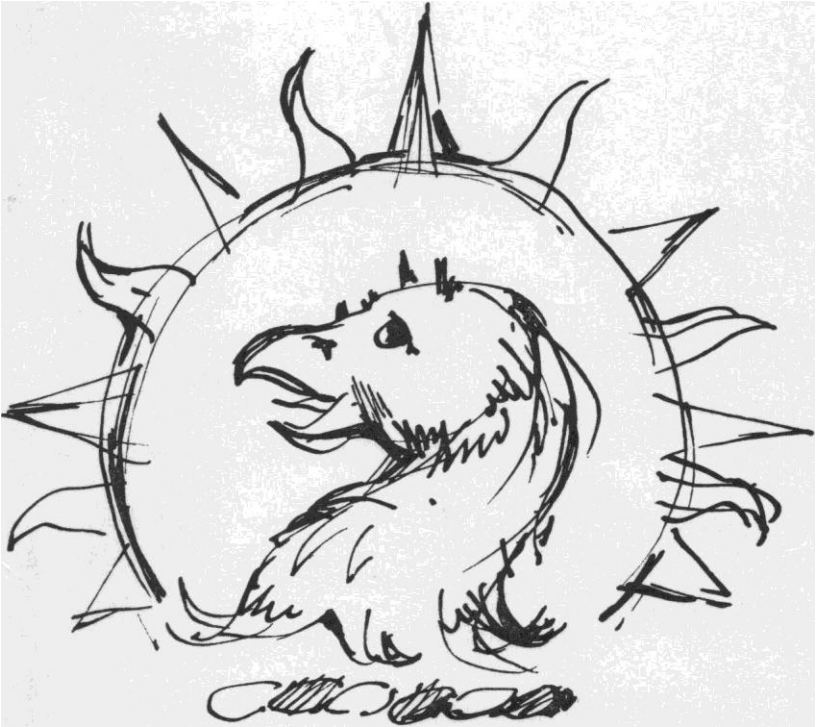


# *Rendcomb College Chronicle*



*Vol. 13. No. 7*

*March 1965*

# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 13 No. 7

March 1965

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## COLLEGE OFFICERS

### Spring Term, 1965

*Senior Prefect*—S. Greenlaw.

*Prefects and Group Leaders*—S. H. Shellswell, C. G. Jefferies,  
M. E. Stubbs, J. J. Schwarzmantel.

*Prefects*—D. Little, R. A. Sewell, P. A. Trier, R. J. Verge,  
A. A. Webb.

*College Workman*—J. J. Schwarzmantel

*Public Workman*—A. J. Cattermole.

*Music Warden*—W. T. G. Griffiths.

*Choir Librarians*—M. A. Cox, N. H. Wapshott.

*Picture Man*—J. A. Dow.

*Church Ushers*—R. J. Edy, L. A. Webb.

*Librarians*—S. Greenlaw, D. Little, R. A. Sewell, R. J. Verge,  
W. A. Thompson, H. M. Peterson.

*Manual Foremen*—S. H. Shellswell, G. F. Smith, A. J. Pain,  
R. J. Wood.

*Stagemen*—L. A. Webb, J. A. Dow, G. F. Smith, J. A. Hiscox,  
D. P. Kyle, F. Bolton-King.

*Bellringers*—F. R. Glennie (*Tower Captain*), P. W. Hughes,  
A. A. J. Raddon, S. Greenlaw, R. J. Edy, W. A. Thompson,  
B. F. Pullen, J. A. Hiscox, N. J. Green, R. J. Wood.

## GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS

### Spring Term, 1965

*Chairman*—D. Little.

*Secretary*—J. F. Harris.

*Games Captain*—R. A. Sewell.

*Running Captain*—N. S. Whatmough.

*Tennis Captain*—R. A. Sewell.

*Vice-Captain*—S. H. Shellswell.

*Games Committee*—D. Little, L. A. Webb.

*Nominations Committee*—S. Greenlaw, D. Little, R. A. Sewell,  
M. E. Stubbs, P. A. Trier.

*Meeting Banker*—N. S. Whatmough.

*Boys' Banker*—M. B. Ogilvie.

*Shop Banker*—R. B. N. Bryant.

*Senior Shopman*—P. W. Hughes.

*Shopmen*—M. J. Dawson, G. F. Smith,

*Auditor*—W. A. Thompson.

*Breakages Man*—R. C. Goodsell.

*Furniture Man*—C. P. Stevens.  
*Games Committee Treasurer*—J. V. Hemming.  
*House Committee Treasurer*—J. A. Hiscox.  
*Finance Committee Treasurer*—C. P. Mabberley.  
*Entertainments Committee Treasurer*—A. J. Pain.  
*Entertainments Committee*—S. H. Shellswell, J. A. Dow,  
     M. W. Harrop, D. J. Curtis, D. R. Brown.  
*Records Committee*—S. Greenlaw, R. B. N. Bryant,  
     W. T. G. Griffiths.  
*Billiards Committee*—L. A. Webb, J. B. Marks, R. J. Edy.  
*Film Committee*—R. B. N. Bryant, A. A. J. Raddon.  
*Junior Forms Committee*—S. Greenlaw, R. A. Sewell, L. A. Webb,  
     S. H. Shellswell.  
*Cycle Committee*—F. Bolton-King, A. J. Savery, A. J. A. Veasey.  
*Magazine Committee*—C. G. Jefferies, P. W. Hughes,  
     F. R. Glennie.  
*Rule Committee*—M. E. Stubbs, R. J. Verge, R. J. Edy.  
*Financial Advisory Committee*\*—A. J. Cattermole, M. E. Stubbs.  
*Sledge Committee*—P. V. Sage, R. J. Wood.  
*Amplifier Technicians*—A. J. Cattermole, C. G. Cattermole.  
*Paperman*—P. Little.  
*Warden of the Meeting*\*—A. J. Cattermole.  
*Junior Advocate*—L. A. Webb.  
*Council*—S. Greenlaw, D. Little, J. J. Schwarzmantel, R. A. Sewell,  
     M. E. Stubbs, P. A. Trier, S. H. Shellswell.  
*Groundsman*—A. A. J. Raddon.  
*Tennis Groundsman*—M. J. Dawson.  
*Hockey Secretary*—R. J. Verge.  
*Cricket Secretary*—R. J. Edy.  
*Rugby Secretary*—B. F. Pullen.  
*Hockey Games Wardens*—W. R. Simpson, H. D. Greenlaw.  
*Out of Season Cricket Games Warden*—M. T. Hitchman.  
*Out of Season Rugby Games Warden*—K. A. Belcher.  
*Tennis Games Warden*—P. W. Taylor.  
*Badminton Games Warden*—H. Thompson.

\* Subsequently amalgamated as the Meeting Advisory Committee, to which J. J. Schwarzmantel has also been elected.

## GENERAL MEETING NOTES

### Spring Term, 1965

The Meetings this term were marked by a great deal of spirited discussion, which showed a regrettable tendency to get out of hand. In this respect, there was a rapid deterioration in the first few weeks of term, and discontent with the system of discussion spread throughout the more senior members. This resulted finally in the passing of a proposal requiring anyone who wished to speak to raise his hand and await recognition from the chair. However, it was significant that the original proposal (which required members to stand up) was rejected, mainly through the efforts of the fifth form, who thought that this would discourage junior members from speaking.

