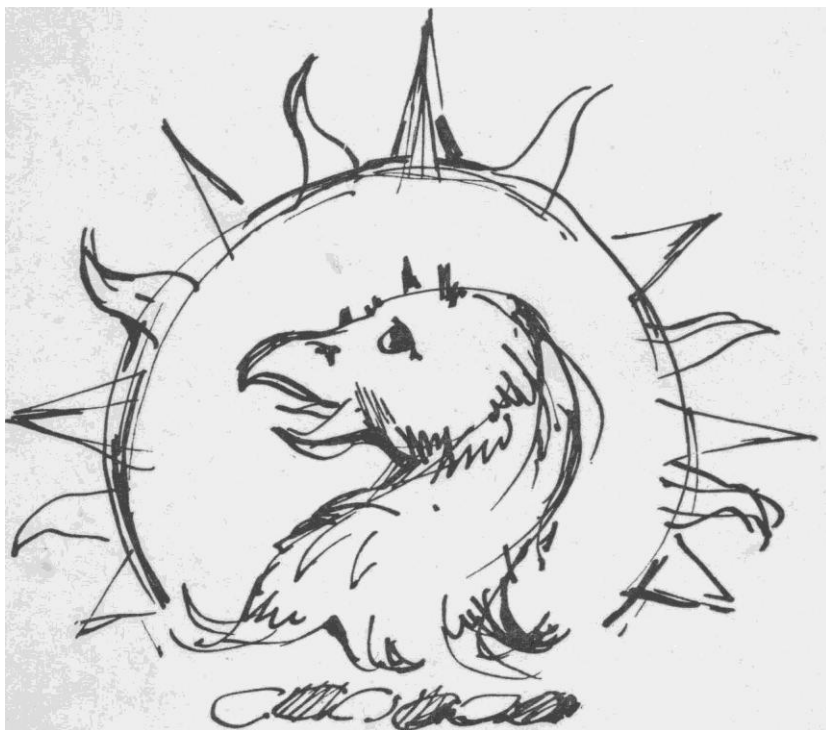


Rendcomb College Chronicle



Vol 14. No. 6. December 1968

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 14 No. 6

December 1968

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
College Officers	2
Meeting Officers	2
Meeting Notes	3
School Notes	3
General Certificate of Education.. .. .	5
Founder's Day, 1968:	
Headmaster's Speech	7
Speech by Lord Shawcross.. . . .	12
Art and Crafts Exhibition	13
Workshop Exhibition	14
Orpheus and Eurydice	14
Concert in Cirencester Parish Church	15
The New Study Block	16
Rugby Report	16
Swimming Awards	21
The Italian Trip.. .. .	21
Walking in Snowdonia	22
The Literary Society	23
Iced November Morning Glory.. .. .	24
Jack the Stripper.. .. .	25
How we won the War	26
Feebleman on his Roman Farm.. .. .	27
The Unsuccessful Marathon	28
Old Boys' Notes	31

COLLEGE OFFICERS

Autumn Term, 1968

Senior Prefect—C. P. Mabberley

Prefects and. Group Leaders—R. Laan, C. J. Gray, T. V. Liddle,
P. W. Taylor

Public Workman—N. J. Green

Picture Man—M. B. Rees

Church Ushers—P. B. Jones, D. F. R. Black

Librarians—C. P. Mabberley, P. W. Taylor, D. A. Tyler,

C. H. Moore, N. R. H. Evans, C. J. Wood

Choir Librarians—A. A. Ross, A. J. Stafford

Stage Managers—M. B. Rees, M. R. Dow

Stagemen—A. J. Savery, J. R. Harris, R. A. Law, A. T. Patrick,

C. H. Moore, W. M. F. Nesham, A. C. Robertson, A. M. White,
D. J. Simmons, I. R. Niel

Bellringers—A. J. C. Walker (*Tower Captain*), S. J. Brisk,

A. T. Patrick, N. A. Johnson, N. J. Green, P. Isaac, A. Thompson,
J. D. Williams, M. J. Brown, K. D. Warren, R. Millard

MEETING OFFICERS

Autumn Term, 1968

Chairman—A. J. C. Walker *Secretary*—R. Millard

Games Captain—C. J. Gray

Games Committee—C. J. Gray, M. R. Dow, T. V. Liddle,
N. M. Collins

Games Secretary—M. R. Dow

Nominations Committee—P. B. Jones, P. W. Taylor, S. H. Hook

Meeting Banker—M. R. Dow

Shop Banker—C. J. Elliott

Boys' Banker—R. G. Pyecroft

Entertainments Committee—H. D. Greenlaw, S. J. Brisk,

N. A. Johnson, N. L. Hillier, D. M. Wiggall

Meeting Advisory Committee—M. R. Dow, A. J. C. Walker,
T. V. Liddle

Council—T. V. Liddle, M. R. Barnes, S. H. Hook, P. W. Taylor,

C. P. Mabberley, P. B. Jones, M. R. Dow

Junior Advocate—N. L. Hillier

Breakages Man—D. J. A. Rose

Magazine Committee—P. B. Jones, A. J. C. Walker, J. C. Reason

Senior Shopman—A. J. C. Walker

Cricket Secretary—D. A. Tyler

Hockey Secretary—T. V. Liddle

Christmas Party Committee—N. H. Wapshott, N. M. Collins,

A. C. Whittles, N. O. Thomas, R. P. Morris, C. F. Jones,

M. B. Rees, J. Brown

MEETING NOTES

Autumn, 1968

Meetings this term have been extremely lively, and a great deal of business has been discussed. We are now able to discuss College affairs in the Meeting, such as whether or not Church should be voluntary and what sort of clothes we should be able to wear. This has, of course, greatly increased the scope of the Meeting, and this increase has so far been used energetically.

SCHOOL NOTES

Autumn Term, 1968

We say goodbye to the following boys who left the College at the end of the Summer Term: R. C. Goodsell, W. E. Hanks, A. E. Hillier, A. J. Pain, J. Kinnear, D. P. Kyle, W. R. Simpson, P. V. Sage, T. Willford, R. J. Wood, J. B. Quennell.

* * *

We welcome the following new boys: N. Crowe, M. Denley, J. Dixon, J. Fletcher, S. Honeyball, M. James, A. Jenkins, P. Lamphee, N. Lumby, C. Mathias, A. Medhurst, P. Millard, S. Pendell, N. Poultney, S. Pritchett, S. Reason, M. Rose, P. Sayers, P. Smith, J. Taylor, M. Wapshott, R. Weston, S. Wormleighton, J. Brown, P. Graham, C. Partridge, J. Smith, D. Walker, J. Whiteside, C. Yuvaboon.

* * *

Mr. J. N. Holt joins us from King's School, Canterbury, to take charge of the English Department. We hope that he and his wife and their two children will be happy at Rendcomb.

We welcome also Miss C. M. Vernon, who is our new Assistant Matron, and we hope she will enjoy her work here.

* * *

We are glad to say that Mrs. Pressland has made a good recovery after a recent operation. True to her energetic form,

she was back at work in a remarkably short time. We have been fortunate, this term, in having the assistance in the Office, of Mrs. M. Anthony, whose help under difficult circumstances is much appreciated.

* * *

As the result of a most generous financial gift from the Dulverton Trust, the College has been able to equip a Language Laboratory. A twenty-four-booth "Cybervox" laboratory has been installed in the ground floor of the main building this term and has already been extensively used.

* * *

We are grateful to Dr. G. C. Griffiths for the gift of many books on photography for use in the Library.

* * *

We acknowledge receipt of *Decanian*, *The Wycliffe Star*, *Prior Park Magazine* and *King's School Magazine* (Gloucester).

* * *

Forms VI upper and VIA visited Stratford on September 27th to see a performance of *Troilus and Cressida*, and on October 28th a VIth Form party saw *Much Ado About Nothing*. Form V attended the film *Far From the Madding Crowd* in Cheltenham on October 18 th, and members of the Choir went to a concert given by the Bach Choir in Cheltenham on November 9th.

A lecture on Dr. Barnardo's Homes was given in College on October 29th by the Rev. Browell.

