

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Vol. 9 No. 5

December, 1950

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Rendcomb College Chronicle

Vol. 9, No. 5.

December, 1950.

SCHOOL NOTES. Summer Term, 1950.

We deeply regret to record the death of David Milligan in a bathing accident in Austria at the end of August, and our sympathy goes out to his parents, his brother and his sister in their great loss.

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

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Founder's Day was on Saturday, July 1st. A full account of this, the first Founder's Day since 1939, appears elsewhere in our issue.

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Commemoration Day was on Friday, June 2nd. The weather might have (and often has) been worse.

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We offer our good wishes to Mr. R. M. Thackray, who left us at the end of the Summer Term to take up the post of Music Master at Lyme Regis Grammar School. We welcome Mr. E. Ellis, who has come to take over the Latin and Football in his place.

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We offer our good wishes to the following boys who left at the end of the Summer Term:—R. J. Kendal, C. J. Brisley, G. J. Chagrin, L. V. Crawford, E. Davis, P. D. Quick, P. H. S. Harris, M. J. Miles, F. Herrmann and J. Smith.

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We welcome the following new boys who entered the School at the beginning of the Autumn Term, 1950:—G. E. Page, T. D. A. Semple, C. H. Thomason, J. R. Alder, J. F. W. Beard, A. T. Brooks, D. W. Brown, M. A. B. Forster, C. Handoll, D. T. Hart, and R. D. White.

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The following boys passed the London General School Certificate Examination (Midsummer, 1950):—J. Kitto, R. W. Muchamore, P. Rose, P. L. Waite, F. Herrmann.

The following boys were successful in the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination (June, 1950):—R. K. G. Bick, M. W. Brain, C. J. Brisley, G. J. Chagrin, P. G. Cockell, L. V. Crawford, E. Davis, J. Gilchrist, P. H. S. Harris, M. J. Miles, J. D. Painter, B. Plenderleith, P. D. Quick, P. J. Ryman, J. H. Shield.

L. V. Crawford obtained Distinctions in Chemistry and Botany—R. K. G. Bick, M. W. Brain and C. J. Brisley obtained Distinctions in History.

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P. D. de Iongh and K. A. Statham passed with Merit in Pianoforte playing the Grade VI Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

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The Caravan Players visited the College on the 20th of May and gave a performance of Mary Hayley Bell's play "Men in Shadow." An account appears elsewhere in this issue.

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Several parties went to concerts in Cheltenham during the term, and during the Festival of Contemporary Music a large party heard the Halle Orchestra under Sir John Barbirolli. A notice of this concert is given elsewhere.

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The Junior Cricket XI saw the best part of a day's play at Gloucester in the county match between Gloucester and Lancashire.

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As usual, a cleaning "gang" stayed behind for a few days at the end of the Summer Term.

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We are grateful to Mr. P. M. Ellis for the gift of a piano and to Mr. A. G. Granston Richards for that of a clarinet: also to Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Quick for the gift of a book for the Library.

* * *

Scaffolding has appeared once more on the Stable tower, for the repair of the lead roof and for general painting. It was found that the timber-work had been severely attacked by the furniture beetle. The Cirencester bridge has had a thorough overhaul and a new coat of paint, which it needed pretty badly. Repairs to the big doors and further painting have been done at the Stables, and work there is now finished.

* * *

During the past eight months the south corner wing of the Stable block has gradually been converted into an excellent temporary chemistry laboratory for the Sixth form. The work has been

done with a minimum of structural alteration, and using local timber. It provides comfortable working accommodation for ten boys, possible accommodation for up to fourteen and greatly eases the strain on the existing laboratory facilities.

Mr. J. B. Fell, who was entirely responsible for the planning, layout and equipping of the laboratory, is greatly to be congratulated on the result of his very considerable labours.

HONOURS.

J. Owen obtained First Class Honours in Physics at Oxford in July, 1950.

M. H. Fisher obtained First Class Honours in the School of Modern History at Oxford in 1948.

L. V. Crawford obtained a State Scholarship in Science at the Higher School Certificate Examination in June, 1950.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1950.

Senior Prefect—R. K. G. Bick.

Duty Group Leaders—R. K. G. Bick, P. J. Ryman, J. H. Shield.

Other Prefects—M. W. Brain, R. Gready.

Workman—M. E. Knight.

Music Warden—P. D. de Iongh.

Senior Music Librarian—K. A. Statham.

Choir Librarians—P. Gilbert, H. A. Gough.

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

Manual Foremen—B. Plenderleith, A. J. Paish and P. de Iongh.

Picture Man; —R. H. Jones.

Stagemen—P. J. Ryman, P. G. Cockell, B. Plenderleith, C. D. Whittle, A. J. Paish.

Deck Chairs—D. G. Vaisey.

Lamp Men—D. E. Barbour, P. J. Cresswell.

Henmen—R. K. G. Bick, H. J. G. Hayter, R. A. Powell, D. E. Barbour, R. W. Muchamore, J. Bolus, J. Rolfe.

