

PALMERIAN



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JULY, 1949

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THE PALMERIAN

The Magazine of Palmer's Endowed School for Boys,
Grays

July, 1949

Vol. 1. No. 5 (New Series)

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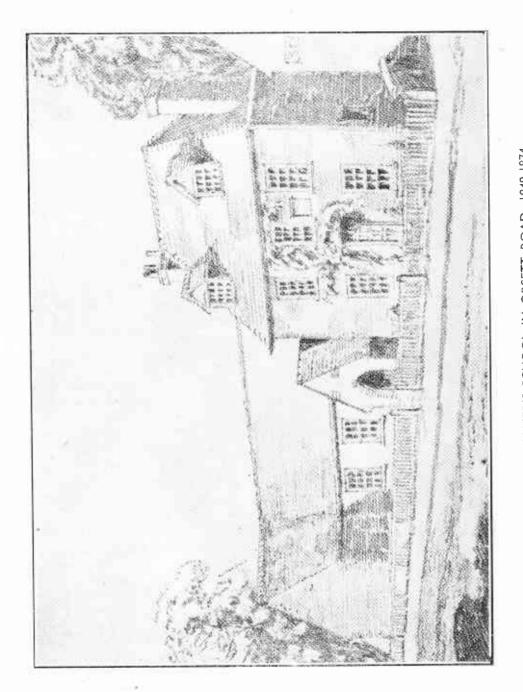
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THE SECOND PALMER'S SCHOOL IN ORSETT ROAD, 1849-1874



A N event of unusual interest to the School has taken place since our last issue. We refer to the first issue of the Girls' School Magazine, to which venture we wish every success. We have always received support from the Girls' School in the sale of our Magazine and we hope to be able to repay this courtesy in the future. In this connection, we should like to record our thanks to Miss Leworthy, who has been most kind and co-operative.

We are printing as a frontispiece to this issue a reproduction of a pencil drawing of the old School and Master's House, which stood for many years in the Orsett Road, occupying a commanding position in the centre of the town. This link with the past has now been severed. Almost without our noticing it the building has been demolished and nothing remains but the empty space to remind us of what was once there. Although much altered, the School ouse being added to, and the Master's House having bay windows built on, the essential fabric was there. We feel that not only Palmer's School, but Grays itself has suffered irrecoverable loss by the demolition of this historic building.

Mr. W. T. C. Sharp, whose criticism of the School's production of 'The Pirates of Penzance' appears elsewhere, is perhaps not well known to most of us. He is an old friend of Messrs. G. V and P. Ross, and is at present English Master at Latymer Upper School, Hammusmith. He is particularly well qualified to make this report, being an amateur actor and producer of no mean standing. Mr. P. Ross has many personal memories of his thoroughness and often disconcerting candour in expressing opinions of individual performances. In addition, he is himself a keen musician, and, what is perhaps most important, has an inside knowledge of the difficulties to be encountered in putting on a school show.

We are especially grateful to him, as he had to make the unpleasant journey from Hammersmith to Grays and back again after the show. It can be seen on another page whether or not he considered it worth the trouble.

We are grateful to Mr. W. H. Edwards who, at our request, undertook the sad duty of writing the obituary notices of two of his colleagues on the Governing Body. We offer our sympathies to the relatives of Mrs. Brooks and Councillor T. J. Goddard, and to Mr. W. F. Winbolt, another of our Governors, who has suffered the loss of his wife.

Some time ago we expressed the hope that more verse would be forthcoming in the future. We are happy to say that much more has appeared and we have been embarrassed by both the quality and quantity of material that has been submitted. Quite a large amount has been printed, but an even larger amount has had to be put on one side. Not all forms are represented, but we have no doubt that this will be remedied in time.

It will be noticed that the heading of the sports section has been redesigned. We are indebted for this fine piece of work to Mr. G. V. Ross, whose sketches on 'H.M.S. Pinafore' were published in a previous issue, and who drew those magnificent cricketers on the Cricket Song.

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Cantuarian (King's School, Canterbury), Chelmsfordian (King Edward VI School, Chelmsford), Colcestrian (Royal Grammar School, Colchester), Barrovian (Barrow-in Furness Grammar School, Lancs.), Briggensian (Brigg Grammar School, Lines.) and the Chronicle (Old Glendalians Association).

Obituaries

Mrs. A. A. F. BROOKS

Palmer's School has lost a good friend by the death of Mrs. Brooks, wife of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, and berself a Governor of long standing, longer than that of any other Governor holding office. Mrs. Brooks had given long and devoted service to the community and had great experience of the interior organisation of local hospitals and other public institutions. She had a special affection for Palmer's School and her kindly bearing and shrewd counsel were much appreciated by her colleagues.

T. J. GODDARD, Esq., J.P.

Mr. Goddard died suddenly at Tilbury Hospital on May 6th. He also had been prominent in local government and for many years was a trusted leader in Trade Union and Labour organisations. After his retirement from work as an engineer in 1946, he devoted a large proportion of his time to public duties and became a Vice-Chairman of the Magistrates' Court at Grays, having been a Justice since 1917. As a Governor he was always pleased at the success of pupils who started with no advantages except their own ability and enthusiasm.

WILDFOWLING

To the average person who has not been initiated into the ways and intricacies of the marshes, I would not recommend Norfolk, for it offers practically none of the entertainments normally associated with holiday resorts. In fact, it rests with the holiday-maker to provide his own amusements. One of the reasons why the marshes attract me is the fact that they are places in which I can escape from all signs of human habitation and consequent disturbances. The very fact that they offer no entertainment to the person who demands to be amused helps to keep them secluded.

It seems to me that the way to enjoy the marshes to the full is to have some interest in shooting. There is an abundance of wildfowl of every type and if you are armed with a twelvebore and a good deal of patience you can have endless sport.

To go out in a punt with the favourite gun and plenty of cartridges into the heart of the marsh gives a strange sensation of power somehow lacking in any other sport.

Whilst waiting for the duck to flight over your carefully set-out decoys you can watch the tide flowing eerily through the creeks and gulleys, formed by countless centuries of silt-drift and river-crosion.

The water in these gulleys has a queer greenish tinge and appears to contain untold secrets never to be divined by man. An unearthly sensation, a deathly quietness, broken only by the lapping of the tide-flow against the mudflats, pervades everything. Even the mist swirling through the creeks seems somehow different here, as if cloaking some dire happening: and as the ducks flight overhead their cries intensify the strange loneliness of the place.

You are suddenly awakened from your daydreams by the winnowing wings of a brace of mallard hurtling overhead, dimly outlined against a rift in the leaden storm-swept sky. Two reports rend the hushed atmosphere and two limp forms fall headlong to the coarse marsh grass standing robustly against the spring tide.

The wind is beginning to bite keenly into your face and unless you wish to be stranded all night in the intense cold of the marshes, it would be wiser to paddle back to your hotel. Indeed, although Norfolk offers great sport to yachtsmen and would-be sailors, who want to try their hand at yachting, who only stay for a day or so in one place and whose interest is bounded by compasses, sail trim and wind directions—the only people who really learn to love the marshes for what they are—are the wildfowlets.

G.G., PC.

SPEECH DAY

NOVEMBER has the reputation of being the month of fogs, and Tuesday, 30th November, 1948, was one of its most unpleasant days. It was, therefore, most gratifying to find, despite the difficulties of travelling, the School Hall filled with as many parents and friends as could be accommodated on the occasion of the Annual Speech Day. We were specially pleased to welcome the timely and safe arrival of our principal guest, Col. Sir Francis Whitmore, K.C.B., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., J.P., Lord Lieutenant of Essex, our Chairman, Mr. Alfred Brooks, O.B.E., J.P., and Mrs. Brooks, Miss Leworthy, and several members of the Governing Body.

The Chairman of the Governors, expressed his pleasure at being able to preside, called upon the Headmaster to present his report.

Mr. F. J. Jordan, B.E.M., M.A., prefaced his report with a stimulating review of the functions of a Grammar School in the modern educational system, pointing out that it held the key position in modern democratic education, being the principal avenue by which the gifted boy of parents of modest means might set out to reach the highest ranks of his chosen profession, and thus achieve his own full stature and render his best service to the community. If he was to be given the opportunity to which his abilities entitled him and which he had been promised, it was evident that the standard of Grammar Schools must not merely be maintained, but raised to a vet higher level.

The Grammar Schools were conscious of the advantages which their pupils had enjoyed in the past and cordially welcomed the improvements taking place in other branches of education, but, bearing in mind their special function in the State System, they must look in another direction for a standard of comparison. They had to make it possible for boys to compete and hold their own with boys of equal ability educated in the direct grant and independent Schools. The difficulty and fundamental importance of that task needed to be realised by all who had at heart the cause of popular education.

The boy whose talents marked him out for advancement must, of course, take the same examinations and secure the same academic or professional qualifications as his more privileged competitor. That, though not easy, was in many ways the most straightforward need to satisfy. But the Grammar School boy required far more

than that if he was to attain the responsible position to which he aspired. He had to begin to cultivate and must develop in manhood those qualities less easy to define and assess, but equally

vital to true success—integrity of character, moral and physical hardihood, general culture and interest in affairs, human sympathy and tolerance, social poise, self-confidence without arrogance, good manners and speech. What was required was nothing less than the education of the whole personality, and a rich and varied school life was

needed to provide scope for that.

The Headmaster continued with a record of the activities of the School to show how much had already been done with that end in view. Academically, it had been a successful year—among the major successes being awards of one Open Scholarship, one State Scholarship and fourteen County Major Scholarships. The long-standing tradition of Mathematical Successes had been maintained, the Arts side was growing in numbers, and an Economics course had been introduced into the Sixth Form. He then reviewed those many and varied activities of our life outside the classroom which are, we hope, adequately

covered in our pages,

Col. Sir Francis Whitmore, opening his address, reminded the boys how much they owed to their Founder, William Palmer, who had been born while a distant ancestor of his-Sir George Whitmore was Lord Mayor of London. Sir. George was Lord Mayor within a few years of Sir Hugh Hammersley, William Palmer's maternal grandfather, and, by a further coincidence, all three were freeman of the Haberdasher's Company. Sir Francis reminded boys that the fascinatine story could be read in the book written by the late Mr. Herbert Brooks, and alluded to the debt which the School owed to him and to Mr. Alfred Brooks, present Chairman of the Governors. It was a cause of pride to be educated in a School with such traditions, and he anticipated with confidence that the present generation of boys would play the game and be good citizens. Not all boys could be first class scholars, but all could be worthy citizens of their native country.

Sir Francis concluded with a plea to boys to remember that there was always more to learn, and told several anecdotes to show how wide and promising was the field for intellectual curiosity.

