

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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Rendcomb College Chronicle

Vol. 9, No. 8.

December, 1951.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Summer Term, 1951.

Term began on Wednesday, May 2nd, and ended on Wednesday, July 25th.

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The weather, that perennial subject of Editorial comment, was reasonably favourable during the term. July, a glorious month at Rendcomb this year, made up for a frigid May and an eccentric June. The sun shone on our Occasions, and very little playing time was lost on the cricket field. Really, we could hardly ask for more.

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Founder's Day was on Saturday, June 30th. We are indebted to the *Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard* for the account which appears on page 7.

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Commemoration Day was on Friday, June 1st, indeed a Glorious day.

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A Confirmation Service was conducted by the Bishop of Gloucester in Rendcomb Parish Church on Commemoration Day. Several members of the senior school were confirmed, after preparation by the Rev. R. P. Griffiths, Vicar of Chedworth. We were very grateful to the Bishop for taking this Service at very short notice; it was to have been held at a neighbouring Church, but owing to a misunderstanding special arrangements had to be made.

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We offer our good wishes to Mr. E. Ellis, who left us at the end of the Summer Term, at the conclusion of his temporary appointment at Rendcomb, to become Classics Master at Caernarvon Grammar School. We are glad of this opportunity for wishing him every happiness in his married life. We also offer our good wishes to Miss S. T. Clark and to Mr. C. C. Cunningham, who left us at the end of the year; Miss Clark has returned to the Nursing profession, and Mr. Cunningham is going back to Canada.

We wish all success to the following boys who left at the end of the Summer Term: —R. K. G. Bick, P. J. Ryman, R. Gready, J. H. Shield, M. W. Brain, J. Gilchrist, B. Plenderleith, M. Boase, A. J. Paish, and R. Harford.

We welcome the following new boys: —P. B. Marwood, J. B. R. Browne, B. R. Paish, J. K. Walter, R. C. Pilkington, J. G. A. Dainty, R. Bolton King, P. G. S. Airey, P. F. Barter, R. D. Com- ley, J. B. Gooch, J. E. Gooding and P. Mew.

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We also welcome the following new members of the Staff: — Mr. F. G. S. Bird, who has come to teach Latin and to initiate the Rugged next year. Mr. Bird was educated at Downside School and Pembroke College, Cambridge. Mr. J. Smedley, who has come to take over the Art, is a Graduate in Fine Arts of Reading University; and Miss R. Dennick, who is the new Health Matron, and who comes to us from Charterhouse School. We are glad to have Mr. Peter Norris with us for the Autumn Term as a Student Master from Downing College, Cambridge, where he took his Degree in History.

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The following boys passed the General Certificate of Education, Midsummer, 1951: —

At Ordinary Level: D. E. Barbour, J. K. Comrie, P. Cresswell, M. J. Edwards, J. W. R. Gosden, M. R. Hancock, F. S. G. Richards, M. D. Richards, R. M. Sumsion, D. G. Vaisey, L. Wallace.

At Advanced Level: M. Boase, P. D. de Iongh, D. C. de Peyer, J. Gilchrist, M. G. Petter, N. H. Walter, R. H. Jones, J. W. J. Reed, K. A. Statham, M. W. Brain, P. G. Cockell, R. J. van den Driessche, P. W. Dutton, P. M. Gerrard, M. E. Knight, B. Plenderleith, M. D. Rayner, P. J. Ryman, J. H. Shield, C. D. Whittle, R. Gready.

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During the term there were numerous excursions, of which accounts appear elsewhere. In addition, a large party from the Junior School saw part of the second day's play in the cricket match between Gloucestershire and Derbyshire at Gloucester.

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The usual *Operation Cleanse* was carried out at the end of the Summer Term by a small but energetic *Commando*, who seemed to enjoy themselves as much as they usually do, and the College was very glad of their help.

We are very grateful to Mr. Hugh Richards, of Llanelli, for the loan of an oboe. This makes a valuable addition to our small but slowly growing collection of wind instruments. While we have no one at the moment actually playing it, we are glad to have one available and hope a candidate for its use will appear before long.

We now have three visiting music teachers. Mrs. E. M. Webb has been coming regularly for the past six years to help with the piano teaching. Miss Wadna Keil teaches violin and viola to nine boys and takes the Ensemble Group on Monday afternoons. She also visits Marlborough College. Mr. Roberts, the Bandmaster at Cheltenham College, comes once a week to give lessons on wind instruments. Out of a total of 91 boys, 50 now have private music lessons and there are 3 on the waiting list. This large number present a problem of accommodation for practising.

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The dates of the new General Certificate of Education Examination were considerably advanced this year as compared with the old H. S. C.: it began during the first few days in June and ended towards the end of that month, thus leaving the Sixth Form with considerable time before the end of term. This they occupied by doing some most useful repairs and redecoration to various parts of the College. The most ambitious of these activities was the repainting of the ground floor lavatories, of which they made a really excellent job.

New doors were made for and fitted to the Laboratory Bookshelves, new picture frames were made and hardboard fitted to the ground floor changing room standracks. In addition the new interchangeable set for the stage was completed, and we look forward to seeing the latter in use later in the year.