P. W. Man (General Meeting Election)—P. W. Dutton.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1950.

Chairman—M. W. Brain.

Secretary—P. D. de Iongh.

Games Captain—R. Gready.

Field Secretary—R. H. Jones.

Games Committee—J. W. J. Reed, J. H. Shield.

Banker—D. G. Vaisey.

House Committee Treasurer—P. W. Dutton.

Games Committee Treasurer—P. M. Gerrard.

Senior Shopman—D. C. de Peyer.

Shopmen—R. M. Sumsion, J. Harrison.

Auditors—P. L. Waite, J. H. Shield.

Finance Committee Treasurer—F. S. G. Richards.

Finance Committee—R. N. Horne, M. G. Richards.

Furniture Committee—M. G. Petter, J. Gough, J. M. Harrison.

Poundman—J. Gough.

Breakages Man—F. S. G. Richards.

Entertainments Committee—R. Gready, J. R. Elks, D. E. Barbour, M. D. Richards, H. J. G. Hayter.

Record Committee—M. W. Brain, J. Gilchrist, K. A. Statham, P. Rose, J. Kitto.

Cycle Committee—T. Gay, C. D. Whittle, P. J. Cresswell.

Amplifier Technicians—P. J. Ryman, P. G. Cockell.

Football Groundsman—J. W. J. Reed.

Inspectors of Nuisances—J. K. Comrie, G. H. Richards.

Drying Room Committee—J. K. Comrie, R. W. Muchamore, D. E. Barbour.

Magazine Committee—P. W. Dutton, P. D. de Iongh, P. Rose.

Cricket Secretary—P. L. Waite.

Paperman—R. M. Sumsion.

Junior Football Groundsman—R. O. G. Hayter.

Junior Tennis Groundsman—H. J. G. Hayter.

Junior Cricket Groundsman—P. D. de Iongh.

Football Games Wardens—D. G. Vaisey, C. D. Whittle.

Tennis Games Warden—M. D. Richards.

Cricket Games Warden—J. Gilchrist.

Council—R. Gready, R. K. G. Bick, P. G. Cockell, J. H. Shield, P. J. Ryman, M. W. Brain.

Selection Committee—R. K. G. Bick, R. Gready, B. Plenderleith, J. H. Shield, M. W. Brain.

End of Term Entertainments Committee—J. Gilchrist, P. J. Ryman, M. W. Brain, M. Boase, B. Plenderleith.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

J. Owen has obtained 1st Class Honours in the School of Physics at Oxford. He returned to Oxford in October to read for a D. Phil. on Para-magnetic resonance, the investigation of nuclear and electronic magnetic moments by the absorption of very short radio waves (wavelength about 1 cm.).

* * *

Duncan Bateman and a friend are in partnership in a business called the "Pegasus Workshop" at [REDACTED], Notting Hill Gate, London, W. 8.

* * *

L. H. B. Hatherell is now Assistant Engineer, Eastern Division, of Shell Mex and B.P. Ltd. He previously qualified as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer at the Municipal College of Technology, Manchester. He has also done most of the work for his qualification as Chartered Civil Engineer.

* * *

C. E. H. Tuck was married in April in the Isle of Wight.

* * *

A. C. Magor is working for Messrs. Hoover Ltd. at Cardiff.

* * *

E. B. Smith is a Test Pilot for Gloucester Aircraft Ltd.

* * *

C. C. Richardson was married to Miss Margaret E. Norman at St. Peter's Church, Shaldon, on July 22nd.

* * *

S. J. Curry was married at Cambridge on June 9th to Miss Barbara Woosey, of Burnage, Manchester.

* * *

Alec Godsell was married to Beryl Roberts on September 21st, 1950.

B. J. Brooks (Squadron-Leader) was appointed Technical Staff Officer (R.A.F.) at the Armament Design Establishment, Ministry of Supply, in February, 1949. He was one of the successful candidates at the R.A.F. Promotion Examination "C," held in London in March, 1950.

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S. J. Trayhurn was successful in the final examination of the Law Society in June, 1950.

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Old Boys' Day, July 15th, 1950.

Owing to the proximity of Founder's Day, when over thirty Old Boys were present, it was not possible to get a Cricket team together. In any case, torrential rain made play out of the question. This was a pleasant gathering, with much interesting conversation, and although the absence of cricket was a disappointment, there was no sense that anyone regretted having come.

Before lunch, the Society's Officers, E. J. Miller, Mr. C. H. Uzzel, Mr. J. C. James and the Headmaster, had a conference about the War Memorial shelving in the Library, at which a number of details were settled, and it was decided to go ahead with the Old Rendcombian Society's section of the work.

The following O. R. s were present:—J. E. Allen, P. J. Dyke, J. Eyles, A. C. Magor, E. J. Miller, M. J. Morgan, E. B. Smith, R. W. Smith, J. W. Sumsion, J. C. Waterton.

