

# RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 9 No. 1

July, 1949

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# Rendcomb College Magazine

Vol. 9, No. 1.

July, 1949.

## SCHOOL NOTES. Spring Term, 1949.

Term began on Friday, January 14th.

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School examinations were held during the week commencing Monday, February 21st.

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The Lodges races were held on Friday, March 11th.

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Term ended on Wednesday, March 30th.

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There were a number of outings during the term. Form IV went to an amateur production of "The Mocking Bird" in North Cerney. Form V saw "The Winslow Boy" in Cirencester. Form 6A saw "Romeo and Juliet" in Bristol. Another party went to see "Oliver Twist."

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For the first three weeks of the term, two students from St. Paul's Training College, Cheltenham, taught in the school.

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While two members of the staff were absent we were glad to welcome J. W. Sumsion, O.R., who came to help with some of the teaching.

\* \* \* \*

At the end of the Easter Term we regretfully said "good-bye" to Miss E. Bather, who is going to Canada after being with us for nearly 3 years. She had a distinguished nursing career prior to 1939 and during the war became a Colonel in the Army Nursing Service. She saw service in Cyprus, Ceylon and India and had charge of more than one hospital containing 1,000 beds. We shall long remember her time as Matron here, her dry humour and the wonderful way in which she looked after us all. Our affectionate good wishes go with her.

We welcome Miss S. T. Clarke who has taken over the Matron's duties this term. She was a member of the W.R.N.S. during the war.

We were all very sorry to have to begin the term without Mr. Molineaux who is undergoing hospital treatment in Cheltenham. In his absence Art Classes this term are being conducted by Mr. G. Pleydell-Pearce.

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Miss Wadna Keil, who is well-known in Gloucestershire as a violinist, now visits the school to give violin lessons. At present there are four boys learning the instrument.

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On the last Sunday of term in the Church, the choir sang Stanford's Te Deum in B flat and some of the Easter music from Handel's "Messiah."

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It is a great pleasure to report that the work on the new games field was restarted at the beginning of the Easter holidays and continued throughout the whole of April and May. This is no more than to offer our warmest thanks to Mr. David Wills for making the scheme possible and for taking so much interest in it—and to Mr. James for the immense amount of time and thought that he has given to the work. It is abundantly clear that but for his wisdom and keenness, the work would never have proceeded as smoothly or to such a satisfactory conclusion. A full report will appear in our next issue.

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During the Easter holidays the Music Room and Big School were completely re-decorated.

### HONOURS.

We warmly congratulate Mr. J. B. Fell on the award of the M.B.E. in recognition of his services with the R.A.F. during the war.

\* \* \* \*

M. H. Fisher, O. R., has obtained a First Class in the Honour School of Modern History, Oxford.

\* \* \* \*

J. C. Waterton has gained a State Scholarship in Science, London University.

M. J. Morgan has been awarded a Gloucestershire County Major Scholarship.

\* \* \* \*

C. Baillie-Lane has been awarded a Studentship in Fine Art at Reading University.

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E. A. Jones has been awarded a Gloucestershire County Major Scholarship.

### **COLLEGE OFFICERS.**

**Summer Term, 1949.**

**Senior Prefect**—P. W. Sumsion.

**Duty Group Leaders**—P. W. Sumsion, T. T. Walters, M. J. Morgan.

**Other Prefects**—C. B. Lane, J. C. Waterton, R. J. Kendal, C. J. Brisley, R. W. Smith.

**Work Man**—D. Henshaw.

**Music Warden**—P. D. Quick.

**Librarians**—R. J. Kendall, D. Henshaw, P. D. Quick, P. W. Dutton.

**Manual Foremen**—R. Gready, B. Plenderleith, J. R. Smith.

**Picture Man**—M. J. Miles.

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

**Deck Chairs**—P. M. Gerrard.

**Lamp Men**—A. J. Paish, P. W. Dutton.

### **MEETING OFFICERS.**

**Summer Term, 1949.**

**Chairman**—Walters T. T.

**Secretary**—Davis E.

**Games Captain**—Sumsion P. W.

**Field Secretary**—Gilchrist J.

**Tennis Captain**—Lane C. B.  
**Games Committee**—Harris P. H. S., Davis E.  
**P.W. Man**—Kendal R. J.  
**Banker**—Dutton P. W.  
**House Committee Treasurer**—Plenderleith B.  
**Senior Shopman**—Waterton J. C.  
**Shopmen**—Cockell P. G., Vaisey D. G.  
**Apprentice Banker**—Gerrard P. M.  
**Auditors**—Bick R. K. G., de Iongh P. D.  
**Games Committee Treasurer**—Cockell P. G.  
**Cricket Groundsman**—Brisley C. J.  
**Apprentice Auditors**—Waite P. L., Edwards M. J.  
**Finance Committee**—Sumsion R. M., Harrison J. M.  
**Finance Committee Treasurer**—Reed J. W. J.  
**Almoner**—Miles M. J.  
**Furniture Committee**—Dutton P. W., Paish A. J., Smith J. R.  
**Paperman**—Boase M.  
**Breakages Man**—Statham K. A.  
**Poundman**—Powell R. A.  
**Entertainments Committee**—Crawford L. V., Brisley C. J.,  
 Knight M. E., Waite P. L., Sumsion R. M.  
**Record Committee**—Chagrin G. J., Harris P. H. S., Davis E.,  
 Kitto J., Statham K. A.  
**Cycle Committee**—Ryman P. J., Kitto J., Cresswell P. J.  
**Amplifier Technicians**—Ryman P. J., Jones R. H.  
**Apprentice Amplifier Technician**—Muchamore R. W.  
**Inspectors of Nuisances**—Smith J. R., Hayter H. J. G.  
**Junior Cricket Groundsman**—Vaisey D. G.  
**Cricket Games Wardens**—de Peyer D. C., Waite P. L.  
**Hockey Secretary**—Shield J. H.  
**Hockey Games Warden**—Herrmann F. R.  
**Tennis Groundsman**—Paish A. J.  
**Tennis Games Wardens**—Smith R. W., Miles M. J.  
**Indoor Games Warden**—Barbour D. E.  
**Drying Room Committee**—Kendal R. J., Jones R. H., Vaisey D. G.  
**Football Games Warden**—Rose P.  
**Magazine Committee**—Dutton P. W., Statham K. A., Rayner M. D.