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Miss E. M. Young has presented the College with a framed Ganymed facsimile of the picture Dieppe Harbour by John Sell Cotman (1782-1842). We are most grateful for this beautiful reproduction.

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Those who have been taught history by Mr. James will be interested in a recent publication. Three years ago the Assistant Masters' Association constituted a committee of ten history masters from the Public and Grammar Schools of England to prepare a volume on the teaching of history. Of this committee Mr. James was elected Vice-Chairman, and the book, when it took final form, was edited by him and Mr. Hill, of Bristol Grammar School. The Teaching of History was published last year by the Cambridge University Press and has been very favourably received. We are glad to be able to report that it has attracted much attention abroad, especially on the Continent and in the U. S. A. The first edition was exhausted some time ago.

HONOURS.

N. H. Walter and P. W. Dutton obtained State Scholarships at G. C. E. Examination, June, 1951. M. W. Brain and C. D. Whittle obtained County Major Scholarships.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1951.

Prefects—P. G. Cockell, M. E. Knight, D. C. de Peyer.

Workman—P. M. Gerrard.

Pictureman—J. R. Gosden.

Music Warden—P. D. de Iongh.

Senior Music Librarian—K. A. Statham.

Choir Librarians—J. B. O'Brien, R. D. White.

Lampmen—D. E. Barbour, T. Gay.

P. W. Man (General Meeting Election)—M. G. Petter.

Deck Chairs—J. M. Harrison.

Stagemen—P. G. Cockell, C. D. Whittle, R. M. Sumsion, R. O. G. Hayter, M. D. Richards.

Librarians—P. W. Dutton, D. C. de Peyer, M. G. Petter, R. M. Sumsion, M. V. Harley, R. W. Muchamore.

Manual Foremen—C. D. Whittle, R. M. Sumsion, T. Gay, R. J. Bird, J. Gough.

Henmen—R. A. Powell, D. E. Barbour, R. W. Muchamore, W. J. Prime, J. M. Rolfe, R. J. Bird.

Furniture Committee (General Meeting Election)—G. E. Page, R. J. Bird, M. R. Hancock.

GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1951.

Chairman—P. G. Cockell.

Secretary—D. G. Vaisey.

Games Captain—J. W. J. Reed.

Field Secretary—D. C. de Peyer.

Games Committee—P. D. de Iongh, R. H. Jones.

Banker—F. S. G. Richards.

House Committee Treasurer—R. M. Sumsion.
Games Committee Treasurer—N. H. Walter.
P. W. Man—M. G. Petter.
Senior Shopman—P. M. Gerrard.
Shopmen—R. N. Horne, J. Gough.
Auditors—M. D. Richards, J. B. O'Brien.
Finance Committee Treasurer—M. G. Richards.
Finance Committee—D. A. Godfrey, R. J. Lawson.
Record Committee—K. A. Statham, J. D. Painter, H. J. G. Hayter, M. J. Edwards, P. Rose.
Breakages Man—R. A. Powell.
Cycle Committee—G. E. Page, P. L. Waite, A. C. Lucker.
Drying Room Committee—D. E. Barbour, A. G. B. Wallace, T. D. A. Semple.
Magazine Committee—N. H. Walter, H. J. Greenhalf, T. Gay.
Inspectors of Nuisances—J. M. Astill, R. N. Horne.
Paperman—M. D. Richards.
Cricket Secretary, 1952—P. M. Gerrard.
Hockey Secretary, 1952—D. G. Vaisey.
Entertainments Committee—D. E. Barbour, P. L. Waite, M. V. Harley, H. J. G. Hayter, C. H. Thomason.
Amplifier Committee—P. G. Cockell, P. L. Waite.
Football Groundsman—C. D. Whittle.
Junior Football Groundsman—G. E. Page.
Tennis Groundsman—M. D. Richards.
Cricket Groundsman—T. Gay.
Football Games-Wardens—R. A. Powell, J. Gough.
Tennis Games-Warden—R. O. G. Hayter.
Cricket Games-Warden—K. A. Statham.
Council—P. G. Cockell, P. D. de Iongh, M. E. Knight, D. C. de Peyer, M. G. Petter, P. W. Dutton, J. D. Painter.
End of Term Entertainments Committee—K. A. Statham, C. D. Whittle, J. W. J. Reed, P. D. de Iongh, P. W. Dutton, R. W. Sumsion.
Selection Committee—P. G. Cockell, M. E. Knight, P. D. de Iongh, N. H. Walter, J. D. Painter.
Record Committee Treasurer—J. D. Painter.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

Old Boys' Day.

In accordance with the practice of alternating Whit-Saturday and the penultimate Saturday of the Summer Term, the Old Boys' Gathering was this year held on Whitsuntide Saturday, May 12th, when the following were present: —R. F. Butler, C. Baillie-Lane, P. Baillie-Lane, C. J. Brisley, P. J. Dyke, P. L. Field, C. W. Honeybone, R. J. Kendal, J. Kitto, E. J. Miller, D. Montgomery, N. A. Perkins, P. D. Quick, H. H. Selby, W. F. Smallwood, J. R. Smith.

