1st XI was at wing-half and inside-forward and in our few available games a great deal of experimenting had to be carried out. Once again we were faced with the lack of a goalkeeper—Powell having been moved to forward—but J. M. Astill, whose first season in goal this was, proved to be very sound and confident. He positioned himself well and kicked accurately and hard, and but for a tendency to misjudge a slower shot made few mistakes.

The backs, J. M. Harrison and B. Glastonbury, combined well and made a very solid final line. Harrison, whose second season this was at back, tackled strongly and often cleared well: towards the end of the season, however, he tended to delay his tackles too long, and on occasion advanced too far up field—only to be caught out of position. He was a hard worker.

At right back Glastonbury also was tireless and efficient. He covered well and was outstanding for his interception and clearance. His main fault was a lack of imagination in free hits and consequent waste of them.

Four people were tried at wing half in matches, each of whom had points in his favour. P. S. Rose was a very competent player but lacked the tackling powers and speed of a half. D. A. Godfrey played at right-half for four matches. He had a good eye and hit the ball hard, but he is not yet confident or reliable enough, and often held on to the ball too long and consequently got too few passes to his wing. He should be very valuable next year.

For the first two matches T. Gay played at left-half coolly and with anticipation, but he lacked vigour both in tackling and hitting, both of which attributes he partially recovered when switched to inside left. R. W. Alder took his place and proved a valuable member of the side. At first he showed a tendency to

leave his wing unmarked, but later overcame this. He intercepted well and had a powerful hit. His adeptness at using the reverse stick made him invaluable on the left.

With more practice this defence could have consolidated into a formidable combination. Its anticipation and covering were good, though its passing was not accurate enough. In the forwards vigour and speed were lacking, R. A. Powell and A. G. B. Wallace being the only two capable of splitting a defence through speed alone.

Eight different forwards were tried; centre-forward was the only unchanged position. M. J. Edwards played in two matches at right wing and inside right. His determination and foraging were good but his finishing was poor. R. J. Lawson had two matches at inside-left but his ball control and reactions were not quick enough—though he played with a forcefulness that was good.

A. G. B. Wallace played at first on the left wing, but was later switched to the right where he used his great speed to advantage. His capability rapidly to turn defence into attack was spoilt by the halves and backs not giving him enough passes. He dribbled and hit well, but must overcome a desire to beat the back before passing.

R. N. Horne at inside-right was sound but lacked inspiration. He never quite lived up to his capabilities. On occasion he dribbled and shot well, but his finishing was poor and too often he failed to use the flick and push through a gap to the wing or centre-forward.

R. A. Powell in the centre was the most vigorous of the forwards. For the most part it was he alone who rushed the goalkeeper in the circle and he used his dash down the centre very effectively if the opposing backs stood parallel. His bullying and shooting were good, but he too could have used more often the push pass to his insides.

At inside-left T. Gay never really used his speed. His shooting was good—he and Powell scoring the majority of our goals. He fed his wing well but his style of play was altogether too languid.

Both M. G. Richards and F. S. G. Richards played on the left-wing. M. G. Richards hit the ball hard but lacked speed and too often stood off-side. F. S. G. Richards did good work tackling back, and got across many centres from what is the most difficult position on the field.

D. G. Vaisey was captain and at centre-half was the mainspring of the side which he led with good judgment and without fuss. His own play improved greatly. Reliable and immensely

hard-working from the start, his anticipation, interception, placing of passes and opening up developed rapidly once the weather gave us regular games. His backs and halves could always rely on him in a tight corner, but as the season progressed he got to their aid with greater economy of effort.

All our matches were played on slow and heavy pitches, when, at any rate early in the season, we had only had practice on the very fast surface of the Forecourt. Against Cheltenham College (only our second game of the season) we played very creditably. We scored first through Powell, and at half-time the scores were level. But too often their wings broke through in the second half and we lost 4—1.

At Dean Close we were outclassed by their fine inside forwards. Both our inside forwards were off form and the wing halves were not quick enough. Powell and Wallace were the only forwards who broke through the defence, and if our backs had not tackled and covered so well we might have lost by much more than 8—2.

It was our own fault that we lost at Monkton Combe. Man for man we were better than our opponents but we wasted many opportunities through needless offsides. Later in the game the backs became over-confident and came too far up-field and Monkton Combe seized on this fault in order to break through. We lost 2—3.

The match against Marlborough 2nd XI, played on a beautiful pitch, was our best of the season. The defence was sure and combined well with the forwards. Gay put us two up early in the game and Powell increased the lead after half-time. Our opponents rarely got inside our circle. 3—0.