## OLD BOYS' NEWS.

G. D. Buck writes that he is working on the non-medical staff of the Worcester Royal Infirmary. He was married in 1947 to Miss May Ethel Fox.

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B. H. Peacock, also married, is at Yeovil on the staff of Westland Aircraft Ltd. He is at present in the Stress Office, and hopes later on to get on to project work, which includes the initial design and estimation of performance of new aircraft. He plays hockey for the works team, plays squash regularly, and he and his wife are keen tandem cyclists, spending their holidays cycling and camping in the Lake District, North Wales and Cornwall.

\* \* \* \*

F. J. Willis writes from Portugal:

"I am now Assistant Engineer at the Sas Domingos copper mine. There are six other Britishers here, four of us married, in one of the remotest and most desolate districts of Portugal. We are forty miles from the nearest town worthy of the name, and about four miles from the Spanish border. Naturally, we have to make our own amusements most of the time. The climate varies from scorching heat in the summer to cold frosty mornings just about now, but it allows us to play tennis most of the year. We are fortunate in having a decent sized artificial lake at hand, which is a god-send for swimming during the summer.

You'll be interested to know that last year I made a canvas canoe on the 'Griffon' lines so far as my memory allowed. I used old port boxes for the bulk-heads and in all it didn't cost more than £5, and most of that was for the canvas. My biggest difficulty was water-proofing the canvas. I couldn't find the Portuguese word for "size," and still am convinced that they have no such thing here. In the end I just gave the canvas a coat of linseed oil and several coats of paint on top. It seems waterproof enough, but is not as taut as I should like it. However, the finished product is quite buoyant and reasonably stable. I am now equipping it with sails ready for the summer. Being out of touch with public libraries, I am not sure of the proper rig for canoes, but am hoping for the best with foresail, mainsail and mizzen."

During the war Willis was in the Navy. He is married.

\* \* \* \*

B. J. Brooks has been appointed to the Armaments Design Branch of the Ministry of Supply with the rank of Squadron Leader,

R. E. Hayward has obtained entry to Loughborough Engineering College, and will be going there in September next.

\* \* \* \*

T. H. Neads has received a permanent commission in the R. N. A. S.

\* \* \* \*

The following O.R.'s were at the College on the occasion of the hockey match on the 26th March, 1949: J. E. Allen, P. Binks, R. Brain, G. S. Davis, P. J. Dyke, M. C. Harries, D. H. Hill, P. S. Jackson, T. R. Morris, H. S. Palmer, B. W. Plenderleith, D. A. C. Smith, A. R. Tenty, C. E. H. Tuck.

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Three O.R.'s were playing regularly this season for the Reading University Hockey XI: J. J. North (as inside right), D. F. Gallop (outside right) and T. R. Morris (right half).

\* \* \* \*

The following also visited the College during the term: W. J. Harris, M. Butler, D. J. Payne, E. A. Jones, T. P. Denehy, G. S. Davis, P. Topps.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our regrets to M. C. Gleeson-White for having stated in the last number that he is a Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He is in fact attached to that College, but has not an official Fellowship.

\* \* \* \*

P. Binks was married on April 2nd, 1949, to Miss Brenda Lavers, of Erdington, Birmingham. The ceremony took place at the Friends' Meeting House, Sutton Coldfield, and Stephen Curry acted as best man, Richard Margetts also being present.

## ACTING.

### “Agony Column.”

This, the second play in the "Padlock Holmes" series, written this time by Mr. Austin, provided an excellent evening's light entertainment. No less a person than the Prime Minister himself is the object of an attempted robbery with violence. We recognised in the villains our old friends Mugsy, Spike, Eddy and Rod, and wondered how such striking figures had been able to make their way to Downing Street without arousing suspicion. The situation was saved, of course, by the inevitable Padlock Holmes, assisted by a somewhat crestfallen Dr. Whatnot and some impressive representatives of the Law. The most interesting piece of characterisation was that of the Prime Minister, whose dual personality revealed him as a most interesting psychological study.

### CAST.

Padlock Holmes	...	...	P. D. de Iongh
Dr. Whatnot, M. D....	...	...	R. J. van den Driessche
Rt. Hon. Sir John Harvey, Prime Minister and 1st Lord of the Treasury...	...	...	J. A. Johnson
Arthur Rawlinson, his secretary...	...	...	K. A. Statham
Mugsy...	...	...	C. D. Whittle
Spike...	...	...	R. A. Powell
Eddy .....	...	...	J. W. Reed
Rod...	...	...	M. J. Miles
Sergeant of Police...	...	...	P. M. Gerrard
Police Constable...	...	...	R. W. Muchamore

### “The Rising of the Moon” by Lady Gregory.

This amusing Irish comedy gives us an interesting insight into the workings of the police force in Ireland. C. B. Lane in the chief part was responsible for most of the laughs.