The School comfortably won the Cricket Match, and the day finished with the customary supper.

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The following have visited the College since our last issue: — J. A. Davis, B. J. Tyldsley, C. Baillie-Lane.

During the summer holiday an Old Boy and his wife on a cycling holiday (tandem), paid a visit to the College. We were sorry to miss them and would' be happy to know who they were.

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We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Tray hum on the birth of a son, Robert Stephen, on the 29th April, 1951.

And also Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Smith on the birth of a son on the 10th July, 1951.

* * *

J. F. Alder was married in Cambridge on August 23rd to Miss Brenda May Richards. Their future address will be [REDACTED], Southbourne, Bournemouth. He has an appointment in the Scientific Civil Service, Ministry of Supply, at the Bridging Establishment at Christchurch.

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The following Old Boys and their wives accepted the invitation to Founder's Day: —Mr. and Mrs. P. Binks, G. H. W. Bodman, R. Brain, Mr. and Mrs. G. Constable, N. Dalton, F. H. Dutton, J. Eyles, J. M. Faulks, Dr. M. H. Gleeson-White, A. E. Godsell, P. A. T. Griffiths, K. J. Hanney, W. Jones, F. T. Luffman, G. T. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Quick, J. F. Roper, F/Lt. R. A. T. J. Skelton, W. F. Smallwood, A. S. C. Smith, J. R. Smith, D. C. Terrett, S. A. Trayhurn, N. M. Wood.

FOUNDER'S DAY.

The following account is reprinted from *The Wilts, and Gloucestershire Standard* by kind permission of, the Editor.

Rendcomb College celebrated its second Founder's Day since the war last Saturday afternoon, when the principal guest among the many parents, friends and old boys of the School was Sir Robert J. Sinclair, K.C.B., K.B.E., M.A., chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Company and of the Federation of British Industries.

The afternoon's programme, which included displays and exhibitions by members of the school, change ringing by the College bell-ringers at the Parish Church and a puppet play at Rendcomb House, centred around the customary assembly in the gymnasium, where Sir Robert gave the address.

Opening the proceedings, Lt.-Col. John Godman, chairman of the Governors, referred to the object of Founder's Day: to keep green the memory of their founder's great generosity in starting the College, and of his family in the great interest they had continued to show in its welfare.

A reference to the past 12 months' weather, which had interfered more with outdoor activities than ever before in the School's 30 years of life, began the annual report of the Headmaster, which followed Col. Godman's opening remarks. Despite the weather, however, the School had kept "remarkably fit," but the proposed change-over from Association to Rugby football had had to be postponed due to their inability to find a suitable master.

The College's new field was now open, and by this time next year the work which Major Wills had generously instigated on levelling the old field, should be complete. A tractor and mower had been provided by the Governors, and the School was thus equipped to deal with its increased acreage.

Mr. Lee-Browne had a word to say on the School's clothing scheme, which had been a feature of the establishment since its foundation and was still believed to be unique. The ever-increasing cost of the scheme, and difficulty in working it, made one realise for how long it had been taken for granted.

Academic work had been of a sound order during the past year. It was still too early to pronounce judgment on the new examinations system, and he felt they must wait two or three years before doing so. At the moment, the immediate disadvantages loomed very large, including the increased paper work involved, the loss of six valuable weeks of the Summer term, and the increased pace of school work—no doubt a bad thing—made necessary by the early start of the examinations and the raised standard.

In this year's honours list there was no scholarship to Oxford or Cambridge. The School was proud of the old boys named in the honours list, including P. J. Ryman, the third Rendcombian to win an engineering scholarship to Loughborough College. Of Ryman's two predecessors, one was now a partner in a firm of consulting engineers, while the other, employed by Westminster City Council, had been responsible for the roadways leading to the Festival of Britain site.

On the subject of out-of-school activities, the Headmaster referred to dramatic productions and musical activities in the past year, together with a number of expeditions. The latter included visits to concerts at Bristol, Cheltenham and Oxford, plays at Stratford-on-Avon, and the Indian Ballet—and a visit to county cricket!

The School War Memorial was also discussed by Mr. Lee-Browne. In these days when money was so "tight," the response to the appeal had been smaller than they had hoped, but it was really heartening that 85 per cent, of the families of boys who had attended the College since its foundation had subscribed to the fund. The new War Memorial bookshelves were now on view in the Library, including some provided by the Old Rendcombians.

They were grateful to the Bishop of Gloucester for giving up one of his rare free evenings to hold a special confirmation service at Rendcomb Church, and to those who permitted them access to the Church bells and organ.

The Headmaster went on to speak in a wider sense about school life and relationships. From year to year, a school could only be truly judged on the relationships existing in its sixth form. When the atmosphere was strained and the relationships shallow and competitive, only a few boys were enabled to make a contribution to the school. When, however, the atmosphere was generous-minded and sincere, everyone was free to make his own contribution.