This year the Old Rendcombian team was weakened by various members having to withdraw. On a heavy, wet pitch, we were more than a match for them. We led by two goals at half-time and after the O.R.s had seized on a positional error in the defence to score, we added three more to make the game certain. The hard pitch and bright sunshine usually attendant on the O.R. match was conspicuously absent, and though enjoyable, the game was not so hard-fought as usual.

The Second XI were again weak this year, winning only one of their three matches—that against Marlborough, on a day when all three teams were successful: a feat unprecedented—at any rate within memory.

Because of lack of practice all under 15 matches were raised to under 16, and this team was successful, winning two of their three matches and only narrowly losing the third. Amongst their players, J. R. Ellis, H. A. Gough, R. J. Lawson and J. A. Richards showed considerable promise.

We are grateful to the groundsmen for their many attempts to prepare pitches for us in opposition to the elements; and to the Secretary for an excellent fixture list.

RESULTS, 1954.

1st XI.

- Jan. 30. —v. Prince Henry's G. S., Evesham. Cancelled.
- Feb. 13. —v. Bristol G. S. Cancelled.
- Feb. 20. —v. Cheltenham College. Lost 1—4.
- Mar. 3. —v. Bristol University 2nd XI. Cancelled.
- Mar. 4. —v. Dean Close 'A' XI. Lost 2—8.
- Mar. 11. —v. Monkton Combe 2nd XI. Lost 2—3.
- Mar. 16. —v. Marlborough College 2nd XI. Won 3—0.
- Mar. 20. —v. Old Rendcombians. Won 5—1.

2nd XI.

- Jan. 30. —v. Prince Henry's G. S., Evesham. Cancelled.
- Feb. 20. —v. Cheltenham College Colts. Lost 1—9.
- Mar. 13. —v. Cheltenham College Colts. Lost 2—5.
- Mar. 16. —v. Cheltenham College Colts. Won 4—2.

Average 16 XI.

- Mar. 4. —v. Dean Close Colts. Lost 1—4.

Junior XI's.

- Feb. 13. —U.15 XI v. Bristol G. S. Cancelled.
- Mar. 4. —U.15½ XI v. Dean Close. Cancelled.
- Mar. 6. —U.16 XI v. King's School Gloucester. Lost 2—3.
- Mar. 11. —U.16 XI v. Monkton Combe. Won 9—3.
- Mar. 16. —U.16 XI v. Marlborough College. Won 3—0.

THE LODGES RACE, 1954.

This was held on Friday, March 12th, in good conditions. The results were as follows: —

Seniors:

- 1st—A. G. B. Wallace, 13:22.
- 2nd—R. A. Powell, 13:44.
- 3rd—D. A. Godfrey, 14:10. Record: 13:07.

Juniors:

- 1st—P. C. R. Burns, 16:14.
- 2nd—M. D. Naish, 16:23.
- 3rd—G. J. Taylor, 16:50. Record: 14:25.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT. July, 1954.

It has been decided to resume the publication of Natural History notes. Systematic records of the species of animals and plants of the Rendcomb district have not for a long time been kept on a serious basis and even when they were, nothing was published. It is felt that such an account of our local flora and fauna will prove to be of value and interest in the future. In the present issue a start is made with the presentation of preliminary lists of some of the vertebrate animals together with a few botanical notes. A much fuller account, for reference, is in preparation and will be kept in the College library.

Fishes of the Rendcomb District.

Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*). Rendcomb Lake, 1952.

Trout. Churn, Rendcomb Lake, Colesborne Lakes. The species and varieties require sorting out.

Rainbow Trout (*Salmo irideus*) have been identified occasionally.

Pike. Reported from Rendcomb Lake recently.

Crucian Carp. In the water-tanks in Rendcomb Estate gardens.

(First noted in Rendcomb College Magazine, 1946-7).

Minnow. River Churn.

Dace. Rendcomb Lake and the Churn.

Roach. Rendcomb Lake. (Capt. P. Gibbs).

Stone Loach. Believed to have been taken near Rendcomb Lake, but this requires verification.

Common Eel. A few records from the Churn and Rendcomb Lake.

Bullhead. Common in parts of the Churn.

Three-spined Stickleback. River Churn, Rendcomb Estate gardens, Eycot reservoir.

C. Handoll.

Local Amphibia and Reptiles.

Amphibia.

Crested Newt. Plentiful in Eycot reservoir. Occasional in Rendcomb Estate gardens.