### CAST.

Sergeant...	...	...	C. B. Lane
Policeman X...	...	...	B. Plenderleith
Policeman B...	...	...	A. J. Paish
A Ragged Man...	...	...	E. Davis

**“The Dear Departed”—by Stanley Houghton.**

There was some lively acting in this delightful domestic farce. The bickering between the two women, Henry Slater stepping into the dead man's shoes, Ben Jordan's “Not particular” when he was asked whether he would view grandfather's corpse before or after tea, and finally grandfather's arrival on the scene—these are some of the moments that remain in one's memory. The parts were well chosen and it was a most successful production.

CAST.

Mrs. Slater...	...	...	J. D. Painter
Mrs. Jordan	...	...	P. G. Cockell
Henry Slater	...	...	D. C. de Peyer
Ben Jordan...	...	...	S. P. Steed
Victoria Slater...	...	...	R. J. Bird
Abel Merry weather...	...	...	M. Boase

**“The Perfect Alibi”—by L. du Garde Peach.**

Here the police force was again in evidence. The police station was the scene of a £1,000 wager between a newspaper and Mr. Ubique, the man whom no knots could baffle, that the latter could not free himself. Ubique is tied and locked up. Several hours later he is found where he was left, still bound, but during that period the Editor of the newspaper, Ubique's personal enemy, is murdered. Ubique's alibi is perfect, but he loses the wager.

The interest was maintained throughout and the light relief provided by the constable (Waterton) and the reporter (Brisley) did much to enliven the show.

CAST.

Inspector Clark...	...	...	L. V. Crawford
Constable	...	...	J. C. Waterton
Detective-Sergeant Wallace...	...	...	R. K. G. Bick
Ubique	...	...	J. Gilchrist
Garside...	...	...	C. J. Brisley
Chief Constable	...	...	R. W. Smith
Hawkins...	...	...	P. D. Quick
Photographer...	...	...	M. J. Miles
Corfield...	...	...	G. J. Chagrin

## ENTERTAINMENTS—EASTER TERM, 1949.

In all previous Entertainments Reports, no explanation has been given to outside people of how the Entertainments' Committee is run. It consists of five members, elected termly by the General Meeting—in the Summer Term there are only three members, because entertainments are then held only three nights in a week—who elect out of themselves a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. At the end of each term, the newly-elected treasurer brings in an estimate of the amount of money he will need during the coming term, for prizes, decorations, and anything else he may want. This money is paid to him from the next term's taxes. The committee holds a meeting each week, normally on a Sunday evening, to decide upon the next week's entertainments. It is usual to have Release on Monday nights—there is, in fact, a rule that it should be played on no other night—and on a Friday there is the traditional Fire, and sometimes Stories, in the Library.

Dancing still continues to be the most popular entertainment, although, in the middle of the term, attendance became so small, that three Saturday evenings in succession were kept free of dancing, until its popularity should return. This had good results, for when Dancing was restarted on March 6th, a large number of people appeared on the floor. But apart from this short period, there were usually thirty to forty dancers present, and once, when the room had been decorated and prizes were given for "Corner" and "Card Dances," the throng was swelled to over fifty. We now have several enthusiastic juniors—the more the better.

A Whist Drive, for which two prizes were given, was successfully arranged on Saturday, February 19th, and on the 5th of March, another Miming Party was held in Big School. It was an enjoyable evening, but although there were several good and original performances, the ideas and the acting in general did not come up to the same standard as last year's. Nor indeed could they have done, for it is only the first time that a novel entertainment goes really well. The Headmaster was a popular subject for miming, and during the evening we saw him upbraiding a large number of culprits, as well as taking a Clothes Inspection. The first mime was, perhaps, the best and most amusing of the evening, being a portrayal of the Lion Act at a circus. Other mimes included a conjurer with his cards, a "lady" preening her feathers on a park seat, being watched admiringly by a soldier and sailor, only to see her husband arrive to take her away, and two spectators, watching a game of Ping Pong.

Junior games have been arranged on most Saturday evenings, except when a Scavenger Hunt was held earlier on, and a Prize Fight later in the term.

Both Release and Football in the Gym have also gone well this term, but sometimes people were drawn away from the official entertainment of Release, to take part in privately arranged games of Football in the Gym.

Ping-Pong and Shove-Ha'penny have gone completely out of vogue, no competitors appearing for either of the two Ping-Pong tournaments arranged during the term.

On Thursday, March 24th, Mr. Austin gave a lecture on Psychical Research to members of Forms IV, V and VI. As he had only three-quarters of an hour, instead of the two hours that he would have liked, the lecture had to be greatly condensed, and he could not include much of what he would have liked to say. Mr. Austin enlightened our minds upon the subjects of Telepathy, Precognition, Poltergeists, Spiritualism and Haunting. He also showed us how we could teach ourselves to do Automatic Writing. He showed us, indeed, that Psychical Research is not all "spirits and spooks and .....getting in touch with Uncle Joe."

Four plays were performed towards the end of term, three of them on one night. Mr. A. C. Austin produced two of them—"Agony Column" and "The Rising of the Moon," and the other two—"The Dear Departed," and "The Perfect Alibi," were productions of the Headmaster. Reports of these are given elsewhere.

