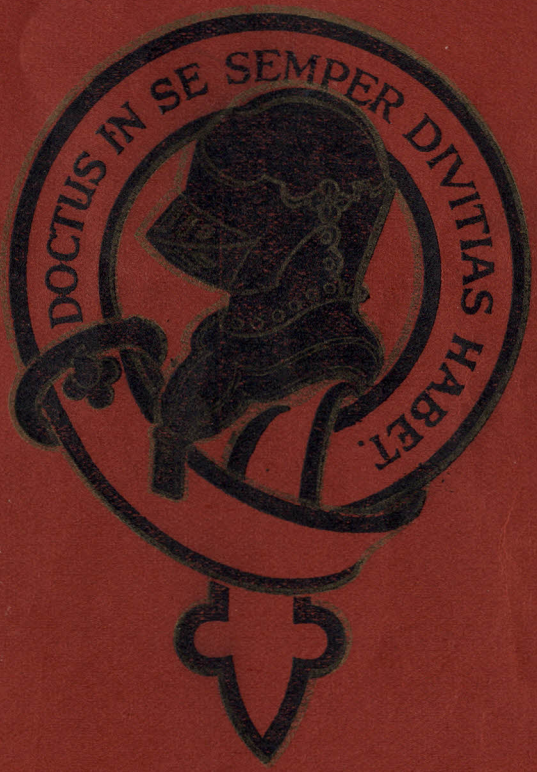
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Calendar

Autumn Term began	September 2nd.
Half Term	October 31st and November 1st.
Autumn Term ends	December 20th.
Spring Term begins	Tuesday, January 7th, 1958.
Half Term	February 17th, 18th and 19th.
Spring Eerm ends	April 2nd.
Summer Term begins	April 21st.

Editorial

THIS term, or at least much of its first half, must surely go down into history as the one in which we were ' under the influence,' though not, we must hasten to add, in the police court sense. But those who first gave a name to the depressing and prostrating distemper called influenza, which at its peak affected some forty per cent. of our number, spoke perhaps wiser than they knew. Wherever Asian 'flu originated—whether in Malaya or even further east—it certainly proved itself a highly disruptive force, upsetting both our work and our games, and leaving several forms looking something like the roll-call after Balaclava. While the bug or virus found many victims among our democracy, the Staff emerged almost unscathed. No doubt some moral may be drawn from this, though we modestly refrain from drawing it. Shortly before half-term sputniks replaced microbes as talking points, and both in their turn have been swept into oblivion by the cheerful onset of Christmas. After a half-term holiday coming against all tradition at the end instead of at the beginning of a week (and seeming somewhat unreal and illusory in consequence), a taste of fog and frost seemed to banish the oriental and muscovite vanities of the earlier phases of the term. It was wholesome and reassuring to forsake these novelties for the good old practices of the coming festive season; to celebrate November 5 as a reminder both of the jollier sort of rocket and of the coming of winter which we in England have always contrived to make a companionable and zestful time. As one more autumn term draws to its close and we await the delights of Christmas, we shall not worry overmuch about earlier tribulations. If each successive number of the *Visor* proves one thing above all, it is that every term comes out all right in the end. And, although there are many good reasons for the continued publication of so successful a School magazine as ours, it is surely finally vindicated by this: as it comes off the presses in the last days of a long term, it becomes the symbol of optimism and endurance through many problems and difficulties, and of assured triumph as the curtain falls.

Salvete

4A—Steadman, H. G.

3B—Harding, K. C.; Lannigan, M.; Oxton, J. E.; Roberts, D.; Roberts, G.; Buchanan, J. S.

1A—Archard, A. J. F.; Armstrong, I. G.; Blair, A.; Campbell-Kelly, M.; Case, E. R.; Cooke, R.; Duncan, I. M.; Edbrooke, P. A.; Eden, C. J.; Gethin, A.; Green, F. W.; Hamlet, J.; Hart, J. D.; Hodgson, G. W.; Hodgson, T. V.; Hollaseter, G. M.; Hughes, J. S.; Jacobs, M. A.; Jones, M. J.; Kellett, J. F.; Llewellyn, R. G.; McLaren, D. P.; McLoughlin, R. H.; McManus, T. J.; Morgan, R.; Parry, D. W.; Pulford, M. C.; Smith, L. K.; Swift, T. P.; Wade, W. J.; Winder, W. M.; Yates, L. E.

1B—Anders, K.; Anderton, A.; Birchall, D. D.; Blythe, W. K.; Brown, G.; Davies, D. J.; Dixon, R. N.; Dodd, R. C.; Fitch, E.; Graham, T. J.; Hill, B. J.; Hughes, D.; Jones, M. G.; Knight, A. R.; Landsborough, J.; Latham, A. J.; Maskery, D. E.; Millardship, D. H.; Murray, B. J.; Page, J. M.; Quail, R. F.; Randles, J. M.; Ratcliff, D. R.; Stewart, G. M.; Thurgill, A. R.; Willan, A. K.; Wilson, A. R.

Valete

U6—Allsop, J.; Hopner, K. R.; Jones, J.; Jones, T. R.; Kellett, C. V.; Lythgoe, P. J.; Mathews, D. A.; Newcombe, J. R.; Roberts, R. J.; Walsh, T. J.

5A—Blackwell, R. R.; Duggan, G. B.; Edge, D.; Holmes, W. B.; McIntosh, I. M.; Moore, E.; Morgan, J. F.; Needham, J.; Quinn, M. C.; Rimmer, G.; Simms, G. E.

5B—Atherton, N.; Collins, N. S.; Dixon, R. A.; Green, A. E.; Harrison, L. B.; Hughes, C. E.; Irwin, P. L.; Jones, T.; Lumb, W. D.; Motley, N. E.; Moyes, W. D.; Murtagh, G. M.; Nelson, K. M.; Parker, G.; Robinson, P. J.; Snowden, R. W.; Sykes, L. R.; Uytendhal, K.; Wild, P. M.

4A—Myers, C. J.

4B—Hartigan, A. J.

Staff Notes

THIS term we welcomed two new masters to the Staff. Mr. Anderson, who has joined us to teach Chemistry, is an Old Boy of Wirral Grammar School, where he was a member of the 1st XV. He was at Liverpool University between 1951 and 1955, where he took the B.Sc. degree with honours in Chemistry. During his period of national service he was a radio technician with the Royal Corps of Signals. Mr. Dalton, who has replaced Mr. Allan in the English department, was educated at Park High School, and then proceeded to Birmingham University, where, in 1951, he gained his B.A. degree with honours in English. He has had varied and interesting experience since, in industry as well as in the school of Russian studies at London University, finally taking the Diploma in Education in Liverpool in 1955. Both Mr. Anderson and Mr. Dalton have already taken a keen interest in various activities and we wish them every success.

Although we have had many '**Assistants**' in French attached to us in recent years, Monsieur Montangerand is the first graduate of the University of Algiers to come here. We trust his twelve months' sojourn in a climate so different will prove to be a happy one. As far as the School is concerned, he has settled down very quickly among us, and shows a broad tolerance of our Anglo-Saxon ways.

Examination Results

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION 1957.

English Language	Lang.
English Literature	Lit.
History	H.
Geography	G.
Art	A.
Latin	L.
French	F.
Mathematics	M.
Physics	P.
Chemistry	C.
Woodwork	W.
Biology	B.

ORDINARY LEVEL.

5A.

Blackwell, R. R.—Lit, H, F, M, P, C; Blaylock, P. A.—Lang, Lit, A, F, M, P, C; Boyd E. F.—Lang, Lit, H, G, F; Brocklebank, D. —Lang, Lit, H, F; Burdett, F.—Lang, Lit, F; Colley, C. E.—H, F, C; Duggan, G. B.—Lang, Lit, A, F, M, C; Edge, D.—Lang, F; Evans, P. G.—Lang, H, A, P;; Greaves, G. K.—Lang, Lit, G, M, P; Harris, D. —Lang, Lit, F, M, P, C; Harris, T. H.—Lang, Lit, F, M, P, C; Holmes, W. B.—Lang, A, F, M, P, C; Jackson, A. H.—Lang, Lit, G, C; Kay, A. W.—Lang, G, F, M, P; Keating, W.—A, F; Lomax, P. A.—Lang, Lit, A, F; McIntosh, I. M.—H; McTear, G.—Lang, Lit, H, G, L, F, M, P, C; Marshall, I. D. H.—Lang, Lit, H, G, F, P; Moore, E.— Lang, F, M; Morgan, J. F.—Lang, A, L; Morton, D. B.—Lang, Lit, A, F, M, P; Needham, J.—Lang, A, F, M; Quinn, M. G.—Lang, F, M, P; Rimmer, G.—Lang, A, M, P; Simms, G. E.—Lang, M, P; Thomas, A.—Lang, F, M, P; Williams, C.—Lang, G, F, M, P, C; Wylie, D. W. M.—Lang, Lit, H, G, F, M, P, C.

5B.

Charters, D. M.—M; Collins, N. S.—M; Dixon, R. A.—Lang, G, A, F; Green, A. E.—G, M; Harrison, L. B.—Lang; Irwin, P. L.—M; Lamb, W. D.—Lang, F, M, W; Motley, W. E.—Lang, G, A; Murtagh, C M.—Lang, M; Nelson, K. M.—Lang, G; Parker, G.—Lang, A, M; Robinson, P. J.—Lang; Simpson, A. J.—Lang, M; Snowdon, R. W.— Lang; Sykes, L. R.—M, W; Turner, C. J.—Lang, A, M; Wild, P. M.— A; Wood, J. E.—Lang, W; Woods, E. A.—Lang, A, F.