The tendency in the country today was for groups to be large and become larger. With fixed wage scales and higher taxation, there were bound to be less incentives, and the need, more than ever before, would be for men and women who would work for the good of the job and because they were interested in it, or who were prepared to do un congenial work because it had to be done.

There, might soon be only two serious incentives to work—the work itself and the scramble for power over the lives of others. "Do we want people from our grammar schools who form the managerial class, to work only because they are afraid not to, or afraid of the boss, or of the sack?" asked Mr. Lee-Browne.

In conclusion, the Headmaster expressed his thanks to the Chairman, the Governors and their Secretary, for their work on the School's behalf in the past year.

"It is a great honour to be invited to come and talk to Rendcomb College, a school whose fame has already grown far and wide," began Sir Robert Sinclair, the normal introduction of the speaker having been performed.

Sir Robert said he was not going to address the scholars on religion, not because he did not believe that one's spiritual faith was the most important thing in one's life, but because he did not feel qualified to speak on the subject. Instead, his first subject was friendship.

"True friendship, as I see it, means complete mutual trust," said Sir Robert. "It means that one man can call on another for any kind of help that it is in that other's power to give, in the sure and certain knowledge that the other will consider it a privilege to give it. It is something that neither time nor distance can affect.

"I think also that most of us find that there is a special virtue in the friendships that one makes at school, because in them there is a rather special bond forged by loyalty to a school of which one can really be proud."

Sir Robert's next subject was freedom, by which he said he meant doing the sort of things which showed the meaning of true freedom. The history books were full of accounts of great Empires which had fallen because they chose to hold masses of people subject by force alone. Being human, all made mistakes, but Sir Robert believed that our own Empire was founded and maintained upon the principles of true freedom.

In this connection, Sir Robert quoted Kipling's famous line, "Save he serve, no man can rule."

Sir Robert felt that in our social changes today the country tended to set too much store by security, and not enough by initiative and enterprise. The attitude of "doing the job for the job's sake" must be there, but there must also be greater reward for a job well done if these things were to be regained.

The thanks of those present were accorded to the speaker by Lord Dulverton.

EXPEDITIONS.

Stratford-on-Avon. "King Henry the Fourth," Part 1.

On Friday, May 11th, a Sixth Form party, with a few members of the Fifth, went to Stratford to see *Henry IV, Part I*. This play is the sequel to *Richard II* (seen by a similar party at the end of the Easter Term), and forms part of the cycle of historical plays which has been chosen as the Festival programme at the Memorial Theatre this year. It was hoped no doubt, that this would attract large numbers of enthusiastic foreigners in this year of English festivity.

After the usual fuss over the buying of programmes and the finding of seats, there was time to notice that the now familiar set by Tanya Moiseiwitsch, which is remarkable for its adaptability, was again being used. Obviously designed to suit the entire tetralogy, this set adapted itself with admirable speed to the impressive scenes at court and to the drunken scenes in the tavern at Cheapside, both of which were played convincingly with little change. The absence of a curtain, and the emphasis on many minor details, showed a revival of interest in the Elizabethan manner of production. The costumes, also by Tanya Moiseiwitsch, were as lavish as those witnessed in "Richard II," and by clever contrasting in colour and cut, served further to emphasise Court and Tavern life. Somewhat ironically, since there is now no pit, an orchestra—a long needed innovation—gave colourful background music from behind the scenes.

This season Anthony Quayle has assembled an impressive company, including Michael Redgrave, Richard Burton, Hugh Griffith, Barbara Jefford, Harry Andrews, and of course himself. As King Henry IV Harry Andrews created a character who was both commanding and unsympathetic, especially towards his wayward son, Prince Hal. He continued his fine performance, begun in "Richard II," as Bolingbroke, and showed a deep understanding of his part. Anthony Quayle, who played Falstaff, the most popular of Shakespeare's comic characters, portrayed a laughter-making buffoon staggering ponderously in and out of Mistress Quickly's tavern and later demonstrating his much vaunted, but actually non-existent fighting skill. Laughter, always dominant when Falstaff was on stage, reached its climax with his well-known speech on honour, delivered with many a comical and appropriate gesture of which his favourite was to scratch and tenderly pat his ample stomach. In the same vein "anon, anon sir," the inevitable reply of Frances the drawer, to an impatient "swill-belly," was carried off well in a high-pitched Cockney voice by Timothy Harley, in a scene which provided great amusement to the audience and fellow players. Mistress Quickly was one of the few poorer performances. Richard Burton, as Prince Hal, the intended

hero of the cycle, was considered a little too serious in the first part of the play when he is intended to be leading a very light-hearted kind of life in the jovial company of Sir John Falstaff and Pains. However, he did improve as the play progressed, and gave a very real indication of the war-like Harry he was to become in "Henry V." As Hotspur, Michael Redgrave demonstrated his great versatility by giving us a fiery, uncouth, barbaric sort of character— totally different from his effeminate King Richard II. His accent provoked much comment. Although it was fundamentally North Country, it also had the harsh, guttural sounding "r" found on the Continent. This gave a slightly queer effect, but was none the less striking and original. Barbara Jefford, fresh from her success in London, deserves mention for her highly creditable performance as Lady Percy, Hotspur's wife, which was notable for its life and vigour. Hugh Griffith, as the powerful Welsh Chieftain Glendower, acted superbly, and carried on a dialogue in Welsh with his daughter, which, though incomprehensible to most of the audience, produced the necessary tender atmosphere for the scene between Lady Mortimer and her parting husband.