* * *

A number of boys have been rock climbing under the guidance of Mr. Willson on most Sundays this term. Several visits were paid to Wintour's Leap on the lower Wye, and there was also a whole day trip to the Staffordshire Roches.

* * *

Films shown this term were: *North-West Frontier*, *The Trap*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, *The Marx Brothers Go West* and *Today and Tomorrow*. The last is a film on nature conservation in the county, and was commissioned by the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation.

* * *

A Dance was held on October 19th, and we welcomed a number of young ladies for the evening.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

A-Level

The following were successful in the subjects shown: —

- M. R. Barnes—English†, History, General Paper.
R. C. Goodsell—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
C. J. Gray—English (A), History (A)*, French, General Paper.
H. D. Greenlaw—Botany, Zoology.
A. E. Hillier—Mathematics, Chemistry.
J. Kinnear—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry†.
D. P. Kyle—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, General Paper.
R. Laan—Mathematics.
T. V. Liddle—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
C. P. Mabblerley—English†, History†, French, General Paper.
A. J. Pain—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, General Paper.
J. B. Quennell—English, General Paper.
P. V. Sage—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
A. J. Savery—Mathematics, General Paper.
W. R. Simpson—Mathematics, Chemistry.
P. W. Taylor—English (A), History, French (A), General Paper.
R. J. Wood—General Paper.

(A) denotes Class A; * denotes Distinction, † denotes Merit, in the Special Papers.

Use of English:

The following obtained passes in the June examination: —

- R. Laan, A. J. Savery, W. R. Simpson.

O-Level:

The following were successful in the subjects shown: —

- M. R. Barnes—French Literature.
D. F. R. Black—French.
R. J. Bowen—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French.
N. R. H. Evans—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
W. E. Hanks—English Language, English Literature, History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
N. L. Hillier—English Literature, History, Latin, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
N. A. Johnson—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
A. R. Lamb—English Language, History, Latin, French, Physics, Chemistry.

R. Laan—Physics, Chemistry.
 R. A. Law—English Literature, History, Latin, French, Mathematics,
 Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 R. Millard—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin,
 French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 C. H. Moore—Mathematics.
 N. R. Moot—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin,
 French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 W. M. F. Nesham—English Language, English Literature, History,
 Latin.
 A. J. Pam—Art.
 D. M. Parsons—Mathematics.
 A. T. W. Patrick—English Language, History, Mathematics, Physics,
 Chemistry, Biology, Woodwork.
 R. G. Pycroft—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin,
 French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 J. B. Quennell—Art, History.
 R. V. M. Raynes—History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 O. G. Rhys—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin,
 French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 D. J. A. Rose—Mathematics.
 P. V. Sage—Art.
 A. J. Savery—Physics, Chemistry.
 W. R. Simpson—Art, Physics.
 D. J. Simmons—English Language, English Literature, History,
 Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 P. W. Taylor—Art.
 N. O. Thomas—Mathematics.
 A. Thompson—Mathematics.
 D. A. Tyler—English Language, English Literature, History, Latin,
 French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 A. J. C. Walker—Latin.
 N. H. Wapshott—French.
 K. D. Warren—English Language, English Literature, History,
 Latin, French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
 A. M. White—History, Mathematics, Biology, Woodwork.
 A. C. Whittles—History.
 T. Willford—Physics, Chemistry.
 C. J. Wood—Mathematics.
 R. J. Wood—Additional Mathematics, Physics.
 E. W. Yates—English Language.

FOUNDER'S DAY, 1968

Founder's Day this year was celebrated on July 6th and the guest speaker was Lord Shawcross. In addition to speeches in the gymnasium, there were exhibitions of woodwork, art and crafts. Reports on these follow.

HEADMASTER'S SPEECH

We meet today to commemorate the 48th year of the foundation of Rendcomb; to survey the past year, and to look for a moment at where Rendcomb stands. It is the one day in the year when all those connected with Rendcomb—the Governors, the parents, the staff and the boys—are together, and therefore a day of unique importance in the school calendar, as it is our feelings and beliefs about Rendcomb that must largely govern the future of it.

Above all, a school depends on the quality of the teaching, and we say goodbye at the end of this term to one of the most devoted and successful teachers that Rendcomb has ever had— Mrs. James. She originally started teaching during the war —a time that must have been very difficult for her as her family were then small, but even more difficult for Rendcomb when adequate teachers were almost impossible to obtain. Once she had started no one wished to relinquish her services, so what was originally a temporary expedient turned into a permanent arrangement much to the benefit of the College. However, no teaching post can be entirely permanent, and the time has now come for her to retire. Not only shall we miss her as a teacher, but also for the calmness, cheerfulness and wisdom she has always shown as a colleague.

The side of the school which has seen the most rapid development in this last year has been the music. This has been helped by our possession for the first time of a centralised Music school in the Arts Block, where all the Music teaching can be done, and instruments and music kept. But it has been brought about above all by the enthusiasm and energy which the new Director of Music, Mr. Willson, has brought to his task. We have had an unprecedented number of musical events and there has been a notable improvement in the standard of the choir. He is ending off a very energetic first year with an ambitious and most creditable production of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice*, which some of you saw last night, and others are seeing tonight and tomorrow night.

There have been the usual wide range of activities, and the rugger and hockey teams had good records though cricket was very badly affected by the wet and cold weather through most of the season. There was a very ambitious and successful production of Osborne's *Luther* in the Christmas term, and Obey's *Noah* was performed as a Junior Play in the Easter term. Miss Bliss has continued to run our bellringers with great success. The number of boys who have passed the swimming test increases every year, and for the first time, a few boys have qualified for awards under the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

The electronics room is well used and the Arts Block has provided much better facilities for both Art and Woodwork and has enabled metal work to be undertaken here for the first time. There are exhibitions in these departments in the Arts Block, which I hope you will visit this afternoon. As we have been able to move the exhibitions from the Assembly Hall to the Arts Block, and the new enlarged Dining Hall is in this building, we have decided to do away with the traditional Marquee for our tea and have it in the Dining Room and the Assembly Hall. Will you please note the room marked on your tickets and go there for tea at the end of the speeches.

Academically, it was a very successful year with Paul Chanin and Henry Peterson both obtaining scholarships at Cambridge, while two others obtained places at Oxford and Cambridge. Both A and O level results last summer were good. The very high academic standard here is perhaps obscured by the very small size of the school. At the time of the Oxford and Cambridge scholarships exams, I was visiting one of the big public schools which had obtained three open awards compared to the two we got here. Yet that school had 600 boys over 13 whereas we have only a few over 100 in that age group. Schools of a normal size would have to obtain ten to twelve awards to compare with Rendcomb's achievement last year.

What I have said underlines the main problem in the running of Rendcomb: to maintain the highest standards in a small school. Our smallness has advantages: our pupils cannot complain like so many University students that they have no personal contact with their teachers; they know us—perhaps too well. At the same time it imposes considerable strain on our organisation. To maintain an adequate representation of A level subjects and a reasonable spread of out of class activities means that every member of the staff has to carry more

responsibilities than in a larger school. It is sometimes argued that we should limit the range of activities, but I do not agree. We do not know when we take a boy exactly what his interests will be and therefore we must, if we are to bring out the potentialities of each boy, have a fairly wide range of subjects, crafts and activities so we can bring out the best in each boy and give him plenty of occupations. This policy has brought about a large increase in the range of activities which a boy can enjoy here, but I hope you will realise that it imposes considerable burdens on the staff.

Next year we can look forward to a number of developments: first and foremost through a generous grant from the Dulverton Trust we shall soon have a language laboratory. This will give a most valuable stimulus to language teaching at a time when it is most important to break down English resistance to the languages of others. Not only will it give much increasing opportunity for learning to understand by ear and for speaking French, but it will make it easier also to teach the less usual languages. I have no immediate plans for introducing Chinese, but it would be invaluable in teaching the right intonation.

With the completion of the studies over the old workshop we shall be able to give every boy in the Sixth Form next year either an individual study bedroom or an individual study. The extension of the playing field is going ahead rapidly; we hope to get it sown this autumn or spring, but it will be sometime before it can be used.