The result of this new system was an immediate improvement in the standard of speaking—backchat and irrelevant remarks became very rare; furthermore there was an increase in the number of speeches from the fifth form. Unfortunately a number of members returned to their previous irresponsible practices during the Meeting in which elections were held; as a result the Nominations and Selections Committee took the unprecedented and controversial step of removing from them the privilege of membership.

Another regrettable development in recent terms has been the Meeting's tendency to quash punishments given by the Council. However, a proposal limiting the powers of appeal against a Council decision was lost. It is to be hoped that the Meeting will not allow its leniency to render the Council ineffectual in future.

Amongst other important developments, the Financial Advisory Committee was amalgamated with the Warden of the Meeting. The new office, the Meeting Advisory Committee, has two main functions: to advise the Meeting when any aspect of its working requires revision, and to act as a "watch-dog" over Meeting officers.

It had become clear that juniors brought before the Council were often overawed and required someone to represent them; the office of Junior Advocate was created to provide for this.

The offices of Finance Committee Treasurer and Drying Room Committee were abolished, their duties being given to the Meeting Banker and the Duty Groups respectively.

The allowance for buying classical records was reduced from £4-10-0 to £2 per term, since a majority of the Meeting considered the former sum excessive for an interest shared by so few. No records were bought this term.

### SCHOOL NOTES

#### Late Autumn Term, 1964, and Spring Term, 1965

The following events took place late in the Autumn Term:

A lecture on the Army was given on December 3rd by Capt. P. S. H. Lefever, R. A., and a team of demonstrators. A Dance was held on December 5th and some ladies were welcomed for the evening. On the 8th, a party of rugby enthusiasts visited Twickenham for the Oxford v. Cambridge rugby match.

"A Man for all Seasons," by Robert Bolt was performed at the College on December 10th, 11th and 12th; the Carol Service was held on the 13th and the Christmas Party on the 16th. Reports of these are given later in this number of the Chronicle.

\* \* \*

We bid farewell to the following boys who have left the College:  
R. A. H. Chapman, K. J. Jordan, N. R. Parker, M. McKeown, A. E. Pocock,  
P. V. Rayner.

\* \* \*

We are sorry to say "goodbye" to Mr. John Tooze who left the College at the end of the Autumn Term, having been Director of Music here since 1948. Latterly he had been suffering indifferent health and he felt it wise to retire from schoolteaching and to take up private work in London, where he has acquired a small house, number [REDACTED] [REDACTED] London, W. 8. We know that Mr. Tooze will be delighted to hear from any Old Boys or present members of the College.

Music flourished here under his care, with a large proportion of the boys studying it in one form or another. He trained the Choir thoroughly—not an easy task, with the older members changing from year to year—and Rendcomb's orchestra did surprisingly well considering the small number of boys from which it had to be selected. We wish Mr. Tooze happiness and good health in his future life, and look forward to an occasional visit from him.

Miss M. Casey leaves us at the end of the Spring Term. She is to be married to Mr. J. F. Bassingthwaight on April 24th, and will be living on Calday Island. We offer her our best wishes for future happiness.

★ ★ ★

We welcome Mr. John H. Jenkin, B. A., F. R. C. O., L. R. A. M., who joins us to take charge of music and to help in the teaching of English. Mr. Jenkin read English at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He then taught for a year at King's School, Gloucester, and spent one term at Trinity Fields Secondary School in Stafford before coming to us.

We are glad to have with us for one term Mr. A. L. Clarke who is training for the Certificate of Education after having taken his B. A. in Mathematics at Cambridge. He leaves at Easter and we wish him success in the future.

★ ★ ★

We acknowledge receipt of *The Wycliffe Star*, *The Decanian* and *The Gresham*.

★ ★ ★

Members of the Science Society paid a visit on February 2nd to Smiths instruments factory at Bishop's Cleeve. A party from the VIth form attended a lecture on colour photography at Gloucester on February 16th.

Members of Forms V and VI saw the Oxford v. Cambridge hockey match on February 20th at Hurlingham Park, London.

At the Oxford Playhouse on March 2nd a group from the VIth form saw a performance of "The Alchemist" by Ben Jonson, and on the 10th and 11th, parties from Forms IV, V and VI went to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, to see performances of "Twelfth Night" by Shakespeare.

★ ★ ★

Films were shown on behalf of the Science Society and the Motor Club on February 6th. The B. B. C. film of the 'Varsity rugger match was shown by kind permission of F. J. R. Craig in March. Films for the whole College this term were *The Winslow Boy*, *Doctor in the House*, *The Fast Lady* and *Too Many Crooks*.

A Careers talk was given to the Vth Form on February 18th by the Careers Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Labour.

L. A. Webb played hockey for Gloucestershire Schoolboys against Wiltshire Schoolboys on January 4th, 1965.

R. A. Sewell played in the West of England Schoolboys trial on January 6th and subsequently played for the West in the Divisional matches at Oxford on January 7th.

## **GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION**

**December, 1964**

The following were successful in the O-level subjects indicated:

J. A. Dow—Latin.

P. W. Hughes—Latin.

J. B. Marks—English Language.

### **“A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS”**

“A Man for all Seasons,” a play of Sir Thomas More, by Robert Bolt, was performed in the Assembly Hall on the 10th, nth, and 12th of December, 1964.

The action of the play covers the period 1530, just before Wolsey’s fall, to the death of More in 1535. Its form is that of a straightforward historical narrative, but deeper issues are raised as the play proceeds. In a society which is in flux, which has not found any objective code of values, More is a “hero of self-hood”, as Bolt calls him, because he insists on retaining some part of his individuality as something immutable and fixed. Rich, for example, may come to terms with his society by adopting its methods and moulding his “self” to its requirements. But however much More may be involved in his own society, he cannot bring himself to adapt his “self” to a changing world.

He attempts to make his own personality and his own beliefs, a fixed point against the stream of historical progress. This theme is indeed one “for all seasons;” at the present time society is equally unstable and possesses more powerful weapons to mould the individual.

Such are the ideas which the play tries to set forward. Yet the play lacks true distinction; indeed, it invites comparison with the Elizabethan Chronicle Play in the crudity and two-dimensional



nature of some of its characters, as well as in its more positive features, such as its broad sweep of historical action, and its cinematic change of locality. Yet despite these faults, the clash of ideas which the play presents cannot fail to arouse interest, and perhaps involvement in the profound issues discussed.

The play is in fact one long struggle centring on More, a character difficult to portray because he is so varied: at once the ascetic idealist, and the witty statesman, both realist and visionary. For one comparatively young, Nicholas Dakin's performance was an impressive achievement. Particularly in the closing scenes of the play, he conveyed More's sense of "self-hood" with moving, sincerity and conviction. He could perhaps have exploited More's sense of humour to a greater extent; the witty ironical remarks were rather lost, but he spoke with such clarity and vigour that his acting, not at all monotonous despite the length of his part, never failed to convey with convincing intensity the desire of More to cling to his own personality as something unchangeable.

Christopher Jefferies was most effective as the domineering wilful Henry VIII. Especially good at expressing the overweening egoism of the King, in all his outbursts of temperamental passion he never fell into the danger of overacting, nor did his words become incoherent. The overall energy of his acting, as well as his sweeping gestures, made his performance one of a high standard.