* * *

The following Old Boys visited the College during the Summer Term, 1950: —G. H. Bye, C. Carus-Wilson, T. P. Denehy, E. A. Jones, C. Baillie Lane, P. Levett, N. McGregor Wood, D. J. Payne, B. W. Plenderleith, J. H. Quick, J. C. Waterton.

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The following O. R. s were present for Founder's Day on July 1st, 1950: —B. J. Brooks, W. N. Durham, P. Binks, J. W. Sumsion, J. F. Alder, J. Billany, R. H. Betterton, D. Montgomery, A. P. Browning, C. S. T. Widdrington, E. R. S. Gillham, John Eyles, S. P. Steed, F. J. Batten, R. Margetts, E. A. Jones, R. T. Wood, D. J. Payne, S. J. Curry, B. G. H. Levers, G. H. Davis, G. H. W. Bodman, M. A. Bullen, D. Field, H. S. Palmer, H. P. Lecky, H. H. Baxter, E. J. M. Jefferies, F. H. Jones, C. E. Hart-land, G. W. Ivens, T. Price, R. J. Powell.

FOUNDER'S DAY, 1950.

Founder's Day was celebrated at Rendcomb, for the first time since the War, on Saturday, July 1st. Upwards of three hundred guests assembled for the occasion, and heard speeches in the gym from the Chairman of the Governing Body, Lieutenant-Colonel John Godman, the guest of honour, Lord Oaksey, and the Headmaster.

Colonel Godman reminded his audience that they were assembled first and foremost to honour the memory of the Founder, Mr. Noel Wills.

"His was the penetrating mind which saw clearly where twenty years later modern educationalists are groping in the fog," he said. "Having seen clearly what such a school as Rendcomb could be, and what it could do for the county he loved so well, his was the magnificent generosity that made that vision come to life.

"The endowment which he gave to Rendcomb was such as would have been amply enough for normal times under all circumstances, but circumstances have not been normal, and when we were faced with the enormous increase in the cost of living following the second World War, his endowment was most nobly supplemented by other members of his family. Although we now receive great help from the Gloucestershire Education Authority, and though we are most grateful for that help, the main weight of carrying this school rests on the endowment provided by our Founder and by members of his family. Let us keep that memory green."

The Headmaster then presented his report, which contained a full record of the achievement of the School, both in work and play, since the last Founder's Day. He also expressed the gratitude of all concerned to Major Wills for his magnificent gift of the new games field.

The Guest of Honour, Lord Oaksey (perhaps better known as Mr. Justice Lawrence), then gave his address. Lord Oaksey spoke with wisdom and great charm (which defies the reporter) and his felicity of phrase and simplicity of style obviously appealed to his audience, whose thanks were expressed by Lord Dulverton in an able and witty speech.

After the Speeches, there was a display of Physical Training on the back lawn, which ended in an impressive tableau. Tea was then served in a marquee, and afterwards our visitors were able to choose between a variety of attractions which included exhibitions of Science, Woodwork and Art, and a performance in the Puppet Theatre.

As far as could be seen, everything went without a hitch, and the occasion was rather unexpectedly graced with brilliant weather which certainly added to the enjoyment of all concerned.

“MEN IN SHADOW.”

On the 20th of May we were visited by the Caravan Players whom we were delighted to welcome to Rendcomb and who gave us a most inspired performance of Mary Hayley Bell's play of the French Resistance, "Men in Shadow." Their visit to us came in the middle of what must have been an exhausting tour which included the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, the Torch Theatre, London, and North Cerney Village Hall! In spite of this we were given a delightfully fresh and vivid performance of this "thriller," which held the attention of the entire school during the two and a half hours of its performance.

We were particularly impressed with the fine acting of Anthony Wakeham as Kenny, Anthony Grosse as Polly and John Trefor as Lew. But the best performance of all was undoubtedly given by Michael Davies, whose Moy was something of a masterpiece. The rest of the cast gave splendid support, and the production, in the more than capable hands of Michael Fitzgerald, left nothing to be desired. The scenery, designed by Henry Hartley, and built by the members of the troupe, was most effective.

This evening's entertainment will be long remembered at Rendcomb and we look forward to further visits from this talented company in the future.

MUSIC NOTES.

On July 5th a party from the Senior School attended an evening concert at the Cheltenham Town Hall, which was part of the sixth annual Festival of Contemporary British Music. It was given by the Halle Orchestra under its conductor, Sir John Barbirolli.

The programme began with the "Lady Radnor Suite" for strings, by Sir Hubert Parry. The suite, which was in four movements, was charming and graceful but did not rise to great heights. Nevertheless it made a pleasant beginning.

By no stretch of the imagination could charm or grace be said to feature in the work which followed, though it certainly made an impression on everybody. Whether largely repulsive or appreciative it is difficult to estimate. This was Racine Fricker's First Symphony, scored for an enormous orchestra, and was receiving its first performance. The composer's idea was clearly stated: it shares the characteristic of stark utility rather than grace and beauty with most other music of our period. His prophecy of brutality and coldness foretold a grim future which we all hope will not transpire.