At Rendcomb the prospects seem excellent. If I look outside our small community then the outlook seems much murkier. Devaluation is a set-back to us all. We must export 700—800 million pounds more in order to import as much as we were before devaluation. In effect, we must run faster to stay where we were before devaluation, or rather to get back to that point. In these circumstances, there must be less money for both the public and independent sector of education; cuts in the state system have received considerable publicity, but independent schools are also feeling the effects of the economic malaise in the difficulty of filling their places. On this point, I am very optimistic about our future here; it looks almost certain that we will start next year not only with more staff and better facilities, but also with more boys than we have ever had before.

I am not so optimistic about the position of Rendcomb and the independent schools now that the politicians will be

entering this field with the publication of the report of the Public Schools Commission. It is particularly unfortunate that the public schools should come under their scrutiny at a time when our political system itself is so badly in need of reform. Yet criticism tends to rest too much on the mechanics of the system—that M. P. 's no longer represent the country but are rubber stamps for the party system, or that a Government can put through major changes of economic policy without any reference to the electorate unlike Baldwin in 1923 or Ramsey MacDonald in 1931. But more disturbing is a deeper decay in the spirit of democracy. The machinery of democracy is worthless without its spirit, and the only justification of it is that it has so far been found the best way of securing the greatest freedom for all its citizens. In fact, its basic purpose is being subverted by those who see the purpose of democracy as obtaining popularity by stirring up resentment against minorities and of these minorities, independent education is one obvious target.

I am often told that if changes are made in the Public Schools, then Rendcomb has nothing to fear because through the vision of the Founder and the co-operation of the County we already take a large portion of our entry from Gloucestershire schools. This, I suspect, could be too optimistic an assessment of both the intentions and the competence of the Commission and the Government. One suggestion that has often been canvassed is the withdrawal of charitable status from schools— this owing to our considerable endowment income would damage this school far more than say Cheltenham or Marlborough. As there is much confusion on this subject, I would like to say a little more: there are two ways this could be done.

First, education would no longer be recognised as a charitable object. The tradition by which for many centuries the state has recognised the importance of the schools and universities of this country and encouraged gifts to them would be broken. This seems a lunatic proposal, and would be a heavy blow to education. Private gifts would be channelled away from education and a body like the Dulverton Trust or the Nuffield Foundation would no longer be able to make grants for educational purposes; it would be quite inequitable as the present financial benefits which independent schools derive from charitable status gives a recognition, if an inadequate one, of the enormous subsidy that parents give to the state system by sending their children to fee paying schools: it

would cost at least 60 million for the state to educate these children and this represents a straight subsidy by the parents to the state education system; the ending of charitable status would also mean an increase in fees, thus making public schools more exclusive; further it would bring to an end the process by which independent schools have been turned into charitable trusts and restore the profit motive as the main form of organisation in such schools. Though we may need to give more emphasis to the profit motive in our national life, I am dubious whether it should be brought back into the schools.

If education is not excluded as a charitable objective, then the only other method is to exclude from the benefits of a charity certain named schools or educational institutions which the government of the day happens not to like. Such a step would be politically and morally utterly repugnant in this country. It would introduce a level of discrimination and corruption which we like to think was banished from our shores in the 18th century and is to be found today only in Asia or South America. But with the present decay of democracy in this country I believe such a step might no longer be impossible.

I have talked at some length on this issue as there is normally great confusion—but, of course, it is not the vital issue. The vital issue for the independent schools is the continuation of their independence. This is the issue on which we must not yield. The case for independent education is, I believe, overwhelming, politically, socially, and practically. Politically, the freedom of a citizen to spend his money on the education of his child in independent schools should be a basic right—as it is in all Western democracies. Socially, independent schools provide more schools and teachers than would be available if state funds only were forthcoming. Moreover, they add to the fund of social responsibility in two ways. They give parents a way to spend their money which will help their children and an element of choice in their schooling. The schools themselves, as they are mainly boarding schools, lay more emphasis on the social responsibilities that community life entails. Practically, they offer an ideal form of school organisation, in that decisions can be taken on the spot by those who run the school rather than by some remote anonymity in Whitehall subject to all the pressures which makes sensible administration so difficult in the country to-day.

The argument normally brought against independent schools is the argument of equality. But to try to make people

equal is like butting your head against a stone wall. Teachers know that children are not equal; parents know that their children are not equal—anyhow if they have more than one. It would not make children equal to send them all to the same type of school; children from good homes would continue to have a better chance than children from bad homes. To remove this inequality, it would be necessary to put them into institutions soon after birth. Even then there would be inequality in their genetic inheritance—but if ever the test tube baby predicted in that sour scientific Utopia of Aldous Huxley was realised, I suppose this last inequality might be ironed out—but what a monstrous vision of humanity this is.

So, I am sure our main task in the coming year must be to defend with all possible energy the independence of Rendcomb. As long as this is secured, I believe the prospects of Rendcomb have never been brighter and I look forward—that is after a good holiday—to the new school year in September.

THE SPEECH BY LORD SHAWCROSS

Lord Shawcross began his speech by congratulating the pupils, parents, and staff on being part of Rendcomb College, which he considered an enlightened, progressive establishment, one of whose greatest attractions was, to his mind, its pleasant surroundings. He frankly admitted that he envied the boys not only for the excellent conditions in which they worked, mentioning the new buildings, but for several more important things.

Firstly, he admired the vision and foresight of the Founder. The obvious success of this type of school in which every boy has an equal chance, led him to express the hope that similar schools would become more numerous, and that much would be learnt from experiments like Rendcomb. But perhaps more than this he admired the strong spirit of co-operation in the school, between boys, staff and parents. He also agreed with the policy of not giving prizes, holding the opinion that “All that glisters is not gold”. He maintained that the really important thing was to do one’s best.

He then went on to warn the boys of the outside world, with its monotonous, dreary aspects, its evil, dangerous tendencies, and its crises and disturbances. He said that, although the rapid rise of so many nationalist, independent

states had produced many leaders devoid of wisdom and the courage necessary to enable people to live together in peace, sanity was beginning to dawn. Peace would eventually be attained and ensured by co-operation, he was certain, and, by discovering mutually important aims, the economic, political and social problems of this country at least, could be solved without too much party-prejudice, and security could thus be achieved.

In other words, this was the challenge the world offered to the younger generation.

It was to the social world of this younger generation that Lord Shawcross turned as his final topic, and to the “muck-rakers”, the amateur satirists who denigrate and destroy the old traditions, and ridicule them. He warned the boys of Rendcomb against being deterred by the “evil” of publicity, which ignores the more numerous good things of life to concentrate on the scandalous, the criminal and the sensational. He said that the importance of a permissive society lies in the fact that the individual is given the responsibility of ordering his own way of life. This enables people of vision to reach a high position in life, no matter how low they start.

On this encouraging note Lord Shawcross ended his address, with a sound piece of advice quoted from the Bible, urging that, if one aims high and does one’s best, everything is obtainable. P. W. T.

ART AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

This Founder’s Day, many of the works in the art exhibition showed the influence of pop art, those among the sixth form especially. Realistic paintings were fewer than in previous years, the accent being on surrealist subjects and dream-like situations. There were a large number of paintings by the junior forms, among which war pictures maintained their popularity, and every form had something to contribute in contrast to previous years.

The pottery show was not as varied however. There were some interestingly finished bowls and sets of pottery, but apart from these, there seemed few inspired pots, despite the new facilities available since the previous exhibition.

Also in the art exhibition this year were some products of the new sculpture room, which showed great promise and pointed toward much interest in the recently introduced art form. M. R. D.

WORKSHOP EXHIBITION

The woodwork exhibition was held for the first time in the workshop, attractively arranged in the centre of the room. There was a large variety of articles on display, mahogany being the most prominent timber. A large bookcase with a cupboard, a dining chair in teak, a sewing box in makore, and a circular walnut coffee table were the principle features of the exhibition.

The large selection of turned articles including bowls, table lamps, standard lamps, a cruet set and a baseball bat indicated that good use had been made of the lathe during the year.