ADVANCED LEVEL.

Allsopp, J.—B, C; Hopner, K. R.—M, P, C; Jones, P.—M, P· Kellett, C. V.—G, C, B; Lythgoe, P. J.—P; Mathews, D. A.—M, P; Newcombe, J. R.—M, P, C; Roberts, R. J.—Lit, H, F; Walsh, T. J.— Lit, H (Distinction), F.

Coronation Cup 1956-57

Events.	Atkin.	Stitt.	Tate.	Westminster.
Athletics	3rd ... 2	4th ... 0	2nd ... 4	1st ... 6
Chess	4th ... 0	2nd ... 2	3rd ... 1	1st ... 3
Cricket	4th ... 0	3rd ... 2	2nd ... 4	1st ... 6
Cross-Country	1st ... 6	3rd ... 2	4th ... 0	2nd ... 4
Xmas Exams.	3rd ... 3	1st ... 9	4th ... 0	2nd ... 6
Summer Exams.	3rd ... 3	1st ... 9	2nd ... 6	4th ... 0
Rugby	2nd ... 4	3rd ... 2	1st ... 6	4th ... 0
TOTAL	18 points.	26 points.	21 points.	25 points.
POSITIONS ...	4th	1st	3rd	2nd

School Trip to Belgium, 1957

LAST August, as has been customary during past years, a group of boys from the School spent a part of the Summer holidays on the Continent. This year we went to Belgium where, with the encouragement of nine days' glorious weather, we toured around, and enjoyed the interesting and often beautiful sights of this small country.

The party of thirty-one boys together with Mr. Malcolm and Mr. and Mrs. Hughes caught the night train from Liverpool to London, and had an early breakfast in the still sleepy capital. Then, before entraining at Victoria, we made a lightning tour of the more famous sights of the city.

The remainder of the day was spent in journeying to Dover, making a smooth passage across an unusually tranquil Channel, and reaching Ostend. Thence we took a motor-coach to the Hotel Littoral at Blankenberge, which was our destination. Dinner and an early night then appeared to agree with most.

Blankenberge is well-known for its facilities, and the next day we separated according to taste. In the morning, several of us went along the beach to Zeebruge, and spent an enjoyable half-hour in the Great War Museum there. Afterwards, many made the most of the brilliant sunshine, invigorating sea-air, and golden sands, while others strolled leisurely along the promenade past the pier and casino to the shopping centre. There they toured the various shops, looking at souvenirs and gaping incredulously at the intricate and often amazing confectionery which is 'constructed' in Belgium.

On the next day, Friday, we renewed our acquaintance witt the coach, and sped along the autostrade through the rolling plains of Flanders. This is a main road where speed is unlimited, where cyclists and pedestrians are forbidden without a special pass, and where cross-roads are taken either under or over the main highway. It is also a popular testing-area for racing-car companies. We passed through Bruges with its narrow streets and shops filled with beautiful lace, and came to Hekelgem, famous for its breweries and some fine paintings in coloured sands. After lunch in Brussels, we toured the capital, and then, via the Foret de Soignes, we journeyed to Waterloo and inspected in the commemorating mausoleum a panorama depicting Wellington's famous victory. Then our trip took us unto the rising country of the Meuse Valley to Namur, the "Gateway to the Ardennes," where we made a short stop, but as evening drew nearer we had to continue, and towards seven o'clock we swooped down into Dinant to the Hotel des Postes, our destination and resting-place for several days.

Dinant is a small, picturesque town, nestling on the banks of the Meuse between the towering, thickly wooded hillsides, on one of which is perched the early nineteenth century Citadelle, completely dominating the town. The whole valley appears to be shut off from the world, and the dreamy Meuse casts an air of peace, beauty and solitude.

The weather was still fine, and on Saturday morning we travelled by motor-launch up the Meuse to Anseremme and then back for lunch. The afternoon was interesting, for we made a disturbing journey in a chair-lift up a steep cliff-face to the Tour de Montfort, and from there we went to the Citadelle and looked around its fascinating interior with its relics of the Napoleonic Wars. Later on in the afternoon a party visited the new six-million francs' worth of bathing pool known as the Lido, while several others enjoyed themselves on the pedal-boats and canoes on the river. A very popular amusement in the Belgian holiday resorts seemed to be miniature golf, and the course in Dinant was acknowledged by most of us to be a formidable and tantalizing one. Many an hour and not a few francs were spent in coaxing a ball over, under, or round the obstacles.

Sunday was by far the best and busiest day of the whole holiday. Having risen early, we set out by coach for the French frontier via Beauraing and Gedinne. At the frontier we stopped at a cafe before continuing through Membre and Chairiere along tree-lined country roads, with their countless wayside shrines, to Rochehaut. The vistas of this part of the country were enchanting, but we could not stop long to enjoy them; we crossed the twisting Semois and proceeded to Bouillon, where we encountered the first rain of the holiday, but luckily we were lunching , and soon the skies were cloudless again. A conducted tour of the castle of Geoffrey de Bouillon, a famous crusader, proved to be interesting, even though its fittings were somewhat grisly. From Bouillon we made our way back to Rochefort and there toured the five-hundred-and-forty-foot grotto, at the bottom of which flows part of the River Lom. The varied rock formations were quite beautiful.

Towards evening we returned and entered Dinant by passing through the natural cleft distinguishing the Bayard Rock from the main mass of rock. Our coach-driver, Sebastien, succeeded first time in passing through the cleft, although there was barely an inch or so clearance on each side of the coach.

Monday was also spent in driving round the countryside and visiting the grotto at Han-sur-Lesse. This grotto was similar to the one at Rochefort except that the exit was via a river. On Tuesday morning we made our last farewells and were really sorry to leave this town, which had proved to be as entertaining at night as it was

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beautiful in the day. We returned to Blankenberge over the old battle-fields of Mons, Tournai, and Courtrai.

The last day, Wednesday, we spent in making final purchases, taking snapshots, and spending what francs remained to us. That night, being the last, was the most enjoyed by all, even though it was the eve of our departure for home. On the return journey everybody was sorry to leave, although the sight of the white cliffs of Dover produced an air of nostalgia. The Channel was passive, and raincoats were still a burden. We finally arrived home at Liverpool at about 10 p.m., having concluded a fine holiday of which there will be many memories in the numerous photographs which were taken.

R.A.S.

What Next?

DID you know that an exhibition of pictures painted by two chimpanzees was held in London at the Dover Street Galleries during this autumn? I can assure you that this is a fact; for "the Critics" solemnly discussed this evidence of simian competence in the arts at 12-30 p.m. in the Home Service on September 29, and I need scarcely tell you that they are quite incapable (though clever enough in other ways) of pulling your leg. What is more, they did not denounce the Dover Street affair either as a monstrous fraud or a laughable absurdity. On the contrary, they were at pains to point out that, while Jacko's work hid a post-Picasso slant, Sambo tended more to pre-Raphaelitism of the Siamese School. All this inflicted a profound shock upon me, and one of my recent nightmares, where a gorilla appeared as the guest of honour at a Royal Academy Banquet, was not solely caused by a lobster salad supper.

Do not misunderstand either my astonishment or my misgiving; for I have a very high opinion of animals, and, after being owned and ruled by a longish dynasty of cats, know them to be capable of pretty well anything. In the days before America turned comics into a Gun Man's Gazette, I used to read a pretty little coloured periodical in which a Mrs. Bruin was the Principal of a school whose pupils were Tiger Tim, Jumbo, Joey the Parrot, Willie Ostrich, and the rest. For all I know, they are still there, and good luck to them. All this seemed quite credible to me, and I found no sense of strain in following the Bruin saga. If it wasn't true, then it ought to be. Looked at like that, I don't suppose it did me much harm, and, as Mrs. Bruin's pupils never allowed work to interrupt their joie de vivre, it was either a true picture of school life or an improvement on schools in general, according to how you liked to look at it. But the point was that it was all a glorious joke, and no solemn bore felt

compelled to assure me that Mr. Bruin was a Ph.D. Again let me remind you that animals have been in the space-travel business for longer than I care to remember. For example,

"Hey diddle-diddle, the cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon."

You see. The cow did not say (with the Astronomer-Royal) that he might get there in ten years; nor did he need a sputnik for the trip; nor did he merely arrive and then worry about the return journey. He jumped over the thing at one go, settled it once and for all, and made Soviet science look like tortoise racing. And don't miss in passing that feline virtuoso of the violin who provided the incidental music for the cow. The poem says nothing of this cat's studies in the Guildhall School, nor whether he got a Mus.B. in the end. No; the whole business was a glorious lark, sheer exuberance, as the conclusion of the poem proves:—

"The little dog laughed to see such fun,
And the dish ran away with the spoon."