Smooth Newt. A few in Rendcomb Estate gardens, 1952.

Palmate Newt. Common.

Common Toad. Fairly common.

Common Frog. Common.

Reptilia.

Slow-worm. Common. The blue-spotted form, *var. colchica*, was found in some numbers in 1953, the first specimen being brought to the College laboratories, on May 12th. A letter from Dr. Malcolm Smith of the British Museum (May 18th, 1953) stated that this variety had, by that date, been recorded as far north as Yorkshire and Merioneth. Earlier, it was thought to be restricted to latitudes well to the south of Rendcomb.

Common Lizard. Rather common.

Grass-snake. Common. Specimens up to three feet in length are not rare.

Adder. Common from Rendcomb to Marsden and from there towards Withington woods, but apparently absent towards North Cerney. Also occurs in the Cotswold Park area.

J. R. Alder.

Wild Mammals of the Rendcomb District.

The following is a preliminary list based mainly on observations made in 1952 and 1953.

Insectivora.

Hedgehog. Common.

Common Shrew. Perhaps not so abundant as may be expected.

Pigmy Shrew. Few records, but it is easily overlooked.

Water Shrew. Rendcomb Lake, Churn, Kennel Bottom stream.

Chiroptera.

Noctule. Fairly plentiful. Several roosts in hollow trees are known.

Pipistrelle. Apparently common.

Daubenton's Bat. Occasionally seen at Rendcomb Lake.

Whiskered Bat. Lower Rendcomb, several times in 1952.

Long-eared Bat. Probably common. A few hibernate in the College cellars.

Barbastelle. One preserved in the College laboratories was caught in the College some years ago.

Lagomorpha.

Rabbit. Common.

Brown Hare. Quite common on the more open ground.

Rodentia.

- Short-tailed Vole. Common. 1953 was a "vole-year" in this area, the animals being much more abundant than usual.
- Water Vole. Common along the Churn. Rendcomb and Colesborne lakes.
- Wood Mouse. (*Apodemus sylvaticus*). Common.
- Harvest Mouse. Reported from Shawswell once by D. E. Barbour.
- House Mouse. Common in many buildings.
- Brown Rat. Common.
- Dormouse. Recorded from the Old Park plantation by Mr. E. G. Neal and more recently (Dec. 1950) by D. E. B. who also saw one in Conigre Wood (Nov. 1951).
- Red Squirrel. Common up to about 1933, then becoming steadily scarcer. Probably quite or almost extinct round here by now.
- Grey Squirrel. First recorded round Rendcomb about 1934. It increased steadily and is now common.

Carnivora.

- Fox. Relatively common. At least four earths within a mile of the College had young in 1953.
- Badger. The Conigre Wood Badgers were down to one pair in 1952 and they did not breed. Three cubs were reared there in 1953. Other sets in the district also fared badly. The species is nevertheless fairly plentiful in the neighbourhood.
- Otter. Recorded rather rarely along the Churn.
- Stoat. Apparently not very common round here.
- Weasel. Not very plentiful.

Ungulata.

- Fallow Deer. Withington and Chedworth Woods, sometimes straying nearer to Rendcomb. Total number uncertain, but perhaps between thirty and forty.

A. G. B. Wallace.

Some botanical notes for 1952-3.

The following are the more interesting records from 1952 and 1953. The nomenclature is from Clapham, Tutin and Warburg: "Flora of the British Isles".

Green Hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*). Found flowering in four places near to the College.

Pasque Flower (*Anemone pulsatilla*). 1952 was a fair year for this in the best locality near here. About four hundred blooms were seen on May 3rd. One plant had almost white flowers.

- Night-flowering Campion (*Melandrium noctiflorum*). This plant was found in some numbers in 1953 in a beet-field near the Cirencester Drive Lodge.
- Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*). A patch was found in Rendcomb Old Park.
- Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*). Between Marsden and Perrot's Brook this appears to be the commoner species of the genus.
- Yellow Bird's nest (*Monotropa hypopithys*). Several plants were found in Cotswold Park in 1953.
- Thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*). About forty plants were found growing in a beet field opposite the Cirencester Drive Lodge in the late summer of 1953.
- Pale Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria pallida*). This alien from Italy has been introduced into Rendcomb churchyard.
- Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*). This was in full flower in 1952 by March 22nd, but was severely damaged by a snowy spell. A second crop of flowers was produced by April 10th, and persisted into May.
- Martagon Lily (*Lilium martagon*). One plant was found growing in the "Wilderness" at Rendcomb College in 1952. It had six flowers in 1953.
- Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*). This plant, often called the Autumn Crocus, flowered abundantly in 1952 but less so in 1953.
- White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*). 1952 was a poor year, 1953 a good one: the Conigre Wood locality held more than thirty plants in flower in the latter year. Most other green-leaved orchids also flowered well in 1953 after a poor season in 1952.
- Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*). This saprophyte flowered profusely in 1952 but sparsely in the following year, thus differing from the green-leaved Orchidaceae.
- Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). Very many were found in 1953.
- Wasp Orchid (*O. apifera* var. *trollii*). One specimen of this rare plant was found and photographed at Chatcombe on June 28th, 1953.
- Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*). Found growing on a bank at Chatcombe in late May, 1953.
- Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*). Several near the Fosse Way in 1952; one, Kennel Bottom, 1953.