The ignominious exit of the dead Hotspur on the broad and swaying shoulders of Falstaff, brought an end to what many thought was the finest production yet seen at the Memorial Theatre.

J. W. J. R. and M. B.

"Henry IV," Part 2.

A party from the upper part of the Sixth Form visited Stratford-on-Avon on Thursday, 19th of July, to see *Henry IV, Part 2*. On this occasion, the departure was at 2.30 p.m. to enable a detour to be made by way of Shottery to see Anne Hathaway's Cottage. It's upkeep is maintained by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and exhibits are on view which have direct association with Shakespeare himself. The occasion was enlivened by a large party of American tourists. At Stratford, several people visited an exhibition connected with the History Plays at Hall's Croft (the home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna, and his son-in-law, Dr. John Hall) which, however, failed to come up to expectation.

The pleasant summer heat of the riverside provided a striking contrast to the foetid atmosphere of the gallery in the theatre, where the ventilation left much to be desired. Facilities for refreshment during the interval were also not of a high standard.

The production followed much the same pattern as those of the two previous plays in the cycle; once more the bare simplicity of the scenery, which has already been described in detail, was offset by the over-all excellence of the costumes. From the very beginning of the play it was obvious how closely it hinges on to its predecessor, and that ideally they should be seen on consecutive

nights for the fullest appreciation of their continuity. From the dramatic aspect, Part II is less gripping than either its predecessor or its successor. In it, attention is focussed rather on Falstaff's disappointment than on the political facet of the plot which predominates in the rest of the tetralogy.

Harry Andrews, in the part of Henry IV, convincingly portrayed the cares and sorrows of the sick old king, troubled by the rebellious state of his realm, and doubting the fitness of his heir to fulfil his great office. The wheel has come full circle, and ambition has left a bitter taste—the prophecies of Richard are resolved. The climax of his performance came in the death-bed scene, where he reached the full nobility of the dying monarch.

The king's disillusionment is paralleled by that of Northumberland (played by Alexander Gange); the arch-plotter, dissatisfied with the regime that he did so much to set up, lends his support once more to ill-fated insurrection. The play lacks a true climax as far as the rebellion is concerned, for the deception by which Lancaster secures the rebels is merely a low-down confidence-trick, defensible on the grounds of legality, but not of chivalry.

The action would tend to drag, were it not for the delightful escapades of Falstaff and his associates. Anthony Quayle once more excelled himself, particularly in the scenes with the Lord Chief Justice and Hallon, where ample opportunity is given for indecent asides and monstrous hyperbole which are the essence of Elizabethan bawdy. The scene in which Falstaff chooses his recruits for the expedition against the northern rebels was especially noteworthy for its diverse bucolic humour.

Truly excellent was the doubling of two such different parts as Poins and Shallow by Alan Badel, Northumberland and Davy by Alexander Gange, and Rumour and Silence by William Squire; and Heather Stannard's presentation of Doll Tearsheet compared favourably with that of the Queen in "Richard II." Also, Richard Wordsworth's interpretation of the part of Pistol was outstanding. Richard Burton seemed to fail to reach his former high standard as Prince Hal, his princely dignity at times becoming mere preoccupation. The sound effects, comprising rather ineffectual background music, painfully artificial thunder, and unconvincing horses' hooves, were disappointing.

The absence from the caste of Michael Redgrave and Hugh Griffiths, who had been so outstanding in the two preceding plays of the tetralogy, was very noticeable; but this was atoned for to some extent by the spirited nature of Michael Redgrave's production, which delighted us by its ingenious use of trivialities.

M. G. P. and N. H. W.

Concert at Westonbirt School.

Thanks to the Herculean efforts of the Headmaster's Secretary to obtain a coach (for on Saturdays this summer, all coaches headed towards the South Bank Exhibition) a large party from all forms went to hear the Boyd Neel Orchestra, under its conductor, Boyd Neel. The concert was organised by the Westonbirt and District Music Club under the auspices of the Arts Council. It had been intended to hold the concert in the grounds of the school, but though we had had a spell of ten days fine weather, the eleventh day ended the sunshine and caused the concert to be held in the school hall.

The playing of the orchestra was, as usual, very good. The programme included a work which the orchestra had made peculiarly its own: *Variations on a theme of Frank Bridge* by Benjamin Britten. This work which is said to be serious and frivolous by turns, has always seemed to the writer to be entirely frivolous. The most popular movement (there are twelve) was *Aria Italiana*, a delightful parody of a coloratura soprano "sung" by the first violins while the seconds are played like guitars.