But this "fine careless rapture" in the animal kingdom in which I believed without effort once (and pray, despite my sins, I may come to believe as innocently again) is threatened by "the men of measured merriment," who now no sooner see a cat fiddling, or an ape painting in oils, or an elephant writing poetry, than they seek to put the whole thing on a professional footing, to look for Schools and Movements, to introduce into the high spirits of the jungle the fury and malice of criticism. I think this is likely to be bad for the animals themselves and even worse for us. Not that I am worried about the Art world so much; for artists are a tough lot, and can usually look after themselves. Once Jacko can be trained sufficiently to jeer at the canvases of Sambo, once the tree tops of Malabar have caught the trick of mutual abuse (without which no art can flourish); once Micky the Post-Impressionist Orang Outang R.A. can express in scream and grimace his refined contempt for any painting which resembles in any remote degree the thing painted, then I think the rest of us could slip away quietly, while the neo-Chelsea baboons murder each other at leisure and in private. But there are other fields in which I am not so certain of so satisfactory an issue. A leopardess appearing as prima-donna at Covent Garden with the full equipment of temperamental sulks is not going to be a pretty sight, especially if she finishes up by eating the conductor and the glockenspiel man. Nor do I fancy there will be much harmony left in the Ryder Cup when foxes go round in sixty by the simple expedient of lifting all the other chaps' golf balls, or at Le Mans if some ace cheetah kicks the bottom out of his Ferrari and reaches the winning

post first on foot. Apart from the stars, what will happen to the rest of us in competition with the bestial rank and file? How will you fare, brother, when your rival for that insurance job turns out to be a tiger with ten subjects at the ordinary and three at the advanced level? And remember that such academic competence will be well within the range of any really determined gang of wild cats who take the General Certificate; for they could introduce text-books, cribs, and notes into the examination hall with impuuity. At all events I should like to see any invigilator who is going to stop them.

Let us be warned in time and leave the animals alone in their world of frolic. All those geniuses of creation, the shaggy dogs, the horses who read 'Gone with the Wind,' the ventriloquist pigs, Alderman Count Curly Wee of Fur and Feather Town; the titans of "The Rainbow" and "The Beans," permit them to continue their particular line of fun without the intrusion of pedants and improvers. Once they catch on to the idea that we poor mortals regard their activities as competitive with ours, we shall be done for. Let us be warned in time! Already the flying saucers prove that pussy cats are on the march and establishing milk-depots in outer space. Let us stick to our old familiar and minor bogeys, the Yellow Peril, the Communist menace, influenza, and the staggering pound. Heaven defend us from the fearful (and invincible) new menaces which our Critics are even now creating for annihilation—the international league of Pumas with first class degrees, the secret society of Marxist vultures, and a Touring XV. of Rhinoceroses!

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THIS term has seen the introduction of "Songs of Praise" as the School Hymn Book, and this will eventually replace the old hymnal which has been in use for twenty years. Time will resolve immediate discrepancies between the two collections, both in regard to numbering and to the texts of the hymns. While the newly formed choir assists very competently in easing the difficulties of transition, the rest of the School must remember that it exists to lead and not to supplement their singing.

* * *

The usual autumn concert for schools given by the Royal Philharmonic Society was held on the morning of September 26, not in the Y.M.C.A. building as in former years, but in the hall of the Technical College. This involved a longer trek for the School, with some expert guidance as to the best among a bewildering variety of possible routes. Fortunately the weather was kind, but on a bad day pursuit of overture and symphony might damp even our zeal, which brought us before the College portals on this inaugural occasion with such promptitude as to catch its guardians unawares.

* * *

We cannot turn from music to other matters without placing on record the appointment of Old Instonian Dr. Caleb Jarvis to the post of City Organist in Liverpool. Dr. Jarvis had already been responsible for the specification in the rebuilding of the famous organ in St. George's Hall, and was one of the recitalists at its reopening earlier this year. In offering him the warmest congratulations of his old School, we venture to make two observations. Firstly, this is an outstanding appointment in the musical world; for in their day the City Organists of Liverpool, Best, Peace and Ellingford, were recognised leaders in their profession and universally admired. Secondly, that an Old Instonian should worthily take his place in this distinguished succession is a matter for very real pride and a reminder —where this is necessary—of the signal contributions of Birkenhead Institute to the life of Merseyside.

TO begin with, J. Gurden recalls some happy memories of summer in his account of

A HOLIDAY IN SOMERSET.

During the summer holidays I went to spend two weeks with my grand parents, who live in Porlock near Minehead. I left Liverpool one morning at five-thirty, and after an interesting but uneventful journey I arrived at Minehead in the late afternoon. My grandmother and my cousin, who was also there on holiday, met me at the station, and we all travelled the seven miles to Porlock in a coach. From my grandparents' house I could not see the famous Porlock Hill, but on a clear day South Wales was visible across the Bristol Channel.

All around Porlock, mountain streams are to be found, and during my holidays I often fished in them, on one occasion catching three brown trout and two seals; I threw the eels back, because they were useless, but the trout made a very palatable supper. One day I visited Dunster, which has a famous old castle. This castle was beseiged during the Civil War, and even to-day a bullet may be seen embedded in a six-inch-thick oak door.

On another occasion I went across Exmoor to Lynton and Lynmouth. To reach these places the coach had to cross the border of Somerset and Devon, on which there was a farm which also served as a cafe and souvenir shop; the coach stopped there for fifteen minutes to allow its passengers to walk around and look at the beautiful landscape. We soon continued on our way to Lynmouth, the scene of some dreadful floods, down Countisbury Hill with its gradient of one in four: this was quite steep compared with the one-in-seven gradient of Porlock Hill. Once arrived at Lynmouth we took the cable train, which hauled us up to Lynton, where we spent an enjoyable afternoon. However, the time soon came to start back, and on the return journey over the moors, we saw several ponies and large herds of sheep.

The rest of the two weeks passed very quickly, and, before I realised, it was time to go home, and so, having bought all my presents and souvenirs, I boarded the train for home, filled with the satisfaction which only a good holiday gives.

And, to conclude, R. Meacock tells us about

LIFE ON A FARM.

One day in August I left the humdrum of the city behind to spend one week on a farm in central Cheshire; it was a large dairy-farm nestling on the edge of a large wood of pinetrees. I was welcomed by Farmer Brown, who, true to the tradition of rural folk, offered me a huge meal of bacon, eggs, and home-grown peas, followed by a dessert of fruit and fresh cream.

After lunch we both went into the fields to do some harvesting. It was very hard and hot work, but finally we had cut all the corn and stacked it in his Dutch barn, where many field-mice scampered back and forth, looking for a place to make their winter home. By this time it was getting late, and so, feeling tired but satisfied, we tramped back to the farmhouse, where a hearty supper was awaiting us.

Early next morning we rose, milked the cows, and attended to the poultry: this all had to be done before breakfast. After that I was free to wander around, breathing in the fragrant smell of newly-mown hay, and playing with the bats in the eaves. However, I was not always inactive; for the farmer often had an odd job for me to do

This life was typical of my whole stay at the farm, but just before leaving for home I went with Farmer Brown to the pine woods, and there we spent an exciting afternoon felling the tall trees to be used as firewood. And so after such pleasant experiences I did not look forward to my return to the big noisy city with its smoke and, traffic, but School was calling, and I had to come back.

3B.

WE begin with Watson's

THE COWAL GAMES.

" The Cowal Games " are held every four years in Dunoon, and I was fortunate enough in having the exciting xperience of seeing them. There were cycle championships, tossing the caber, athletics, and Highland dancing.

Here I saw Macfay, the Scottish caber champion, tossing it to a height of thirty-seven feet and to a distance of fifty-three feet. Macfay has also held the cycle championship for the last eight years. I was also lucky enough to see Peter Buchan, one of the greatest Scotsmen in the 880 yards, and Patterson, the champion Highland dancer.

The hammer-throwing did not take place in the stadium because the ground is not large enough, but I had the pleasure of photographing a few other champions and ex-champions, and especially those participating in the cycle race. After all the events, each of which is open to any competitor, were over, there was the famous March Past of the thousand pipers. Actually there were supposed to be ten different clans, each represented by one hundred pipers, but as over twenty-five clans sent representatives the scene was much more impressive. In all I had a most enjoyable day, but one which was rather expensive; for I used six rolls of film.

We continue with an article by Quinn, who takes us round

LONDON AIRPORT.

This summer I had a week's holiday in Slough, twenty miles south of London. I travelled there by motor coach, thinking of the highlight of my visit, a trip to London Airport.

We set out on a fine Friday afternoon and caught a bus to Windsor Castle. From there we caught another bus straight to London Airport. When we alighted, we caught a glimpse of a vast tarmacadam area. There was, however, still another bus to be caught. It took us through a tunnel, under the airfield, and so to the control tower, which was an immense building, and, without exaggeration, quite three times the size of Birkenhead Town Hall.

No wonder it was large. It contained a cinema, three cafes, roof gardens, children's playgrounds, shops, and other places of rest or recreation. The sight of planes landing in streams and others takng off, and brightly coloured coaches taking passengers to their planes, was breath taking. There were Americans, Swiss, Swedes, Czechoslovaks, and people of all other nationalities. And even Russia had her share of the limelight; for I was fortunate enough to see the first Russian passenger airliner to land in London.

As I gazed out over the airfield, I thought how lucky I was to be visiting London airport at that most interesting time.

We conclude with Thomas's article which he entitles,

IN SEARCH OF IRELAND.

Northern Ireland might be described as an island itself; for it has its own parliament which sits in a very fine building. The actual buildings present a most mpressive sight, as they stand on top of a hill in the beautiful Stormont grounds.