No one (except perhaps the most ardent admirers of Sir Thomas Beecham, or indeed that man himself) could criticize Sir John's excellent performance of the "Jupiter" Symphony by Mozart. All the charm and grace of Mozart were there, upheld by very competent execution from the majority of the orchestra, though those of us sitting near the cellos did, at times, notice lack of unity in their pizzicato playing.

The Elgar Cello Concerto was as different in character to the Fricker as was possible to imagine. Elgar portrays the majesty and security of his days, at times with real beauty; Fricker portrays a fearful insecure future with no traces of beauty or gentleness. The concerto was played, surprisingly enough by a Frenchman, Andre Navarre, (for the French are notorious in their dislike of Elgar) and obviously with great affection. His technique was perfection itself though his interpretation was not always the Elgar we know. Here is the vexed question of English Music played by a Latin with more emotion and less constraint. Is it right? The accompaniment came up to the high standard expected of Sir John.

Altogether, it was a most enjoyable evening, which may variously have altered, confirmed, or even confused our opinion of modern music.

K. A. S.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

A School Concert took place in the Music Room on Friday the 21st of July. The piece de resistance was Handel's Sonata No. 6 in E for violin and piano, which was played with verve and sensitivity by Miss Keil and Mr. Tooze. It was a pleasure to hear such a cultivated performance, and we especially admired the fine ensemble which the executants developed at such short notice. Of the solo pianists, Statham impressed us with a technically most able performance of Ireland's "Towing Path" and with a composition of his own, "Buffoon," which not only showed his technique to good advantage, but also possessed definite merits of its own. de Iongh played Haydn musically and with a good sense of rhythm, and both Greenhalf and Herbert showed promise. Chagrin's own composition "Lamento," showed inventiveness and a feeling for *recherché* harmonies, though we could not help feeling that much of the lamentation was redundant. Martin Richards played that old chestnut, the first movement of the "Moonlight" with real feeling and a refreshing absence of sloppiness; he is a most promising pianist.

The Choir rounded off an enjoyable hour's entertainment with most spirited renderings of "Full fathom five" and of Vaughan Williams delightful "Just as the Tide was flowing." The latter was a real tour de force, and produced a beautiful, full tone, which it was a great pleasure to hear.

PROGRAMME.

The Viking Song—Coleridge-Taylor.	Sung by Forms I and II.
Minuet in E—Haydn.	P. D. de Iongh.
1st Movement "Moonlight" Sonata—Beethoven.	M. D. Richards.
"April" and "Sadness"—Heller.	H. J. Greenhalf.
"The Old Superb"—Stanford.	Sung by Form VI.
Sonata No. 6 in E for violin—Handel.	Miss Keil and Mr. Tooze.
"From the cliffs" and "Sea Idyll"—Carroll.	H. G. Herbert.
"Jimbo's Lullaby"—Debussy }	
"Lamento"—G. J. Chagrin }	G. J. Chagrin.
"The Towing Path"—Ireland }	
"Buffoon"—Statham }	K. A. Statham.
"Just as the tide was flowing"—arr. Vaughan Williams }	
"Full fathom Five"—Charles Wood,	}
	Sung by the Choir.

THE "AGAMEMNON" OF AESCHYLUS.

On Tuesday, June 27th, a party of sixth form boys attended a performance of the "Agamemnon" of Aeschylus, in a translation by Louis MacNiece, given by the Balliol Players in the open-air theatre at Dean Close School, Cheltenham. The tragedy certainly achieved its professed aim of "purging the emotions," though it did not do this in the sense intended by Aristotle, for surely the aim of the Greek tragedians was to produce brows wrinkled in contemplation and not faces wreathed in smiles. The unintended comic relief in this production was mainly brought about by oversight on the part of the producer; but before condemning this it is only fair to point out the difficulties that face anyone who has the courage to produce a Greek tragedy in an age when "action" is so much in demand in novels, films and plays. It must be remembered that the Greek classical plays were written at a time when skilled orators were the rule rather than the exception, so that speeches were written to be spoken by orators and, as a result, there was no real attempt at characterisation. This, coupled with

the fact that the conventions of the Greek tragedy imposed strict bounds upon the playwrights, allowing no violent action to take place upon the stage, insisting upon strict adherence to the three unities of time, place and action, and permitting only formal tragic dress and masks in the plays, eliminated any attempt at reality in the Greek productions. As a result any endeavour on the part of a modern producer to change a play of this sort from being little more than an oratorical exhibition with a profound moral to something nearer a modern drama, however necessary this variation may be to hold the interest of a present-day audience, not composed entirely of classical scholars, in a dialogue, which is often difficult to follow without the aid of copious notes, must inevitably be a dangerous procedure, since it is not in keeping with the spirit in which the play was originally written. (And here it is perhaps worth pointing out that this spirit is not entirely lost in the process of translation). One cannot help but feel that had the producer of the "Agamemnon" planned more carefully his breach with the Greek tradition, he might have preserved intact the tragic element of the play and at the same time have maintained the interest of the audience; but, as it was, the production fell between the opposing forces of realistic and unrealistic treatment and the result was, to say the least of it, unfortunate.