The first form had a small exhibition of their own. The standard was high which indicates the value of such good facilities.

A model Roman Villa built by the second form was on display. A useful visual aid for the Latin Department!

R. H. A.

“ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE”

By C. Von Gluck

The production of an opera at Rendcomb was an ambitious undertaking, and great credit is due to everyone concerned with it. “Orpheus” was a successful choice, as the Chorus work was well within the capabilities of the Choir, supported by a very competent local orchestra led by Christopher Smith.

The Choir sang confidently and achieved a good, balanced tone. The treble line was ably led by David Shield (who sang the part of Cupid admirably) and Richard Fry, and they sang well apart from a few moments of nervousness. There was a noticeably competent alto line, and the tenors did well to hold their own against a strong bass section, the quality of whose singing was particularly good. The forceful and dramatic singing during the scene in Hades was impressive, and the most balanced and sensitive performance was given in the closing stages of the scene in the Elysian fields. Here the soloist and chorus blended most successfully.

Catherine Martin sang delightfully as Eurydice, displaying a clear and well controlled vocal range, with excellent diction. Richard Day-Lewis, who undertook the part of Orpheus in a very last minute emergency, impressed the audience by his

easy, almost effortless singing. His solo arias, in particular “I have lost the one I cherish” were sung with rare feeling.

Unfortunately for the audience, the Assembly Hall acoustics proved to be unsuitable for a comparatively large orchestra in the alcove. The violins tended to be overwhelmed by the brass and woodwind, and the full orchestra was too strong for the chorus, whose volume was considerably deadened by the stage curtains. It was, therefore, in the quieter scenes with reduced orchestra, such as the plucked accompaniment in the Hades Scene, that produced the most effective balance and the most pleasing performances.

The performance was backed by excellent decor and lighting and the costumes, provided by Mrs. James with inspired help from Mrs. Jones, conjured a charming and artistic picture of an underworld from which return by special concession was entirely credible.

Perhaps the weakest point of the performance lay in the histrionics. In production, Mr. Willson very wisely gave priority to the music, and the cast were not experienced in dividing their efforts between singing and acting. This meant that gesture and facial expression were frequently out of accord with the drama, and the general impression received was that of oratorio rather than opera. This impression was enhanced by the fact, quite unavoidable in the circumstances, that Orpheus was singing from a score and made no concession to the dramatic art. It would, however, be unreasonable to dwell too much upon this aspect of what was a most enterprising venture, which achieved considerable musical virtuosity and gave great pleasure to a large number of people.

CONCERT IN CIRENCESTER PARISH CHURCH

On October 20th, the Choir performed *Mozart's* Mass in C K. 317, known as the “Coronation”. All the solo work was taken by the boys: Richard Fry, Michael James, David Shield, Jonathan Smith, and Jonathan Whiteside (trebles); Michael Garland-Collins (alto); Neil Johnson and Richard Millard (tenors); Hugh Greenlaw (bass). A full orchestra accompanied. Earlier in the programme Mr. Willson played Piano Concerto in D by Haydn and the Choir sang anthems by Mozart and William Crotch.

The Choir gave a second performance of the Mozart Mass in Cirencester Parish Church on November 14th with the same

orchestra and with professional soloists: Catherine Martin, Jane Sampson, Colin Poole, and Barry Thompson. The programme also included the cantata "Jesu, Meine Freude," by D. Buxtehude.

THE NEW STUDY BLOCK

The Governors employed Mr. Russell Cox, F. R. I. B. A. and Partridge's of Birdlip to carry out this development; this partnership has been responsible for all recent building work in the College apart from the Changing Room extension and the Visitor's Changing Room.

The new block consisting of two floors situated on the far side of the courtyard from the College—the site of the Old Manual which itself was formed out of the Laundry and Wash-house in the earlier days of the school. Most of the old walls have been retained in the new structure. The outside walls facing the swimming pool and the Wilderness have been covered with a skin of reconstituted Coda Stone. The inside wall facing the courtyard has been moved forward to the outer edge of the old covered way and is built of brick to match the existing material in the courtyard.

Downstairs there are two large classrooms; one the English Room, the other the New Classroom. They are divided by a movable partition so that the combined rooms can be used for examinations and for other occasions when a large room is needed. The staircase is built up the old passage, between the Manual and the Manual store which houses the main switches board. This is now approached by a door on the outer wall. Upstairs there are twenty-seven studies, twenty-two for individual boys, one for two boys and four for three or four boys; there is also a small kitchen.

Downstairs there are also incorporated in the new block a dining room for the kitchen staff in the room previously the kitchen cloakroom and originally the pastry larder; the school shop which returns to its original site; and a new boot room in the room used recently as a wood store, before that as the engine room and originally as the bakery and W. C. s.

RUGBY REPORT

With six of last year's pack no longer with us it was felt that the assembling of a scrum would be one of the biggest problems of the year. However, by mid-term we had knit