The winners of prizes and certificates received their awards at the hands of the Lord Lieutenant, and Captains of Houses successful in athletic and Sports Competitions bore away their trophies to the accompaniment of the cheering of delighted partisans.

Mr. J. H. Freeman, J.P., brought a successful Speech Day to a close with an expression of thanks to Sir Francis Whitmore and to the Chairman,



THE School heard with great pleasure that one of its Old Boys, Sir William Strang, had been appointed to succeed Sir Orme Sargent as Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office. The sincere good wishes of the whole school go to Sir William for the successful discharge of the difficult and responsible duties assigned to him.

Sir William Strang's career is at once a challenge and an inspiration to the present generation of schoolboys. After studying at London University and the Sorbonne, and serving during the 1914-18 War, he entered the Foreign Office as a result of a competitive examination, being placed first out of 500 candidates, and has now reached the top of his chosen profession.

Another Old Palmerian to have won great distinction for himself and his school is Dr. H. G. Booker, who has been appointed Professor of Electrical Engineering at Cornell University,

U.S.A.

It was with regret that we said farewell to Mr. G. W. Barrand who, during an all too brief stay with us, left his mark upon several of our activities. The poop-deck of 'H.M.S. Pinafore' had, alas, to be dismantled, but the sight screens remain on the cricket field, a more permanent reminder of his skill. Before leaving, Mr. Barrand arranged a handicraft exhibition and we felt, on viewing the exhibits, that many parents must have been surprised and delighted to receive as Christmas presents fine examples of craftsmanship designed and made in the Woodwork Room by their sons, under the guidance of Mr. Barrand.

To Mr. R. Lockett, who has succeeded him as Woodwork Master, we offer a hearty welcome.

We heartily congratulate Maurice J. Holt on gaining an Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences at S. Catharine's College, Cambridge.

The following House Prefects were promoted to be School Prefects during the Lent Term:

J. W. Bulcock, I. A. Cheyne, J. A. D'Arcy, J. S. Goodall, J. Iffland, B. H. Nicholson, R. G. Shaw.

We regret the omission of the name of A. Wardrop from the list of School Prefects published in our last issue.

C. B. Wheeler won the Slogan competition organised by the Thurrock U.D.C. in connection with the Salvage campaign with the neat phrase "Paper a-begging needs a-bagging." He was presented with a cricket bat, autographed by the members of the Australian touring team, by the Chairman of the Council at a short ceremony held at the end of afternoon school.

M. G. Burnett wrote a prize-winning essay in the Thurrock Road Safety Week competitions. He had evidently mastered the principles of one-way traffic, and we all admired the manner in which he put precept into practice in approaching the platform to receive his award at the hands of the Headmaster—especially as the floor of the Hall, having been liberally dressed with french chalk in preparation for the Sixth Form Social, was an unexpected trap for the unwary.

Thanks to the good offices of the Headmaster and Miss Leworthy, the sixth forms of the two schools were able to hold two joint socials during the year, one at Christmas and one at Easter. Preliminary arrangements for the socials were made by a small committee of boys and girls, consisting of M. Clarke, P. Jordan, P. Lewis, A. Morris, B. H. Nicholson, J. C. Taylor, Christmas Social was held at the Boys' School in the Hall, whose customary appearance was much altered by a wealth of flags and bunting: the most interesting item on the programme was probably the agenious entertainment, which the Girls' School arranged, details of which we think wise not to disclose. The Easter Social was just as, if not more, successful than its predecessorthe great difference being that the boys seemed to have had some dancing practice since their previous efforts. The Hall had been prepared for the occasion by the addition of a painted frieze across the balcony, remarkable because of the expression of the spring creatures depicted on it. The Boys' School had arranged a faice, thanks to M. J. Holt and his co-operators, which seemed to be appreciated. All who attended, both masters, mistresses, boys and girls, would agree that the socials were thoroughly successful and that this success was in great measure due to the Headmaster and Miss Trew, who were the M.C.'s on the two occasions respectively.

Once again the labours of many weeks were brought to a successful conclusion in the School's production of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. It must be a cause of great satisfaction to Mr. Smurthwaite when he considers that the hard work he put into 'The Pirates of Penzance' was not in vain. The producer is of tremendous importance in a show of this kind and the School is very grateful for his unflagging zeal

Mr. Scott performed valiantly at the piano, not just 'on the night,' but at every rehearsal throughout the long preparation for the show. We could not have done without him. We are also indebted to Mrs. Scott, who was at the other piano, and who came to many of the rehearsals.

For tireless work in make-up and some expert use of safety pins we have to thank Mrs. Smurthwaite and Mrs. P. Ross.

Our thanks are also due to all those people who, both in front of, and behind the scenes, made the show possible. They cannot all be mentioned here, but we are sure the cast would like to thank Cheyne, who, as property manager, was always on the spot, and, on several occasions, took the blame for some of his colleagues who were not.

The cast and all concerned in the production were once again invited to attend a party in the boarders' dining room. This was rather an uproarious occasion, to say the least, and the spirits of the company were so high and their voices so loud that Riisager was quite inaudible when he presented a bouquet to Mrs. Jordan. We admired the grim determination of Ansell, who, while making a presentation to Mr. Smurthwaite, resolutely waited a considerable time for quiet before making his speech and handing over the gift. This was a pewter tankard, presented by the whole cast, and engraved with an apt quotation from the opera, "Here's good luck to Fred'rick's ventures."

We had a very charming criticism of "The Pirates" in the Girls' Magazine, and, while appreciating all the remarks that were made, we thought the one best received was that Mr. Benson made a loveable Sergeant of Police.

After reading this, a member of the lower school was heard to observe, "Who loves him?"

From the junior school, also, comes this, which we hope was not meant unkindly:—

"Frederick and Ruth were the leading caricatures."

One boy even recorded the impression that the policemen were singing "Tarantula!"

Mr. Sharp, who so kindly came down to make a report on the Pirates, has known Mr. Philip Ross for many years. They met after the Thursday evening's performance and this conversation was overheard in the dressing room:

Mr. P. Ross: "Did you recognise me as a policeman?"

Mr. Sharp: "Unfortunately, yes."

Mr. P. Ross: "Did you hear me singing?"

Mr. Sharp: "Fortunately, no."

The Sunday evening services have continued to be attended and enjoyed by a number of boys. parents and friends of the School. During the Trinity Term the experiment has been tried of holding these services at 8 p.m., and this has enabled us to welcome several of the local clergy. who have accepted the invitation to address us after conducting their own evening services. Next term we shall revert to the customary time of 6.30 p.m. On Empire Youth Sunday, the Headmaster invited members of local Youth Organisations to join us. The School Hall was filled with young people, who took part in an inspiring service conducted by the Vicar of Grays. The address was given by the Rev. S. J. Pearce. and the Chapel Choir gave the spirited lead to the singing which we are accustomed to expect from them.

The first group of Confirmation Candidates at the school—Peter Brew, Michael Burls, Donald Russell, Jolyon Smurthwaite, Rex Thomson and Michael Turner—were presented by the Vicar of Grays for confirmation by the Bishop of the Diocese at S. Margaret's Church, Stanford-le-Hope, on Ascension Day.

A second Conference under the auspices of the Student Christian Movement in Schools was held at the County School for Girls, Romford, on 7th and 8th May, and attended by members of the Sixth Forms of the Brentwood, Dagenham, Romford and Grays Schools. The subject chosen for discussion was, "The World we live in" and Father Patrick McLaughlin, Warden of St. Anne's House, Soho, who conducted the Friday session, attempted a Christian diagnosis. In a stimulating and provocative address, he affirmed that our thinking, though resting on a foundation of Christian Ethics, had been secularised and tended to discount the human personality—the world had the experience, but not the key to its own experience. The speaker, unfortunately, outran his allotted time so that the very valuable discussion groups had but thirty minutes to digest the material offered, and many groups found it necessary to use their time trying to elucidate the main points of the argument. Not unnaturally, therefore, many of the questions addressed to Father McLaughlin were directed towards securing a simpler exposition of a complicated argument,

The Saturday morning session was conducted by Dr. Eric Baker, Secretary of the Methodist Education Committee, and well known for his broadcasts to Sixth forms in the "Religion and Philosophy " series. His purpose was to offer a Christian contribution to the world we live in. The essential truths of Christianity, he stated, had a three-fold basis: that the historical events of nearly 2000 years ago were a revelation of eternal truths; that Jesus revealed the true nature of Man; and that God works in us through the Holy Spirit. The only alternative was the philosophy of human self-sufficiency. After these points had been discussed in groups, Dr. Baker dealt with a large number of questions in an admirably lucid manner to the general satisfaction of his audience.

Once again we were deeply indebted to the Headmistress and girls of the Romford County School for their generous hospitality

On February 1st, about a hundred and twenty of us joined similar parties from other schools nearby to see Rossini's "Barber of Seville" given by members of Sadlers Wells Opera Company, at Aveley Secondary School. The performance was obviously intended to provide a pleasant and simple introduction to Grand Opera—and much of the singing and comedy was admirable. Rosina's "Una voce" was charmingly sung, Don Basilio's resounding bass villainies were a delight (and his difference in stature from the diminutive Dr. Bartolo was ludicrous and incredible), Count Almaviva showed a very English restraint in his southern passion, while Figaro's quietly efficient clowning gave an object lesson in shrewd timing. These five soloists, together with two pianos, sustained the whole opera without any help from governesses, servants, notaries, constables, magistrates, musicians, soldiers, scenery or orchestra. It was inevitable in these circumstances that Grand Opera should lose its grandeur. One wonders whether the singers in their labours would have been encouraged or appalled by the knowledge that their audience contained a rival opera company accustomed to performing a full score with a full cast.

Schoolboy actors performing a Shakespeare play are bound to show anomalies in age, voice and appearance, and their stage is bound to be uncomfortably full at times. When the play is a tragedy there is the added difficulty of sustaining the necessary tone of high seriousness. When the tragedy is "Macbeth," there is a stark, fierce atmosphere which is hard to achieve but fatal to miss. The Royal Liberty School Dramatic Society boldly undertook this formidable task, and all our General School Certificate candidates went to see them do it. It was fascinating to wait for the familiar or half-remembered line, and to watch imagined scenes materialise. Perhaps the out-

standing memories we brought away were of a backcloth with the sombre quality of a coloured engraving; of three shadowy and sinister witches, convincingly staged; and of an impressive Macbeth, finely spoken and played with dignity

On 27th May, some 200 boys from the Middle School were able (by courtesy of the Essex Education Committee) to go to the South-East Essex Technical College at Dagenham to see the Children's Theatre Ltd. in a performance of "Tobias and the Angel." This play, based on the Apocryphal Book of Tobit, and written by James Bridie, was well-chosen, being simple of plot, wittily-written, and colourfully staged and costumed. This company has effectively mastered the difficulties inherent in playing exclusively to children's audiences—its members are always clearly audible and have developed a fine sense of timing. A critical audience was obviously delighted with this performance.