P. W. D.

### **TEN DAYS IN PARIS.**

The last magazines were bought, the last good-byes said, and at 8.30 in the morning the British Railways (Southern Region) boat train for Newhaven steamed out of Victoria. London was speedily left behind and we ate sweets in the corridor or read in the compartment for an hour and a half, until about ten o'clock the train came to a stop in Newhaven harbour station. By strategic positioning in the corridors, the customs were reached quickly. Negotiations with various officials passed off smoothly and we presented pink tickets to a policeman at the foot of the gangplank, boarded and established ourselves on a seat by the engine-room hatch.

The boat, the S. S. "Worthing" sailed at 11.30; the sea made itself felt outside the harbour, although the worst effects were not met with until mid-channel, when a slight swell forced the more susceptible of the party below decks, whence they did not emerge until France was near. After an uneventful journey we arrived at Dieppe at about 3p.m. We got off the boat quite early, escaping the big crowd, and made our way to the customs sheds. We passed these without trouble and went on to the thirteen-coach train. Our particular coach, needless to say, was the last but one; however, having walked most of the way back to Newhaven, we found it and deposited our luggage. The next order of the day was omelette and chips with tea at a little cafe. This was, as far as can be ascertained, enjoyed by all those present. We emerged from the cafe to find the train moving slowly out. This was a bad thing, and had to be remedied at once, so we all set up several unofficial world sprint records in order to catch it. We found the doors locked and were wondering what it would be like travelling to Paris on the outside of the train, when someone inside opened the door. However, we had just got safely aboard when the train stopped approximately opposite the place from which we had started. It stayed there for several minutes, while we recovered our breath, but started eventually, progressing at a steady five miles per hour as it travelled down the street. The speed increased as we left the town and we were soon speeding at about seventy-five m.p.h. through country in itself similar to Kent, but with houses and arrangement of the fields noticeably different. The two and a half hour journey to Paris (via Gisors and Pontoise) was quite smooth, and we drew into the Gare St. Lazare at 6.45 p.m. precisely. (French trains—long distance ones at any rate—are always on time). We walked to the Place St. Augustin (about 5 minutes distant) and there went our several ways—one to a French family, one to parents, and the remaining four to a hotel in the Place itself.

The hotel, quite a small one, proved very comfortable. There was one room between two. We had our first real meal on French soil at about 8 p.m., when some of us were introduced and some re-introduced to the agreeable practice of eating two main courses at a meal. We went to bed soon after, tired but happy.

Coffee and croissants (crescents of light pastry) for breakfast next morning (in bed). We were up comparatively early and started out on the first section of a sight-seeing tour of Paris. We

first went down the Boulevard Malesherbes to the Place de la Madeleine, and looked inside the Church itself; then we walked along the Rue Royale to the Place de la Concorde, across the Pont de la Concorde to the south bank of the Seine, and past the Assemblée Nationale, the French Houses of Parliament, to the Invalides (the War Museum). We did not go into the Museum itself, but went to the Church where France's war great are buried, and saw the tombs of Napoleon, Foch and other famous generals. Thence we migrated to the Champs Elysées and had "a little something" to cheer us up. After lunch at the hotel, there was an expedition to Montmartre with its famous Church, the Sacré-Coeur. Montmartre is probably the most picturesque part of Paris, but that does not add to its virtues as regards living conditions. Supper was at the hotel, and an excursion afterwards to Montparnasse rounded off our first day.

The next day, Sunday, we were up by about half-past nine, and were met by some friends. We took a 94 bus from outside the hotel. French buses are all single deck, and the older ones have open platforms at the back. They have a great advantage over their English counterparts in that it is quite common for passengers on the platform to pull the handle which rings the bell in the driver's cab as a signal for him to start. This is a source of great pleasure to some people. We travelled to the Gare d'Orsay, a small disused station on the south bank of the Seine. From there we walked along the various Quais until we came to the Pont des Arts, which we crossed, and found ourselves on the larger of the two islands in the Seine at Paris—the *île de la Cité*. This contains many important buildings, of which we visited three—the Palais de Justice, or law-courts, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Sainte Chapelle (Holy Chapel) which is having its glass restored (it was taken out during the war), and looks really lovely from inside with the blues and reds of the old glass. We returned to the hotel by Metro (Underground). The Metro has two classes—1st with covered seats, and 2nd with wooden ones. The trains smell somewhat like London trains. The system of tickets on the Metro is a great improvement on the English one. One buys a Carnet (book) of five tickets for 100 francs (about 2/-), each of which is valid for two journeys from anywhere to anywhere else on the Metro.

We went to the Bois de Boulogne in the afternoon, and after an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a boat on the lake, went to a cafe and had between us three ices, two cups of tea and a fruit drink. This cost almost exactly £1 and is thus known as a "coup de fusil" (rifleshot).

As no visit to Paris can possibly be reckoned complete without a visit to Versailles, this was fixed for the Monday. We obtained sandwiches and set off about 11 o'clock, going by Metro to Pont de Sevres, and taking a bus from there to the park. The system of tickets on the buses is not quite the same as on the Metro. The bus "carnet" consists of twenty tickets, one of which has to be given up for each "section" travelled. (A "section" is the French equivalent of our "Fare Stage").