The programme began with a *Concerto Grosso* by Handel, and then came a charming *Divertimento* by Mozart, followed by some modern pieces by Respighi and Delius. Bach's Third *Brandenburg Concerto* made a fine ending, but we were sorry Mr. Boyd Neel omitted the tiny slow movement of only two chords; Bach wrote them and they should have been played.

Cheltenham Festival of Contemporary Music.

Senior members of the school were able to attend two of these concerts, one by the Hallé Orchestra under Sir John Barbirolli and the other by the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Malcolm Sargent. The Hallé's concert began with a captivating overture which was new to all of us: *Donna Diana* by Reznicek. The main work was the first performance of John Gardner's Symphony in D, which the critics seem to agree is an important work. The L.S.O.'s concert contained no first performances but was entirely English, (and in this particular instance we do not mean British!). It began with a Rendcomb favourite. *The Wasps* Overture by Vaughan Williams and ended with his *London Symphony*, which was given a spirited performance. The other work was Alan Rawsthorne's Second Piano Concerto which had been commissioned by the Arts Council for their Festival of Britain Concerts in the Royal Festival Hall.

These concerts were excellently performed, and while the LSO's playing was exemplary, the finer subtleties of the Hallé were shown in relief.

Ram Gopal and his Indian Ballet at Cheltenham.

On June 22nd, Forms III, IV, V and VI attended one of these performances. Ram Gopal first made a tour of this country in the 1930's, and his programmes consist of traditional Indian Dances, both of religious and secular origin. The orchestra comprised string instruments; one like a flute; a perfectly ordinary Western violin; a genuine harmonica (vessels filled with varying quantities of water to determine pitch) and many kinds of drums. Singing was also heard during some of the acts, but this was of course, in Indian. The third item on the programme was a lecture-demonstration by Ram Gopal, who explained what the meaning of various movements was. Without this the audience would not have enjoyed the performance nearly so well. He explained the rolling of the eyes and the twisting of the hands, the arms and the body; all these movements meant something. We particularly liked his being able to move his head to and fro, across his shoulders, but as he said this was an exceedingly difficult thing to accomplish. He showed by gestures and movements three scenes which became very real after his explanation.

Although this talk was a little long its value was immense in helping us to get the most out of the performances.

This for nearly all of us was a new experience, but none the less it was a very enjoyable evening.

G. H. R.

CRICKET, 1951.

For the first time ever, through the generosity of Major David Wills, it was possible to run three games of cricket "on top" in a single afternoon. This lightened the task of games distribution tremendously for the captain and field secretary. First game used the old pitch, while second and third games played on the New Field. The most interesting feature of the season was of course the behaviour of the new field. Contrary to expectation it was possible to play on it during all but the wettest weather: in fact the pitch was at its best when it was damp and responsive to the roller. The drier the weather, however, the more rough and difficult it became. This is also the case on the old square to a lesser extent. Unfortunately we will be reduced to two pitches again next year, when the old field is being relaid, and, if we have a dry summer, first game and the first eleven may have difficulty in playing on the new pitch, unless water is somehow available.

The season was an improvement on last year. The weather was better, and of course much more cricket was played. The first eleven had the distinction of being unbeaten in ten matches, while the junior team showed great advancement in their slender programme of matches. The shortness of time in practice games led

to an experiment whereby batsmen were compelled to retire after thirty minutes at the crease. This, however, spoilt the competitive spirit of the game, and a rule was substituted by which batting time was to be equally divided between the sides. Keeness for the game was perhaps greater than last year, and the general standard of batting and fielding was higher—there was a shortage of bowling throughout the school, however.

Altogether five members of the staff assisted with games this term. Pressure of work kept Mr. James from nets, but he did a great deal of umpiring, and helped the captain and Games Committee in every way with his always welcome advice. Mr. Austin concentrated mainly on coaching the juniors, and, by his untiring efforts at nets and games, he helped greatly towards the improvement of various players who will shortly be in the first eleven. Mr. Haywood also took a share in coaching and umpiring. Mr. Hull once again was always willing to do long spells of umpiring; while Mr. Ellis played in a number of games and volunteered on various occasions to umpire. It can only be said that we owe a tremendous amount to these five people for the success and pleasure of our games.

For the second season running Gilchrist was captain and he developed greatly in his handling of the team; his attitude was all that could be desired and his placing of the field was greatly improved, while his bowling changes were often quite inspired'. As a batsman he had an "off" season, but this was probably due to the working of a law of averages rather than loss of skill—and in any case he played two or three excellent innings. His loss will be felt next year and it will be difficult to imagine Rendcomb teams without him.

The first eleven had a highly successful season. The main strength lay in batting. For the first time for some years the team did not have to rely on just one or two batsmen; our run of good scores came as a result of a good attacking spirit throughout the whole side. Some splendid recoveries were made on occasions when we lost early wickets. The bowling was not of such high standard. We relied too much on fast and hostile openers; there was a dire need for a good spin bowler. The fielding was much more consistent than last year, but we lacked a good slip fielder.