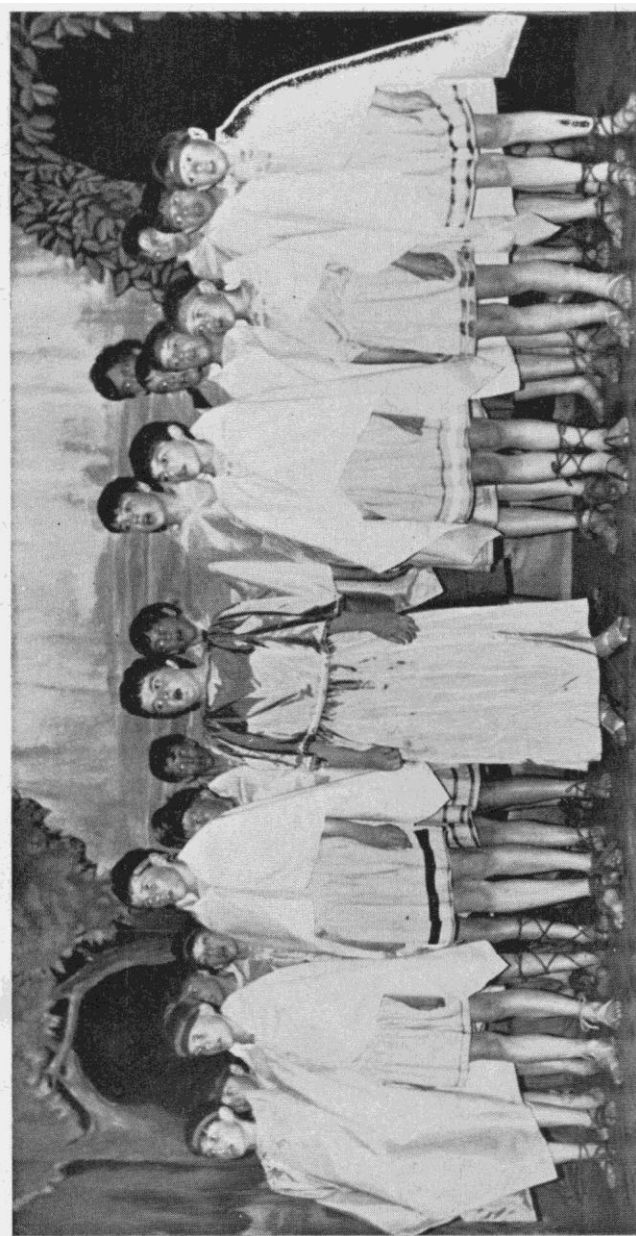


Photo: D. F. R. Black

Orpheus: Elysium

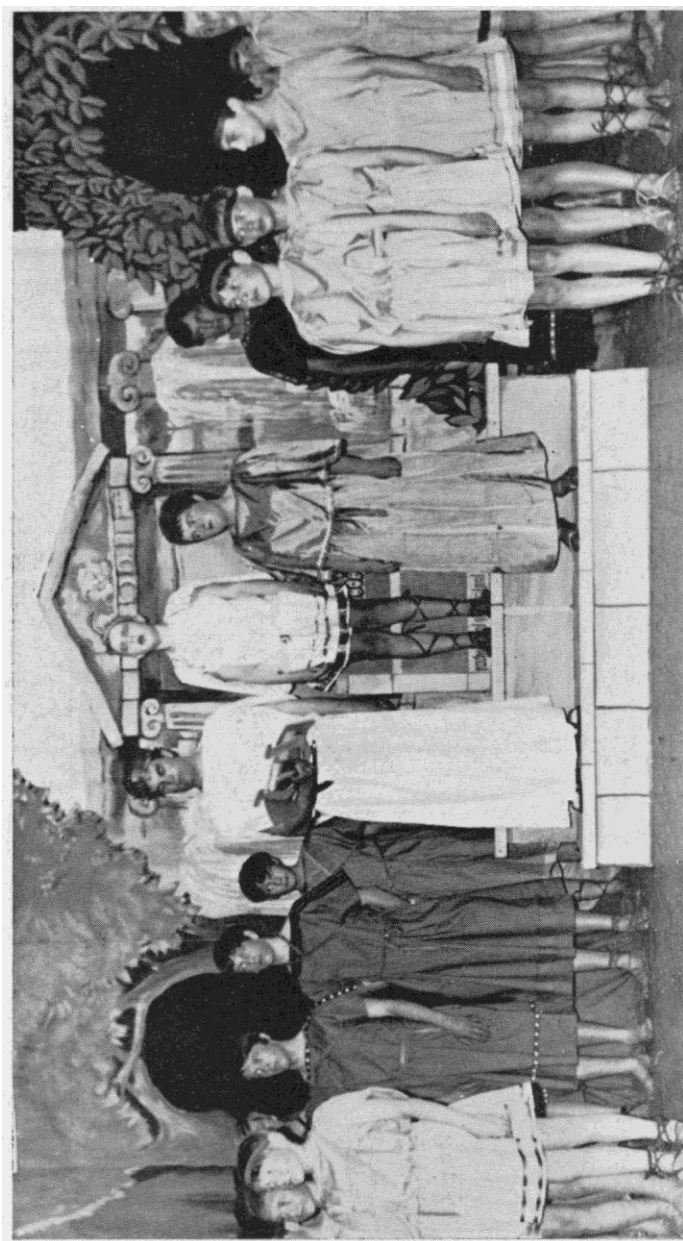


Photo: D. F. R. Black

Orpheus: Finale

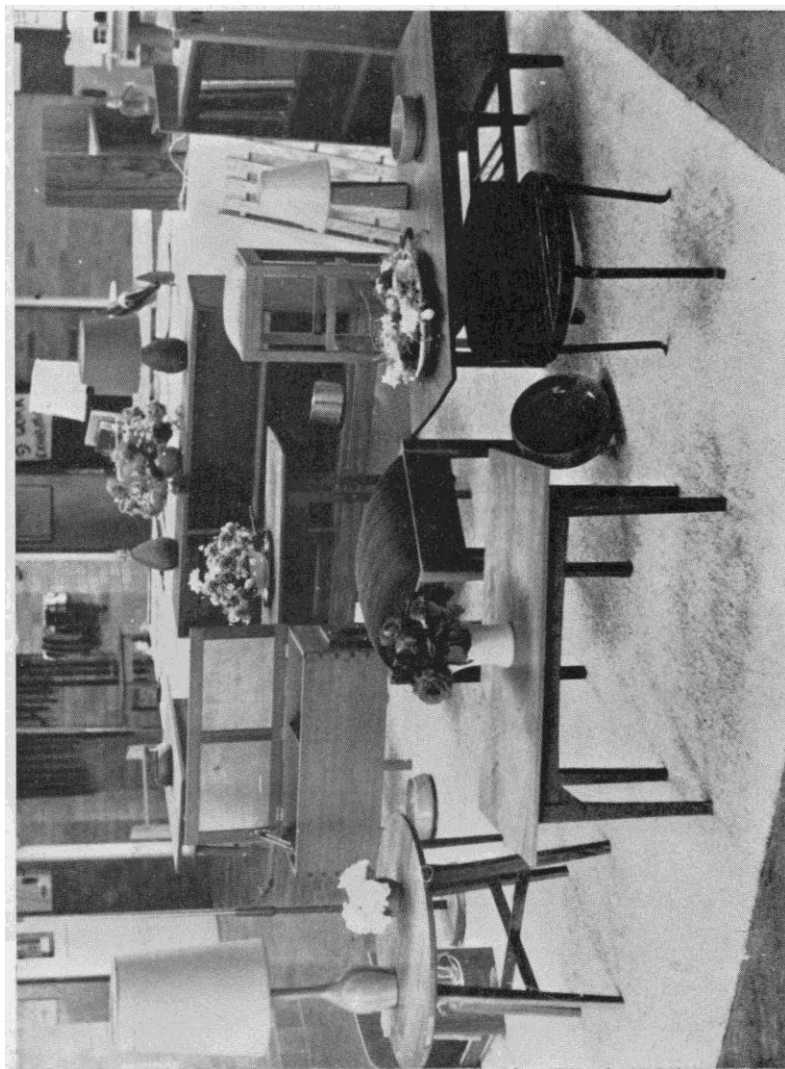


Photo: D. R. Brown

Woodwork Exhibition, Founder's Day, 1968



Photo: J. Willson

Snowdonia party, 1968, on Carnedd Llywelyn

together eight individuals without either real weight or great height into quite an efficient unit. Their loose play in particular was outstandingly good, but line-out work was again a bit untidy. Behind the scrum we had some very good individuals but the line as a unit has not been as smooth in its functioning as its immediate predecessor. This has been partly due to the two centres trying to do too much on their own and losing contact. The half-backs were both individually very good and their performance at Bloxham was one of the best displays I have ever seen from a Rendcomb pair.

As far as results go the season has been average. One noteworthy game was the victory at Avonhurst, which was the largest Rendcomb score (rugger) on record. Unfortunately, we have lost all three matches since then. However, the quality of the rugby played is probably of more importance, and the defeat by Cirencester 1st XV was in many ways much more satisfying than the victory over Avonhurst. The Cirencester match was truly a David versus Goliath duel. The opposing pack completely dwarfed our players, and we had to admit defeat in the line-outs and set scrums, but in the loose by a combination of sheer determination and courage our eight were masters. This was undoubtedly the performance of the year. As long as we can show such fight we do not need to worry about our paucity of numbers.

Players:

- K. Belcher—his handling was very good but as a last line of defence his tackling was rather weak.
- M. R. Barnes—he has a great capacity for picking up the loose ball and he made a most effective attacking player.
- N. Johnson—a powerful runner but still tending to be individualistic. However, he scored some excellent tries.
- D. Black—a very well balanced and thrustful runner. His tackling was quite devastating this year.
- T. Liddle—a utility player of great resourcefulness and intelligence. His running was much more determined this year.
- J. Reason—his service from the base of the scrum was generally very accurate. However, he had moments of indecision which were costly.
- N. Wapshott—In spite of his height he never really dominated the line-outs, and his approach was somewhat too gentlemanly for him to be an effective forward.

- M. Collins—What he lacked in size he made up for in his zeal and determination. He proved a most useful leader of the pack.
- A. Walker—He was never an ideal prop forward but he did some useful work.
- A. Whittles—One of our toughest forwards whose game improved steadily all term. In spite of his proportions he was surprisingly swift.
- D. Simmons—A very much improved player this term and he has turned into a very useful lock forward.
- D. Brown—undoubtedly the find of the term. In spite of smallness he was always in the thick of the battle. His tackling, covering and attacking play mark him as the outstanding forward of the year.
- M. Dow—His quiet competence as No. 8 in cover defence and in attack in support of his half-backs were of the utmost value.
- O. Rhys—a young player of great promise. He is very strong and is going to be a very good forward next year.
- M. Rees—He entered the side after the half-way stage, mainly in an attempt to add more fire to the pack. The experiment proved a success and he is now one of the hardest tacklers in the team.
- P. Taylor—played twice on the wing when Liddle was injured and acquitted himself well.
- N. Hillier and I. Niel each played once in the 1st side and are young players of much promise for the future.
- C. Gray (Captain)—there was a much greater air of confidence about his play this year and he led the team very well. He dictated play very intelligently from out-half, his third position on the side in his three years in the 1st. His care and interest and efficiency of administration make him one of the best captains of recent years.