As Richard Rich, Francis Bolton-King had a difficult part to play, because he had to show a transformation in Rich's character, from the unsure young intellectual to the self-assured social climber, accepting the corruption of his world. He admirably achieved this; his impulsive gestures at the beginning of the play contrasted well with his confident voice and bearing at the end. His was a mature performance, which was never static.

Bolt's characterization of Thomas Cromwell is rather crude and exaggerated, yet Martin Harrop acted it so convincingly that the part never descended to caricature. His restraint in voice and gesture made him seem suitably Machiavellian, while his care for clear enunciation made his words have their full force.

As the Common Man, Fraser Glennie had one of the key parts of the play, and he performed it with great accomplishment.

He never failed to vary his tone according to his different functions, and his gestures, particularly in the trial scene, added much to his acting. His truly "common" brand of humour and philosophy gave effective comic relief to the play. Apart from character study, the part demanded a great deal of "business"; the success of his performance was remarkable for an actor of his age.

Robert Edy gave a polished performance as the Duke of Norfolk. The English aristocrat is a common enough character, yet Edy never made a parody of the part. At times he had exactly the right tone of superior inanity, but he also conveyed to great effect his emotional conflict when he had to turn against More, formerly his friend.

Michael Grant was well suited to the part of Alice More, and performed it with vigour and gusto, at times effectively comic. Although at times he spoke too quickly, his vehement exclamations convincingly suggested the contrast with More's finer nature, and in the prison scene his acting successfully conveyed Alice's irrational but sincere attempt to understand her husband.

The character of Margaret was made very sympathetic by Martin Dow. His quiet yet distinct voice, his absence of unnecessary gesture, and the confidence with which he acted, especially in his final appearance, all exploited to the full the limited possibilities of his part.

William Griffiths' performance of Roper brought out admirably the dominant traits of this two-dimensional character; his impulsive gestures and his rapid movements over the stage, together with the variety of tones he used, were very well suited to the part of the immature and temperamental Roper.

The part of Wolsey is brief, and has little to offer, yet Anthony Cattermole created within this limited compass a good suggestion of the true statesman, concerned only with realities. His even and unemotional mode of speech and majestic bearing came off to good effect.

Chapuis is a very stereotyped character and Jeffery Harris did well to speak with exactly the right suave and feline tone of the professional diplomat. He suggestively emphasized the sly and furtive nature of the part.

Duncan Curtis successfully assumed the sober officiousness which characterises Cranmer, and he spoke his words clearly and deliberately. Michael Cox as the Woman acted with spirit;

his pert impudence came off well.

Apart from the acting, the other aspects of the performance were also very impressive. The set in particular excited much admiration. The cinematic effects of “A Man for all Seasons” imposed a great strain on the limited resources of the Rendcomb stage, yet the whole set, and especially the gallery at the back, seemed to increase the size of the stage, and proved capable of serving a wide variety of purposes. The various constructions lowered from “the gods” during the course of the performance gave even more evidence of the time and ingenuity spent by Mr. Salter and the stagemen.

Genuine “atmosphere” was provided by the music, composed by Mr. Tooze. It added greatly to the tone of the production, as did the costumes, noteworthy for their authenticity, especially that of Henry VIII. Both Mrs. James and Mr. Tooze must be thanked for their contribution to the play’s success.

Finally, the play in its entirety proved convincing because the actors performed with conviction and confidence; one caught very easily the atmosphere of the shock of irreconcilable ideas, and felt that the play very clearly followed the dictum of Voltaire; “Toute scene doit être un combat.” Mr. Sells had spent a great deal of time and patience in achieving this effect, and his efforts were rewarded by performances which never failed to emphasize the profound points at issue, placing them before the audience with their full force. J. J. S.

### **Characters, in order of speaking**

The Common Man .....	Fraser Glennie
Thomas More.....	Nicholas Dakin
Richard Rich .....	Francis Bolton King
The Duke of Norfolk.....	Robert Edy
Alice More .....	Michael Grant
Margaret More .....	Martin Dow
Cardinal Wolsey .....	Anthony Cattermole
Thomas Cromwell .....	Martin Harrop
Chapuis, the Spanish Ambassador.....	Jeffery Harris
William Roper .....	William Griffiths
King Henry VIII .....	Christopher Jefferies
A Woman .....	Michael Cox
Archbishop Cranmer .....	Duncan Curtis
Prompter .....	Anthony Pocock

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The prizewinning fancy dresses were gay and colourful. They ranged from an Indian god (D. J. Mabberley) to a fairy (A. M. White). There were still some uninspired characters in jeans and shirt, but fewer, perhaps, than on previous occasions. Some of the more outstandingly successful were C. P. Stevens (a Christmas Spirit) and R. A. Sewell. The school was very grateful to the kitchen staff for the eagerly devoured dinner and refreshments. This Christmas fare was most attractively arranged. Although there had been little time for rehearsal, the sketches were acted with vigour and enthusiasm, and, to judge from the audience reaction to the exploits of "James Band," and to D. I. Burmano's remarkable vocal versatility, were not altogether unsuccessful. The dancing was popular and widely appreciated. To bring the evening to a close in the same vein as it started, Richard Verge proclaimed "Our revels now are ended," and hoped everyone would stay for the clear-up.

## THE CAROL SERVICE

Instead of the usual form of Carol Service, this year we had a recital of music for string orchestra and choir held in St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, on December 13th. The Leader of the small orchestra was Miss Lena Vincent, and the singing was by the College Choir and the congregation.

The programme was as follows:

"ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY" ...	<i>Choir and Congregation</i>
Prayers.	
BRANDENBURG CONCERTO NO. 3 ( <i>Bach</i> )...	<i>The Orchestra</i>
"THE LUTE BOOK LULLABY" ( <i>W. Ballett</i> )	... <i>Choir</i>
TWO SQUARELLAS ( <i>Delius</i> ) .....	<i>The Orchestra</i>
Lesson.	
ADAGIO FOR STRINGS ( <i>Barber</i> )	... <i>The Orchestra</i>
"BLESSED BE THAT MAID MARY" ( <i>Trad.</i> ).....	<i>Choir</i>
KING HENRY'S MUSIC (from "A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS")	
( <i>Tooze</i> ) .....	<i>The Orchestra</i>
"GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN" ( <i>Trad.</i> )	<i>Choir and Congregation</i>
"PIEDS EN L'AIR" and "MATTACHINS" ( <i>Warlock</i> ).	<i>The Orchestra</i>
"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" ...	<i>Choir and Congregation</i>
Prayers and Blessing.	

The College is very grateful to the ladies and gentlemen of the orchestra and in particular to Mr. Mark Foster for coming to Rendcomb on this occasion.

## **THE SCIENCE SOCIETY**

### **Spring Term, 1965**

Owing to the brevity of the term, the Society was unable to organise a full programme of events. However, it was able to visit S. Smith and Sons Ltd. (aviation division), at Bishops Cleeve on February 2nd.

There, after an interesting talk on the firm and its training schemes, we were conducted on a tour of the factory. The Training School had metal-machining tools of every description, whilst in the factory itself we noted a computer-controlled capstan drill, and automatic gear grinding lathes. Here also was seen the construction of various aircraft instruments, including altimeters and automatic pilots, the latter being assembled in a dust-free laboratory.