Brain was used as an opening batsman in all but the last two matches. He had a disappointing season. He fell time and again when pulling impatiently across the flight of the ball. At his best he can be a hard-driving batsman, with a sound back-stroke, but he lacks patience. The other opener, Reed, was a vastly improved player. He had consistent success in matches. He is not a very attractive batsman as yet, because of his lack of good off-side strokes; but he has benefited greatly in overcoming an old tendency to nibble at good length balls outside the off stump. He is a very

accomplished on-side player. He was relieved from the task of opening the bowling this year, but he bowled cleverly and accurately on various occasions. Statham was another greatly improved player. He thrived on having to go in when we had lost early wickets, and he batted splendidly on a number of occasions, showing quick footwork and stylish off-side strokes. He kept wicket in the last six matches, and was very quick and usually safe.

de Peyer should be a leading batsman next year. At No.5 he had not enough responsibility. He drove well to the off, but was weak in defensive and leg-side strokes and against slow bowling. He was a keen fielder. Paish at his best was a very good hitter; he could be much better if he would move more into line with the ball instead of drawing away. He bowled occasionally and fielded well close in front of the wicket. Harrison, J., was one of the opening bowlers. From a short run-up he produced considerable pace, and bowled very well at times, speed and nip off the pitch causing most of his victims to be clean bowled. He must conquer a tendency to bowl short. He is a promising batsman, but he must eliminate all the unnecessary flourishes which are at the moment spoiling his style, de Longh, the other opening bowler, was very fast at times, but wasted a great deal of energy by bowling outside the stumps in his endeavour to work-up pace on often slow wickets. He had some very good spells, however, and produced many really good balls. He also emerged this season as a useful batsman, and, making the best of his long reach, drove sometimes very well.

Gready again had a certain amount of success with his very slow, high-flighted left-arm bowling. He usually captured a quick wicket or two from his very strangeness, but was likely to be expensive once the batsmen "got wise" to him. As a batsman he could hit hard, and he fielded keenly in the deep. Plenderleith was mainly distinguished for his fine fielding: his smart picking-up and throwing saved many runs. As a batsman he was capable of determined defence and novel attacking strokes. Painter played in five matches as a left-arm spin bowler. He can certainly spin the ball and is not afraid to experiment, but he must practice more to develop accuracy. Vaisey showed promise as a wicket-keeper in early games. He played in the first four matches, but became careless. He should learn where to stand for different bowlers, and never leave the stumps unguarded while runs are being taken. Waite played in the last two matches as a medium paced bowler. At his best he is accurate and can move the ball a bit. He could become a very useful batsman. Shield also played twice, fielding soundly, and showing ability to hit.

There was nothing of interest to be gleaned from the three "A" and second eleven matches. It must be mentioned though that Rose batted with considerable success throughout the term, and should be very useful in the future.

The junior eleven played only five matches, one of which was spoilt by rain. Despite this they at last managed to produce the attacking spirit that has been lacking in junior teams for some years now. Astill is already a very useful batsman, and Powell, Payne and Godfrey should be very successful in the future. Payne and Glastonbury showed outstanding promise as bowlers. The fielding varied from very brisk and keen to highly lethargic.

1st XI Matches.

May 12th. v. Old Rendcombian. Home. Won by 75 runs.

1st XI 131—5 dec. (Paish 41, Statham 34, Reed 33).

O.R.'s 56 (Montgomery 19; de Iongh 6—15, Gready 2—2).

The O.R.'s fielded a very weak team. Statham and Reed had some useful batting practice, and Paish gave a most exhilarating display of hitting. The fast bowling of de Iongh mainly accounted for our opponents—all of his victims were clean bowled.

May 15th. v. Dean Close "A" XI. Away. Won by 9 wickets.

Dean Close 92 (de Iongh 4—21, Harrison 3—22, Gready 2—16).

1st XI 146—3 (Gilchrist 61, Reed 61).

Batting first on a perfect wicket, the Dean Close batsmen were unsettled by the pace of de Iongh and Harrison, both of whom bowled very well. Reed and Gilchrist took us to an easy victory with a stand of 124 in an hour and a quarter. Reed played very well and it was good to see him forcing the ball off his back foot. Gilchrist also gave an excellent display.

May 19th. v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Away. Drawn.

Cheltenham College 105—5 dec. (Harrison 3—34, Statham
2—16).

Rain stopped play.

Harrison took the first three wickets for fourteen in a very good opening spell. Then it began to drizzle, the fielding became atrocious, and by tea time we had lost our initial advantage. Soon after tea the match was abandoned.

June 2nd. v. Sir Thomas Rich's School. Home. Won by 52 runs.

1st XI 130 (Reed 35, de Peyer 34, Statham 25, Harrison 15).

Sir T. Rich's 78 (Reed 5—8, Harrison 2—19).

Our first two wickets went cheaply, but Reed and Statham hit back very well with 45 in half an hour. They were both at their best, de Peyer also played his best innings of term—but from being 119 for 5, we were 130 all out. Harrison and de Iongh took our opponents first three wickets, and then Reed with six overs of good length balls caused complete collapse. The last man survived for half an hour, however, before being enticed out by a despairing captain!