We arrived at Versailles and went straight to the Park, deciding to see this, as we had not time to see the Palace as well. We ate our sandwiches by the "Grand Canal," the lake, and then some of us went in a boat for an hour. After this we tried to find Marie Antoinette's bungalow. Having walked for a long time round the wall enclosing that part of the Park, we discovered from some French people that we had passed the required entrance some time ago, so rather than walk all the way round again, we climbed over the wall, much to the disgust of the aforesaid French people. We soon found the Bungalow and rested there for a while to recover our breath. The bungalow is built on the edge of a pool away from everything else, and is a delightful sight. Having admired the bungalow and the surrounding scenery, we returned through the park to the lake, passing on the way the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon, small editions of the Palace itself. Apparently Louis XIV got tired of the big Palace, and built smaller and smaller ones at intervals through the park! We returned to the lake and had a drink (non-alcoholic) at a cafe. We went next to a friend's house quite near and had English afternoon tea, which is almost unknown in France, but is sometimes provided for the benefit of English visitors.

Next morning we tried to go to the top of the Arc de Triomphe, but it was shut. We waited around for a time, then walked down the Avenue des Champs Elysées, returning to the hotel for lunch. We went to the Louvre in the afternoon. The Louvre, as we might have guessed, was shut. So as a last resort we decided to see if the hideous erection known as la Tour Eiffel was open. If one goes to Paris, it is obvious that one must climb the Eiffel Tower, so we decided to do it now. This blot on the Paris landscape stands in the Champ de Mars near the Military College on the South bank of the Seine. Having been relieved of 150 francs (about 3/-) we were given tickets, and ascended in a series of lifts supported by flimsy-looking cables. Passengers change lifts at the

first platform, the second platform, and a small stage about half-way between the second platform and the top. The top consists of two platforms; the lower is completely covered in, and is in the form of an arcade, with shops forming the central core (selling postcards and other souvenirs) and with windows on the outside. A short flight of steps leads to the fourth platform, immediately above the third, which is open; there is a very good view for miles around. Unfortunately we went up on a dull, hazy day (the only dull one we had) and in consequence could not see the further landmarks clearly. We had tea at a cafe by the Palais de Chaillot (the headquarters of U.N.O. in Paris, just opposite the tower). We went to friends for the evening.

The next day we went to the Arc de Triomphe again, this time finding it open. The Arc de Triomphe, at the top of the Champs Ely sees, is in the middle of the Place de l'Etoile, whence radiate twelve avenues. The Etoile is the world's worst road crossing. You step off the kerb, shut your eyes, and trust to luck. If you open your eyes you at once start trying to dodge the traffic and this is fatal; the best way is just to walk straight across—they are quite good drivers.

We got to the top of the Arc in a lift, and had a good view of Paris, it being a comparatively clear day. After this we went to the south of Paris by Metro and consumed large quantities of refreshment in a cafe there, as the temperature was 92 degrees in the shade.

After lunch a second journey to Montmartre, and from there by bus to the Jardin du Luxembourg. We returned for supper at the Hotel.

Next morning we awoke to find one of our number smitten with a plague; this turned out in the end to be only "Paris tummy," a common disorder due to change of food and other things. However, some of us went again to Versailles, this time by train, and saw the Chateau, with its famous hall of mirrors where all the peace treaties are signed. After this, English afternoon tea with some friends on the South bank of the river, and supper at the hotel.

The next day we all went in the morning to a large exhibition, by the Pont Alexandre III, of the products of France. This was very good, if only because of the large quantities of wine, cheese, butter, etc., available to be tasted. Our invalid got up in the afternoon and went with another of the party to the Arc de

Triomphe, while the rest of us went to the Paris Zoo with some friends. This zoo, although like London Zoo from the point of view of sleeping space for animals, has extra space where the animals are let out in the day time. In the evening two of us went to the theatre and saw "L'Archipel Lenoir" and the others went out somewhere, I don't know where.

The next morning some of us cashed our traveller's cheques at Cooks in the Place de la Madeleine. Then two of the party went to have lunch with a friend in the country, while the invalid, by now fully recovered, was taken to the exhibition. One of the original party was by now on his way to the South of France, but the remainder (two being out in the country) went with friends to see the Empress Josephine's chateau at Malmaison. This contained many interesting relics of Napoleon, including orders signed by him personally, diaries, and a notice issued by the British Governor of St. Helena.

After visiting the stables, where there were some carriages belonging to the Emperor and Empress, we went on by bus to St. Germain-en-Laye, where we had a drink and admired the view of Paris from the terrace there. We returned by train, arriving just in time for supper. After supper we went to the same friends for the evening.

The next morning, it being Easter Sunday, we went to Church. We decided on the Russian Orthodox Church in the Rue Daru, and went there for the Palm Sunday service (the Russian Church being a week behind other churches in its reckoning of holy days). The service (in Russian) was conducted by a formidable Archimandrite in gold-braided robes and a long white beard. We arrived after the service had started, and when we left after standing for an hour and a quarter (there was no seating accommodation), it still did not look like finishing. The most unforgettable thing about the whole service was the Don Cossack Choir—almost certainly the best choir in existence—Rendcomb is a great anti-climax after it! The man who intoned the lesson went up in semi-tones approximately one and a half octaves. When he reached his highest note at the end, the choir came in dead on the note with the chorus (there was no accompaniment). It was an altogether unforgettable experience.

At midday we went by train to Bougival, as guests of the Hotel Proprietor's wife, and started at 2 o'clock on a phenomenal lunch, which did not finish till a quarter to five! After that we went out for a walk, and had supper about eight, returning to the hotel about half-past eleven.