On the 30th March a party from the Sixth Form Arts Section went to see Donald Wolfit's production of 'King Lear.' The most experienced playgoers were just as delighted as the inexperienced with Wolfit's fine interpretation of Lear. It is impossible to condense into a few words the thunderous passions which he stirred up in the third act or the painful sadness he inspired in the last few scenes. Even when he was old and querulous in the first scene, he dominated the play by sheer personal force. This domination reached a climax later on in such scenes as the cursing of Goneril or in the last few moments of the tragedy.

With such a mighty figure as this on the stage, the other characters had a hard task. Edgar, Kent and the Fool all fulfilled their parts in this contorted web of human passions. The Fool was especially effective in his rôle of pathetic wisdom. Goneril, Edmund and Regan satisfied the demands made upon them and fully represented the grotesque villainy and the contempt for the weak which Shakespeare expected of them. Cordelia, it was generally felt, did not quite succeed in winning our sympathy.

One Saturday afternoon in last term a large party from Form II went to see Donald Wolfit's production of 'The Merchant of Venice' at the Bedford Theatre. After quite a pleasant ride to Camden Town, all were rather surprised to find that their cheap seats were much nearer the stage than had been anticipated and that a good view was to be had.

When the curtain went up and Antonio's rich voice echoed through the theatre, that rather dull first scene came to life. This was true of the whole performance. Launcelot and Old Gobbo really made the audience laugh; Portia was both charming and fiercely spirited; and there was

general agreement that there could not be a better, or more noble or more villainous Shylock than Donald Wolfit. There was no doubt in everyone's mind that it had been an afternoon well spent.

Those who say the influence of the films is a bad one will, no doubt, seize upon this extract from a Form II essay:--

"Shylock was a mean Jew who was starred in

'The Merchant of Venice.'

That there is hope for the younger generation is shown by this carefully worked out statement:—

"Shylock would rather have a pound of flesh

(troy weight) than 15,000 ducats.'

The author of this had undoubtedly started with Portia's scruple, and finding apothecaries' weight rather too clumsy for an essay, had substituted troy weight, which he knew had the same value.

At the end of last term two forms put on plays,

which were seen by a select audience.

Vc gave a performance of L. du Garde Peach's "The Stage Coach," a rollicking little piece with highwaymen and hold-ups. What they lacked in polish they made up in gusto, and no one minded when one actor forgot his bag of guineas. Costumes were cunningly contrived, army great-coats being much in evidence, and the illusion of a coach on the stage was quite skilfully created.

The second play was 'Abraham Lincoln.' put on by the Lower VI. Here was something of a different character, a contrast to the knockabout fun of its predecessor and correspondingly more difficult to get over. Fincham wrestled nobly with Lincoln and Nicol gave a good performance as General Grant. The costumes, for improvised ones, were really magnificent. We wonder whose brainwave it was to turn a school blazer into an army tunic.

Those privileged to see these plays had an enjoyable hour's entertainment and were only sorry that Vb were prevented by illness from putting on theirs. Both plays were very ably

produced by Mr. F. Hughes.

Fourteen boys from the examination forms attended the second annual Paris Easter School, held from April 9 to April 23, at the Petit Lycée Condorcet, by permission of the Rector of the Paris Academy, and under the patronage of the Essex Education Committee. The Palmer's boys formed the largest single party of a contingent of two hundred boys and girls drawn from the Grammar Schools of Essex, and accompanied by ten teachers, of whom Mr. Bone was one. Each morning the English children received lessons from French teachers, and the French children attended the course lessons from English teachers. The rest of the day was usually free for sight-seeing with the members of the families with

whom the children were staying. The weather was perfect, and the hospitality of the French hosts and hostesses at times almost overwhelming. Among the distinguished visitors who attended the closing ceremony was the French Minister of Reconstruction.

Members of the Upper Sixth Science had the opportunity of visiting Beckton Gas Works as a sequel to their previous tour of the Southend Gas Works. On this occasion, however, they were able to see the processes by which the bye-products are obtained from the raw materials. These products—far too numerous to record in a brief note—cover a very wide range and include dyes, medicines and perfumes. The Company earned the grateful appreciation of their young visitors for a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon and for the refreshments which brought their visit to a happy conclusion.

Mr. C. P. Kean who, as we previously reported, presented the School with a Map of Essex by Robert Morden, has again placed us in his debt with the gift of a Map of Essex by Thomas Kitchen, "printed for R. and J. Dodsley in Pall Mall, 1764." Thomas Kitchen, an engraver and publisher, worked in London at the Star, opposite Ely Gate. Holborn, from 1738 to 1776 and died in 1784. This attractive map is of particular interest as it shows us Essex at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and indicates the boroughs returning members to Parliament (though it fails to include Harwich in this category). It may be seen, along with the Morden and Oliver maps, in the case in the Library.

In the verse speaking section of the Thurrock Music Festival, our entrants did very well, supplying the winners of each class they competed in. The results were:—

II-12 years:

First—T. Moore (IIb.). Second—H. Ansell (IIa).

Certificates to M. Burton (IIa), J. Driscoll (IIIa), J. Hull (IIIc).

13-15 years:

First—G. Jarrett (IIIa) and R. Hayter (IIIb). Certificates to C. Bligh (IIIc), P. M. Riisager (IVa), H. Side (IVa).

16 years and over:

First—R. Cook (UVI).

Moore and Cook shared the distinction of gaining the highest marks (85) in the competition.

The keen interest shown and the high standard of our entries in the Thurrock Music Festival are commented upon elsewhere. There is another side, however, to this apparent love of music as is shown in this extract from an essay in the Junior School:

"If I were furnishing my own room, I would have a piano painted the same colour as the walls, so that I could not see it. If I could still see it, I would throw a sheet over it!"

Contributions to the Voluntary Sports Fund, which assist so materially in extending the range of our activities, amounted to $£57 \cdot 10 \cdot 6$ in the Michaelmas Term and $£60 \cdot 12 \cdot 9$ in the Lent Term.

Mr. E. L. Bone sends us the following note: -

There have frequently been examples of queer coincidences in the matter of names at Palmer's School. Some years ago Shalless and Letts were in the same form. Later Boast and Bragg sat side by side. More recently, Boxall nearly had a

namesake in Coxall. At the present moment IIIa has Bond and Free on its register, while IIIc can claim Barrable and Marrable. Appropriately enough, in Vb, Mellon sits near Patch. And I am sure that Mr. Hayston will not mind my recalling that once he had a colleague on the staff named Urry.

"Robert Owen built a model village at Third Lanark." With its own football team?

A small parcel, addressed to The Classics Master, recently arrived at School. It proved to contain a specimen copy of Scott's "Kenilworth," with a publisher's letter drawing the attention of the Classics Master to their new production of the Classics!

THE LIBRARY

SINCE, in previous magazines, no mention has been made about the room in which the library is housed, it may be fitting now to say something about its objects of interest. Curiosity and much ignorance has been shown about the shields on the walls: they are, of course, the coats of arms of those Oxford, Cambridge and London Colleges, to which Old Boys have gone.

Worthy of some examination is the museum case, presented to the School by the Old Boys in 1937. In it are some old prints of the locality -Purfleet in 1805, Tilbury Fort in 1808, Belmont Castle in 1832 and a print (undated) of the Old School near the Church. The correspondence of William Horncastle (1806-1848) reveals many details about the school and social conditions of his time: Palmerians wrestling with Stocks and Shares will be interested to see that the first extract contains such a sum. The School Accounts of 1805-1806 reveal the slight correspondence of the school- the postage bill being 1 2; the damage done to the building—consistent recurrence of sums for repair of the Garden fence'; and the cost of the Founder's Day Sermon, £1 . o . o to the Rev. Mr. Harper.

The old newspapers in the case are absorbing; for instance, in the *London Gazetteer* of Dec. 7, 1751, one finds the following odd news item in the quaint English of the time:—

"Last week a country-woman coming to Town between two milk cans, they were all thrown down by a loaded cart, when the wheels going over both her legs, broke them in a miserable manner. She was immediately carried to the county hospital and is now in a fine way of recovery." The same issue advertises Red Port at six shillings a gallon!

Of great interest are the maps of Essex, presented by C. P. Kean, showing us the geography of the county in the time of William Palmer. The local areas prove interesting, for they reveal such facts as that 'Rumford' was in the Royal Liberty of Havering—hence, no doubt, the name of our friends and rivals at Romford. The facsimile reproduction of the death warrant of Charles I contained in the case also deserves attention.

Many pleasant hours can be spent as a relaxation from more serious studies in perusing the volumes of *Punch*, which date from the first edition in 1841. Historians and humorists alike can enjoy this part of the library!

Users of the library should read thoroughly the book "William Palmer and his School," by Herbert Brooks, which gives an account as full as careful research can ensure of the School's development since its foundation in 1706.

Recent additions to the library include: --

Hervey Benham: Last Stronghold of Sail (a book of local interest, dealing with barges). C. H. Parkinson: Trade Winds.

H. E. P. Grieve: Some Examples of English Handwriting.

Essex Records Office: The Art of the Map-maker in Essex.

Statesman's Year Book for 1949.

R. C. Robertson Glasgow: Rain stopped Play.

P. Pringle: Romance of Medical Science.

M. C. Nokes: Science in Education.

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THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

FOR a boys' school to undertake a successful production of a Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, and at the same time to 'carry on work as usual' (which, I imagine, was the theoretical idea) is extremely ambitious. I should like to say at once that Palmer's in every way achieved at least the first part of their ambition. Whether or not work went on 'as usual' I am in no position to judge. I should like to think not, and to picture the Geometry lessons beginning, not with the soulless rubric of HALL AND STEVENS, but with a tutti rendering of "With many cheerful facts about the square on the hypotenuse." It would also be agreeable to imagine the weekly poetry lessons commencing, not with the normal pedagogic admonition 'Now this is a very good poem and you are going to enjoy it or else but with a reverent rendering of "Hail Poetry, thou heaven-born maid." But these are idle dreams, and it is my business to discuss realities, namely, the performances by Palmer's School of 'The Pirates of Penzance.

I honestly enjoyed this production more than any professional performance of Gilbert and Sullivan that I have seen. This was because it had all the vitality, freshness and spontaneity so often lacking in professional shows, in which overfamiliarity has bred, if not contempt, at least complacency. In these shows the singing grows soulless, the characterization stereotyped, and the 'funny business' mechanical.