The person of Clytemnestra struck an incongruous note in a production where the formal dress of the Greek actors was replaced by some attempt at characterisation by appearance, for although she was said to possess all the mental attributes of a man there was nothing in the text to suggest that she should have looked like a burly front-row rugby forward playing a woman's part in a pantomime. She gave, however, a very creditable performance though she was somewhat hampered by the swaying of the soap-box-like top step of the stairway to the House of Atreus. The other female character, Cassandra, was well cast, and it was almost impossible to believe that the part was actually played by a man. She gave an excellent performance, her prophetic trance being most convincing, but one should notice that this is the only part in the play that gives scope for real acting and for this very reason it must inevitably stand out from the rest.

Agamemnon made an undignified entry on to the stage owing to an unfortunate mishap in which his chariot became wedged in one of the entrances, and it was only dislodged after much effort on the part of the attendant slaves. Clytemnestra at length persuaded him to walk from his chariot to the palace on a rich purple tapestry so that his feet would not touch the bare ground. The tapestry, when brought on by a slave, turned out to be a short piece of dull cloth that hardly reached the length of the palace steps so that Agamemnon had to walk most of the way on the bare

ground after all. Despite this, one feels that having performed the rite of taking off his sandals before mounting the palace steps, he would surely have re-entered his home with more dignity, and in a manner less suggestive of one walking barefoot along a pebbly beach preparatory to paddling in a very cold sea. His discarded sandals were at once snatched up by a slave and it seemed as though a daylight robbery were in progress, but when Aegistheus, the effeminate lover of Clytemnestra, entered in the self-same sandals, after the murder of Agamemnon had been carried out at his instigation, one began to speculate—was this some deep symbolism, or was it merely shortage of properties? Aegistheus himself was, unfortunately, a caricature, and this did not fit in with the other characters. It is true that he is meant to be effeminate, but it was out of place to make him prance so affectedly across the stage and to speak so artificially—indeed he did not appear to have the personality to influence such a strong-willed woman as Clytemnestra.

Nor, having heard the Chorus herald the approach of a travel-worn messenger bringing official tidings of the fall of Troy, did one expect to see this emissary run in a sprightly manner down to the stage. On his arrival, surely he would have been more convincing if he had strengthened his exclamation of obvious joy at returning home, —“My earth! my earth!”—by falling and kissing the ground instead of standing awkwardly and distracting the attention of the audience from his words by his tendency to tie himself up with inelegant twirlings of his cloak.

The Chorus gave a good performance and their speech, as, indeed, was that of all the actors, was clear and very audible—a rare thing in outdoor productions! Theirs was a difficult task for they had by far the longest passages of verse to repeat and not even the genius of Mr. Louis MacNiece could compel an interest in all their speeches. Their intricate manoeuvres upon the stage, however, held the attention of the eye when the attention of the mind tended to wander, though this spectacle was taken a stage too far when the excitement at the news of the fall of Troy provoked them to hobble about the stage like a flock of turkeys “cutting their capers” in a farmyard on a spring morning.

It was a disappointment that a performance, which had in it all the makings of an excellent production, should have been ruined by such petty and often unfortunate oversights, but it is in mishaps such as these that the dangers of producing Greek tragedy lie. Nevertheless, although we may not have learnt the lesson which Aeschylus set out to teach, we did learn one very important fact—that the distance separating tragedy from comedy is very small!

R. J. K.

BIOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO ROTHAMSTED.

On July 22nd Mr. Lee-Browne took Mr. Loveless and four Vith form biologists by car to the Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden.

After lunch on the lawn we started our tour by visiting the experimental farms. First we were shown over the classical experiments which have been going on almost continuously for 100 years. Five of these experiments are on the effect of fertilisers on various crops, and one is on the effects of crop rotation. The system used in classical experiments consists of dividing a field up into a certain number of plots and applying the same treatment to each individual plot year after year and the correspondence between yield and type of treatment found. The results of these experiments are extremely striking, the crops on adjacent strips being very different. One interesting fact which emerged from the classical experiment on wheat was that the yield from unmanured land was about equal to the world's average! Although these experiments are very striking they are not completely satisfactory to the scientist, because no allowance is made for the original state and the inherent advantages and disadvantages of the plot in question.

To eliminate these unknowns the technique of "randomisation" has been introduced into the more modern experiments which we saw next. Instead of each treatment being applied to one plot only, the plots are divided up into smaller pieces and several of them, selected at random in the experimental held, receive the same treatment. Thus the effect of the inequality between plots can be separated from the effect of the treatment.