On Easter Monday we made a third excursion to the exhibition. as being the only place at which things could be bought for taking home (it being a bank holiday). We bought wine and butter and returned for lunch at the hotel.

After lunch we went to our friends for coffee (and champagne), returning to the hotel about 5.30 in order to pack. After supper we all went to see "Carmen" at the Opéra Comique, which we enjoyed very much, and emerged at the end in a good mood, our heads buzzing with toreadors and champagne. An ice on the way back, and into the hotel at about a quarter past twelve.

The next morning we went in a taxi to the Gare St. Lazare (the driver did not appear to be smitten with the world famous Paris taxi fever), and having said our goodbyes, left at 9.30. The boat, the same one as we had come over on, left Dieppe at 1.15 p.m. The sea was calm and there were no casualties. We arrived at New-haven about 4.45 p.m. and having negotiated the customs, had our first food on British soil for 10 days—a stale bun and railway tea! We arrived at Victoria about 7.15 and dispersed, happy, with lasting memories of Paris, its climate, its people, and last, but not least, its food.

J. D. P.

### **THE LIBRARY.**

Most school magazines contain regular reports of the activities of the school library, and the absence of such reports in our own magazine—(nothing has appeared for about fifteen years)—might tempt the outsider to conclude that the Library at Rendcomb is dead. It is, however, almost embarrassingly alive, and some report of its activities and needs seems overdue.

It is now about fifteen years since the main responsibility for the Library was removed from the meeting and placed upon a master, assisted by a small number of nominated Librarians. Since this change there has been steady growth. The first change of the new regime was the abandonment of the system of classification then in use and the adoption of the Dewey method. This was an unfortunate choice because the Dewey system, although widely used in Public Libraries, is now recognised as far less suitable to the needs of a school library than the Bliss or Cheltenham classifications. Because, however, of the immense labour of another change the Dewey system is still retained.

The growth of the Library during these years has made the work of the Librarians considerable—they give more of their time than is generally recognised. When the new regime began in 1935 there were 1,500 volumes; now there are nearly 4,000. Probably the ideal size for the library in a school of our numbers is 5,500—6,000 volumes. This brings us to the central problem of the Library at the moment—room. The acute shortage of shelf space may be illustrated by a single example. When the first volume of the new Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia arrived recently it had to remain in an outside cupboard for a month until a dictionary happened to go to the binders; then it went in. The next problem will of course arise when the binder returns the dictionary! Yet it would obviously be most unwise to stem the flow of books—whether from gift or purchase—for this reason.

Unfortunately this problem admits of no palliatives; odd bookcases will not solve the problem, partly because the books must be housed in blocks according to classification and partly because there is no more wall space for shelving. The real trouble is the existing Victorian shelving which must give way to modern shelving before the Library can grow; it is a fact that modern shelving would house twice as many books per square foot of wall space as the present woodwork. Moreover it would make it more possible to develop a finely proportioned room as a library, and increase its dignity and beauty as a valuable educational instrument. Such complete refitting would not really be very costly and could be undertaken in stages. Until this is done the development of our library both in resources and, more vital, in its use is held up.

Apart from the Fiction section which is fair except for a weakness in good modern novels for the older boys, the Library offers varied resources in the different sections. History, and its allied subjects, Economic and Political Science, is strong, though nothing like equal to the demands made upon it. English, after being for many years the most antiquated section, is now developing. It must be remembered that a section must to some extent be developed according to the demands made upon it and the History and English sections, which in 1934 supplied the needs of two Vth form boys doing History and English, now face a demand from seventeen. Incidentally, demand offers an interesting study; the most obvious changes in the last three years have been a sharp decline in interest in two sections—Science and Current Affairs, and

a sharp increase in interest in the English section. Why is the boy of 1949 only one fifth as interested in Current Affairs (as shown by the issue lists) as the boy of 1937? It is, however, interesting to note that in general the average boy now takes nearly twice as many books out of the Library as he did fifteen years ago.

### THE ALLOTMENTS.

There are sixteen allotment holders this term, a far greater number than we have had for a long time. The gardens have fallen into great neglect during the last few years and very little interest has been taken in them. Now, however, there is an enthusiastic group of gardeners who seem determined to restore the allotments to their former position.

Produce grown is unfortunately restricted to vegetables which can be eaten uncooked and taken into high tea. Such small garden produce as lettuce, carrots and radishes are widely popular and grown in great numbers. Occasionally gardeners experiment with tomatoes, cucumbers, marrows or turnips, but generally speaking they are not a success. Tomatoes do not ripen properly and marrows mature at a time when growers are on holiday. If gardeners do grow crops such as the above, they have either to send the produce home or present it to the kitchen to prevent its waste.

At the time of writing all the allotments are occupied and prospective holders will have to clear themselves a patch of ground from the very rough turf before growing anything. Unfortunately there is very little top soil and one has to dig shallow to avoid bringing up stones. Some gardens are worse than others in this respect and have had to be given up entirely. Where there is soil it has quite good growing properties and seems very suited to growing small crops such as radishes, lettuce, carrots and onions. Strawberries also seem to do quite well until the slugs discover them. Flowers are becoming more popular and this summer we hope to see some patches of colour among the vegetables. One holder has even built a small rockery on which there are at least three varieties of flowers growing. Besides the flowers grown one gardener has a flourishing willow tree planted about four years ago by a predecessor, on which he keeps many caterpillars during the summer; these are imprisoned by nets tied over the branches.