Although some members would have liked to have seen more, much of the site was used for experimental departments, which for reasons of security we were not allowed to visit.

\* \* \*

The society has a programme of films from Shell Mex and B. P. as well as two lectures by senior members, organised for the last fortnight of term. These will be reported in the next issue.

\* \* \*

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to S. Smith and Sons Ltd. for entertaining our party at their Bishops Cleeve division.

M. B. O., A. J. C.

## **THE LITERARY SOCIETY**

Although no evidence of the Literary Society has appeared in the Rendcomb Chronicle for some time, the Society has in fact flourished. The repeated failure to provide a regular report was not due to the cessation of the Society, far from it, but to the inefficiency of the secretary, S. Greenlaw. He apologises for this and includes here a summary of the Society's work for the past few terms.

### **Easter Term 1964:**

During the course of this term the Society held three meetings. At the first on February 12th, the Society read T. S. Eliot's "The Family Reunion." The subtle and difficult work was not readily appreciated at the first reading. The main reason for this was that readers concentrated on precision of metre and rhythm not on the intended meaning which they expected to be evident after correct delivery. On March 4th S. Greenlaw was elected secretary. Following this, the Society went on to read "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller. This play, written in a straightforward style, examined the predicament of Willy Loman, the hero who has not and cannot make good.

The evening of Wednesday, March 18th was devoted to "original compositions." J. J. Schwarzmantel began with a poem which was the desperate cry of the individual to burst through the social bonds to paradise and freedom. In contrast to this R. J. Verge read an account of the "Battle of Cerney" an inventive piece of descriptive prose. "Otter" a poem by S. Greenlaw, attempted to express the intense joy of an otter's life in water.

D. A. N. Hogarth followed this with his thoughts of running, which is a race against and for oneself. M. E. Stubbs, in his poem "Why Am I so Important?" came to the conclusion that it was because everybody else was similarly important. Dali's painting "Civil War" inspired C. B. Stillwell's poem of the same title, decrying the horrors of self-destruction. The lack of a school diary was lamented by M. F. Ashe-Jones in controlled rhyming couplets. There followed a well-balanced prose allegory entitled "Three Bears" by E. Taylor. J. A. Dow's poem was a startling description of suicide from the cliffs. R. A. Sewell's poem, "Evening" contrasted the ideal life of Nature with the squalid artificiality of man's social existence. After the mock-epic "Of Human Bondage" by E. Taylor, M. E. Stubbs pondered meaning and reality in the poem "I Sit in My Study," and S. Greenlaw brought the evening to a close with his poem "Calvary."

### **Summer Term 1964:**

On May 20th the Society read "Antigone" by Sophocles, translated into unhappy Victorian couplets by Gilbert Murray.

As a result the reading failed to express the emotional conflict which is the essence of the play. "A Taste of Honey" however, was much more worthwhile. The language was up to date and the action lively. The varied original compositions included a poem entitled "Panic" by M. E. Stubbs considering the concept of time, its pervasiveness and complexity, and J. A. Dow's poem "Mort d'un Poisson" a lucid though gory piece. This contrasted sharply with D. J. Tovey's intricate story, and J. J. Schwarzmantel asking why society was so much more than the individual. R. J. Verge wrote a fairly simple story about guerilla warfare which afforded comparison with E. Taylor's dramatic monologue on the same subject.

### **Winter Term 1964:**

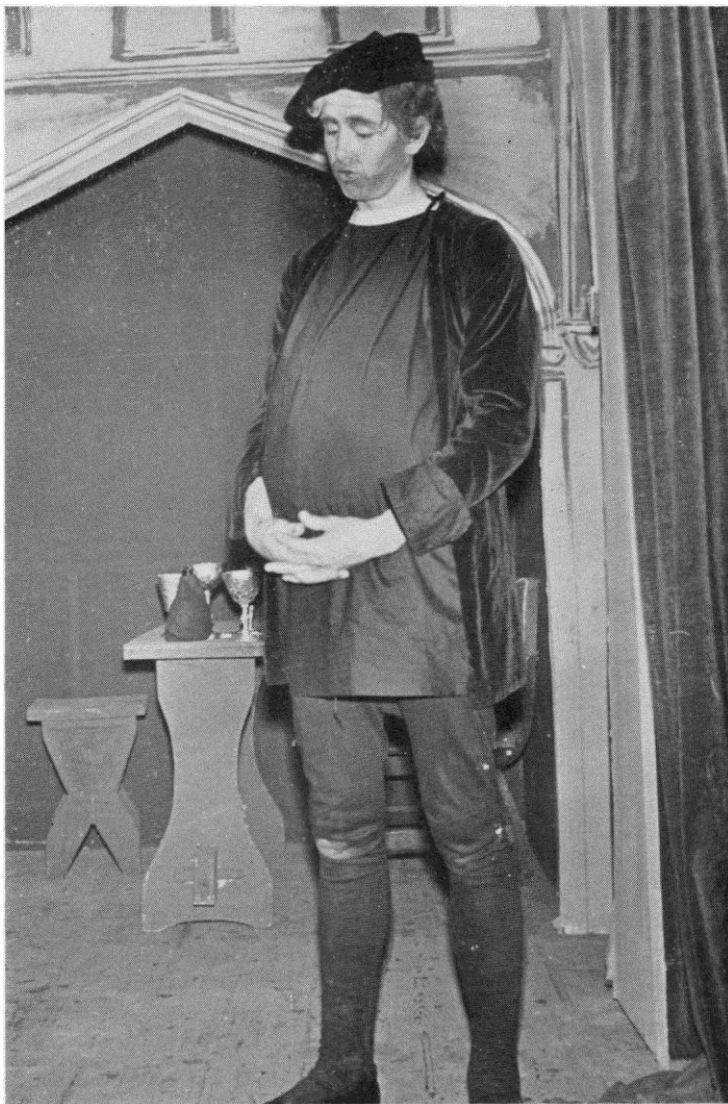
For the first reading of term, the Society chose "Street-Car Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams who relentlessly explores the predicament of Blanche the central character. Against her will she has been "put out" by society. The second play was "The Entertainer" by John Osborne. Here the playwright examines the tedium of existence for the family of a music hall entertainer. Although the characters desperately want to be important for themselves, they lack the courage to 'shin out of the tenth-storey window', and are too disillusioned to struggle.

For the last meeting of term all members produced original compositions. R. A. Sewell described the defeat of an old chess master by a brilliant young challenger. As dramatic was J. A. Dow's poem, where a boat was swept over a waterfall. Mankind can only transcend experience when the impediment of preconceived ideas is overcome; this was the claim made in M. E. Stubb's poem. P. W. Hughes decried the Classics while P. A. Trier watched the executioners at work with relish. Death was peace for the hero of S. H. Shellswell's story who no longer found life interesting. An amusing account of a day in the life of Mr. Knapp's cat was L. A. Webb's contribution, and R. J. Verge concluded the evening with a moving description of the death of a soldier in war.

S. G.

### **SUPPLEMENT TO THE RUGGER REPORT**

The following matches occurred too late for inclusion in the last Number.



*Photo: R. B. N. Bryant*

The Sixteenth Century is the Century of the Common Man.  
Like all other centuries. And that's my proposition.