Faciation.

This is the fusion of two or more aerial stems into one and sometimes yields curious results. 1952 produced a number of examples possibly as a consequence of a spring drought followed by a warm wet spell. Several Spear Thistles (*Cirsium vulgare*) were affected and formed flat, board-like stems up to five inches wide; a Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) was found near Miserden showing two stems fused in the lower part but with free flowering-spikes; finally, a plant of Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) with a flat, inch-wide stem covered with a mass of flowers was brought to the College from Cotswold Park.

R. J. Lawson.

Fungi. (Nomenclature from Ramsbottom, 1923).

Sparassis laminosa. Two plants of this curious fungus were found at the foot of the Slippery Path, Rendcomb, in July, 1952, in a pile of earth and sawdust.

Clavaria fistulosa. One specimen of this brown, club-shaped fungus was found in Conigre Wood in December, 1953. It is a rare species.

Morchella semilibera. This Morel was observed near Rendcomb Lake in May, 1953. The Common Morel (*M. esculenta*) appears to be fairly common.

Sarcoscypha coccinea. One specimen of this beautiful fungus, the Scarlet Earth-cup, was found on the Woodmancote hill in January, 1952.

C. M. Swaine, B.Sc.

Local Orchids.

All the following orchids have been found within a ten mile radius of Rendcomb, most within three miles of the College. In most cases a single locality is given even where many are known. Where no source of information is given, the record is from the writer's personal observation. Nomenclature is from Summerhayes: 'Wild Orchids of Britain' (Collins).

Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*). Locally common. Conigre Wood.

Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*). Abundant. Slippery Path Wood, Rendcomb.

Autumn Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*). Very local. Bagendon (Rees: History of Bagendon. c. 1930).

Red Helleborine (*Cephalanthera rubra*). Very rare. Within five miles of Rendcomb (C. M. S.).

Large White Helleborine (*C. damasonium*). Locally common. Conigre Wood.

- Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*). Fairly common. Conigre Wood.
- Green-leaved Helleborine (*E. leptochila*). Exact status uncertain but the plant is certainly uncommon. Rapsgate Wood (Hammond, 1938).
- Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). Rather local, but common in places. Gloucester road near Miserden.
- Lizard Orchid (*Himantoglossum hircinum*). Very rare. Crickley Hill. (Butler, 1941).
- Burnt Orchid (*Orchis ustulata*). Very local. Chatcombe (Cheltenham College N. H. S., 1870).
- Green-winged Orchid (*O. morio*). Local. Kennel Bottom, Rendcomb.
- Early Purple Orchid (*O. mascula*). Widespread and locally common. Conigre Wood.
- Early Marsh Orchid (*O. latifolia*). Local. Frogmill (Abell, 1937)
- Common Marsh Orchid (*O. praetermissa*). Local. Frogmill. Heath
- Spotted Orchid (*O. ericetorum*). Local. Frogmill (Abell, 1937)
- Common Spotted Orchid (*O. fuchsii*). Common and widespread. Old Park, Rendcomb.
- Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). Locally common. North Cerney Downs.
- Wasp Orchid (*O. apifera* var. *trollii*). Scarce or rare. Chatcombe.
- Fly Orchid (*O. muscifera*). Local and rather scarce. Chatcombe.
- Musk Orchid (*Herminium monorchis*). Local, but plentiful in places. Withington (Abell, 1937).
- Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*). Fairly common locally. Oakley Park (Greenwood, 1915).
- Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*). Uncommon. Bagendon. (Rees, c. 1930).
- Greater Butterfly Orchid (*P. chlorantha*). Fairly common and widespread. Conigre Wood.
- Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*). Locally frequent. Foxcote. (Abell, 1937).

J. R. Gosden.