During our walk round the farm we visited the meteorological station where physical conditions are noted. Among these are; temperature, wind velocity at various heights, evaporation from various surfaces, hours of sunlight, rainfall and humidity. Many of the results are continuously recorded by automatic machines; these weather records are used by many departments, e. g. in finding; the effect of conditions on insect migrations.

After walking round the experimental farm we returned to the main building where Dr. P. H. Gregory gave us a talk on plant viruses and their carriage by aphides. He showed us round the potting sheds where healthy plants were infected with viruses, and the electron microscope which magnifies 100,000 times and is used for photographing viruses. During our walk round the potting sheds and during tea afterwards, he answered our numerous questions.

The next appointment we had was with the Entomology Department where Dr. C. B. Williams talked on the statistics of insect migration. He showed us maps of migration, specimens of

migratory types and explained the periodicity of certain migrations. He emphasised the necessity for accurate counts of insects and for the use of statistics in biology.

Next Dr. Johnson talked to us on migrations of aphides and other small insects carried by the wind. The study of this problem necessitates catching insects at various heights irrespective of wind velocity. We were shown some of the ingenious devices used to do this and later saw some of them in action in the Lodge garden. Dr. Johnson had a graph showing insects caught by a trap at hourly intervals for several months, compared with a predicted number obtained from consideration of temperature, rainfall and wind velocity. These studies of voluntary and involuntary insect migrations will help in the understanding of fluctuations of insect populations and eventually in predicting and combating outbreaks of insect pests.

Dr. Row then showed us how soil insects are separated by being washed from the soil and vegetation. This is done by an apparatus depending on the different densities of soil, insects and vegetation and the fact that insects are wetted by benzene but not by water. It is used in experiments to determine the changes in insect population with fertilisers and different treatments. The effect of insecticides on eel-worms and wire-worms also can be calculated.

Those who went will certainly remember this visit for a long time; they learnt a great deal about scientific technique as well as the work of a research station.

L. V. C.

ATHLETICS.

For the first time for many years, owing to difficulties over rights of way, created by the local farmer, the North Cerney race was not run this year. It is to be hoped that the matter will be settled without any question for next year's race.

A few boys from the middle school competed in the Cirencester and District Schools' Sports held on the Grammar School ground. There was a very full programme and it was 8.30 p.m. before the last event, the high jump, finished. In spite of the long delays, however, our party had an enjoyable afternoon and won two third places in individual events and a third in the relay.

The seniors had very little Athletics during the term owing to preparations for the P.T. display on Founder's Day, but the junior and middle school both showed a good deal of enthusiasm.

We very much appreciate the two javelins given to us by E. R. S. Gillham.

CRICKET, 1950.

For the second year running, as we knew would unavoidably be the case, we were faced with the problem of having one small, rabbit-damaged, plantain-infested square on which the entire school had to play. Monday was made a games day for juniors, and Sunday games were played off the square. Better distribution of games resulted. It will be a great luxury to be able to run three or even four games of cricket in an afternoon when the new field is ready.

Apart from a fine spell in June, weather during the term was very poor. Many games and matches were played on wet ground and in bad light. This may have affected the general keenness for the game. There is quite a high proportion of talent in the school at the moment, but the general standard, particularly in the middle and junior school, is low, with certain individuals outstanding. Given a good summer next year, with more playing space, the standard and keenness should certainly increase.

As always, we owe a great deal to those members of the staff who help with games. Mr. James's advice on matters of play and administration is invaluable. He was unfit for much of the season and was unable to indulge in his usual long hours of coaching at nets; but he did a great deal of umpiring, and took some nets in the early and later parts of the term. Mr. Austin looked after the juniors and worked tirelessly in the nets, at fielding practices and practice games, while also doing a great deal of umpiring. It is regrettable that he is unable to play in our games as often as he used to. Mr. Hull again umpired many of our matches and games and we are grateful to him for this valuable help.

The team was potentially the best we have had for some years. The batting seemed very strong indeed, but it did not achieve the consistency expected. Unfortunately two of the first four batsmen had disappointing seasons, and the burden of run-getting fell too often on one or two people. The bowling was inadequate: we had no stock bowler and no good spin bowler. We just had to hope that someone would be "on form." On good wickets the attack was too inaccurate. Really good fielding can balance an inadequate attack, but our fielding was too variable. Many catches were dropped and most of the fielders lacked speed and keenness of attack.

Gilchrist proved a good captain; in administration he was thoroughly efficient, and on the field handled his team well. At first his placing of the field left something to be desired, but this improved greatly as the term went on. He handled his bowlers really well, his changes showing more imagination and insight than

is common in school cricket captains. His batting was again in a class by itself and his innings against Sir Thomas Rich's XI in the home match was worthy of many a county No. 5 or 6.