First XV Results

v. MARLBOROUGH. Lost 18-0.

Played under poor conditions with the team below full strength, this was not a match to remember with joy. The opposing pack was much heavier than ours with the result that we could not gain much possession, and the attacking movements were pretty negative. Although the score does not do justice to the game the fact remains that the defence was shaky, especially under pressure.

Team: C. Gray, Taylor, Liddle, Johnson, Barnes, Black, N. Hillier, Reason, Dow, Niel, Whittles, Rhys, Walker, Collins, Wapshott.

v. DEAN CLOSE. Won 11-3.

With a more or less full team, the first victory of the season came. The Rendcomb pack held and outplayed their opponents despite their smaller size. Running from the backs was good on occasions but there was too much negative kicking, especially from fly-half. Tries came from Whittles, Black and Johnson, Belcher converting one.

Team: Belcher, P. Taylor, Johnson, Black, Barnes, C. Gray, Reason, D. Brown, Dow, Simmons, Rhys, Whittles, Walker, Collins, Wapshott.

v. BLOXHAM. Won 14-5.

This will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the finest performances of the season. The pack played magnificently, being outweighed, as was usually the case, and Wapshott's try was a fair comment on their combined effort. Running from behind the scrum was its best ever, helped by Reason's superb serves to the three-quarters, and Johnson scored a fine try. Belcher, who had a very good game, converted this, and Liddle scored twice after a scramble over the line and from a blind side movement.

Team: Belcher, Barnes, Johnson, Black, Liddle, C. Gray, Reason, Simmons, Dow, D. Brown, Rhys, Whittles, Walker, Collins, Wapshott.

v. AVONHURST. Won 69-0.

Conditions for this match were excellent with the team at full strength. The result was devastating from Avonhurst's point of view and the score speaks for itself. It is only fair to say, however, that such a score was made possible by excellent backing up everywhere. The following scored: Gray, Black, Johnson, Liddle, Barnes, Belcher, M. Dow, Whittles, Collins, Rhys, A. Walker.

Team: Belcher, Barnes, Liddle, Johnson, Black, C. Gray, Reason, Simmons, Dow, D. Brown, Rhys, Whittles, Walker, Collins, Wapshott.

v. COKETHORPE. Lost 13-6.

Undoubtedly one of the most disappointing matches; Rendcomb were not outclassed and were 6-0 up at half-time. However, the game was thrown away in the second half due to poor defence and two fatal mistakes by the captain. The

inevitable disintegration of a poor game was not made better by poor refereeing.

Team: Belcher, Barnes, Liddle, Johnson, Black, C. Gray, Reason, Simmons, Dow, D. Brown, Rhys, Whittles, A. Walker, Collins, Wapshott.

v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE. Lost 13-5.

There was a change of Rees for Walker. Rendcomb opened the scoring once again but during the rest of the game were worn down through sheer exhaustion, especially behind the scrum where the backs never learnt the full uses of the width of the pitch. Rendcomb were outplayed but there was justification for complaint against some decisions. Outsider referees are definitely an excellent idea.

Team: Belcher, Liddle, Barnes, Johnson, Gray, Reason, Rees, M. Dow, D. Brown, Simmons, Rhys, Whittles, Collins, Wapshott.

v. CIRENCESTER. Lost 16-0.

Rendcomb fielded the same side as against Cheltenham, and played well against a much bigger side despite numerous small injuries. The pack gained possession more frequently than could have been expected and the running of the backs ought on several occasions to have brought a try.

Team: Belcher, Liddle, Barnes, Johnson, C. Gray, Reason, M. Rees, Dow, D. Brown, Simmons, Rhys, Whittles, Collins, Wapshott.

2nd XV

v. MARLBOROUGH 2nd XV COLTS. Lost 8-0.

Played under terrible conditions but with the forwards playing extraordinarily well against a heavier pack. Their slight edge in the threequarters, however, did justice to the score.

Team: Belcher, Patrick, D. Brown, Hook, Tyler, Rees, Brisk, Mabberley, Jones, B. Laan, Topp, Elliott, Yates, Simmons, White.

Under 16 XV

v. KINGHAM HILL UNDER 16. Won 17-0.

Playing under good conditions and at home, Rendcomb were on top right from the start. The three-quarters played consistently well and were quickly backed up by the pack, which also did well although the opposing pack was heavier.

Team: Moore, Tyler, Millard, Elliott, Rhys, D. Brown,

Niel, O. Brown, Hillier, Belcher, Johnson, Willford, Stallard, Collins, J. Gray.

JUNIOR RUGBY RESULTS

Under 15 XV

Dean Close	Lost	0-46
Bloxham	Lost	6-13
Avonhurst.....	Won	23-3
Cokethorpe	Lost	9-14
Cheltenham College Yearlings.....	Won	6-3

Under 13½ XV

Cheltenham Junior School	Won	17-8
Dragon School	Won	10-6
Kingham Hill	Won	30-0
Oakley Hall	Won	8-0

SWIMMING AWARDS

Personal Survival Examination

The following obtained awards at the end of the summer term: —

BRONZE:

J. Lane, J. Gillham, N. Powell, A. Pearce, N. Hance, G. Jordan,
N. Boyd, M. Brown, R. Roberts, B. Laan, D. Gray.

SILVER:

A. Thompson, P. Treasure, O. N. Brown.

GOLD:

P. Isaac, J. Hindle, J. Tyler.

THE ITALIAN TRIP

On Monday, July 8th, the Headmaster took a sixth form party to Italy. After a crash course on important Italian vocabulary and after a 36-hour journey the party arrived at its destination, Rome. On the Wednesday morning, after a continental breakfast, the party visited St. Peter's where they were fortunate enough to receive a blessing from the Pope, after which they toured the Vatican City. After seeing various Renaissance works of art, everyone was very much impressed by Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. After a siesta,

which soon became customary, the party split up and dispersed over Rome sampling the various delights of the city!

On the Thursday the party visited the Forum and the Colosseum where they were treated to an Italian-style demonstration complete with army. After this spectacle they took a bus to the welcome cool of the Catacombs. Friday's programme was a return visit to St. Peter's in order to scale the 250 odd steps of the dome. This was followed by a brief trip to the Pantheon, the most complete relic in Rome. The last day in Rome started in the famous water gardens in Tivoli and culminated in a visit to the Trevi fountain.

On Sunday, after an early rise, the party departed from Mussolini's Termini in Rome for its destination of Florence via Assisi, where the day was spent exploring the quaint and quiet little Italian village with its Cathedral, monastery and castle. Later that evening the party arrived at the "Pensione Cosy Home" in Florence.

The first day in Florence the party explored the Baptistry and its famous golden doors, and then the Cathedral with Giotto's famous Campanile. In the afternoon, as had become usual, the local swimming pool was visited.

On Tuesday a coach took the party to Pisa where the first rainy day was spent climbing the leaning tower and visiting the Cathedral. In the afternoon the braver members of the party took to the warm but very rough Mediterranean at Pisa Marina. On the final day in Florence the party split in two, one half visiting the Capella di Medici, the Uffizi gallery and the Palazzo Pitti in the morning, the other half in the afternoon.

On Friday, after two days' travel, the party arrived back at Victoria station, after what had been both an educational and a very enjoyable trip to Italy.

The following boys accompanied the Headmaster on the Italian trip: — M. R. Barnes, S. J. Brisk, N. M. Collins, M. R. Dow, C. J. Elliott, M. W. Cummings, S. H. Hook, R. H. Arkell, P. B. Jones, P. V. Sage, A. J. Pain, N. H. Wapshott, A. J. C. Walker.

S. J. B.; A. J. C. W.

MOUNTAIN WALKING IN SNOWDONIA

Summer Holidays, 1968

Our camp was pitched by Llyn Ogwen, a small lake, some distance from our first climb—Snowdon (3,560 ft.).