With reasonable weather this term the allotments should be a success and when all the rank grass and nettles have been cut down, we hope to be rewarded for our labours by a pleasant set of allotments.

R. W. S.

### STONEVILLE.

About two weeks after the beginning of the term people began to dig outside the wilderness beneath the clump of trees. Other people wondered why, but they soon found out.

Two people started the digging but they were eventually joined by others. The tools used were mainly pickaxes and spades, but when there were none left, tins and hands came into use. The digging was not very easy owing to the stony nature of the ground. Some patches were not so stony, however, and so work progressed rapidly in these places.

Soon the "pits" were dug to the required size and the walls smoothed down as much as was possible without bringing down more soil. Then a fireplace was made in a convenient corner of the hut and a chimney built.

Old huts were despised. They were destroyed for the most part and poles and corrugated iron taken to roof the dugouts. Where corrugated iron was not available, other materials were substituted, and then it was covered with stones and finally earth on top. The roof was now finished and reasonably strong. The front was the next job. This was boarded up, leaving a doorway, and then built up with stones.

External work being finished, the builder went inside to smooth down the floor, then to install flooring of various kinds. It was now nearly finished. A collection of firewood had to be made and then the owner could sit in his own hut, a bright fire burning in one corner.

But alas, some disaster, the cause of which is unknown to the hut-builders, came upon the village during the Easter holidays. The huts were opened up and the contents scattered. The owners returned to the scene of destruction, but now all is straight again in a few cases. But there is one sorrow—many of the inhabitants have been discouraged and are deserting the Cotswold village of "Stoneville."

R. W. M.

## DEER IN WITHINGTON WOODS.

One Sunday afternoon, March 6th, 1949, several of us decided to walk to Withington Woods. We went through Clifferdine Woods into a stubble field above Marsden. Just walking along seemed rather boring so we decided to have tracking in the snow. Two of us were the "hares"; the other three the hounds. After laying a trail the hares sat down to let the others catch up. Looking round they saw eight deer standing in a ploughed field. One of the hares stood up to fetch the others, but the deer seeing him ran into the woods. After that we tracked the deer together, then on the far side of a clearing we saw them again; but on coming into the open we must have made a good deal of noise, for the deer kicked up their heels, flicked their tails and disappeared. Later we saw many of their tracks but not a sign of them again.

The deer we saw were a dark brown on their backs and necks and a light fawn on their chests, and their tails were white underneath. Of the original eight in the ploughed field three had antlers.

Five Members of Forms II and III.

## RUNNING.

Both the Senior and Junior Lodges races were run on the same day this year—March 11th. Conditions were excellent and there was a good entry for both races.

The senior event, in which there were nine competitors, was won by de Peyer in the very good time of 13 mins. 29 secs.—only 19 seconds more than the record. He was closely followed by Morgan, last year's winner.

Result:—

1. D. C. de Peyer, 13 min. 29 secs.
2. M. J. Morgan, 13 min. 38 secs.
3. C. B. Lane, 14 min. 53 secs.
4. G. J. Chagrin, 15 min. 17 secs.
5. R. J. van den Driessche, 15 min. 17 secs.
6. R. K. G. Bick, 15 min. 40 secs.

There were thirteen entries for the junior race which was won by R. A. Powell, closely followed by Horne.

Result:—

1. R. A. Powell, 15 min. 9 secs.
2. R. N. Horne, 15 min. 15 secs.
3. T. Gay, 15 min. 46 secs.
4. C. J. Beeby, 15 min. 56 secs.
5. R. W. Alder, 16 min. 24 secs.
6. M. G. Richards, 16 min. 50 secs.

## HOCKEY, 1949.

The weather this year was again favourable, and we settled down to some promising hockey during the first week of term. The ground was in good condition when we returned from the Christmas holidays, and remained dry and playable for most of the season. Two home matches, however, did have to be cancelled near the end of term on account of hard frost for several successive nights. One or two games also had to be cancelled after heavy rain, but for most of the term we played in fine weather, and often in bright sunshine.

As the school is so large, it was decided to divide it into four games, and there were therefore normally three games on top and one on the forecourt. Whenever possible, members of the staff refereed for all these games and a reasonable standard of hockey was obtained on the forecourt. The Headmaster and Mr. Thackray refereed and coached the first and second games, and Mr. Hull and Mr. Graty looked after the third and fourth. Mr. Wyatt, who was with us for a short time at the beginning of term, was also a valuable referee. We are very grateful to them all.

We have at last done away with the old method of marking out the pitches with saw-dust. Since the rabbits have been able to get into the games field from the park, they have invariably chosen the saw-dust lines along which to burrow, and have been a constant cause of trouble. A white line made with the marking-out machine has proved to be quite as effective as saw-dust, and a far quicker method of marking-out.

The first match of the season was against the Royal Agricultural College on our own ground. Their team was a good deal more practised than ours, as they had been playing for the whole season, and their main superiority was shown in their quickness on the ball and the long fast passes to both sides of the field. The score, which was 5—1 to the Royal Agricultural College, might have been more even if our forwards had been quicker in the circle and the halves had passed to them sooner. However in this first appearance the team showed a good deal of promising play.