Davis as an opener was one of the most successful batsmen. He was enterprising and hit well off his back foot; but his driving was not as good as it has been. He had a bad patch in mid-season when he was often bowled playing back with a cross bat. As wicket-keeper he was excellent, catching cleanly and seldom missing a chance. As a batsman Reed had a disappointing season. He has been a heavy scorer, but in matches he could not get going; his driving was practically non-existent and he was very inclined to hang out his bat at the rising ball on the off-side. He is a fine leg-side player, however. As a bowler he had not the consistency of last year, but he bowled splendidly on occasions. Harris also had a poor season. He is a fine forward player, correct in defence and powerful in attack, but was inclined to play over or outside the ball in backplay, thus often being lbw. He was a useful but variable change bowler. Statham batted well on various occasions. He is a neat and correct player, especially on the off-side; but more aggression is needed. His fielding and throwing at cover point and square leg was most efficient.

Brain emerged this season as a forceful batsman. Scoring mainly with powerful drives and pulls, he was the most improved batsman in the side; playing best when others were failing, he showed much courage in awkward situations. He is much too slow in the field, de Peyer again showed promise; he has a good off drive when he will use it, but is weak in back play. He is a neat fielder. Plenderleith missed some early matches after illness. On coming into the side he failed to make many runs through his inability to judge which balls to hit—he was usually out trying to hit a good length ball out of sight. He was an excellent fielder at cover point and square leg, picking up and throwing in beautifully. Gready, included for his left-arm slow bowling, kept the ball well up to the batsman, and, though expensive, he was very liable to take quick wickets. He is too stiff in his movements to make a good batsman, but showed determination and hitting power, de Jongh was the side's shock bowler; with a good action and pace off the pitch he bowled some beautiful balls; he was very erratic however. Bowling at the stumps and pitching further up he would be a fine bowler. He shows some promise in batting, but is slow in the field. Brisley was perhaps the most accurate bowler: medium paced, without doing much with the ball, he could be relied upon to keep up an end and staunch the flow of runs. He batted with studiousness at No. 11. In the field he was keen but strangely uncertain. Paish, who played three times, is a useful hitter and medium paced bowler, and can field well.

In the “A” and 2nd elevens Waite (who also played once for the 1st XI) showed promise as an all-rounder, Bick as a batsman and close-in fielder, while Miles bowled quite well.

The Junior XI had a disappointing season. The batsmen were too inclined to poke and play back, completely ignoring the need for runs. Harrison J. M. and Astill, however, are both batsmen with great possibilities. Harrison and Horne bowled quite well. The fielding, except on one occasion, was good, with Powell outstanding: this augurs well for the future. The junior team showed great keenness for the game.

1st XI Matches.

May 13. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. Won by 111 runs.

1st XI 133—5 dec. (Gilchrist 36, Davis 26, Statham 25 not out, Harris 16).
C. G. S. 22 (de Iongh 6—16, Reed 2—1, Brisley 2—5).

Our batting was consistent. Davis was lucky and was far below his best, but Gilchrist played a fine innings. Statham and Harris also shaped well. The Cirencester batsmen proved quite unable to cope with our attack; eight of them were bowled, de Iongh working up a good pace.

May 18. v. Dean Close “A” XI. Away. Drawn.

1st XI 170—6 dec. (Gilchrist 91, Davis 22, de Peyer 17 n. o.).
Dean Close 86—4.

We were put in to bat on a fast, true pitch. Davis played very well, and Gilchrist was in fine form, though his timing was not quite perfect. By tea time we were 130 for 5 (Gilchrist 64). Forty more runs were added in four overs after tea. On the good wicket our bowlers proved inadequate; de Iongh was hostile but inaccurate: Reed was accurate but lacked hostility. Our opponents might have scored heavily had not two of their batsmen been run out.

May 20. v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Away. Won by 73 runs.

1st XI 131—9 dec. (Gilchrist 60 not out, Davis 36, Reed 15).
Cheltenham College 58 (Reed 8—23).

Our first cricket match with the college proved an absorbing one. We batted first on a wet wicket. Davis and Reed scored 53 for the first wicket, the former playing beautifully. Then nine wickets fell rapidly for 47 runs, of which Gilchrist had scored 33 not out. The last wicket, however, added 31 in half an hour,

Brisley batting sagaciously for 4 not out. Gilchrist was the mainstay after the first wicket fell and his hooking was particularly powerful. After tea Reed's fine bowling backed by good fielding accounted for Cheltenham with only six minutes to spare.

June 17. v. Sir Thomas Rich's School. Home. Won by 8 wks.

Sir Thomas Rich's School 92 (de Iongh 5—21, Brisley 2—13)

1st XI 118—5 (Gilchrist 65, Harris 18, Reed 17).

Our opponents took over two hours to make their runs. Our bowling and fielding was generally good, de Iongh producing some hostile and penetrating bowling. After a bad start to our innings, Gilchrist and Reed added 64 for the second wicket in 36 minutes. Gilchrist's innings was perhaps his best this term, and included some magnificent off driving. Reed, though not at his best, played a useful innings. Later Harris hit the ball extremely hard in a brief innings. The 93 runs needed for victory came in 56 minutes.