Everybody in 'The Pirates' (including strangely enough, the conductor) seemed to be enjoying himself hugely. This is an excellent thing, always provided it does not mean that a production becomes undisciplined, and, of course, discipline in Gilbert and Sullivan is of paramount importance. This discipline, however, was never absent from this production. The greatest credit is due to the producer and conductor, Mr. Smurthwaite, for achieving this admirable blend-of discipline and ebullience. He had obviously not only given clear and competent direction during rehearsal, but he gave his company an equally clear and inspiring beat during the performances.

Further, how much better were the two pianos, admirably played by Mr. and Mrs. John Scott, than a scratch orchestra, composed of a few virtuosi, and the rest eager 'learners,' terrified out of their lives by the importance of the occasion and producing from their instruments sounds more Felinemonic than Philharmonic.

I thought the soloists were excellent. In general, perhaps, their standard of singing was a little higher than their standard of acting, but this was only to be expected.

Jolyon Smurthwaite gave a polished and assured performance as the Major-General—so much so that I was very much surprised to learn that he was still a scholar at the school. I put him down at least as Senior Current Affairs Master—a tribute both to his characterisation and his make-up.

Ronald Shaw as the Pirate King could, perhaps, have sung with rather more flambuoyant relish, but Gilbert did not build up this character very adequately. John Goodall attacked the delightful part of Frederick with great enthusiasm and spirit. His gestures were a little clumsy, but he brought out to the full the humour of the part and his singing was most pleasant to hear.

Mr. Benson made a delightfully benevolent Sergeant of Police and sang the famous 'A Policeman's lot is not a happy one' with masterly aplomb.

Raymond Hayter's performance as Mabel impressed me more than anything in the show. For a schoolboy to achieve at one fell swoop such musicianly expertness, charm of manner and excellence of attack as he did was nothing short of a triumph. He looked and sang the part perfectly and the purity of his vocal tone was matched by the vivacity of his acting.

As Ruth, Sidney Simmonds had undoubtedly the most difficult task of all. Boy contraltos don't grow on trees. To realise the standard he did, after only a fortnight's rehearsal, was a splendid achievement.

The Chorus was first-rate. I could distinguish every word they said and their reactions to the various incidents in the plot were definite and vigorous! The mere fact that the Major-General's daughters gained a round of applause before they sang a note, is sufficient testimony to the charming picture they presented. May I be forgiven for being reminded on their appearance of Hamlet'—

'Look here, upon this picture, and on this . . .'

It was prompted by my vision of these same charmers on the football field or presenting their excuses for homework unfinished, or even (is it possible at Palmer's?) undone.



RAYMOND E. HAYTER as Mabel

JOHN S. GOODALL as Frederick

in "The Pirates of Penzance"

I remember chiefly from the show the first appearance of the guileless maidens, the beautiful duet, 'Stay, Frederick, stay,' which was extremely well sung, and the unaccompanied 'Hail, Poetry,' in which the chorus remained indefatigably true and on the note.

There was so very little to find fault with. At times I did think that the soloists riveted their gaze too fixedly on the hypnotic eye of Mr. Smurthwaite. They could have forgotten his presence a little more. Some of their gestures, again, were a bit awkward and self-conscious (especially the arms outstretched at the half-way position).

Perhaps my chief quarrel was with the vexed question of encores. By all means let us have these encores, if they are demanded by the audience, as they frequently were. But if they are given, they should, I think, be given with rather more variation of movement and with different 'funny business' than was attempted.

The settings and costumes I thought quite excellent and so, too, was the make-up (a gargantuan and most tiring task, this), which succeeded so successfully in making boys look like staff and staff like boys.

I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this show and look forward immensely to the next one. Palmer's will be hard put to it to improve on 'The Pirates of Penzance.'

W.T.C.S.

Mr. Smurthwaite adds this explanatory footnote:

It had occurred to the producer to introduce more variation into the encores, and he agrees with our worthy critic that most 'numbers' do require a 'freshness' to keep an encore alive to the audience.

Messrs. D'Oyley Carte, however, who have the sole rights of all the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, insist on a most strict observance not only of the script and music, but also of the traditional funny business.' Any departure from this is frowned upon. The encore of the girls' chorus and love duet and such numbers is charming enough without any extra 'business,' but such additions as the Major-General's song encore ('Never rode a horse') are set down as in the original production.

Producers are sometimes tempted to introduce 'gagging' of 'greater' originality, but any departure from the D'Oyley Carte ideas would, without a strict insistence by the Company, ultimately reduce these delightful works to the level of Music Hall.

Imagine Sam in "The Pirates" entering with "Was there something?" or Pooh Bah replying to the laughter of the audience with "The Devil's

in me tonight," or perhaps some up-to-date producer could fit a little Boogy-Woogy into the Cachuca dance of the "Gondoliers."

In 1961 the Copyright ceases and it is to be hoped that some measures will be taken to preserve these works from the commercial interests of those whose activities our critic would no doubt deplore.

DRAMATIS PERSON.E.

Major-General Stanley -	_		J. Smurthwaite
The Pirate King	-		R. G. Shaw Mr. H. J. Becker
Samuel (His Lieutenant)		-	D. L. Gay
Frederick (The Pirate Apprei	atice)	-	J. S. Goodall
Sergeant of Police	-	-	Mr. H. Benson
Mabel			R. E. Hayter
Edith General Stanley's		-	H Ansell
Kate Daughters	-		R. T. Sutherland
Isabel	-	-	P. M. Riisager
Ruth (A Pirate-Maid-of-all-We	nk)	-	$S_{-}J_{-}W_{-}Simmonds$

Chorus of Pirates and Police -

I. Benjamin, J. W. Bulcock, Mr. C. G. Burridge, J. L. Ctrone, R. S. Crowhurst, L. R. Day, D. W. Easton, R. E. W. Grishn, C. Griffiths, J. Grindle, Mr. J. R. Hayston, M. J. Holt, Mr. F. Hughes, A. C. Huxzep, I. G. M. Jaron, Mr. R. T. Jones, L. P. Kelly, D. G. Mabey, W. A. Metherell, K. L. Miller, R. C. Palmer, B. G. C. Powis, Mr. G. V. Ross, Mr. P. L. Ross, J. C. Taylor, A. R. Thompson.

Chorus of General Stanley's Daughters:

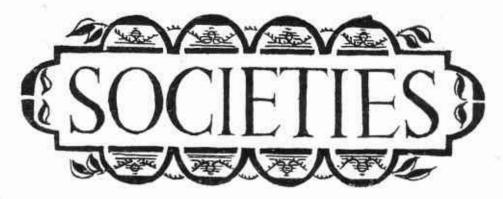
M. H. Angliss, W. G. Anthony, E. Benjamin, R. Brown, F. D. Chaplin, B. Colyer, R. A. Corbett, B. N. Digby, J. Driscott, R. Free, B. L. Gay, R. J. Gore, D. W. E. Harding, C. Hempstead, G. High, J. H. Hull, G. R. Hutsun, R. T. Lindsey, T. Saunders, A. P. Scott, H. J. A. Side, J. W. Stacey, D. S. Toweck, R. A. Yenn, C. B. Warner,

Scenery designed and executed by Mr. L. R. Willmer
Stage Carpentry - - - Mr. R. Lockett
Stage Lighting - - - Mr. W. Humphries
Assistant Electricians - - J. Vesey & C. Baxter
Costume Manager - - - Mr. L. E. Bloyce
Make-up - - - - Mr. P. L. Ross
Chief Steward - - - Mr. E. E. R. Bolim

Apples!

BESIDE my window grows a tree
Which through the winter seems to me
To fade away and just exist—
When winter comes with snow and mist.
But at a certain time of year
That little tree is once more here,
And on its branches apples grow,
And but for apples as we know,
Important laws like gravity
Might still remain a mystery.
But in spite of all their fame
Apples to me will just remain
—Apples!

DAN, DA



THE CHESS CLUB.

It is with pleasure that I am able to report that this society has increased its membership more than four-fold during the year. There has been a steady influx of new members throughout the season and it has become almost an embarrassment to find enough room for everyone to play in comfort in the library.

Many of the new members have come from the Lower School, which is an encouraging sign that an interest in Chess is being aroused there. All boys who can play, or want to learn to play, and especially the younger members of the school, are invited to come along to our meetings during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Library, for it is urgent that there should be a large number of young player-developing their skill to form the future backbone of the Club.

We played five league fixtures, together with three friendly matches, but only succeeded in drawing one league game and winning one friendly. This was not due to lack of enthusiasm, but simply to the fact that, after a lapse during the war years, we have not yet attained a really high degree of playing skill. This is gradually coming, but it is the present young players who will raise the standard of the Club high in future years.

As promised in the December issue of the Magazine, a tournament was arranged for those players not sufficiently fortunate enough to get into the team. This was planned before Easter, but new members entering the Club always desired to join in with the result that it could not be finished. This will be remedied next term by dividing the Club into two or three sections, each having its own competition.

Most members of the Club take 'Junior Chess,' which appears to be quite popular. However, distribution is difficult unless members come and see me personally to obtain their copies every two months. P. Mier, the Captain of the School Chess Team, is to be congratulated on obtaining

a place in the Essex Chess Team. R. Newbery, who left the School last year, has gained the same honour. Let us hope that there will be many more players from this School who will follow them into the Essex Team.

	RESULTS OF FLAGUE	FIXIURES =	
	v. Sir George Mononx G S	1, $\frac{1}{2}$ -= $5\frac{1}{2}$	
	v. Royal Liberty School	L 2 -	
100	v West Ham G.S	L o D	
	v East Ham G S	D 3 = 3	
	v. Hford C.H.S.	I. 1 = 5	
	RESULTS OF FRIENDLY	FIXIURES	
	v. Sir George Monoux G.S.	L 2 - 0	
	v. Royal Liberty School	$V = 0\frac{1}{2}$ $= 1\frac{1}{2}$	
	v. West Ham G.S.	$L = \mathbb{F}_2^{\frac{1}{2}} - \mathbb{F}_2^{\frac{1}{2}}$	
	LEADING AVERA	GES	
	D I Eyers	0.44%	
	B. H. Nicholson	-13 0	
	P. Mier	35 ;	
		B. H. N	
		17.11	

DEBATING SOCIETY.

On 4th November, 1048, the inaugural meeting of the Palmer's School Debating Society was held. The Headmaster has kindly consented to become the President of the Society, and M. J. Holt was appointed Secretary. Members of the sixth form are automatically members of the Society and members from forms V and UV may be admitted on being proposed by a member. Meetings are, in general, held fortnightly.