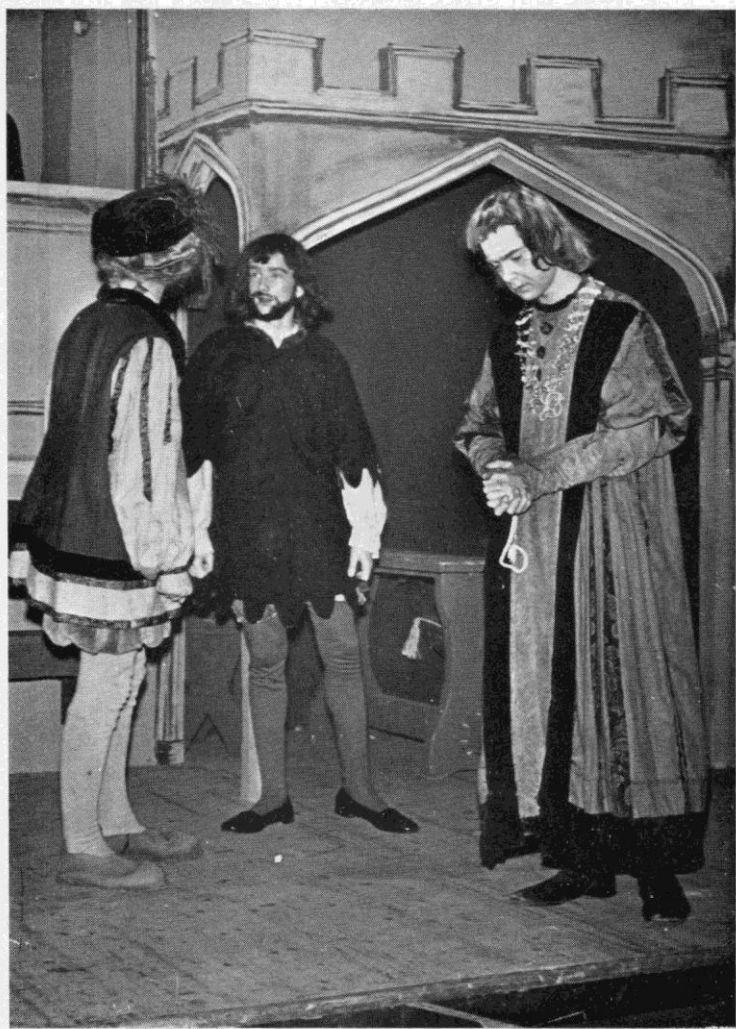
*Photo: R. B. N. Bryant*

And that's more than I earn in a fortnight!