Inside the building, we enter a spacious hall, which is mainly used for banquets and other social occasions. From the ceiling are

suspended weighty gold chandeliers, and on the ceiling also many patterns are worked in gold. The doors are made of walnut, and although they are inches thick, they were all made from the same tree. The long flights of steps were hewn from the Mourne Mountains at Newcastle, a few miles away.

On looking into the hall used as the main chambers of the House of Commons, we can see that the seats are covered in a light blue material, and in the ceiling are concealed lights giving a day-like effect. These buildings, when first built, were valued at eight million pounds, but are now worth considerably more. The buildings are continually patrolled by armed police, for fear of marauders from the Free State.

2A.

A. McINTYRE tells us about

THE QUEENSFERRY FERRIES.

The town of Queensferry is situated on the Firth of Forth at a distance of about nine miles from the city of Edinburgh. This small town, however, commands the lowest crossing-point on the Forth and might well be named the "Gateway to the Highlands." If it is not so now, it soon will be, as bores have already been sunk for the fuondations of a new road-bridge.

There are three ferry-boats, appropriately named after figures in Scottish history. They are called "Robert the Bruce," "William Wallace," and "Mary Queen of Scots." They are trim little craft with propellers and rudder at each end to permit manoeuvring in a small space. On each side of the captain's bridge, which is almost in the centre of the ship, there are the familiar red and green navigation lights which can be changed when the ship turns round. Each ship has a turntable to allow large vehicles to get aboard. They have powerful motors which give them a good turn of speed when crossing, often in the shadow of the mighty Forth Bridge.

It is a shame that at this sleepy town, where there have been ferries since Roman times, the little craft will no longer ply across the waters. Instead, a suspension bridge will take all traffic, and the little ferries will be no more.

We conclude with a description by J. Morris of

ST. DAVID'S AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE.

St. David's in Pembrokeshire is the smallest city in Great Britain. The Cathedral is quite old with some stone figures from the tops of tombs dating from 1461. Part of the ceiling has a very

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WESTMINSTER.

AT the completion of the last School year, Westminster were leading Stitt in the Coronation Cup competition by eight points. It was, therefore, somewhat of a disappointment when Westminster took last place in the summer examination, and, with Stitt gaining the maximum nine points, the House thus finished in second place. Congratulations, Stitt!

This term, Westminster have pulled together and have the determination to win this coveted trophy by a decisive margin. The first events on the Calendar were the senior rugby matches, in which Westminster was narrowly beaten by Tate, 12—6, but Tate will surely agree that they had to fight for this victory. A comfortable win over Stitt by 21—3 followed. Meanwhile the Juniors played their three matches and won them decisively, registering a total of 111—3. Mention must here be made of Steedman, who played extremely well throughout and gained some sixty of these points.

The result of the final Senior match was of great importance; for the House needed only a draw to win the rugby section of the competition outright. The mighty Atkin, who had beaten Tate, and whose team consisted of seven of the School pack and two of its backs, looked a formidable opposition, but the House was determined to win, or, at least, go down fighting. The House here extends its thanks to Atkin for a good, clean game, played in excellent spirit, and, although it gained a lead of five points from an early error in the opposition defence, the House was forced to hold on to its lead until the final whistle. This final victory, gained largely by the splendid tackling of the whole team, put Westminster at the top of the rugby competition.

The senior chess matches were also played this term, and the House was victorious in all three. It is, therefore, up to the Junior team to do likewise.

Westminster can be proud of its results this term, but must endeavour to do even better in the future, when the fate of the Coronation Cup for 1957-58 will be settled.

P.J.S.

Scientia

THIS term's epic has been gathered from the events of a session of man catastrophes. The impact of Asian 'flu germs in bulk reduced the School's population alarmingly. Indeed, in some quarters fears were expressed that the Masters might attain numerical superiority over the pupils. Another far eastern impact was a monsoon period during which large feet were a great advantage. To illustrate this we may mention that on one Wednesday the House matches were postponed because of a deficiency of players (lost overboard), rugby had to be cancelled, and even a cross-country run was ruled out. To compensate we had a period of gym which all agreed was most enjoyable. To borrow a phrase from our American allies, "Sure was energetic." The absences reached their zenith on September 27th, but the following week the tide had turned, and things gradually returned to normal.

On one Thursday in October there was more than one late prefect in the corridor during Assembly, mainly owing to the skill of the Master on Duty, whose direction of the traffic that morning was as near perfection as anything we have ever seen.

The biologists have so far been able to show their skill in euthanasia only on a bumble-bee, and are anxious for further subjects on whom to practise. Volunteers should apply to the Advanced Lab.

The scribe must now conclude his narrative since his comrades now require his assistance to help explain that the missing buckets and wash-leathers of the window-cleaners have nothing to do with the articles we gave in for the recent jumble sale.

Form Notes

6A.

THOSE of you who are reading these notse for an insight into our form's nefarious activities are in for a disappointment; for we should point out that this article is not a register of the 'crimes, follies, and misfortunes,' of our form. The meagre community referred to as 'a form' consists of Boyd, Brocklebank, Marshall, and McTear, and, as it has been stabled in the same quarters as 6S, it shares the honour of having Mr. Sorby as form-master, who is generally agreed to be a welcome relief from previous years.

However, we will say no more of our academical life, simply because there is nothing more to say; once the cries of 'roly' have died down before morning and afternoon school, we are caught in the net of our school work, and there is no respite until that welcome bell sounds at four o'clock.

Since there is nothing more to record, we should really end here, but, in answer to several postcard requests, we will open our "Information Desk," and attempt to reply to a query received last year: what is a macaronic? Well! after recovering from our initial surprise, we discovered that the term macaronic derives from macaroni, the flour paste dried in the shape of hollow tubes of mixed sizes. Hence, the mingling of different languages for comic purposes is called macaronic;; for example, the case of the high school girl, who, after one term of Latin, wrote

"Boyibus kissibus
Sweet Girliorum
Girlibus Likibus
Wanti Somorum."

Macaronics, we also found, has invaded every field of cerse, and literary humour contains an endless number and variety of specimens. Thus, our old nursery rhyme can easily be made into one:

"Parvus Jacobus Horner
Sedebat in Corner
Edens a Christmas Pie,
Inferuit Thumb,
Extraherit Plum,
Clamens: 'Quid sharp puer am I?' "

Finally, we conclude by showing you the scope of macaronics, in that limericks too have not escaped this linguistic wit:

"Erat Romanorum Dictator,
Qui hated his Uxoris Mater,
Cum Leo her edit
A holler he dedit,
Et dixit: 'Vale ma, until later.' "

N.B. The word 'roly' is a highly technical term connected with the game of floor-tennis."

5A.

IT is only to be hoped that W. Pierce does not really mean what he says here in his account of

TORTURE.

For as long as I can remember I have lived with my parents within the boundaries of a great camp. There are many of these camps all over the country, and life in them is very trying and harsh. I must spend part of each day in the local institution, where, in the company of my equally dejected comrades, I am interrogated about

my knowledge of certain things which are of great value to those who like that sort of thing. If anyone is difficult in his behaviour or attempts to be stubborn, he is given another "brainwashing" session when everyone else is allowed to leave.

Having returned to the humble abode which is allotted to my family by the camp's commandant and his officials, I await the return of my parents and elder brother from their daily toil. They have already performed the juvenile part of their life's servitude, but they still have to serve for almost the rest of their life under most fierce task-masters.

Despite the fact that I slave all day I am forced to continue this work in the evening, and by the time that I am ready to rest in preparation for the next day's ordeal, I am absolutely tired of looking at books of learning. And even in bed I cannot escape from the torture; for, instead of dreaming about the proverbial knight on his white charger, I see little men in black cloaks, terrorizing even smaller figures which somehow resemble me and my luckless friends.

I wonder if you have yet guessed where this camp is and what my daily life is like.

And finally D. Chesworth tells us about

THE TOOTH.

The tooth, it is claimed, was salvaged from Buddha's funeral pyre in 545 B.C., and eight hundred years later it was brought from Southern India to Ceylon. For many years it served as the marriage portion of high-born and particularly well-favoured Singalese princesses; no other girls in history have ever enjoyed such an estimable dowry, and even to-day a hundred thousand pilgrims visit the tooth annually from all parts of the earth and lavish upon it gifts of gold, silver, and jewels.

Vb.

WE commence with a nature article by Christopher Lee, which he entitles:—

UNDERWATER HUNTING.

Last year I went to the Channel Islands for my summer holidays, and there, I took part in some underwater hunting with the Club Alpine Sous Marine. First I had to take a test at the local baths to prove that I was fit to use the aqualung. Before I go any further I should explain that an aqualung can be used only for exploring and that it is against the law to carry it, even in a boat, with a gun.

Having passed these tests, I went out in the club dinghy, and we prepared to dive, and, having adjusted our masks and placed the mouthpieces in our mouths, we climbed down the ladder into the water. Here our lead belts were adjusted until we sank slowly, and then, turning over, we swam side by side to a depth of about five metres. We stayed down for about fifteen minutes and then surfaced. We continued in this way, until by degrees, we reached a depth of 25 metres (about 82 feet).