Despite its title, the Society can hold Brains Trusts, five-minute speeches, Invitation lectures, etc.

The subject of the first debate was "That Co-Education is a vital necessity in Schools"; being respectively proposed and opposed by Messrs J. C. Taylor and J. A. D'Arcy.

Arguments in favour of the motion included the mutual improvement of table manners, a wider choice of friends and the end of "Puritanical Victorianism." On the other hand, a speaker thought that Co-Education would promote effeminacy. Americans were becoming effeminate and soft and depended too much on women. Co-Ed. schools did not seem to produce good examination results. Among the compromise suggestions put forward was that of "two separate schools not nearer than one hundred yards with a communal dining hall." Another speaker, although describing life as a "drama of sex values," was non-committal. The motion was defeated.

The next debate discussed the present system of Sixth-form Education. M. J. Holt deplored the specialisation in Grammar Schools and likened the average Grammar School pupil to "a balloon floating in an atmosphere of marks and exam results." When the time came to soar to greater heights the ballast he had to jettison was too great. Mr. C. G. Burridge, opposing, pointed out that a revision of Sixth-form Education would necessitate new buildings, teaching staff and equipment. He thought the present Sixth-form course well integrated. Other speakers pointed out that many regarded the Sixth-form as a quiet backwater; that the Arts student showed a lack of logical reasoning power, whereas the scientist was exact and had a cross-referencing mind (sic!): and that an all-round Education was required. The motion was lost.

The political heretics were satiated by a "vote of no confidence in the Government.

In this discussion J. C. Taylor raised the issues of the Lynsky Tribunal, Nationalisation, the House of Lords and several other arguments to be found in "The Conservative Speakers' Handbook." J. A. D'Arcy exploited the merits of The Town Planning Scheme, Housing, The National Health Scheme and several other arguments to be found in "The Socialist Speakers' Handbook." The House preferred, for the greater part, to remain silent on this occasion.

Recently I. A. Cheyne and the indefatigable J. A. D'Arcy argued with each other for the House's benefit on the legalisation of Euthanasia or "mercy killing."

Some took the point of view that those in pain ought to be put out of pain. A scheme of administering Euthanasia to the clamouring public was mooted. The true Christian, it was said, is not afraid of death. On the other hand the scheme suggested would put a great power into the hands of doctors and was bound to be misused. One speaker described it as "legal murder."

The motion, however, was accepted by a majority of one.

The junior members of the Society were invited to pour forth their rhetoric on the motion "that Youth Clubs have outlived their purpose." A. R. Thompson and D. E. Smart described Youth Clubs as 'degenerate,' 'unnecessary,' 'non-intellectual,' and asserted that they fostered bad

habits. However, C. V. Ulyatt and C. J. W. Bush vitiated these charges and pointed out that they taught you the main things in life as well as many instructional pursuits.

Other speakers spoke of "the vices that lurk around lamp-posts" and a Youth Club in Leamington Spa.

The House decided that Youths Clubs were not redundant,

In addition to these debates, the Society has now made firm friends with the Royal Liberty School Debating Society. It was invited to Romford in November last to oppose the motion that "Urbanisation destroys man's sense of moral values and his individual thought." Our hosts not only staged us excellent refreshments, but were kind enough to reject the motion as well! Messrs. J. C. Taylor, J. A. D'Arcy and M. J. Holt represented the School in the debate, as well as a number of our keenest members.

In February the Royal Liberty School came to Palmer's for the return match and one can but fall back on that insidious cliché and say with sincerity that a good time was had by all. The motion was "That the deplorable depreciation in our standards of life during the last two years is a menace to Western Unity and Civilisation." B. H. Nicholson, J. C. Taylor and D. G. Mabev proposed for the School, unsuccessfully.

The Society has enjoyed the company of its Romford friends, in particular Messrs. Ward and Burgess, whose sound arguments and sparkling wit have summoned both sense and a smile. We look forward to seeing them again soon.

In conclusion, the Society, it may be added, has been run by a Committee, consisting of J. Iffland, J. C. Taylor and J. A. D'Arcy, together with the Secretary. The Committee has recently been augumented and one can hope that in the future it will be run as successfully as it has been to the time of writing.

M.J.H.

MUSIC.

Apart from "The Pirates of Penzance," music has been less in the public eye than last year, but, neverthless, much work has been done and progress made in many directions. This was evident in the results in the Thurrock Music Festival, when our entries, some fifty in all, reached numbers that bear some comparison with those from the Girls' School. Results also were good, boys from the School occupying prominent positions in many classes. In Pianoforte Solo, certificates of proficiency were gained by M. G. Roc (Hc) in the under 12 class; under 13, A. J. Baxendale (Ha)—third in class, R. J. Buttell

(IIa), A. P. Scott (IIc), R. A. Venn (IIIa); under 14, R. E. Hayter (IIIb—first in class, and D. A. Taylor (IVc); under 16, R. E. Hayter; under 18, M. Benjamin (UVIa)—second; open class, M. Benjamin—third. Hayter and Scott with their partners gained certificates. J.S. Goodall (UVIa), the only entrant in the Tenor Solo, gained the highest marks of the day for solo singing. In the Boys' Vocal Solo, there was an intriguing result. Hayter (second), Scott (third) and Venn gained three of the five certificates awarded; the others went to boys who, having competed in the Entrance Examination, may figure in the 'Avete' list next issue J. C. Evans (IIb), who was first in the under 14 Violin Solo, deserves special mention, as he started having lessons only six months ago, after coming to the school. In the class for Chamber Music, a trio-H. H. Daniels (Va), C. A. Hempstead (Va) and Benjamin—came third and were commended for their choice, movements from Purcell's Golden Sonata. Two old Palmerians also did well-Denis Redington winning the open violin solo, and, partnered by Tony Benson, the open piano duct.

After the Unveiling of the War Memorial, the Chapel Choir practices ceased as opera rehearsals increased in frequency, except in preparation for the Carol Service on the last afternoon of Michaelmas Term. This, for the first time, was the full traditional Service of the Nine Lessons, with carols sung by the whole School, by the Junior Choir, by the full Chapel Choir and by the latter's treble voices. The 'B' Section of the Choir has led the singing well in the Sunday evening services and on occasion has included an anthem. Their good work received wider recognition when they took part in the Thurrock Empire Youth Sunday service, which was held in the School Hall.

The orchestra has had no opportunity of appearing in public, but is making much progress in establishing a repertoire and will be able to give a good account of itself when the occasion arises. It is hoped that further chamber music groups will be formed in time for next year's Festival. The Violin Class, somewhat depleted in numbers, has met regularly and at least three members show great promise, one, B. J. Ward (Hc), having now transferred to private lessons.

A party from the School, a hundred strong, consisting of the cast of "The Pirates" and members of other musical groups were taken by coaches to Aveley for a performance of a condensed version of "The Barber of Seville" by principals of Sadler's Wells. The arranger and producer of this Intimate Opera Group is lecturing in the School Hall late in June to the Thurrock Educational Fellowship on Opera, illustrations being given by two principals—Elsie

Morison (soprano) and Gerald Davies (tenor). It is to be hoped that a good response is made to the half-price concession that Mr. Scott has obtained for members of the School.

Another concession of which sufficient advantage is not taken is that of attending rehearsals of the Thurrock Philharmonic Orchestra in the afternoon preceding their Saturday evening concerts. Far too many still look on this orchestra as little better than a local amateur affair before they have heard it. Their opinion then changes profoundly. This orchestra, one of the few subsidised by the Arts Council of Great Britain, gave three concerts last season and is to give three more in the Hall next winter. Soloists include Frederick Grinke (violin) in November and, in February, Sheila Randell (piano), who has just left school and, by general consent, is likely to have a world reputation very soon.

The last of the Thurrock Male Voice Choir's concerts was in aid of the School War Memorial Fund. The previous evening they had a B.B.C. audition and our sincere congratulations go to them on their success in this. We look forward to their forthcoming broadcast and feel proud that so many Old Palmerians are to be found in their ranks. In their next concert, in late October, soloists include Mary Jarred (contralto) and Howell Glynne (bass).

THE NATURAL HISTORY AND MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

A small aquarium has been fitted up in the Biological Laboratory and is being looked after by members of the Society. Many boys in the school are interested in this branch of Natural History and it is hoped that they will be able to meet periodically and discuss any difficulties which arise in the management of fresh water aquaria.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The Numismatic Society has greatly increased in numbers during the last two terms, but owing to the pressure of sports practices and other activities the attendance at meetings during the Lent Term was usually rather low

An Old Palmerian, Mr. Harpum, has presented the Society with a box of coins—these provide a very useful pool for exchange.

The Society's catalogue of coins is still available and persons wishing to make use of this should apply to G_1 T_2 Martin (Vb).

It is hoped in the near future to hold another exhibition and all persons interested in coins should make a point of attending.

G.1.M., Vb.

RADIO SOCIETY.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Wintle, of College Avenue, an Old Palmerian, for the gift of wireless parts, books and magazines, which have come in very useful and are much appreciated.

The parts have enabled us to construct an improved short wave receiver with bandspread, to cover 160, 80 and 40 metres. Two morse oscillations have also been constructed, one being a valve oscillator for use with headphones or loud speaker, the other a key and buzzer. Many members have realised that a knowledge of the morse code is necessary to a full enjoyment of short wave listening and a beginners' class has been started.

One of our members has been busy constructing a receiver for television sound and has succeeded in getting it to work. No doubt he will then proceed to make a vision receiver. We wish him luck.

We have now quite a number of books and magazines on radio. These have been in great demand for the last three or four months and are proving of great assistance to the members. New members are still welcome and will find announcements of meetings on the notice board.

STAMP CLUB.

Our prexious report referred to the Exhibition which the Grays Philatelic Society proposed holding in the School Hall on Saturday, December 11th last. This exhibition was a great success—a success to which a fair share was ably contributed by our School club members. They showed the right team spirit, which was fully appreciated and, both as helpers and exhibitors, they acquitted themselves well. We are pleased to record that D. Thorogood won the 'Open' competition with his display of German stamps, whilst T. Lemmon and M. Burls were respectively 1st and 2nd prize winners in the British Colonial section, restricted to our Club members.

Meetings last term continued regularly in the Library, in spite of the prior claims on several members of practices for the 'Cross-country' and rehearsals for the 'Pirates.'

From funds available the Club has purchased a copy of Gibbon's Catalogue, Part 1, 1949,' which is now available on loan to members only. On May 14th a few of us went to the Third Annual Convention of the Essex Philatelic Societies at Colchester, where the fine weather made it possible to combine historical with philatelic interests! Later this term a meeting will be held to elect the new Committee for the Club's third year.