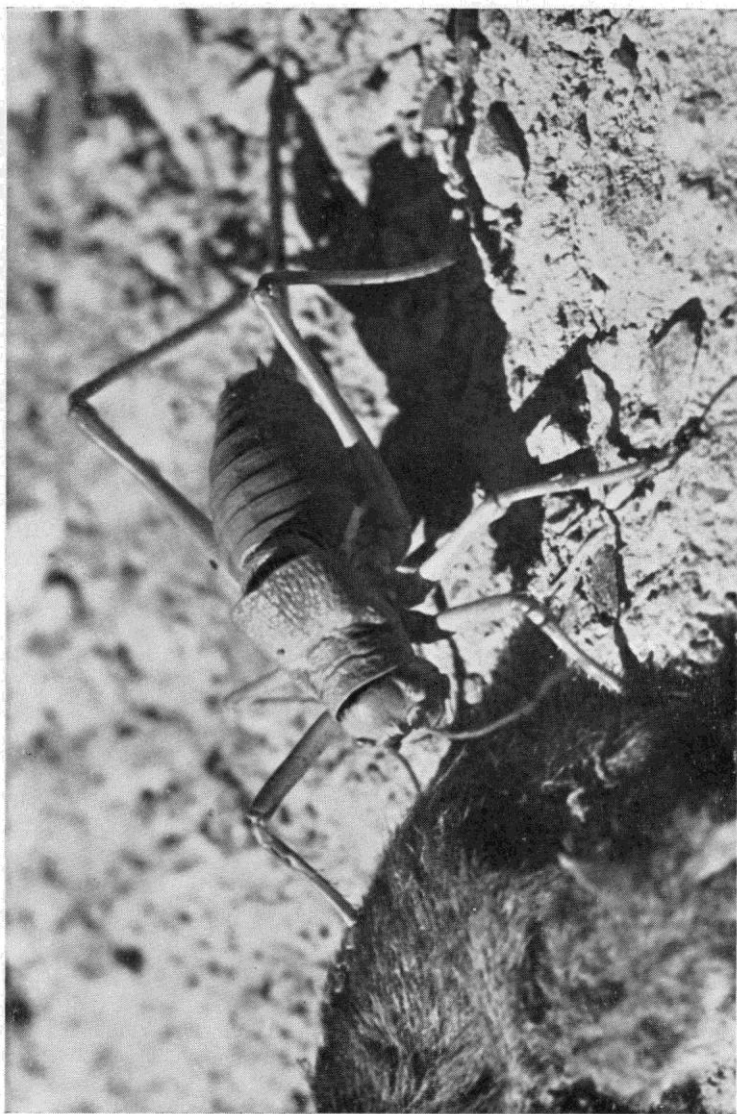
**Graecamne linguam quoque te docuit?**

*Photo: R. B. N. Bryant*



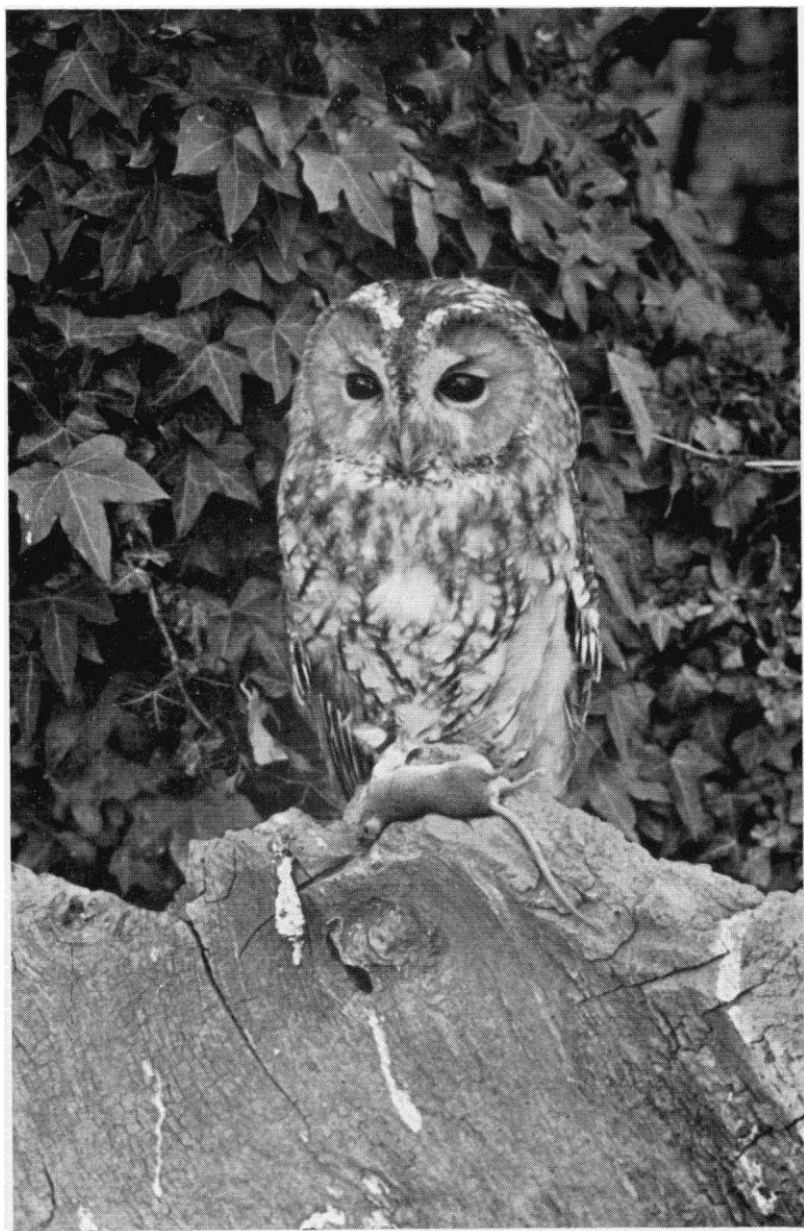
*Photo R. B. N. Bryant*

**I'll do it Roper. Convocation's knuckled under, Thomas**



**Bush-cricket : Southern France**

*Photo: R. B. N. Bryant*



*Photo: C. M. Swaine*

**Tawny Owl with Wood Mouse as prey**

v. BLOXHAM 2nd XV. Lost 0-9.

It was most unfortunate that the team lacked R. A. Sewell whose drive was much missed. G. F. Smith played conscientiously in his position, but the whole Rendcomb attack was stultified by the fact that the half-backs were not successfully together. The out-half had become used to R. W. Hole's shallow service and did not re-adjust himself to A. A. J. Raddon's deeper one. The consequence was that the three-quarters had no room to move. Against this well-organised opposition, individual breaks gained little ground. Fortunately for us the Bloxham scrum-half was incredibly slow. N. J. Green had an outstanding game; he was always on the move, always knowing what to do and doing it promptly.

Team: A. E. Hillier, R. B. N. Bryant, G. F. Smith, J. B. Marks, P. A. Trier, S. H. Shellswell, A. A. J. Raddon, J. J. Schwarzmantel, B. Pullen, N. J. Green, L. A. Webb, P. W. Hughes, J. A. Dow, C. G. Jefferies, F. R. Glennie.

v. WHITEFRIARS 1st XV. Lost 5 - 11.

The team was not at full strength because of the preparations for a play in College. Therefore we fielded a "next year's team" or a near equivalent. The game was played in appalling weather. With an extremely slippery ball the three-quarters attempted commendable passing movements, but these were unsuccessful. The score against us would not have been so large, had, in these conditions, the falling on the loose ball and the touch-kicking in defence been more determined.

Team: A. E. Hillier, R. B. N. Bryant, J. B. Marks, G. F. Smith, P. A. Trier, S. H. Shellswell, R. W. Hole, J. J. Schwarzmantel, B. F. Pullen, A. A. J. Raddon, N. J. Green, P. W. Hughes, J. A. Dow, L. A. Webb, R. J. Verge.

## **HOCKEY, 1965**

We began the term with few experienced players, and many newcomers were brought into the first game. At first there was a general lack of speed and cohesion, but once positions had been settled the play quickened considerably. Few people have the control to dribble with effect, and the ball has been passed quickly. General faults among the forwards have been lack of support and soft shooting, with over elaboration in the circle; the defence has sometimes been slow to cover, and clearing has often not been sufficiently hard or accurate.

At the halfway stage of the season the 1st XI still has no reliable centre forward. In four matches Edy, Hillier and Bryant have all been tried, and have been ineffective.

We were unfortunate to lose S. Greenlaw, last seasons' goalkeeper, for the first three matches. A. Cattermole replaced him; although his reactions were slow, he had a good idea of when to leave his goal, and his kicking improved steadily.

Verge at right back tackled well, but he was very slow in tackling back, and his stopping and hitting were not always reliable.

Harrop at left-half possesses considerable skill for so young a player, and his positional sense was good. If he can move faster and hit the ball harder, he will become very effective.

Centre half is an exacting position which Glennie has filled ably. He is not fast, and his passing has sometimes been vague, but he has good stickwork, and his long reach serves him well in tackling and intercepting.

Shellswell at right half was most reliable. His stopping was sure, and he had the ability to beat a tackler before passing the ball quickly and accurately.

Bryant, except for a brief spell at centre forward, was right wing. His chief asset was his speed; he centred hard, although sometimes too deep, but he did not bring the ball in and shoot as often as he might have done.

Little at inside right was the chief goal scorer; he worked hard, and was fast and direct.

Webb at inside left was quite skilled, but he was often too slow, and sometimes stayed too deep in defence.

Hillier eventually found a place on the left wing. He has got to realize that teamwork is the essence of good hockey. Although he has considerable ability, he hangs on to the ball far too long.

R. A. Sewell captained the side from left back. He is unquestionably a skilled player who shows great promise for the future. If occasionally he seems a little too deliberate in his play this is largely offset by excellent timing and a devastating clearing shot. He has captained the side thoughtfully and skilfully and deserves every success in the future.

Jan. 30th:

v. DEAN CLOSE 'A' XI. Lost 1-6.

Dean Close were fast and experienced; their speed of passing and switching of direction confused our defence.

Little equalised with a hard shot after twenty minutes, but thereafter, although we had a considerable amount of possession, we did not often look like scoring. Burman in goal was mesmerised by hard shooting, and only Bryant and Little of the forwards achieved much penetration.

Feb. 3rd.

v. BRISTOL UNIVERSITY 2nd XI. Won 2-1.

A very slippery pitch made movement difficult. We scored an early goal from a well placed shot by Little, and though a defensive muddle let in a soft equaliser, our circle was rarely threatened. Little scored again in the second half, and we could have had several more goals but for inaccurate shooting. Harrop at left half had an outstanding game, marking a dangerous wing well, and passing quickly and accurately.

Feb. 16th:

v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE. Lost 3-8.

On a magnificent pitch Cheltenham's forwards were altogether too fast and cohesive for our defence, of which only Shellswell consistently got the better of his man. At half time the score was 3-4; Little (2) and Webb had scored by good following up. In the second half our forwards tired, and though Cattermole played well in goal, Cheltenham's hard shooting brought four more goals.

Feb. 27th:

v. MONKTON COMBE 2nd XI. Lost 0-1.

This was a match which should have been won comfortably. The forwards had countless chances, which were squandered through very slow shooting, and a penalty flick was missed. The stopping and passing of the halves and backs was uncertain, and Verge at right back was desperately slow and fallible. A defensive error brought our opponents' only goal. In his first appearance of the season, Greenlaw kicked hard and high, and stopped the ball competently.

March 13th:

v. BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Won 1-0.

Shellswell was moved to centre forward in an attempt to increase our scoring power, with Schwarzmantel coming in at right half. Pullen replaced an off-form Verge at right-back, and Trier replaced Hillier on the left wing. Our defence was well on top throughout the game and provided our forwards



with many chances, which were wasted through slow and unimaginative play. The wings provided many good centres, but from these we only scored once, from a hard shot by Webb.