In the match against Cheltenham College the score was again 5—1 against us. However it was a very good match, the play being quick and open, and we at last started to swing the ball about the field. One change was made in the team by which Davis came from the right wing to the position of centre-forward, and Lane went from the centre to the right wing. This proved to be very satisfactory, and the forward line then remained the same for the rest of the season.

A change in the half line for the match with Dean Close also proved to be a success. Harris moved from right half to centre half, and Crawford, who had previously played in the centre, took his place. The halves and backs, however, were still not quite sure of themselves, and the ball was not being cleared far enough or accurately enough up the field. There was also a marked lack of use of the two wings, a fault that was noticeable until near the end of the season.

Perhaps the most notable fixtures of the season were the home matches with Lydney Grammar School. The two matches on their ground had been cancelled previously on account of the weather, and we were determined not to miss the home fixtures as well. On the morning of the day of the match it began to snow. Nevertheless it was decided that we should play, whatever the conditions. By the time the Lydney side arrived it was snowing heavily, and when we arrived on top there was already a considerable coating of snow. The main difficulty was seeing the ball, which was lost on more than a few occasions. One moment somebody would hit the ball, and the next moment a gathering of players would be wildly beating about in the snow in a desperate endeavour to find it, each hoping for the glory of its discovery. This difficulty was however partly remedied by a brain-wave on the part of one of the umpires, who called for a red cricket ball. At one stage in the game a member of the Lydney forward line hit a lump of snow into the goal, and thinking that he had scored began to run back to the centre of the field. Another difficulty was preventing the ball from gathering snow and growing into a large snowball. On all suitable occasions such as free hits and comers, players could be seen laboriously chipping ice off the ball with their sticks. At the end of the matches there was a universal rush down to the College, where vast quantities of hot water were used in thawing out. Afterwards we all met for tea in the History Room, where a large fire was awaiting us.

The Old Boys' match was played on the last Saturday of term in blazing sunshine, and like last year again proved to be the match of the season. The Old Boys' side was strong and many of them had been playing in University and other teams and were consequently in good form. The school side was also on top of its form and the game started at a terrific pace. The school scored first at the beginning of the first half, and again soon afterwards. However the Old Boys made the score even, after which goals came alternately and the final result was four goals each. It was a terrific match and everybody, including the whole school who were watching, seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.

Kendal played very well in goal considering that he had not played in this position before. As might well be expected, he was rather shaky in his first few matches, but by the end of term, and especially in the Old Boys' match, he had really settled into the position and made some very nice saves. Shield proved to be a sound back with considerable powers of interception and a good clearing shot. Waterton, who played left-back, developed considerably, but needs more practice in clean first-time hitting. Both Gready and Gilchrist played as left-half. Gready held on to the ball too long, with the result that it was often taken away from him before he could pass. He could improve his hockey considerably and should be useful next year. Gilchrist has a very powerful clearing shot and by the end of the season was also tackling well. Harris was on occasions very sound, but he also tends to keep the ball too long, and attempts too much dribbling before making his pass. However, he has a strong hit and played some good hockey. Crawford as right-half was steady, and held on to his man; but he must learn to pass to the right and remember that it is largely his responsibility to feed the right wing.

Brisley gave the impression that he really enjoyed himself on the left wing. He was slow and diffident at the beginning of the season, but by the end of term he was much faster and was getting his passes into the circle. Sumsion played well at inside-left. He has a good shot and understands his position well. Davis made a far better centre-forward than right wing. His ball control is good and he has a powerful shot; these, together with his speed and keenness, made him a very valuable member of the team. Brain played well at inside-right. He is fast and has a good shot. Next year the insides should aim at more dribbling and quick passes from one to the other.

Lane was wise to change places with Davis and turned himself into a good outside-right. It was a pity that he was too often starved of passes, for his speed and accurate centres could often have enabled the forward line to break away sooner and more effectively. While he will do well to go on studying the strategy and tactics of the game, he had obviously made good use of his experience last year. His keenness both on and off the field did much to produce an excellent term's hockey.

The teams for the Old Boys' match were as follows:—

Old Rendcombians: A. R. Tenty, T. R. Morris, J. E. Allen, P. Binks, R. Brain, C. E. H. Tuck, D. H. Hill, P. J. Dyke (Capt.), H. S. Palmer, P. S. Jackson, B. W. Plenderleith.

The College: R. J. Kendal, J. C. Waterton, J. H. Shield, J. Gilchrist, P. H. S. Harris, L. V. Crawford, C. J. Brisley, P. W. Sumsion, E. Davis, M. W. Brain, C. B. Lane (Capt.).

## HOCKEY MATCHES, 1949.

### **1st XI Fixtures.**

- Jan. 22. Royal Agricultural College. Home. Lost 1—5.
- Feb. 5. Cheltenham College. Away. Lost 1—5.
- Feb. 16. Dean Close "A" XI. Away. Lost 1—4.
- Feb. 26. Hanley Castle. Home. Won 4—0.
- Mar. 5. Lydney Grammar School. Home. Lost 1—2.
- Mar. 26. Old Rendcombians. Home. Drawn 4—4.

### **"A" XI Fixture.**

- Feb. 24. Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Away. Won 8—2.

### **Under 17 XI.**

- Feb. 17. Cheltenham College Under 16½. Away. Won 10—5.

### **Average 15 Fixtures.**

- Feb. 19. King's School, Sherborne. Home. Lost 3—12.
- Mar. 5. Lydney Grammar School. Home. Won 7—3.
- Mar. 19. King's School, Sherborne. Away. Won 4—3.