The next week we took our guns and breathing tubes to go hunting. We chose a rocky sector to fish in and spread over a large area. We dived in. But I was luckier than the others; for, swimming just under the surface with my shining gun in front of me, I saw a grouper of about 20 pounds. I sank vertically and, coming within five feet of it, I fired. There was a hiss of bubbles as the compressed air shot the harpoon forward, piercing the grouper's head. Such happenings, although not numerous, were carried out in an area of coral reefs and amidst myriads of brightly coloured fish, varied by an odd shark, which is not dangerous unless on the surface.

We conclude with Morgan's thoughts on pigeon shooting which he entitles,

ALL FOR A SIXPENNY SHOT.

Now that the rabbit population throughout the countryside has greatly diminished, the Wildfowler' Association have turned to the art of pigeon shooting. This sport is taken most seriously by the participants;; for, as it is very hard to get anywhere near a pigeon, they try, in many various ways, to make the pigeons come to them.

Nearly every member of the club has his own way of making the pigeon pitch. First there are those who place corn on the ground and then hide in a ditch, and then there are those, who, after some more experience, place decoys with the corn. These decoys are very well made out of a light alloy, and are modelled in the shape of a pigeon, and with a pivot in the centre they sway to and fro in the wind, creating a remarkably accurate image of a bird feeding.

The wildfowlers conceal themselves by lying in a ditch and are dressed in many different kinds of clothes. The more professional wear specially-made suits in green, whereas the more amateur type wear green berets or even old army helmets with nets over their faces. The pigeons should then descend, but there the failure of accuracy is proved; for the pigeons walk amongst the decoys, and it is the latter that are shot, whereas the real prey fly away to freedom.

WE commence with an article by MacMaster which should be of interest to us all.

THE APPROACH TO LIVERPOOL.

A ship bound for Liverpool has its first contact with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board at Point Lynas Lighthouse on the north coast of Anglesey, which is fifty-two miles from Liverpool. There are four pilot-boats, three of which have to be on duty all the time.

Next, the ship will pass the Great Orme's Head Lighthouse, and within an hour will have reached the Bar Lightship, which is one of the most powerful and best equipped in the world. It is actually a vessel with a small lighthouse built on it. Its source of light is a thousand-watt bulb with a candlepower of 124,000, giving a white, triple-group flash every thirty seconds. This lightship is equipped with a radio beacon, which sends out aerial signals with a range of about fifty miles. These signals are transmitted during foggy weather, so that ships fitted with direction-finders can locate the lightship and approach the port with confidence. The lightship is also equipped with a radio-telephone and a powerful fog signal.

Shortly after passing the Bar lightship, our ship will enter the first of the two dredged channels, one called the Queen, and the other the Crosby Channel. They are about twelve miles long and are marked in accordance with the universal system of buoyage. On the starboard side are flashing white lights on black conical buoys, and on the port side are flashing red lights on red boat beacons. The lights on the buoys are visible for about four miles in fair weather, and the lights on the boat beacons for about seven. Halfway along the channel the ship will pass the Crosby Lightfloat, and then, when it enters the Mersey, it will come upon the North Wall Lighthouse on the Liverpool side and the Rock Lighthouse on the Wirral side. From there it is only a short journey to the ship's berth, whether in Liverpool or Birkenhead.

We continue with an article by R. E. Wood.

THE INDIAN ROPE TRICK.

Most peple imagine that the famous Indian rope trick, in which a length of unsupported rope remains standing upright while a small boy climbs it, is a myth. This is not so at all. There must be many persons from different countries who have seen the trick performed in India. The usual routine seems to be that the performer, out in the open and with no trees or buildings near by, uncoils from around his waist what appears to be a twenty or twenty-five foot length of

ordinary rope. Then the performer throws the rope into the air, but holds the last yard or so, and the rope stiffens at once and remains like a long rod, up which the boy climbs and does various balancing feats at the top. Then he slides down, and the rope collapses and is again coiled around the performer's waist.

There is one point about this event; there never seems to have been a case in which the artist would allow the rope to be closely examined, and there seems no doubt that it covers the secret of the trick; for no other apparatus is used and magic does seem, in modern times, out of the question.

Probably the rope is a sort of necklace of short wooden rods, with coned ends, threaded on a central gut line, and covered with cloth ribbed to look like the strands of a rope. When the performer throws up the rope, he thus tightens the gut, which causes the joints to lock and so bear the boy's weight. The joints have enough play, when the gut is slack, to let the rope be formed into comparatively small coils. Another theory is that the Indian uses mass hypnotism to make the spectators believe they are seeing the trick performed.

4B.

OUR first contribution from this form is a few form notes compiled by M. Parry.

This year's form is almost the same, with the exception of Evans, Ellis, and Shorthill, who have been promoted to 4A. Mr. Richards is now our form-master, and we have two new masters in Mr. Dalton and Mr. Anderson.

Our form has contributed four regular members to the Colts rugby team—Docherty, Almond, Lord, and Carruthers. The last named has also played for the School chess team. The form now attends either the School field or the gymnasium on Wednesday, together with the 5th and 6th forms. Those boys who have been in the gymnasium have been fortunate in that Mr. Shaw has taught them a little wrestling.

This year has seen a reduction in the number of subjects we study; for we had to make a choice between French and Chemistry on the one hand, and Geography and Biology on the other. However, although the number of boys studying each of these subjects is equal, the choice between Physics and History revealed the form's thirst for knowledge in Physics.

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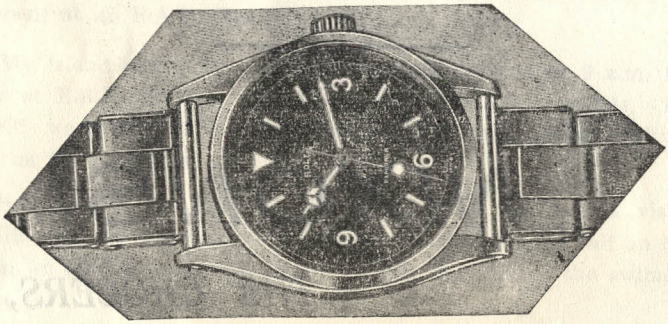
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A letter received from Old Instonian D. Harford now in Toronto described his flight to Canada from Speke via New York and Buffalo, a route giving him an aerial view of Niagara Falls. Harford is now employed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and lives in a suburb of Toronto. He finds city life highly mechanised there, even to 'electric eye' exit doors in the big department stores which open as the parcel-laden customer staggers towards them. But in education, particularly at the General Certificate ordinary level, Harford finds our standard and performances over here superior, and has already discovered—what the Staff are always urging on our 5th forms—how important a really satisfactory pass in several subjects can be.

* * *

A party from the School has been to the continent during the summer holidays for the last five years, Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany, having been visited. Next year a party is to go to Denmark, staying in a holiday home at Karlslunde for five nights, Copenhagen one night, and Middlefort one night. A full programme of excursions is being arranged to include Elsinore, Sweden, Kronberg Castle, Copenhagen, and Tivoli Gardens. The group will sail from Harwich to Esbjerg on August 21st.

* * *

The Old Boys' War Memorial Prize for the year 1956-57 has been awarded by the Trustees, six Old Boys, to T. H. Harris.

* * *

Asian 'flu, as noted in our Editorial, was responsible at one point in the term for the absence of about forty per cent. of our number. September 27 was probably our 'casualty peak' (to borrow a lovely phrase from I.T.V. advertising), when there were 134 absentees—a proportion scarcely to be challenged at any time in our seventy years' existence. But the length of our autumn terms is now such as to give ample opportunity for any temporary dislocation of our ordinary work to be repaired long before the examinations. Fortunately, few of the absences were of excessive duration, and experts believe that the oriental visitation has now gone elsewhere and that the Burmese will soon be complaining of English 'flu.

* * *

This term we made history in being the first local School to take part in the B.B.C.'s well-known programme "Top of the Form." For some days before the recording, engineers were busy installing the necessary wiring and preparing 1A Form-Room for its temporary role of transfitting station. On the afternoon of the competition (Tuesday, October 1st) in which we were drawn against Middlesbrough Girls' High School, the whole School assembled in

the gym to be instructed in the technique of a broadcast by Question Master Mr. Robert McDermott. After a half-hour of tests and 'running in' which was of great interest to the audience, the actual competition began. We were represented by Anson, Gurden, Kellett (deputising at short notice for Harding who was absent owing to 'flu, and the School Captain, Salmon, Mr. Hall sitting at the opposite table as assessor, and sporting—along with the team and the inquisitors—a very official looking set of head phones. Though we suffered defeat, it was a notable and historic occasion. The actual broadcast was on Thursday evening, October 10th, with a repeat on the following Sunday.

* * *

B. J. Rushton (1944-51), having completed a Ph.D. course in Geo-Chemistry in the University of Manchester, has now left to take up a position with the Geological Survey of Tanganyika. We wish him the best of luck in the career he has chosen, and hope that he will not forget to call on us when he returns on leave at the end of three years.