## **2nd XI:**

Partly as a result of the preponderance of young players in the 2nd XI this year, the team as a whole was inexperienced and rather lacking in the basic skills. Although it did quite well against the 1st XI in practice games, there was in matches a depressing absence of hard incisive play, and lack of speed in particular proved a major failing.

Against Bristol University Churchill XI, Rendcomb's attacking play of the first half, in which Jefferies scored a goal, collapsed after half-time, and the Bristol forwards exhibited shooting power absent from our own forward line. Cheltenham College Colts were much faster on the ball than we were, and this gave them the edge on our team all the time, although the defence played well under consistent pressure, and Edy scored our one goal.

In the match against King's School, Gloucester, not even the revolting condition of the pitch could excuse the lethargic play of the Rendcomb team, and there was a complete absence of skill or effort in all quarters.

## **Results:**

Feb. 3rd: v. BRISTOL UNIVERSITY CHURCHILL XI. Away. Lost 1-4.

Feb. 16th: v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE COLTS. Away. Lost 1-3.

Feb. 20th: v. MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE 3rd XI. Cancelled.

Feb. 24th: v. KING'S SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER 1st XI. Away. Lost 1-3.

## **Under 15 XI:**

During the rather longer period before the first fixture, the weather interfered with pitch practice less than in many seasons, and afforded more time in which to select the best talent. These practice games revealed an encouraging growth in playing ability, some of which was soon removed to the tougher proving ground of "first game."

The Marlborough fixture was cancelled due to snow, and the first match played was that against Monkton Combe, resulting in a win for the College by 5-4, after a very evenly

contested game. Though two goals down at half time, after a disastrous period when the defence wilted under pressure, the forwards showed more speed and shooting power in the circle than in previous seasons.

Against Bristol Grammar School the forwards continually thrust into the circle, and only some good saves kept the score down to a 3-0 win. The defence was rarely hard pressed but dealt with thrusts in a cooler and more efficient manner. The wing halves laid on their passes more constructively than in the previous match, and helped fill what might have been a dangerous gap in the middle, where the centre half was a game passenger through indisposition.

It is hoped to conclude a successful season with a rearranged match against King Edwards, Bath.

### LAMENT TO A LOST CAUSE

Would the Secretary please read the minutes of the Meeting held on June 1st, 1965. . . .

“As Priority Business the Meeting Bank Check was correct, showing a deficit of £173-4-3d. The Meeting Banker pointed out that Lloyds were threatening to close the account unless a proportion of the overdraft was paid, but the Meeting decided to postpone discussion on this question indefinitely. The Shop Bank Check was not given, since the Shop Banker, Senior Shopman, and the cash-box had all been absent for some time. The whereabouts of these was still not known. The Boys’ Bank Check still showed that no money was being banked. This has been the case ever since the disastrous slump of last term, when panic was caused by a 3/- excess.

The Rugby and Hockey Materials Checks were both correct, but the Cricket Games Warden announced that two pitches, 3rd and 4th game, were missing. Members were asked to keep a look-out for these.

The Light and Classical Records Checks were correct and the Classical Records Co. announced that two records could be bought this year, since they were both to be second hand 78’s; they hoped to obtain records 19 and 20 of a set of “Don Giovanni”, for which they had been saving up for some time.

As Breakages Business, a member asked if the Breakages Man was aware that the Classroom C blackboard had gone

berserk, shot off its rollers, and enveloped a member of the Staff. The Breakages Man said that he had handed a chit in to the Maintenance Engineer, but could do no more.

As business on the agenda the M. A. C. proposal for the week was that they should take over the entire Meeting. This, they believed, would ensure efficiency and make attendance unnecessary for the rest of the school. This was generally agreed to be a good idea. A vote was taken to make the proposal a concrete amendment, which was then made a concrete proposal and proposed as an amendment to the original proposal. All voting was unanimous, since only three people voted, and one of them with two hands. This ended business on the agenda, and after following a well-accustomed habit by voting itself a travelling-circus, a bull-fight and a bear-garden, the Meeting broke up amongst much growling and disorder.

“Is it with your pleasure that I sign these minutes as correct?”

“Yes, Mr. Chairman” chorused the voices of the two members.

“We will proceed with Priority business. Can I have the Meeting Bank Check. . . . ?”

H. M. P.

### THE GAME OF CHESS

Barshilov, gray tall and sparse, blinks behind spectacles, drags long sensitive fingers through dying hair.

His sharp features twitch, his neck is faintly bent in the struggle to concentrate: eyes are yellow with fatigue, head throbs dully, sweatlines discolour his crinkled brows.

The clock is a sinister moderator for his racing mind, which aches to force it into insignificance.

The endless marches of years and hours have both taken their toll, but no self pity can be allowed to jeopardise progress.

His hand hovers over the chequered squares, flirts with a yellowed ivory piece, swiftly transfers it a few diagonal inches.

A vague muttering from the watchers, a tenuous suggestion of lost opportunity and latent error, pumps through the external vacuum of his mind.

In momentary fear he shuts his eyes, for he

is not the giant he was, when others crumbled before his ruthless power and the divine concentration at his fingertips. But long use has blunted the razor, and now reasonable challenge is possible, survival is not unthinkable. The man knows, but the trained external impassivity hides the inner choking at the unfamiliar smell of inferiority. Opposite him Shaklin, ruddy cheeked, blond, immaculate, blue piercing eyes unblinking, visibly strong and ambitious. The waxing captain of the new offensive, still smooth and fresh after relentless hours of racking, tortuous thought. He has dared to challenge, and maintain his challenge, and now he senses subtle change, not in the game itself, but in Barshilov. Is there something..? and suddenly his conscience earthquakes to brilliant invincibility, his eager fingers whip in the attack. He withdraws, but Barshilov's frowns and the crowd's incredulity can do nothing. Bashilov straightens, acknowledges defeat, a fleeting smile, and despite numbness, walks proudly upright from the room. Shaklin receives polite congratulation, the prophet and messiah of the new age relaxes, clears his mind of complication. Barshilov has become a legend; the old order has changed, and the watchers have seen the advent of a new age.

R. A. S.

### **THE ART OF FAILING LATIN SUCCESSFULLY**

There are people in this world who get ones for Latin, who go into the examination in a state of happy confidence, secure in the knowledge that they can recite every Latin verb taking the dative, people for whom the partitive genitive holds no mysteries. This is not for them! This is directed at the miserable wretch who realises that, unless by some fluke the sentences contain only the hundred or so words of his basic vocabulary, and unless the translations are of a puerile simplicity he will fail.