To those of our senior members who will be leaving we say 'thank you' for your enthusiasm and help and to those at present in the Third Forms upwards, who are interested in this hobby, we extend a warm welcome to join us this coming term.

M.J.H.

THE SCOUT TROOP.

Patrol Leaders—Seniors: R. Thomson— Juniors: B. Block & P. Collins.

The School Troop has been officially recognised and is now known as the 11th Grays. It continues to flourish and most of the members are making rapid progress with their second class tests. The troop gained its first badge when P'L Block passed the tests for Swimmers' Badge. We congratulate him and hope this is the first of many such successes.

The troop is planning a weekend camp and we are looking forward to putting into practice some of the things learnt at the weekly meetings. In the summer holidays the troop is to hold its first camp at Bridport, Dorset, where we have secured a site close to the sea.

There is considerable rivalry between Hawks and Eagles in the inter-patrol competition. Hawks, under P/L Collins, are leading at present, but Eagles are hoping to overtake them during the camperaft competitions at the weekend camp. The senior patrol is helping considerably both by giving demonstrations and examing juniors in certain tests.

Members of the troop took part in the national Bob a-Job competition and managed to raise two pounds. After forwarding our allotted quota to Headquarters, we were left with a pound for our troop funds.

The troop is always glad to see new recruits, and, new as it is, has its own investiture rituals.

R.T.

EVENING

C.B.

A tiny speck of light. Could it be there Against all-conquering night? Would it dare? There, once again it gleams.

I beckon from afar—
"Waken the heart's glad dreams,
O rising star!"

R.C.

CORRINGHAM

A H, Corringham's a lovely place
With good and pleasant populace.
If you should go there you would find
The folk industrious and kind.
But Stanford is a gloomy town—
The population groan and frown.
Grays people don't respect the law,
But break shop windows by the score;
The poor police are punched and kicked
And even get their pockets picked.
Half Fobbing's people are in jail,
The other half's let out on bail;

They drink their whiskies, gins and stouts And fill the air with raucous shouts, Throw stones at lamp-posts, infringe laws, Smash milk bottles, break down doors. In Laindon, burglar's tools are made And robbery is their chief trade. A smell of oil recalls to one The short distance to Coryton. None of these places can compare With Corringham, for it is there The most respectful people live, In that small town superlative.

P.C.E.D., IVa.

BALLAD

IN olden times, when earth was young, And no God ruled the sea, Mannannan was a king on land And ruled a wide country.

But when at last he had grown old, He heard about a weed Which brought the owner youth again, And longed for it with greed.

He had no ship, so had to swim The broad white waves along, And soon he reached the weed's country, And ate it, and grew strong.

But so much swimming had he done That when he came to shore.

He found his legs were washed away, His feet were feet no more.

He had a fishy tail behind,

He had a fishy tail behind, A merman now was he. As once he ruled upon dry land, So now he rules the sea.

J.W., 11c.

A RÊVERIE

HAVE you ever dreamed
And found the people there
Seemed nought by insubstantial air
Drifting and drifting?

Have you ever walked
Where no one seemed to heed you,
With only your thoughts to lead you—
Drifting and drifting?

Have you ever heard
The distant sighing of the sea,
Or felt its wind as it stirs your hair?
Thus, oft, slips the world over me—
Drifting and drifting.

P. H.

THE FIRST LEAVES OF SPRING

A green mist rises softly from the trees, A clinging haze, which hovers round the heights,

Exultant, shy, light as life it shines. Triumphant, emblem of the Spring As strange as birth and simple as delight, Fresh joy abounding, singing to the world The lovelier lays of new exciting life. The spirit, newly-washed with innocence Soars upwards, swirling with a pride in this, The bright and subtle harmony of Spring.

R.C.

THE SCHOOL HOUSES

V .- SHAFTESBURY.

A NTHONY ASHLEY COOPER was born in 1621, the inheritor of a baronetcy and large estates. He was educated at Exeter College, Oxford and Lincoln's Inn. His political career started in 1640, when he became Member of Parliament for Tewkesbury, but it is interesting to see that he never sat in the House until 1653 and then for Wiltshire. During the civil wars (1642-49) he appears to have been on both sides. as the tide turned. In 1642 he was with Charles I at Nottingham, but not committed to him: in 1643, however, the year of Royalist successes. he pledged the aid of the Dorset gentry to Charles and raised a regiment. In 1644 he joined the Roundheads and obtained command of their forces in Dorset, storming many royalist strongholds, including Corfe Castle.

From 1653-8 he sat in the House and spent much of his time leading opposition to the dictatorship of Cromwell. In 1659 he was imprisoned as a political suspect, but was released on joining the faction of Monk, who restored the monarchy. In 1660 he negotiated at Breda for the return of Charles II and there he sustained an internal injury in a coach smash.

After Charles' return, his rise was rapid—he became a Privy Councillor, a Baron, and in 1661 Chancellor of the Exchequer, which post he held until 1672. Without his other achievements, his name would be famous, if only because he was a minister of the 'first cabinet' or Cabal formed in 1667. In 1672 he became Earl of Shaftesbury. President of the Board of Trade and Lord Chancellor, in which post he acquired great distinction and honour. His career after 1672 once more becomes interesting. The government had been forced to declare war against the Dutch and. to obtain the necessary supplies, Charles II was forced to revoke his indulgence to men of all religions, in which Shaftesbury believed. Shaftesbury, seeing the House in favour of intolerant Anglicanism, changed sides and resigned the Chancellorship in 1673.

The rest of his career he spent organising opposition to the King, especially attacking James, Duke of York, the Catholic heir to the throne. His political manipulations culminated in the Popish Plot of Titus Oates, for whom he rallied the whole support of the Green Ribbon Club. This club was formed in 1675 at the King's Head Tavern in Chancery Lane by the opposition leaders and counted Buckingham, Shaftesbury

and Monmouth among its members. It dominated the London mob, organised frantic electioneering and was the virtual controller of the Whig Party.

In 1678 Titus Oates had accused the Queen and the King's ministers of Popery and, after the engineered murder of the protestant Sir Edmund Godfrey, the country, mad with panic, embarked on a terrible and blind persecution of the accused. In 1679 Charles H. dissolved Parliament and Shaftesbury set himself to win the election by a lavish scattering to the public of beer and gold. After Shaftesbury's success, all went well for the persecuters until Lord Justice Scroggs, plucking up courage, dismissed a case, brought to court by Oates. Shaftesbury at once roused the London mob, as he attempted to do so often, and they assailed the Lord Chief Justice with missiles, throwing a dead dog into his coach. The Whigs, considerably encouraged, bent with fresh vigour to the attack. Shaftesbury organised monster petitions for the removal of James, which the Tories met with equally large petitions. In 1681, the Exclusion Bill defeated, Charles II again dissolved Parliament and called a new one at Tory Oxford, where the blue-ribboned Whigs of Shaftesbury daily fought with the red-ribboned Tories after the election. After one week of disagreement, the King dissolved this parliament, scaring by his resolute action the Whig opposition. Shaftesbury, forced to illegitimate action, projected the rising of the mobs and open rebellion, but, after its untoward discovery in 1682, he was forced to flee to Holland, where he died in exile the next year.

Stated as briefly as that, Shaftesbury's career seems unscrupulous and purely selfish, but, since all along he stood for the liberty of the English people, his vacillations are due to his rigid adherence- a thing somewhat foreign to the politics of this age -- to his idea. His name is tarnished however by his willingness to use both good and bad means to achieve his ends- as in the Popish Plot-and by his habit of betraying his friends, if it suited his purposes. Concerning Shaftesbury's character, Dryden is our best authority, for he has depicted him in his contemporary satire 'Absalom and Achitophel' with great justness, considering his political opposition to Shaftesbury. The man depicted is sagacious, bold and turbulent of wit, although 'restless, unfixed in principles and place '; a description which seems to suit Shaftesbury admirably. Dryden accuses him of a personal political leadership, not a dispassionate one, and this may well

have been true, but Shaftesbury's willingness to sacrifice office for opposition gives good grounds for doubt. His occupation of the Woolsack (1672-3) is praised because of his scrupulous exercise of fair, honest and swift justice. Dryden attributes his physical deformity and bad health to his great genius, in what are probably the most famous lines of satire on that

"...fiery soul, which working out its way Fretted the pigmy body to decay And o'erinformed the tenement of clay."

History must say that, although Shaftesbury may have been unscrupulous and have had his

vision obscured on many occasions, his genius was great and his idealism real.

Like the Cecils and Churchills, the Cooper family also has contributed its famous men to our history, for it was the descendant of Shaftesbury that early last century promoted legislation to create better working conditions for the poor.

Members of Shaftesbury House are drawn mainly from the Grays Ward and the House colour is green.

ICT.

THE EASTER SCHOOL AT PARIS

WE reached Paris about 6.45 p.m. We pushed our way through the crowd at the barrier, and after a few minutes wait, set off, in the wake of a guide, for the school where we were to meet our French hosts for the next two weeks. Nobody had met his host previously, although we had all exchanged letters. But we need not have worried in the slightest about our reception. In my case, and I am sure in every other case, the reception was truly wonderful.

I was met by my host—a big jolly man with an infectious smile—and his 14 year old son. Jacques, who proved a great friend to me personally and who got me out of so many muddles and embarrassing situations during my stay.

After being introduced, the three of us left the school and I was, for the first time, without anyone to speak English to. Little conversation was possible on the way home (during my stay the whole family made it as much my home as theirs), but an incident occurred which made me realise with a jerk that I simply had to understand and speak French; that I could not talk English if I liked.

We were sitting in a bus which was grossly overcrowded I never once saw a bus which was not overcrowded and I was squashed between the side of the seat and a very fat lady. I was trying to look past her at the lights of Paris through the window and all the time she was wriggling in a most agitated manner. All of a sudden she unleashed on me a torrent of French, of which I understood nothing. I was seized with panic, and looked helplessly at Jacques, who was making frantic signs to me to get up. I did so and the lady heaved herself out of the seat. With a withering I-think-I-know-the-right-place-foryou look at me she rolled on to the platform of the swaving bus. I realised afterwards that I was pinning her to the seat and that she was annoved because I had not allowed her to get up.

I had a very cordial welcome from the rest of the family when we reached their house and immediately sat down to dinner. I thought at first that the dinner must have been specially prepared to celebrate my arrival, but it is the usual thing, I found afterwards, to serve boiled potatoes with melted butter poured over them and to split radishes and fill them with butter. I also had ham at that first meal, but although it is plentiful in France, it is dear, so unfortunately they do not buy it often. During the meal I drank about three glasses of beer—a sort of gassy liquid, which froths most realistically when poured out and which has a bitter taste, but is almost completely non-alcoholic. After the beer, was served the wine-vin ordinaire. Thank goodness it was ordinary, for after three glasses of that my face was burning and I felt as if I would float up to the ceiling any minute.