We ascended by the 'Pyg' Track and reached the summit where there is a restaurant, gift-shop, and narrow gauge railway station! Later in the week, we walked over Pen-yr Oleu-wen and along the Carneddau finally reaching a height of 3,485 ft. at Carnedd Llywelyn. At the top there was a good view of Anglesey and Cardigan Bay. We also climbed Tryfan (3,010 ft.) and did some elementary rock climbing on some slabs nearby. All of us enjoyed it and are grateful to Mr. Willson for taking us.

The week encouraged interest in rock-climbing and this term several parties have been to the Wye Valley and the Peak District.

A. A. R.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY

Autumn 1968

The last meeting of the summer term was devoted to original compositions and held on the 3rd of June.

The compositions were extremely varied and revealed once more the imagination and narrative ability of the members. As usual, the subjects chosen were unexpected and included an almost sacrilegious version of Samson and Delilah by W. R. Simpson, a country fete report in a local newspaper as seen through the eyes of R. J. Wood, a clever look at detective work at Rendcomb from J. B. Quennell plus a comic piece as translated word for word from the Latin by A. J. Pain. Other parts of everyday life which came under attack were a hippy druggie's party demolished by C. J. Gray, a Natural History Society Field Meeting lovingly degraded by N. M. Collins and M. B. Rees had written an almost sad story about a cripple listening to the band in the park.

In view of certain events M. R. Barnes' account of the American Presidential election showed great and almost correct prophetic value. This, together with M. R. Dow's account of the search for God as conducted by the High Command of a country at war, were almost, but not quite, serious. P. W. Taylor, however, has composed a sentimental piece concerning an old soldier's thoughts on war and peace. To combat the sad aura aroused by this T. V. Liddle read his poem about a schoolboy's attempt at maths. P. V. Sage's contribution dealt with the illusions of a guest on "Desert Island Discs." C. P. Mabblerley and H. D. Greenlaw were the only two non-

originals but instead they read examples of the work of three illustrious writers.

The autumn term opened by the election of K. A. Belcher, D. F. R. Black, S. H. Hook, P. B. Jones, A. J. C. Walker and N. H. Wapshott to the Society to fill the gaps left by the usual yearly exodus.

At the first meeting on 2nd October the Society read "Look back in Anger," John Osborne's successful first play, currently showing in the West End. It deals with Jimmy Parker and his relationships with his wife, mistress and friend. These are strained due to Jimmy's biting sarcasm and feeling of inferiority, or is it superiority? Whatever the cause, his wife leaves, but, for some inexplicable reason, returns, and they begin life afresh in a make-believe world. This is probably Osborne's best-known play and deserves the success it has, unlike some which appear to have found niches in the public heart.

The other play which has been read this term was "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," by Tennessee Williams, which we read on 23rd October. This is set in the Deep South and the action deals with the differing loyalties and strains found in a family whose mainstay and property owner, Big Daddy, is dying of cancer. The feud running through the play is that between Mae and Margaret. Mae and her husband Gooper have produced several children whereas Margaret has none. Mae, therefore, is convinced that she and Gooper should inherit the property despite the fact that Margaret's husband is Big Daddy's favourite. Margaret, however, becomes pregnant in theory at least.

Both these plays give a picture of some of the bad aspects of human nature while at the same time showing some of the best. They also show how people may react under certain constraints and in difficult circumstances.

H. D. G.

ICED NOVEMBER MORNING GLORY

The cold hard air bites like cold steel.
The sharp thin air seizes in a freezing grasp.
A grey-white gasp of fast breath clouds heavy.
Feather sugar frosts the still rose-leaves.
Crisp, crunching footprints form a printed, dancing pattern
On the white lawn, on the water-icing of the garden-lake,
Sprinkled with pretty frosted leaves, curled and crinkled in
refrigerated decay.

The frozen, air-light, wood-smoked silence
Of the morning ice-mist mourns in white the loss of life.
The black, fragile forms of iced life in death wait,
Standing in a stiff stillness, waiting, woodenly afraid,
To be crushed in the crunching blunder of a feather-touch,
In the giant coming of a crashing, light destruction,
The crisp sugared statues collapsing in a tinkling, melting mass,
Under the vast, fast-smashing, shining weight
Of weak and watery sunlight.

P. W. T.

JACK THE STRIPPER

The sky was blue and the grass green, as the sun blazed down upon the band, who were playing the March of the Grenadier Guards. All the seats around the bandstand were vacant except for two.

These were occupied by two gentlemen who sat together appreciating the music.

One of the two gentlemen thought to himself as he suffered and fidgeted under the sun's rays.

"My God," he thought, "the sun isn't half playing havoc with my artificial limbs; amazing what heat can do. I heard just the other day that Tower Bridge got stuck due to expansion, so they said. Wouldn't fancy that sort of thing happening to you, would you Jack? I wonder if this gentleman here would mind if I removed my legs, funny thing how squeamish some people are about that sort of thing."

As the band played on Jack still couldn't pluck up courage to speak to the other gentleman.

"Come on Jack," he thought, as the heat conducted along his metal legs became almost unbearable. "It's now or never." "Excuse me, sir," he said trying to sound off-hand and relaxed, while the heat burned his flesh, "I hope it wouldn't offend you if I remove my legs, they're artificial, of course, but you understand how it is in this heat."

The other gentleman turned and gave an understanding smile. Jack proceeded to remove the two pieces of complex machinery that gave him the power to walk, and laid them across a couple of the vacant chairs.

The band finished playing and gradually left the bandstand, leaving the two gentlemen sitting in the silence. Jack turned his hearing aid up to full power so that he could get the full benefit of the silent summer afternoon.

“How nice it would be if I could completely relax,” he thought. “Well this gentleman didn’t seem to object to artificial legs so surely he wouldn’t object to a couple of arms as well.”

“Excuse me, sir,” he said, “sorry to trouble you again, but do you think that you could give me a little help with my arms, they’re rather uncomfortable in this heat you know...” but the man didn’t seem to notice Jack.

“My arms you see...” Jack continued. He began to cast one off and suddenly the other man realised Jack’s plight and helped him remove them.

At last Jack could relax, but somehow he felt a little uncertain about the other gentleman’s feelings towards him.

Jack looked around to study the man’s visage and realised to his horror that he was alone, the man was about fifty yards away walking towards the gate. Jack cried out in despair but the man did not hear.

Very strange that two deaf men should be the only audience the band had had all afternoon. M. B. R.

HOW WE WON THE WAR

When he was twenty-one Joe was visited by the MI5 man. After thinking, he accepted the offer of a job in a department of the Search.

Everyone knew about the Search. Rumours of a supernatural being, known as ‘God’, who was helping the Reds, were always being printed in the papers or hinted at in the radio reports of the War. But even the highest directors in the Government did not know when he would show his hand or even what he would do. That was why the Institution was set up, to conduct the Search for God.

Joe, as a graduated English student was put in the Books and Records department. With the rest of the team of students with whom he worked, he searched for documentary evidence of God’s existence in order to estimate his characteristics and his most likely position in the world.

But others too were involved in the Search. Scientists fresh from research laboratories streamed to the various blocks of the Institution with information officially regarded as relevant, and with their latest discoveries which they were convinced would lead to God.

Direct links existed between the Institution and the radio-tracking stations, in case God was put on a special moon rocket by the enemy. Spy rockets were continually sent on

over-flights of enemy territory; they were small enough to escape the anti-missile screen, and could report on any unusual activity. As time became shorter, more and more people passed into the main block, from the sorting centres, for interrogation, and fewer passed out. But nothing definite was found.

Until Joe. After three years of checking the unknown books at the main libraries, his team moved on to the secondary libraries. And Joe, on the Sunday after his joining began to investigate a promising section on ghosts and natural phenomena. By Tuesday evening he had reached "T". There the Search ended.

Joe was taken to the Directors and explained his discovery, taking extracts from the theological work he had found, "God is not outside us, but within us all here," he read.

They led him quietly away to the mass lapidation chambers and volatilized him. No-one could ever be allowed to find out where God was.