The first paper contains two short translations and six sentences. The translations are of no significance. Anyone who cannot concoct a story from the title and from the few words which he can construe must be a moron. The sentences are far more important and it is here that a common misconception must be corrected. Many people think of the Latin examiners as mild, innocuous little men who are genuinely anxious that as many people as possible shall pass. This is fatal. The examiners may be mild, innocuous little men but Machiavelli was mild and innocuous too. The examiners in actual fact, want as many people as possible to *fail*. If too many people pass, some of them may take up Latin professionally and if they prove good at it, there will be a glut of Latin examiners with resultant unemployment. The examiners are not fools! A swift perusal of the sentences shows that they appear to have been taken from some tome on military strategy and that they contain such phrases as "he might have been thought to have been about to be killed" and "had we had more men we might have been able to be victorious." The first step in translating these is to fill in every word which is in the basic vocabulary. On a good paper there will be about fifteen of these. Then, reading through the translations again, every word or phrase which might fit into the sentences should be utilised. With luck only about a dozen gaps will now be left. These must be filled with any available word, regardless of meaning though in some cases English words can be easily Latinised. It does not take a Caesar to realise that the Latin, for say, a flask, must be either "flasca" or "botellus." The next stage is finding endings for the words. This is, in most cases, ridiculously simple, requiring only the instincts of a bookmaker. With nouns, in the first declension the odds are 7-5 that the ending will be -a or -ae. The second and third declensions are more complicated but -um, -us, -i, and -ibus used in rotation make the chances of error only 8-1 on. The fourth declension is always -us since odds against this are only 4-1. Verbs need more care but half an hour's practice at that long, kinky scrawl, which could be absolutely anything, will be found rewarding.

The first paper having been failed, the second is a mere formality. It consists of two long translations which, with the aid of imagination and a little common sense can be finished in half an hour. This leaves one and a half hours for drawing horses, writing to girls, listening to walnuts or merely dozing.

When the fateful letter arrives, some weeks later, it can be torn up unopened. The Latin scholar knows that the examiners have triumphed, their jobs are safe and in six months Caesar will again turn in his grave.

P. W. H.

### NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

In late January several members of the middle school collected a few owl pellets from beneath a Tawny Owl's roost in the Old Park and some more from a Barn Owl's roost near the lake. These pellets are ejected by birds of prey and contain the indigestible remains of their food. It is not difficult to identify the species of small mammals which have been eaten, but bird and insect remains present a greater problem.

Although the following results are based on the dissection of too few pellets to provide much useful information, they illustrate a technique which provides data not only on the kind of food taken by owls but also the small mammal inhabitants of the district.

	<i>Tawny Owl</i>	<i>Barn Owl</i>
Field Vole.....	5	13
Bank Vole.....	1	
Wood Mouse .....	10	12
House Mouse .....	1	
Common Shrew .....	1	13
Pygmy Shrew .....		2
Birds (finches) .....		3
No. of pellets dissected...	15	12

### The present status of wild mammals in the Rendcomb district:

#### Insectivora:

HEDGEHOG (*Erinaceus europaeus*): Common in woods, parkland, gardens, etc.

MOLE (*Talpa europaea*): Abundant and apparently increasing at present.

COMMON SHREW (*Sorex araneus*): Very common all over the area.

PYGMY SHREW (*Sorex minutus*): Frequently reported round the College, in Lower Rendcomb etc., and probably generally distributed.

WATER SHREW (*Neomys fodiens*): Noted by the Churn occasionally but records few.

### **Chiroptera:**

WHISKERED BAT (*Myotis mystacinus*): No certain record for three or four years, but probably overlooked.

NOCTULE (*Nyctalus noctula*): Quite plentiful and often to be seen flying high on fine summer evenings.

PIPISTRELLE (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*): Our most plentiful bat, sometimes on the wing in winter.

BARBASTELLE (*Barbastella barbastellus*): No record for several years.

COMMON LONG-EARED BAT (*Plecotus auritus*): Appears to be not uncommon. (The long-eared bats of Europe have recently been found to comprise two species, *P. auritus* and the grey long-eared bat, *P. austriacus*. The latter's distribution in Britain is not yet known. )

### **Carnivora:**

FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*): Still plentiful, for so large an animal, and the decimation of rabbits by myxomatosis in 1954 seemed not to reduce the number of foxes much. Presumably they turned more to voles and mice for food.

STOAT (*Mustela erminea*): A marked reduction in numbers followed the decrease in rabbits, and stoats are still rather scarce. A white Ermine was seen in Rendcomb early in 1964-

WEASEL (*Mustela nivalis*): Still fairly numerous.

BADGER (*Meles meles*): The celebrated badgers of Conigre Wood moved to the Old Park when Conigre was thinned, but some have now taken up residence again in "sett A" in Conigre Wood. Other setts are to be seen in the Aycote valley, Pen Hill, the valley behind Marsden Manor, etc.

OTTER (*Lutra lutra*): Seen occasionally along the Churn. The most recent record is of one on the bridge below the Mill House, Rendcomb, on September 6th, 1964.

### **Artiodactyla:**

FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama*): A steady increase of deer in Withington and Chedworth Woods has resulted in measures

being taken to reduce their population, but they are still numerous and frequently wander as far as Cliffterdine and Pen Hill. A few very dark individuals may sometimes be seen. Fallow Deer also occur in the woods of Cirencester Park.

CHINESE MUNTJAC (*Muntiacus reevesi*): This, or its hybrid with the Indian species *M. muntjak*, escaped from Woburn Park some years ago and has been spreading. These little deer have been seen in Withington Woods during the past two or three years and Mr. Ben Legg has reported them several times recently from Cliffterdine Wood.

### **Lagomorpha:**

BROWN HARE (*Lepus capensis*): Increase noted after the rabbit declined in numbers, and it occurs now more frequently than formerly in woods as well as on grassland.

RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*): Become quite scarce after the myxomatosis pandemic of 1954, but is now much more common again, although the big warrens of former years have not been re-established and the animal is nowhere near as abundant as it used to be.

### **Rodentia:**

RED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus vulgaris*): No record for twenty years or so (grey squirrels sometimes show a lot of brown fur.)

GREY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*): Quite common.

WOOD MOUSE (*Apodemus sylvaticus*): Very common in woods, gardens, bushy places, etc.

YELLOW-NECKED MOUSE (*Apodemus flavicollis*): Repeatedly trapped or killed by cats round the Stable Block and at the Mill House. Wider distribution in the district unknown.

HOUSE MOUSE (*Mus musculus*): Common at farms and in some houses.

BROWN RAT (*Rattus norvegicus*): Locally plentiful especially in the vicinity of farms.

BANK VOLE (*Clethrionomys glareolus*): Appears to be fairly numerous and is probably widely spread in suitable habitats.

WATER VOLE (*Arvicola terrestris*): Common along the Churn, at Rendcomb and Colesborne Lakes and on the Coin.

FIELD VOLE (*Microtus agrestis*): Abundant in grassland and low scrub.

C. M. SWAINE



## OLD BOYS' NOTES

The Headmaster has asked me to take over the task— formerly in the hands of Mr. Tooze—of maintaining contact with the Old Boys society. I shall shortly be discussing with C. J. Brisley the best methods of carrying out this work. Meanwhile I shall be very glad to have news of Old Boys. Little has come to hand so far this term, but some news is given below.

\* \* \*

Bryan Glastonbury has become a lecturer in Social Administration at University College, Swansea.

\* \* \*

Raymond Butler has become manager of the Westminster Bank at Winscombe, Somerset.

\* \* \*

John Gooch informs us that he has a son, born last October 29th.

\* \* \*

Hugh Gough kept goal for Oxford University Association Football XI for a period while the regular goalkeeper was injured.

\* \* \*

John Webb has played hockey regularly at centre forward for Cambridge University and scored both goals for his side in the University match.

\* \* \*

Michael Petter who entered the Administrative Class of the Civil Service in 1959 is now a Principal. He has recently become engaged to Miss Eve Leakey of Cambridge.

\* \* \*

To all of these we offer our congratulations.

J. C. JAMES