After the meal, as after every evening meal in France, all the crockery was piled in the middle of the table and we started to talk with the aid of two dictionaries. This went on until nearly eleven o'clock, then somebody proposed going to bed. So we shook hands all round at least twice on that and all went to bed.

The next morning I was shown very proudly by my new friends, two places. The first was the top of a small hill, overlooking the town where I was staying, where there were three crosses about twenty feet high, erected as a memorial to those who were shot by the Germans for underground work during the war. The second was an American cemetery, with at least one thousand graves of Americans who died during the 1914-18 war. This was beautifully looked after by a French caretaker and his gardeners.

The first Sunday morning was the only reminder I had during the whole of my stay in France that the country I was now in and which

seemed to have so much food and seemed so carefree, had been occupied by German troops less than five years ago. Then I thought of England, and wondered

In the afternoon we visited the Eiffel Tower. This is 300 metres high and we had to wait an hour on the second stage to get to the top. But we had a free view of a football match, which had to be stopped every five minutes because of an argument between two players and the referee. The family I stayed with took me to all the places of interest in Paris. I think the most interesting visit was that to Montmatre and Le Sacré Coeur, a Cathedral on top of a hill. Montmatre is the oldest part of Paris, where everything is sold cheaply to tourists. It is very picturesque and we spent a long time wandering through the tiny streets and looking at the shops.

We had to go to school four mornings each week, but what a school! All we had to do was to sit back and listen to the French masters talking about French customs and places of interest, which was a very satisfactory way of passing the time, but not at all beneficial to our knowledge

of French grammar (only one master tried to make us work, so we set to work on him and he soon succumbed). There was a written examination at the end of the two weeks and an oral examination, which I did not take because Jacques and I felt too tired after the school dance of the night before. So we stayed in bed that morning till 11 o'clock. Just to prove how excellent the school really was, we were not asked a single question about our absence of the previous morning, on the last day.

Yes, we had a very enjoyable time in Paris and I was sorry to come home. But I had to come, and the innocent looking newspaper wrapped parcels, which for one reason or another I packed in the bottom of my case, are now devoured; and the two bulging objects in my raincoat pockets, which I believed at the time were antique glassware, are now empty glassware.

As we got out at Victoria station—the same familiar Victoria station—which seemed so much more orderly than French stations, it seemed only a few hours since we had climbed into the train for Paris.

A.J.M.

ORSETT FEN AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

ORSETT FEN lies someway to the north of Grays, and the fields slope down to this plain of coarse, tufted grass, which has never been ploughed and is poorly drained.

To the newcomer it appears to be a vast, flat uninteresting field. It is, however, not so flat and devoid of detail as it seems. Small hollows run hither and thither, for the purpose of draining it and the soil from these hollows has been deposited in two mounds at different parts of the fen. There are also many small paths worn by cows, for the sole purpose of the fen is for the grazing of sheep and cattle.

At one place, amongst the huge clumps of coarse grass and rushes, there is a patch of closely-cropped pure green grass, the lowest part of all the fen. No trees or bushes grow anywhere within its boundaries, which are the Mar Dyke on the west and two dykes on the north and south, which gradually become closer together towards the east, until they reach the Orsett to Bulphan road.

The fen changes considerably with the seasons. In spring and early summer it is green, with splashes of colour given by many flowers. In late summer it is parched and yellow, extremely dusty, with patches of dead brown thistles. After heavy rain it is swampy, with pools in many places. It is at its best covered with hoar frost, and after snow it is a white plain, with tufts of grass showing. To be out there in a fog is a weird experience, for one realises then that the fen is not flat, but the ground seems to rise in hillocks

To the west one sees the willows by the Mar Dyke and the land gradually rising to Ockendon, which is hidden by trees, except for the windmill-Far to the east is the mass of Langdon Hills, while to the north is Bulphan Fen, the Harrow Inn, the great flat plain where the Mar Dyke winds sluggishly, and finally the hills, where it rises as an oozy swamp.

II J.A.S., IVa.

Roll of Honour

BUSH, R. H. 2nd Engineer M.V. "British Glory"

WIND IN THE TREES

TREES certainly have voices and therefore seem to have souls. Their voices are definitely more pronounced when the wind blows. The jostling, whispering sycamores and chestnuts are suddenly moaning and shrieking in the shrill gale and then restored to quietness when the wind fiend has passed. When the South-West Wind puffs at the countryside, the giggling aspen hides

her laughter in her silken gown. I admire the stunted arctic pine, clothing the barren hillsides of the North, in a gale. He compresses his lips and lets not one cry of agony or fear escape his lips, only small gasps and an occasional groan come to our ears, when the wind is in the treetops.

P.M.R., IVa.

THE LONELY POOL

DEEP in a hollow lies a pool,
Shaded by trees, all dark and cool
The banks slope steeply down, made
By rich, thick moss; the alders lean [green
Towards the water, meeting there
Their own reflection, dark and bare.
I like to sit there, at my ease,

On the thick moss, beneath the trees, Beside the water, still and calm, And hear the sound of distant farm, See patterns that the sunlight weaves, And smell the smells of rotting leaves And damp moss, which from the ground Rise, and that lonely pool surround.

H.J.A.S., IVa

THE NIGHT SKY

Across the sky of jet.
Star of the Pole! And you stand still And watch them as they set.
Orion with his shield and knife Leaves us, to take his rest.
Whilst Gemini, the shining twins Still linger in the West.
Around the Pole the vain, proud Queen Sits on her carven chair,

THE Constellations rise, and swing

And swings about, high in the sky And waits, and combs her hair. The Ram, the Bull, the Crab. the Scales, The Herdsman and the Goat, And Pegasus, upon his wings, Through the night sky they float. And as the sun comes from the East And fills the world with light, Think of the stars that leave us now, But will come again tonight.

J.W., H¢.

THE AESTHETIC YOUNG MAN

THERE once was a very aesthetic young man, An aesthetic young man was he, And he talked about Truth, with an ache in his heart

And, of course, with a capital Γ .

Oftimes, from the soul, this very young man, Very young was this man, truth to tell, He would rationalise Life, with a tear in his eye, And, of course, with a capital L.

But most of his time, this pure, gentle soul,
Pure and gentle his soul, like a fay,
He exalted in Art, with a sob in his throat,
And, of course, with a capital A.

But a Roseate Idyll of Peace took his soul,
From an unfeeling world did it flee:
But his principles triumphed, for there, on his
Are the capitals R.I.P. [tomb.

R.C.



SCHOOL FOOTBALL.

On the whole this year, the results have been poor and in all teams the standard of football has been well below that played in previous years. This has been specially true in the first XI. which could only win one match and draw two, one of the drawn matches being against the Old Palmerians.

Unfortunately the first XI. at the start of the season had only three colours of last season's team left, and, as a large part of last year's 2nd XI. had left, the School had not many experienced players to fall back on. As a result the team as a whole was rather inexperienced and below the standard of previous 1st XI's. A blow came when P. G. Titterton, the vice captain, left at the end of the Michaelmas Term. However, in spite of set backs like these the 1st XI. played hard against some very good opposition and towards the end of the season some very good football was witnessed by a handful of enthusiastic supporters.

In the 2nd XI, the results were better but they were not satisfactory when compared with those of previous years. During the Lent Term the team was unsettled because of injuries and other

commitments, mainly in the School cross-country team, and was not at full strength. Because of the youth of the team the 1st XI. next year can be assured of a good supply of players.

The 3rd XI. this year was in the nature of an experiment and had not a very full fixture list. Here again they started off quite well but the promotion of players to 1st and 2nd XI's weakened them toward the end of the season.

The Junior XI, this year was one of the smallest and youngest but most promising sides that the School has ever had. Even though the results were poor, the football played by this team at times was remarkably good and next year almost the same team should achieve some better results.

Though this year's results have been poor the school teams next season should be more experienced, because there is a large number of the 1st and 2nd XI. players staying on at school, and in the lower school there is an almost inexhaustible supply of talent.

During the Christmas holidays P. G. Titterton and J. Iffland were selected to play for the Public Schools against the Midland Bank. D. J. Gay and J. Iffland have been awarded colours.

[.W.B.

	RESULTS			
Nov. 13 v. Old Palmerians	1st XI drew 1-1	2nd XI	3rd XI,	Jun_XI
20 v Royal Liberty School	lost o-11	lost 1-5		
		1051 1-5		lost r-4
27 v Hornchurch County High	School won 8-1			WOD 5-0
Dec. 4 v King Edward VI. School,	Chelmsford lost o-3	W GII 4-0		- '
18 v Sir George Monoux School	lost o-7	lost 1-5	lost 2-3	lost 2-5
1949.	shawing i			
Jan. 13 v Hornchurch County High !	School	drew 3-3	-	won 6-o
29 v Uford County High School	lost 0-4	lost 3-4	Won to-2	lost o-3
Feb. 3 v King Edward VI. School, C	helmsford lost r-a	4	11 O11 (O-Z	1031 0-3
to the Park Thomas Commence Code		lost 1-2		
12 v East Ham Grammar School	drews-2	drew 3-3	(ITCW 2-2	lost 1-5
Mar. 5 v Royal Liberty School	lost o-7	lost 1-0		lest 3-11
12 v Barking Abbey School	lost 0-7		1	10st 3-11
	rost o-7	WOD 5-0	drew 2-2	1000

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

Earlier in the year, the School was invited to take part in a cross-country run for the Burn Cup at Newport, in North Essex. The team consisted of W. A. Metherell (Captain), B. D. Foster, C. H. Gredley, D. S. Bulcock, P. J. Treloar, C. A. Horsman, D. E. Graham and A. R. Thomson and was transported to Newport in a coach shared by runners from Hornchurch County High School.

The team came eighth out of the fourteen schools competing. Foster ran an excellent race to come sixth in a field of 112 runners over a distance of 4½ miles. The course was very gruelling. This was made so by the fast pace set up by the foremost runners and also by the many hills. Refreshments were afterwards provided by our hosts and the team returned home by coach after a very enjoyable day.

A week later, on 12th March the School took part in an invitation race at Epping Forest, organised by the Orion Harriers. The team consisted of W. A. Metherell (Captain), B. D. Foster, C. H. Gredley, D. S. Bulcock, C. A. Horsman and

P. J. Treloar.

The course was entirely in the Forest and was very muddy which made the going extremely difficult. The school team came sixth out of twelve schools competing, and Foster again ran a very good race, coming second in a field of 72 runners, for which he received a medal—a very creditable achievement.