June 24. v. Burford Grammar School. Away. Lost by 10 runs.

Burford G. S. 51 (Gilchrist 2—2, Brisley 2—4, Reed 2—10).

1st XI 41 (Brain 11).

We dismissed Burford in an hour and a half, but our bowling and fielding was below its best. Batting on a damp pitch in gloomy light our batsmen, with the exception of Brain, failed dismally.

July 4. v. North Cerney. Home. Won by 9 wickets.

N. Cerney 15 (de Iongh 4—2, Reed 5—12).

1st XI 76—4 (Gilchrist 36, Reed 16, Davis 10, Harris 10).

This was an evening match and was played in very bad light on a wet pitch, de Iongh and Reed, backed by good fielding, made our opponents' innings a procession. Our batsmen attacked the bowling from the first and equalled the Cerney total in three overs.

July 8. v. Sir Thomas Rich's School. Away. Lost by 5 wickets.

1st XI 83 (Davis 22, Brain 18, Gilchrist 11).

Sir Thomas Rich's 134—7.

Half our batsmen failed outright, the others got out just as they looked like settling down. Davis was rather out of touch, but Brain drove beautifully before being last out. Our bowling was very inaccurate, and the fielding unbelievably bad.

July 13. v. Lydney Grammar School. Away. Drawn.
Lydney G. S. 149—7 (Gready 3—32, de Iongh 3—38, Harris 1—4).

1st XI 91—8 (Davis 24, Statham 23, Brain 15).

Our bowling was again inaccurate and was hit mercilessly; but the fielding was greatly improved, though it lacked keenness in some quarters. After Reed (1), Gilchrist (0) and Harris (4) had gone disastrously, Davis, Statham and Brain played innings at once sound, sensible and attractive. Plenderleith sustained the last twenty minutes with skill. Much of the game was played in pouring rain.

July 21. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Home. Lost by 2 runs.

C. G. S. 103 (Brisley 5—48, Harris 3—16).

1st XI 101 (Gilchrist 45, Harris 20, Reed 11).

We were without de Iongh. Our opponents took two hours and a half for their runs, and were greatly aided by dropped catches and slack fielding. Brisley and Harris worked nobly for their wickets. We had an hour and a half in which to make the runs: the first half hour produced only 22, but Gilchrist and Harris added 48 in the next half hour. Then in the great hurry for runs rash strokes were played; the last seven wickets fell for 19 runs, de Peyer being bowled by the last ball but one amid great excitement. A match in which our bad fielding gave victory to a far weaker side.

“A” and 2nd XI Matches.

May 27. v. Dean Close 2nd XI. Home. Won by 3 wickets.

Dean Close 67 (Reed 4—2T, Waite 4—22).

“A” XI 68—7 (Brain 26, de Peyer r2 not out).

A poor match in cold and gloomy conditions. Our bowling was persistent and fielding quite good. The Dean Close batting was slow and hesitant and left us little time to get the runs. Brain attacked with spirit, but the other batsmen were poor.

June 3. v. Kingham Hill School. Away. Won by 74 runs.

“A” XI 127—7 dec. (Reed 43, Statham 36).

Kingham Hill 53 (Reed 4—3, Miles 5—25).

Reed and Statham mastered the bowling in an attractive stand of 75 for the third wicket. Some very good fielding accounted mainly for the failure of our opponents.

June 10. v. Cotswold School. Home. Won by 82 runs.
2nd XI 110 (Statham 23, Paish 19, Bick 15, Harrison 15).
Cotswold School 28 (Waite 6—4, including “hat-trick”).

Junior XI Matches.

May 6. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. Won by 38 runs.
Juniors 97 (Astill 55, Harrison 13).
C. G. S. 59 (Horne 4—14, Harrison 4—23).

May 20. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Home. Lost by 48 runs.
C. G. S. 85 (Astill 6—10). Juniors 37 (Gough, J. 16).

June 3. v. Kingham Hill School. Away. Lost by 8 wickets.
Juniors 27 (Godfrey 11 not out).
Kingham Hill 58 (Astill 6—14).

June 17. v. Sir Thomas Rich’s School. Away. Lost by 4 wickets.
Juniors 33.
Sir Thomas Rich’s 49 (Harrison 5—19, Horne 4—10).

July 8. v. Sir Thomas Rich’s School. Away. Lost by 45 runs.
Sir Thomas Rich’s 75 (Harrison 6—31). Juniors 30.

July 13. v. Lydney Grammar School. Away. Lost by 67 runs.
Lydney G. S. 109—7 dec. (Harrison 4—26). Juniors 42.

July 21. v. Cirencester Grammar School. Away. Won by 56 runs.
Juniors 104—7 dec. (Powell 39, Astill 16).
C. G. S. 48 (Astill 4—5, Harrison 4—19).