If his true whereabouts were released after the propaganda that had been broadcast, distrust in the Government and panic might follow. And after the millions spent on it, the Search would have to go on as well.

But the Directors slept happily. If God was in them, he had to be on their side, didn't he? M. R. D.

FEEBLEMAN ON HIS ROMAN FARM

When, however, feebleman by the day's work having been tired out sat down not only the telephone but also ringing he heard. Irving Crumpet it was, who with his combine harvester the corn, to harvest wanted. Although however feebleman and his friend Captain Hubins tired out were as the corn ripe was, not he could refuse. Then also however not having been able to refuse he agreed. Irving Crumpet with his combine harvester about later a half hour arrived with his son spiderface.

"An evening not very nice be it, feebleman?" said spiderface.

"Oh, no e'em ent," feebleman feeling tired however replied.

The corn however not being able to withstand another evening of bad weather immediately to be cut was began.

"A heavy crop bent he?" Captain Hubins with his X-ray said eyes having been switched on.

"Oh, ah!" replied peabody the village idiot who had been turned up. "These won't tonight get it all in!"

"Then your super power needed will be," said Irving Crumpet. "My magic peanut with me I must have," retorted feebleman. So however having been lazy Captain Hubins he sent his magic peanut to fetch.

"Hurry or we'em jiggered," said feebleman.

In order that his return might not be long which whom his flying horse he rode. Not however peanut many seconds afterwards with the magic he returned. To however afterwards by the way therefore it to feebleman he gave.

"We'em bist saved if not only but also the corn can gather up we."

As being gathered up was the corn, therefore however the combine having been driven by Irving Crumpet, spiderface helping had been. Suddenly by the order of the gods the combine to break down was. Feebleman, to the combine to carry out repairs ran. When in the combine feebleman had been locked, spiderface the combine upstarted. Whereupon having however by the been scared combine which whom the sudden shaking began, the magic peanut feebleman had lost.

"You'm proper plum jiggered things now, spiderface," said feebleman. The magic peanut lost in the machine was now.

"Surely not with which carry on cannot we?" said Irving.

"Nope" the reply from Captain Hubins who on the scene had been arrived was.

"Which to do are we able?" said feebleman.

"It's use no, the thunderstorms from the sky therefore however are coming, we'em bist finished!" said Captain Hubins.

But suddenly however peabody the magic peanut in a bag corn of found it.

"We bist saved," said spiderface the peanut by peabody have been found.

And so the farmers happy were as peabody the peanut having been eaten by was, however not also throughout the battle for the flag with the cohorts whose country was no longer served in the battlements of the soldiers, no longer hungry.

A. J. P.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL MARATHON

—a contemporary political allegorical prophesy

The games had almost come to an end. Only two races remained to be run; the marathon and the 80 yards. Depending on the results of these races the title of Victor Ludorum of the Games as a whole would be awarded.

Little interest centred around the 80 yards event, for there was only one serious competitor. The current holder had been violently ill after his previous victory, and was not competing this time. One entrant was heavily handicapped by an inability to dress in the light comfortable clothes that athletes wear. He could only run in an expensive suit, and was weighed down by mountains of money in each pocket which he had desperately but unsuccessfully attempted to spend before the race started. So the favourite, a totally mediocre man who was in fact the last but one winner, won easily. He had put on much weight since he won the race last, but, as he now said his experience pulled him through in the end. When asked what he would do with the Victor Ludorum trophy should he win that, he replied that he would put it safely away in a vault. This rather startling answer drew few gasps of exclamation for the marathon was starting, and everybody was now crowding around the four marathon competitors to see them start.

The starting pistol fired, and they were off on their long exhausting route. The previous winner of the race, and holder of the Victor Ludorum as well, was heavy favourite. But since his previous victory he had been badly bruised, and he was very exhausted even at the race's start. He had undertaken only to run in the race if the sun did not shine fiercely, and make the conditions more harsh than they were anyway. Sure enough, after only a few miles the sun shone, and this caused the bruises of the great man to ache more than ever. He suddenly announced that he was retiring from the race, changed into his ordinary clothes, and started shouting for and supporting a friend of his who was also in the race, but lying last at the moment due to the fact that he didn't really get going till the others had already run a few miles. The crowd, seeing how magnanimous the holder was, gave him a loud but short round of applause, and then turned their attention to the runners still in the race.

A youngish family man who had successfully spent all his money, and had staked everything on winning the race, was now in front. The distance between him and the other competitors was rapidly widening. He reached the half-way stage in record time. He was allowed by the rules to rest here for a few moments. Just as he was setting off upon the second half the crowd, most of whom adored him, for he was of a very well connected family, asked him to give a speech. He did, and in it he explained how certain he was of winning the race. Most of the crowd agreed with him in this, but just as he was

about to start running again, someone who shouldn't have had a gun shot him dead, so after a few words of consolation to his many relatives, the crowd looked back along the path whence the dead man had come, to see who was leading now.

It was, in fact, the protégé of the former winner. He was a short man, who didn't run very well, and when he reached the half-way stage he was bathed in sweat. Still, he soon recovered and the crowd remembered the time, not many years previously, when he had come a close second in the very same race. He explained to the crowd how much he was looking forward to winning this time. However, someone pointed out that with the race would probably go the title of Victor Ludorum, and he, poor man, seized with terror at the thought of holding this high honour, spluttered, "I can't win it, I can't win it," and started ranting and screaming with terror on the ground. The old Victor Ludorum rushed out of the crowd, and carried the pathetic figure home to bed.

The only competitor left was running strongly and gracefully. He was popular with the crowd, but not with the officials of the race. This was acutely obvious when he reached the half-way stage. There, the officials who saw no point in prolonging the one horse race, offered to lend him a car in which to complete the course. Strangely this was within the rules, when only one competitor was left. But the crowd wanted to see the graceful athlete run, not drive, and he, determined to please the crowd, refused the offer of the car. This annoyed the petty race officials, and a row soon started. The officials first attacked the athlete by pulling his hair and kicking him. Then the crowd turned upon the officials. The long established race looked in danger of disintegrating, so the generous competitor, to stop the row, announced that he had withdrawn.

So there was never any end to the marathon race after all. The rules didn't cater for this sort of thing, and everyone was thankful that the Victor Ludorum prize could be presented to the 80 yards winner.

The world waited to see what he would do with it. But the mediocre man kept his word, and locked it away in a deep vault for safety.

And so for four years the most mature, most successful but above all most democratic country in the world will be hidden from view in the hands of a mediocrity, only to re-emerge when the next fun and games are held, or on the off-chance

that people might realise that democracy should be simple and direct if it is to be preferable to any other form of government. M. R. B.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

The Old Rendcombians' London Dinner was held at the White Lion, St. Giles High Street, on Saturday, October 26th. The meal took the form of a buffet and the fare provided was quite exceptionally good. There were present in addition to lady guests the following: Mr. Osborne, Christopher Brisley, Tony Perkins, Austen Magor, Douglas Dakin, Nicholas Dakin, Charles Taylor, Jim Miller, Dick Field, Alec Dainty, Miles Thompson, Roland Thompson, Jonathan O'Brien, Philip Quick and Lewis White. Mr. James, who represented the College, gave a brief summary of events and developments at the College, and mentioned his impending retirement. Christopher Brisley was thanked for his efforts in organising the evening.

* * *

A. E. Brain visited the College in October. He is now Assistant Chief Engineer to the Ministry of Transport. In this position he is responsible for planning and programming trunk roads and motorways. He is largely responsible for spending two or three hundred millions of our money each year!

* * *

Alan Hodges is working as a research executive for Public Attitude Surveys of London.

* * *

Gerard Chagrin (now Benson) is a member of a group called the Barrow Poets who appeared at the Cheltenham Festival of Literature, in October.

* * *

We congratulate Peter and Julie Trier on the birth of a son on September 14th.

* * *

Martin Ashe-Jones has been appointed a Lecturer in English Literature in the University of Turku, Finland.

* * *

M. H. Gleeson-White has been elected Vice-President of University College, Cambridge.

J. C. J.