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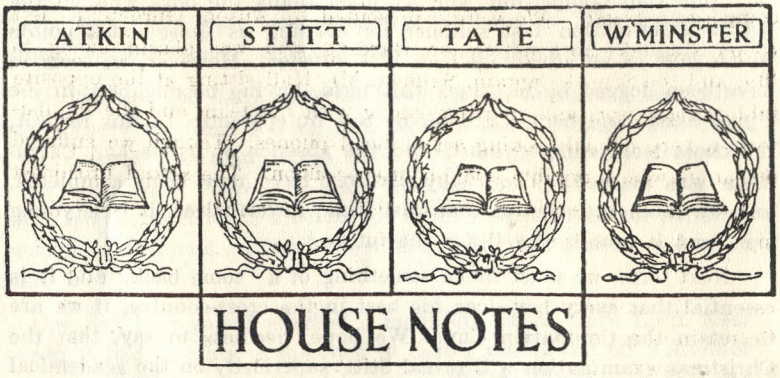
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HOUSE NOTES

ATKIN.

THIS term has not been at all promising for Atkin. In the Coronation Cup Competition the House finished 3rd in rugby; and in chess, with only the senior games played, is lying 3rd. The latter position may well be improved upon by the junior boys in the House, and some practice and effort will be required for next term's games.

However, the term opened with the rugby games, and the senior side played very well indeed, beating Stitt 32—3, Tate 9—3, and losing narrowly to Westminster 0—5. These games were all well fought, and McDougall, Wylie, Winder, and Pierce all played very hard. Unfortunately, the junior side could not match their opposition, drawing with Stitt 9—9, and losing heavily to Tate 0—24 and Westminster 0—41. As a whole, the team gave of their best, and the work of Jones A. and Kennedy in the forwards, and the tackling of Sanderson and Sutton, were worth mention.

In the senior chess games the House beat Stitt 9—3, but were beaten by Westminster 1½—5½, losing narrowly to Tate 3—4. Shales and Parry played well in all three matches, each winning two of his three games.

For the position of the House in the Coronation Cup competition to be improved upon, a wholehearted effort must be made by every member of the House, especially by the younger boys in the School.

T.F.H.

STITT.

THIS term began well with the news of our success in the Coronation Cup Competiton, and we must thank the boys who sat the G.C.E. examination last summer for earning us those extra points which gave us an advantage over Westminster. However, we seem to have been dogged by bad luck this term, having no members in the Upper Sixth, and being hard hit by the 'flu epidemic. In this respect, the chess team suffered most, and the absence of Byrne and Carruthers was marked. The rugby fixtures have now been completed, and we fared little better than last year; nevertheless, it is a young side, and it promises well for the future.

Next term, we must make something of a 'come back,' and it is essential that every boy does his best in the cross-country, if we are to retain the Coronation Cup. We hope, needless to say, that the Christmas examination will reveal Stitt' superiority on the academical side, and that the festive season may prove merry, and the new year happy.

G.M.

TATE.

THIS term has been a reasonably successful one for Tate, but there is considerable room for improvement.

In the first of the chess matches played this term, the Seniors lost 4—3 to Westminster. This was a disappointing result in view of the fact that no fewer than five members of the chess first team are also in the Tate team. The team beat Atkin 4—3 and Stitt 5—2. All the Junior matches are to be played next term, and it is essential that the younger players should do their best, so that the present position may be improved or at least maintained.

The Rugby competition ended with the House taking second place to Westminster. The Seniors beat Westminster 12—6, lost most unfortunately in the vital game against Atkin by 9—3, and beat Stitt 29—8. The backs were decidedly superior in all these games, though inclined to kick too often, but the forwards showed little enterprise, drive, or co-ordination, and gave a generally inadequate performance spiced with occasional useful individual efforts. Lowry, Colly, Barrett, and Greaves gave of their best hhen the opportunity was presented.

The Juniors beat Stitt 30—0 and Atkin 24—0, losing to Westminster 33—3. Squires and Walker were most useful players.

Each House member must realise that his greatest effort as both an individual and a team member is essential in the events of the next two terms, if the House is to do well in the Coronation Cup Competition.

R.F.S.

colourful pattern. Not far away is the Bishop's Palace. It was built after the Cathedral, but is already in ruins. There are only about fifteen shops in St. David's, but there are five garages. The countryside is very hilly with some gradients of 1 in 5. The buses just manage to climb them. A bus I was in went down at 45 m.p.h.

Whitesands Bay is the nearest beach, about one and a half miles away. There are huge rollers, fine for surf-board riding. The coast is very rugged with many large caves. The cliffs are very steep, but fit for climbing. There are many islands on the coast, such as Puffin Island, which has a colony of Puffins on it. Another contains a colony of Gannets. Round the coast, many sea-anemones can be found.

One day in a gale I climbed a mountain called Carn Llidi. Near the top, I had to cling to the rock in case I was blown off. Another afternoon, I filled a five-pound jam-tin with blackberries in one and a half hours. To my mind, St. David's is a glorious place, and I only wish I could have stayed longer.

2B.

TO begin this form's articles, Graham Young tells us about

TROUT FISHING BY HAND.

During the summer holidays I went camping to Pen-y-cae, which is about seven miles from Wrexham on the northern route. The actual site where my cousin and I pitched our tent was on the bank of small but swift-running trout stream. During the first few days of our visit we saw several large trout which had come from under the rocks to eat the scraps that we had thrown out for them. It was then that we decided to try our luck and catch some. This was the first time I had had any experience of trout catching by hand.

We first walked along the banks of the stream until we came to a place where there was a waterfall. My cousin, who had had a little experience before, said that it was an ideal spot, because all the insects and other bait were carried over the fall by the current. We built a dam across the stream at its narrowest point so that the fish were prevented from going either way. When we had done this we began a systematic search under the rocks. Soon we were successful; for under a flat rock I felt a long slippery body, and, after nearly falling in in my eagerness, I brought out a trout of about ten inches in length.

We later caught another chasing a small piece of bread in a shallow pool close to the bank. Although these were the only two we caught on that first day, our total reached thirteen by the end of our most pleasant holiday.

We turn from nature to industry in the form of A. F. D. ow-thian's article on

DROP FORGING.

Drop Forging is a common occupation although not so familiar a name. The kind of articles made in this form of light engineering are shelf brackets, door-bolts, and other similar household fittings.

This process is undertaken by a drop hammer acting on a piece of red-hot steel. These hammers are moulded on the bottom face where they hit the steel and thus cut it into the shape required. The basic pattern is then worked in by steel cutters, and finally the jagged pieces along the edges are filed by hand. Then the article, duly shaped, goes into a tar-like paint on a conveyor belt, and, together with about fifty articles which have accompanied it up till then, it passes into a cooling chamber, and after about five minutes the article is complete.

All the tools, implements, and fittings made in this way are packed ready for disposal to the neighboring chandler's shops and then to our homes.

IA.

THE standard of work submitted by this form was not generally high. However, we commence with D. McLaren's account of

CLIMBING SNAEFELL.

Snaefell is two thousand and thirty-four feet high, and I set about climbing it with my parents. All the water of the previous day had collected, and it was very muddy. We struggled on, the sight of a peak in the distance raising my hopes, which soon had the damper applied in the shape of a swamp, into which I blundered. My parents, fortunately, were able to drag me out, and undaunted we continued our climb. The top, indicated by a projecting radio mast, was at last reached, and we sought refuge from the wind in a cafe. The view was perfect, and we could see from Douglas to Peel.

We began the descent, only this time taking a different route, which made it all the harder. At the bottom, we discovered a hut, erected in the memory of a man who had lost his life in the T.T. Races. We walked along the road and thankfully came to our car.

We now continue with an article by J. Kellett on

THE CHECK ON THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS

The majority of birds migrate in August and September, usually flying to North Africa and the coasts of the Mediterranean sea. A check is made on the birds which migrate. A London committee has been formed which ensures that these migrating birds are ringed on their legs when they are about six days old.

On their return, these birds are caught while they are resting, and their numbers are submitted to the people concerned. Even the birds which do not migrate are ringed; for instance, I found a dead blackbird in Woodchurch Road, with a ring on its leg. I sent the ring to London, and in reply received a letter telling me that it had been ringed two years ago in Prenton!

In case anyone is interested, the address I wrote to is:—
The British Museum, Natural History, London.

The Form's contributions are concluded by D. Parry, who tells us about his

HOLIDAY IN SURREY

In a small village near Guildford is a rather large shop; it is large because it is the only shop for miles around. The proprietor is a man called Green, who takes a genuine interest in village affairs.

As I have said, the village is relatively small and rather thinly populated. There is, however, a good cricket green which has been the scene of great pleasure to the villagers. Near by is a pond, and for many years they have been considering the proposal to establish a few ducks there. Well, when I was there, they began by building a place of refuge for the ducks, and then railed the pond off.

A drake and duck were duly acquired and introduced to their new abode. The funny thing was that next morning instead of two there were six ducks there, all of them quite grown up and not young!

WE commence in a lighter vein with Rodney Quail's

ODE TO THE "VISOR"

It was a quarter to eight on a Wednesday night,
Homework finished, I hoped, all right.
When putting my books in my bag, I saw
That I had forgotten the article for Mr. Shaw.
Should it be a story long or short,
Or a flowery description of my wart?
Something from the classics, or the Greek,
Or something that happened in our street?
I looked around the room if something there
Would give me the answer to my prayer.
As if in answer to my prayer unsaid,
My Dad announced "It's time for bed."
"But, look here, Dad, this work must be completed
Or my *Visor* article will be deleted."
"But, look here, Son, this is no joke;
An effort like this will go up in smoke.
So give up your hopes of an article in print,
You must learn to walk, before you can sprint."