June 9th. v. Sir Thomas Rich's School. Away. Drawn.
Sir T. Rich's 115—9 dec. (Reed 3—18, de Iongh 2—21).
1st XI 79—5 (Reed 30, Statham 21 not out).

Some very poor wicket-keeping and slip fielding spoil the effect of more hostile bowling by Harrison and de Iongh. Reed again bowled very well and deserved more wickets. We had only an hour and a quarter in which to get the runs, and when Brain and Gilchrist had fallen to fine catches, Reed and Statham were forced on to the defensive by accurate bowling. Neither was at his best, but a good recovery was made, until we lost three more wickets in a final bid for runs.

June 16th. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. Drawn.
1st XI 139—9 dec. (Reed 56 not out, Gilchrist 20, Paish 16, de Iongh 14, Shield 12).
C. G. S. 73—5 (de Iongh 3—21).

After Brain, Gilchrist and Statham had gone with only 24 on the board, Reed was again left with great responsibility. It took him a long time to find his touch, but with good support from the lower batsman, he scored his last thirty runs in his best style. We were unable to dismiss our opponents in the allotted time, although we took the first five wickets for 43.

June 21st. v. North Cerney C. C. Home. Won by 64 runs.
1st XI 92—3 dec. (Statham 43 not out, Reed 25, Gilchrist 11).
N. Cerney 31 (Gready 4—5, Harrison 3—10, Red 2—0).

Reed was far below his best, but Statham played a delightful innings. We accounted for North Cerney in thirteen overs, Gready causing the utmost confusion with only sixteen deliveries.

June 26th. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Home. Drawn.
1st XI 152—9 dec. (Gilchrist 50, Statham 49, de Iongh 13, Gready 12).
C. G. S. 46—7 (Harrison 3—4).

We lost the openers for four runs. Then Gilchrist and Statham scored 104 in under an hour for the third wicket. Gilchrist's innings was most impressive. Statham was very much out of touch, but had considerable luck. Harrison clean bowled the first three Cirencester batsmen in one over before tea; after the interval, however, he slowed down. Our opponents "put up the shutters" to the extent of blocking full tosses, and the dropping of two vital catches finally cheated us of victory.

July 14th. v. Burford Grammar School. Away. Won by 44 runs.
1st XI 89 (de Iongh 32, Plenderleith 17, de Peyer 13, Gilchrist 12).
B. G. S. 45 (Harrison 4—20, Reed 2—1, Waite 2—2, de Iongh
1—8).

On a green wicket which wore rapidly, we lost five wickets in an hour and a quarter for only 35 runs. De Peyer and Gilchrist defended for long periods, scoring few runs, but taking some of the edge off the attack. Then de Iongh drove the bowlers off their length in a splendid innings, with spirited support from Plenderleith. Harrison and de Iongh broke the back of the Burford batting, and Waite and Reed dismissed the last four men in the nick of time. The fielding was very good.

July 21st. v. Burford Grammar School. Home. Won by 25 runs.
1st XI 109 (Reed 28, Plenderleith 23 not out).
B. G. S. 89 (de Iongh 8—26).

The wicket was very dry and rough, only Reed of the first eight batsmen surviving for any length of time. Although looking very tired, he played a stubborn and invaluable innings. Highlight of the innings was a brilliant display of hitting by Plenderleith in a last wicket stand of 34 with Waite. After tea de Iongh bowled really well: at a brisk pace he was far more accurate than usual, and none of the Burford batsmen could keep him out for long. Harrison supported him well but with no luck.

“A” and 2nd XI Matches.

May 26th. v. Dean Close 2nd XI. Home. Lost by 6 wickets.
“A” XI 60 (Brain 15, Harrison 14).
Dean Close 62—4.

June 16th. v. Cotswold School. Home. Won by 95 runs.
2nd XI 132—5 dec. (Astill 56 not out. Rose 28).
Cotswold School 37 (Waite 3—6, Gay 2—6, Boase 3—15).

June 23rd. v. Cotswold School. Away. Won by 25 runs.
2nd XI 41 (Waite 13, Gerrard 11 not out).
Cotswold School 15 (Boase 3—1, Gay 4—5).

Junior XI.

May 19th. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Home. Drawn.
C. G. S. 84—7. Rain stopped play.

May 26th. v. Kingham Hill School. Away. Won by 6 runs.
Juniors 40. Kingham Hill 34.

June 9th. v. Sir Thomas Rich's School. Away. Lost by 46 runs.
Sir T. Rich's 90. Junior 44.

June 23rd. v. Cheltenham College. Home. Lost by 6 wickets.
Juniors 89 (Gough H. 22, Powell 15, Semple 15).
Cheltenham College 94—4.

July 14th. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. Won by 21 runs.
Juniors 71 (Astill 26, Richards M. G. 17).
C. G. S. 50 (Glastonbury 5—3).

Under 14 XI.

June 2nd. v. Ullenwood School. Away. Won by 92 runs.
Under 14 XI 110—3 dec. Ullenwood 18.

July 7th. v. Ullenwood School. Home. Won by 17 runs.
Under 14 XI 88. Ullenwood 71.