We continue with Alan Willan's account of a trip he made during the holidays.

Last year during my holidays my family and I hired a car to go to Snowdonia in Wales. Having first collected the car, we passed through Chester, Mold, Flint and Ruthin, where we stopped for something to seat.

We were then coming into the winding roads and the beautiful countryside, and at one time we could only go at five miles an hour because of the numerous bends. When we reached Snowdonia, we went and looked at an old castle which dated from the twelfth century. At last we reached Snowdon and were so amazed at its vastness that we just looked at it instead of climbing it by foot or by rail as might have been expected.

Too soon, and we were passing through the same countryside again with the lambs wandering over the roads. After many of these peaceful interruptions, we arrived home late at night, tired but satisfied with our long journey of over two hundred miles.

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Chess

WITH five members of last year's first team still available this year, our match results have so far been somewhat disappointing. We have been well beaten in the two Wright Shield matches played this term—by Liverpool Collegiate School (5½—1½) and by Calday G.S., the reigning champions and always very strong opponents (6½—½).

We did, however, beat Chester City G.S. in a friendly match (5—3). This was a new fixture for us, as was a match with Maghull G.S., against whom we played a weak reserve team and lost (4—3). In order to give more junior members some experience of match play, we played a two-team match against Grange Secondary School. One team, consisting of 3rd and 4th formers, drew (3—3) ; the other drawn from forms 1 and 2, lost (4½—1½).

As an innovation, the House Matches this session are being played in two sections—Junior and Senior. The Senior matches have been played this term, and resulted in a win for Westminster, who defeated all opponents. The Junior Section will be played off next term.

The ladder competition initiated last year has been continued this year, but in five divisions, to give more facilities to weaker players. The Senior and Junior Championships will be decided by a play-off between the ultimatt leaders in the First Division.

We extend a hearty welcome this term to Mr. Anderson, who has already given valuable assistance in coaching junior members in the dinner-hour and helping with matches. We would strongly urge all members, especially seniors who stay to dinner, to avail themselves of the opportunity of playing in 2A Room in the dinner-hour whenever possible and after school on Mondays and Fridays ,which are the regular days for club meetings.

The Language Club

THIS year the club has begun well, with more enrolments than ever. Indeed the number has increased so much that twice-weekly meetings cannot cope with the demand, and each individual class now meets once a fortnight. This has meant a more complicated rota of classes than before, and our new secretary, Doveston, is tackling his additional duties very competently. German is by far the most popular language this term, Russian and Spanish taking second and third place respectively.

The Literary and Debating Society

THE Society has settled down to normal business this year after a period of inactivity. So far the attendance has been good, and the two debates held have been both entertaining and instructive.

The chairman, R. F. Salmon, wishes to express gratitude, on behalf of the members, for the help given by Mr. Dalton and Mr. Shaw.

In the most successful debate, the members who tackled the subject of euthanasia presented sound arguments both in favour of and against a motion for its legalisation. The motion was defeated. The annual business meeting was followed by a novelty debate, in which new members were invited to take part. It is the intention of the Society to allow boys to give lectures on their personal interests, and to take part in controversial discussions. Any proposals by members of subjects for lecture or debate will be welcomed by the secretary.

With more meetings arranged for the term and an extensive programme planned for after the Christmas holiday, the Society can anticipate an entertaining and well-attended season. V.S.

The Film Society

THIS term saw the continuance of the Society under the chairmanship of Mr. Mealor. A committee, consisting of two members of the Lower Sixth, Colley and Greaves, two members of Upper Sixth, Buckland-Evers and Sampson; treasurer McTear, and secretary McDougall, was elected at the first meeting and met on either Monday or Tuesday dinner-time to prepare the agenda for the General Meetings which took place every Thursday fortnight. On the whole, the number of members present was higher than that of last year despite numerous counter attractions and duties. Members are now learning to appreciate the best of even mediocre films, and sometimes keen controversy takes place on some aspect of a film.

We look forward to avid discussions, good films, and good attendances with hope that one day our members may begin to appreciate the moving picture, not only as entertainment but as an art form.

H.A.M.

Rugby

1st XV. RESULTS TO DATE

Sat., Sept. 21	v. Helsby Grammar School	Away	Won	11— 0
Sat., Oct. 5	v. Grove Park	Home	Won	12— 8
Wed., Oct. 9	v. Birkenhead School	Home	Won	6— 5
Sat., Oct. 12	v. Helsby Grammar School	Home	Won	12— 0
Wed., Oct. 16	v. St. Anselm's College	Home	Lost	0 3
Wed., Oct. 23	v. St. Edward's College	Home	Lost	8—11
Wed., Nov. 6	v. Park High School	Home	Won	15— 6
Sat., Nov. 9	v. Holt High School	Home	Won	9— 5
Wed., Nov. 13	v. Wallasey Technical College	Home	Won	70— 0
Sat., Nov. 23	v. Grove Park	Away	Won	16— 5

COLTS XV.

Sept. 21	Helsby G.S.	Lost	3—21
Oct. 3	Wirral G.S.	Lost	0—16
Oct. 5	Grove Park	Won	19— 3
Oct. 9	Birkenhead School	Lost	6—19
Oct. 12	Helsby G.S.	Won	20— 3
Oct. 16	St. Anselm's College	Won	27— 0
Oct. 23	St. Edward's College	Won	19— 0
Nov. 6	Park High School	Won	9— 3
Nov. 13	Oldershaw G.S.	Won	27— 3
Nov. 23	Grove Park	Won	33— 0

Won 7; Lost 3; Pts. For 163; Against 68.

BANTAMS XV.

After a rather uncertain start to the season, when progress was impeded by team-building and the influenza epidemic, and when low tackling was an almost unheard-of phenomenon, general improvement has been made by the whole XV. Although, in terms of points, the results have slightly favoured our opponents, an analysis of the actual play would show that the team was never overwhelmed and in almost every match deserved a share of the points. On several occasions an advantageous position at half-time was thrown away by careless covering, bad tackling, and perhaps by failure to play all-out for the full sixty minutes. In one instance, victory was denied the team by a conversion's failing by inches in the closing minutes of a hard-fought game.

Considerable praise is due to the team as a whole; special mention may be made of the Captain, Capstick, who has done much to hold the team together in moments of crisis; Steedman—above all for his kicking; Roberts the hooker; Squires and Hughes for their vigorous running; and wing-forwards Smith, J. M., Jones, A. T., and Humphreys, who have always been well up with the play. Without exception, all the rest seem to have improved in the course of these ten games.

Finally, I should like to praise the reserves who rarely failed to appear in considerable numbers, and to stress the fact that all the boys concerned have deported themselves in almost exemplary fashion on and off the field.

RESULTS

Helsby Grammar School	Home	12— 3	Won
Wirral Grammar School	Home	9—27	Lost
Grove Park	Away	13—10	Won
Helsby Grammar School	Away	11—17	Lost
St. Anselm's College	Away	5—20	Lost
Birkenhead School	Away	6— 6	Drawn
St. Edward's College	Away	3—16	Lost
Park High School	Home	6— 9	Lost
Oldershaw Grammar School	Away	8— 6	Won
Grove Park	Home	30— 8	Won

Played 10; Won 4; Lost 5; Drawn 1; Points For 103; Points Against 122

Scout Notes

THIS summer the troop held its annual summer camp, spending a fortnight at Wychnor Park, a private estate near Alrewas, nine miles from Birmingham. The camp was very successful, and the troop visited the World Jubilee Jamboree stveral times.

The term commenced with rehearsals for " Jubilimania," a Gang Show performed by the 23rd and 65th (St. Stephen's) Groups. Unfortunately, the Asian flu epidemic interrupted rehearsals, but a grand effort by the boys and particularly the scoutmasters, ladies' committee, and stage staff, helped to make the show a great success.

T.F.H., P.J.S.

University Letters

Tyndale Hall,
University of Bristol.

21st November, 1957.

Dear Sir,

I thought it might interest you to know what steps are taken in the Church of England when a candidate offers himself for the Ministry, and perhaps the best way in which I can do this is to outline my own progress.

Naturally the first thing to do is to inform the local vicar of your intentions, and he in turn informs the Bishop of the Diocese (in my case Chester) who arranges a place with the Central Advisory Council for the Training of the Ministry (C.A.C.T.M.) at a Selection Conference. The Conference Board consists of five members of the Church, one of them a layman, and their task is to select candidates who, they feel, are suited for training. I attended C.A.C.T.M. at Sheffield, but, of course, they are held all over the country. Having received their report I had an interview with the Bishop and then contracted a Theological College.

Although C.A.C.T.M. view each candidate in his own particular circumstances, the general rule is that all candidates under the age of 25 are required to take a degree course before doing special preparatory training, Tyndale Hall, where I am reading, prepares people for the B.D. harder and the G.D.E. (General Ordination Exam.) as well as the Bristol B.A. (Theology); so I am resident here, although all my lectures in the first year are at the University.

After the Degree it is necessary to do a further two years either at this or another Theological College for the purpose of preparing for G.D.E.

As I have probably taken up enough *Visor* space now without even mentioning College activities, it only remains for me to send my regards to the Staff, and to the boys, and to yourself.

Yours, etc.,

BRIAN TAYLOR.

The Students' Union,
Bedford Street,
Liverpool.
25th November, 1957.

The Editor, The *Visor*.

Dear Sir,

I propose to follow the time-honoured tradition of describing University life for the benefit of those misguided sixth-formers who contemplate such a life, and for the interest of those enjoying a life of ease in the Lower School. For the first week, the 'fresher' is swept along in a whirl of sumptuous social engagements, and forgets the existence of any other world. At the end of this week, however, he realizes with horror that he has become a member of at least a dozen societies, promised to go on the annual hitch-hike to Glasgow for Hogmanay, the trip to London, and to sing a solo at the Christmas party.

The eagerly-awaited first day of lectures only plunges the student into deeper gloom. He discovers that he must take subsidiary subjects as well as his main course, and that even the chief subject is subdivided into three groups. In the case of an English Student, the terrors of phonetcs, Anglo-Saxon, Mddle Englsh, Spanish, and Philosophy, are added to those of English Literature. Each lecturer moreover asserts the importance of his course over all others, and issues a huge list of books to be bought and read without delay. Actual lecture time takes up only a small portion of the week, and the student has a great deal of spare time in which to work or, as is usually the case, to play.

Facilities for almost every sport in existence are available in the well-equipped university gymnasium or playing fields. There is keen inter-departmental rivalry in most sports, and matches with other Universities in many. In the way of less strenuous recreation, the student can play billiards, darts, and snooker in the Union, and also partake in the very entertaining debates. He can become a Scientific Humanist, a Comrade of the Hammer and Sickle, or a member of the Cycling Club.

Every day there is a concert of jazz or more serious music, and almost every night there is a dance. The students themselves arrange all these events and also visits to the Universities in the South of England or on the Continent. Life need never be dull, and the student can easily be tempted to neglect his work.

With the terminal examinations in the near future, and surrounded with a miniature library of unread books, I must take my farewell.

Yours very sincerely,

R. J. ROBERTS.

The Students' Union,
The University,
Leeds.

25th November, 1957.

The Editor, The *Visor*.

Dear Sir,

If any of this year's sixth form are feeling as I was a year ago, elated at the prospects of university life yet uncertain about which university to apply to, I hope this letter will convince them that Leeds is the place to aim for.

The city of Leeds has a fine shopping centre and many entertainments, including four theatres, and a rugby league team which boasts internationals. For those who prefer soccer, there is always plenty of football to watch, and in the summer Test matches are played at Headingley.

The university is very impressive both architecturally and academically. Its main archtectural attractions are the Students' Union building, widely acclaimed as the best of the northern universities, and the university library. in shape somewhat reminiscent of the inside of the dome of St. Paul's, which was erected by a textile millionaire, Lord Brotherton.

On the academic side the university is renowned for its schools of textiles, industrial science, and mtdicine. However, this does not mean that the Arts faculty is not flourishing. It epitomises the deep cultural interest which typifies this part of Yorkshire. The university is the only one, except for Oxford and Cambrdge, to have a resident Chair of Poetry.

There are seventy-seven different societies in the university, so that the student is confronted not with the problem of how to spend his leisure hours but how to spend them judiciously.

May I conclude by wishing everyone, Headmaster, Staff, and Boys, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

T. J. WALSH.

Old Instonians' Association

AS a result of the work of the Liaison Sub-Committee mentioned in previous issues of the *Visor*, an Old Instonians' Association was formed on November 4th, 1957, when a number of Old Boys met at 5 St. Seiriol Grove, Birkenhead. Rules were adopted, and Officers and Committee members were elected as follows:

President: Mr. E. G. Webb.
Vice-Presidents: Mr. J. E. Allison, Mr. R. Hall.
Chairman: Mr. K. I. Smith.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. T. Malcolm.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. R. Binyon.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Dorrity.
Committee: Messrs. A. Bushell, C. Thompson, R. D. Naybour, N. G. Little.

Provision is made in the rules for the affiliation to the Association of other groups of Old Instonians who will, on affiliation, be eligible to nominate one member each to the Association Committee. The affiliation fee is 2s. 6d. per annum for each Old Boy who is a member and pays a subscription to the group. Such members thereby become members of the Association. The subscriptions for Old Boys not members of such groups is 5s. per annum (or 2s. 6d. per annum if under 18 years). It is hoped that shortly both the Old Instonians A.F.C. and the Old Instonians R.U.F.C. will become affiliated to the Association.

Before the Association was formed, the Liaison Sub-Committee was responsible for the award of the Old Boys' Sports Prizes to four boys, one from each House at School, who had by their example done most during the year to foster sport in their Houses. The awards were made on the last day of the Summer Term, when Mr. N. G. Little represented the Old Boys and presented the certificates and vouchers to T. F. Hardy (Atkin), T. J. Walsh (Stitt), R. F. Salmon (Tate), and P. J. Lythgoe (Westminster).

The Association is at present engaged in putting in order premises at 126 Elmswood Road, Birkenhead, where they hope to open an Association Club for the convenience of members and affiliated bodies. The work is in the hands of Mr. A. Bushell who has the assistance of a House Sub-Committee of which he is chairman. Every effort is being made to open the Club before Christmas.

The Association will be glad to hear from any Old Instonians who would like to form further affilated groups. It seems possible that a golfing section may shortly be formed, and among other activities which the Association feels it could help are Chess, Tennis and Table Tennis.

K.I.S.

Old Instonians' A.F.C.

THE start of the new season has proved a most exciting one for the Soccer Club, and this promises to be one of the most eventful and ambitious years in our history. We have further increased our membership by the addition of several School-leavers, and a return of interest has provided us with some non-playing members from old friends of earlier years. This has emboldened us to put a third eleven in the field with membership of the third division of the Lverpool Old Boys' League, so that we are now represented in all three divisions. In addition to our ground at Arrowe Park, we are now the proud possessors of a private ground at "Woodslee," Spital Road, Bromborough, where we have a single pitch, a pavilion, and separate dressing rooms. These are now being renovated by a most enthusiastic band of workers from among our members, both playing and non-playing, and the prospects are that in the near future, with their efforts, we shall be blessed with facilities the equal of any local amateur soccer club—and in advance of most !

The season is too young yet to present any accurate picture of the league prospects of our teams, but the first XI. look like being as prominent as they were last season. They were victorious over Old Wallaseyans in the first round of the League Senior Trophy, and in a new venture into the Liverpool County F.A. Junior Cup were narrowly defeated by Ford Athletic. They were disappointingly beaten, however, by Old Xaverians in the first round of the Liverpool Grammar School Shield. The second XI. are holding their own, and, as several of their earlier fixtures were affected by the inevitable 'flu epidemic, it is not too optimistic to hope that their future performances will reflect the general improvement being experienced by the Club as a whole. The third XI. of course are still in their infancy, and at the moment are suffering from a surprisingly irresponsble attitude from some of the younger members, as a result of which they have all too often had to field short teams. It is confidently hoped, though. that under the capable and enthusiastic guidance of Alan Clays, the third team Secretary, they will overcome these teethng troubles and settle down into a workmanlike side.

We have most regretfully lost the services of our Chairman, Mr. Arthur Sagar, who has had to resign owing to domestic reasons. This is a sad loss, as for many years he has given devoted service to the Club, and his experience and advice have been of invaluable assistance.

The Club held its first Social Evening at the end of October, and a most enjoyable and entertaining time was had by all. Our Christmas Dance will take place at St. Saviour's Hall, Oxton, on Friday, December 6th.

As these are the last notes which will appear before Christmas, I take this opportunity of extending, on behalf of the Club, our warmest greetings and best wishes to the Headmaster, Staff, and all Boys of the School—may you enjoy a happy Christmas and success in all you do in the New Year.

J. KERNAGHAN.

Old Instonians' R.U.F.C.

AS Christmas approaches, we are now almost one-third of the way way through another season. So far, the first team has not quite achieved the success of the first teams of recent years, but nevertheless it has a respectable record. The 2nd and 3rd XV's have, as usual, both got good records. It has almost become tradition that the 3rd XV. has the best record of all the teams.

Team.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points For.	Points Aganist.
1st XV.	6	5	0	141	105
2nd XV.	7	3	0	89	62
3rd XV.	7	2	0	133	57

This season we held our 21st anniversary as a Club, and we celebrated it by holding a Dinner last October. We had the pleasure of the company of Mr. Webb, Mr. A. O. Jones, Mr. E. Wynne Hughes, and Mr. Hall, who all gave us interesting and amusing speeches. It was a very good evening, and all present enjoyed themselves. It was a very pleasant method of commemorating our coming-of-age.

Our next big social occasion is the Parents'-Old Boys' Dance at the Town Hall on Saturday, December 21st. The Mayor and Mayoress have promised to attend, as has the Chairman of the Board of Governors. We plan this to be a big occasion, and we should welcome any Parents and Old Boys who would like to come. Tickets can be obtained from Paddy Ryan, 11 Ruskin Avenue, Rock Ferry, or from Norman Little at the Post Office in Singleton Avenue. Parents who wish to come can obtain tickets from the Headmaster at the School. We look forward to a good attendance, and an enjoyable start to the Christmas season for everyone.

As these notes will appear in the Christmas edition of the *Visor*, we should like to take this opportunity of sending our very best wishes to the Staff, Parents, and Boys of the School, with the hopes that you all have a happy and enjoyable Christmas, and a prosperous New Year—particularly successful next summer when G.C.E. comes round once more.

G. A. THOMAS.

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