The School has had a quite successful year of running and it is hoped that as the Juniors pass up the school they will maintain, if not surpass,

the present standard of running.

THE INTER-HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY RACE.

For months before the cross-country run at Orsett, each House was training earnestly, and at last the great day arrived. On 31st March--a crisp, sunny day—coaches took the runners and markers to Orsett, while spectators made their way on bicycles and buses. During the last fifteen minutes before the race, excitement and tension among the runners was rising and reached a climax when the race started. The Juniors were the first to line up for the start and, after a few last-minute instructions by the Headmaster. the starting signal was given and they were off but off on the wrong course, unfortunately, and the race had to be re-run the next day. The Middle and Senior groups made a good start with no unfortunate accidents

The course began by an orchard in the grounds of Col. Sir Francis Whitmore, through an open gate 25 yards from the start, along the edges of several fields and so on to the road. The different groups then continued along their respective

courses which were shown by flags and markers.

The Junior and Middle courses were flat, with gates and stiles as obstacles. The water-jump in the Senior course usually provides thrills for both the runners and spectators, but this year—the winter having been comparatively dry—the water-jump was almost empty of water, and so no-one suffered the discomfort of wading out, chest-deep in water and mud, as has happened many times in the past after a severe winter.

Each course finished along a rampart near the starting-point, and the runners lined-up in a funnel to receive a card bearing their position in

the race.

B. D. Foster (B) won the Senior event in 20 mins. 5 secs. the length of the course being 3½ miles. Other successful runners, in order of finnishing, were C. H. Gredley (M), J. A. Woolliams, (P), W. A. Metherell (A), D. S. Bulcock (M), and A. Wardrop (P).

In the middle group V. Hobson (s) came first over a course of $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles in 14 mins. 58 sec followed by S. R. Heapy (M), G. Setter (P), R. Setter (P), D. A. Taylor (B) and D. W. Falkus (A).

R. B. Saberton (A) ran the 1½ miles of the junior course in twelve minutes, followed by N. R. Stokes (s), J. C. Wright (B), M. D. Owen (S), R. J. Gore (A) and F. G. Chapman (s).

Marlborough House are to be congratulated on winning the trophy for the third consecutive year.

C.A.G.

RESULTS

1	Marlborough	364	points
2	Shaftesbury	511	
3	Priestley	524	
4	Brooks	530	
.5	Addison	638	

ATHLETIC SPORTS 1949.

A welcome innovation to our Sports Day this year was the introduction of three new field events. Their titles, Throwing the Discus, Throwing the Javelin and putting the Shot, occasioned much comment and interest from the spectators, although certain among them seemed to imagine that 'Putting the Shot' was some new game allied to golf. The north field was used for track events and all the field events were concentrated in the south field. Enthusiasm, especially among the younger boys of the school, was admirable and the response to the new events was encouraging. We thank Mr. Roberts and his several helpers for making these events a success.

Despite the cold wind, it was a day of bright sunshine and a large number of spectators attended, although the wind prevented the attainment of new records. Unfortunately time decreed that track events had to be run in the north field at the same time as field events in the other, thus preventing the onlookers from seeing all the events of the day. One of the events, at least, was stimulating. The sand in the Long and High Jump pits was of a vivid orange huc. strongly reminiscent of the colouring matter in some water ices, and several competitors had this striking colour liberally dispersed over their legs.

The struggle between Brooks and Marlborough for the first place was close, but not as close as that between Shaftesbury and Priestley for the third place. This latter struggle was not decided until the end of the programme was in sight. Addison did not shine this year, but congratulations must go to P. Thurlby for a very fine allround individual performance.

The Tuck Shop proved its value once more and was continually in demand for refreshments. The score-board was this year erected by the now very neat sports pavilion and enclosure; and here, indeed, was cause for lamentation and also for great excitement. The spectators were as tense as the competitors and as the afternoon passed, the excitement did not wane, but rather increased.

Mr. Becker announced the results with exemplary efficiency from the loudspeaker van and somehow every competitor managed to turn up at the right time and in the right place. timing was largely adhered to and the whole was carried out with very laudable smoothness and precisiona

Brooks finally won after having been ahead for most of the day. The invitation race was won this year by D. Johnson of East Ham Grammar School and the Headmaster presented him with the Cup. The challenge trophy was presented by the Headmaster to B. Foster, who has achieved such great and well-deserved success at crosscountry running. The day rounded off the term

in a happy and lively vein

And now, finally, thanks are due to all the people who contributed to the day's success-to those who were responsible for preparing the field for the events, to the competitors for providing a splendid display of keenness and talent and to spectators, staff, judges and stewards, who all made a united effort to make the occasion one of delight and efficiency successfully and enjoyably combined.

R.G.S.

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RESULTS.
Form II
   100 yards
                                                  2 R. A. Hutson (B)
                         t V. Gunn (B)
                                                                          3 D. A. Yates (r)
   220
                         I J Limbourn (B)
I D H Cave (M)
                                                  2 N. Stokes (s)
                                                                          3 D. H. Cave (M)
                                                  2 E. Marking (s)
   High_Jump
                                                                          3 D Baggs (s)
                         I D. H. Cave (n)
   Long ..
                                                                          3 N. Brown (M)
                                                  2 B. Stokes (A)
   Relay Race
                        I S 2 B 3 P
Form III
                        J. Abel (s)
B. S. Norford (M)
   roo yards
                                                  B. S. Norford (M)
                                                                          3 C. A. Coventry (s)
   220 yards
                                                  3
                                                     J. Abel (s)
                                                                          3 R. Butt (B)
   High Jump
                        J. Abel (s)
A. S. Bannister (b)
                                                  2 B S. Norford (M)
                                                                          3 C. R. Smith (A)
    Long
                                                  B. S. Norford (M)

    J. Abel (s)

   Relay Race
                         1 B 2 S 3 M
Form 1V
                        i D. W. Falkus (A)
i D. A. Taylor (B)
   100 Vards
                                                                          3 S. R. Heapy (M)
                                                  2 D.A. Taylor (B)
    220 vards
                                                  2 S. R. Heapy (M)
                                                                           3 K R Fisher (M)
                         i S. R. Heapy (M)
   140 vards
                                                                          3 D. W. Falkus (A)
3 G. W. Poole (A)
                                                  2 D.A. Taylor (B)
                                                  2 D. L. F. Dennis (B)
   High Jump
                         C. A. French (p)
   Long Jump
Relay Race

    B. J. Colyer (B)

                                                  D. L. F. Dennis (B)
                                                                          3 R A. Corbett (M)
                         1 30
                                2 B 3 S
Form V
   100 yards

    P Thurlby (A)

                                                 2 | D. Havis (B)
                                                                          3 B. S. Mapperley (A)
                        i P Thurlby (a)
i A. C Thomas (B)
   220 vards
                                                  → Smallcombe (P)
                                                                              | D Havis (B)
   440 yards
                                                                           3 G. Setter (P)

    J. Smallcombe (P)

                         t R Setter (P)
   880 yards
                                                                          3 J. Briton (M)
                                                 2 J. L. Down (s)
2 J. D. Havis (B)
   High Jump
                         t D. S. Horsman (s)
                                                                              [. W. Boyd (B)
    Long Jump

    P. Thurlby (a)

                                                  2 J.D. Havis (B)
                                                                          3 R. Broadbead (P)
   Relay
                          1 5
                                2 A 3 11
Forms IV and V
   lavelm
                          I J. D. Havis (B)
                                                  2 D S Horsman (s)
                                                                           3 G. R.C. Ebsworth(B)
                            J. Smallcombe (p)
    Shot
                                                  G. R.C. Ebsworth(B)
                          I
                                                                          3 P. Thurlby (A)
   Discus
                                                  2 P. Thurlby (A)
                                                                          3 J. D Havis (B)
                          I
                             J. Smallcombe (P)
                         τ P. Thurlby (A)
   Cricket Ball
                                                  1 V Hobson (s)
                                                                          3 G. J. Langley (P)
Forms UV and VI
   100 yards
                         I J. A. Woolliams (P)
                                                 2 J. Iffland (M)
                                                                          3 C V Ulyatt (P)

⇒ D. V. Newborn (M).

   220 vards
                             J. A. Woolliams (r)
                                                                          3 D. J. Gay (A)3 P. T. Barton (s)
                         1
                         1 D V Newborn (M)
   Ho vards
                                                 2 J. Smurthwaite (A)
                         D. S. Bulcock (M)B. D. Foster (B)
                                                 ⊋ P. T. Barton (s)
    880 vards
                                                                           3 J. L. Crone (M)
   Mile
                                                                          3 С. A. Horsman (м)
                                                     B. H. Nicholson (P)
                         1 M. D. Glew (s)
   High lump
                                                 P. A. Maddox (M)
                                                                             D. Rouse (B)
                         1 C V Ulyatt (r)

1 M 2 P 3 B

1 R A. Gilpin (B)
   Long ...
                                                 2 A. Wardrop (P)
                                                                          3 W B Cragg (A)
    Relay
                                                                          3 J. Iffland (M)
3 C. Griffiths (P)
    favelin
                                                  J. W. Bulcock (M)
                         T. C. H. Hawkes (s) W. C. D. Hagreen(M)
    Shot
                                                                          3
                         I C V Ulyatt (P)
                                                                          3 L. P. Kelly (s)
   Discus
                                                     J. L. Crone (M)
   Cricket Ball

    G. W. Bannister (P)

                                                 4
                                                    R. A. Gilpin (B)
                                                                          2 N. F. King (M)
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Final Positions

- 1	Brooks	69	points
2	Marlborough	62	
3	Shaftesbury	5.3	,,
4	Priestley	49	• • • •
-5	Addison	3.2	

BADMINTON:

Badminton was introduced for the first time over a year ago, but interest did not develop until last term. The great interest shown then, however, was a pointer towards the development of the sport in the school. The Gymnasium was never empty at any time during the evening and the improvement shown in the play of the older boys was astounding. The only regrettable point is the comparative lack of accommodation and the fact that shuttlecocks are scarce and expensive.

It is hoped that the School will soon boast a Badminton team that will have regular fixtures with other schools, and the results of the singles tournament will go a long way towards choosing a team. Boys in the lower school will note that they can book the court, but it would be preferable if they brought partners and supplied their own rackets.

Next term there will be a doubles tournament and all entries should include the name of the player with whom the entrant wishes to play, All entries should be submitted to L. P. Kelly, LVIA L.P.K.

BASKET BALL.

The first Basket Ball league was formed in November, the first match taking place on November 3rd. The league was composed of two divisions, senior and junior. The senior league members were all forms VI and UV, the junior league being composed of the fifth forms. The matches attracted many spectators and provided plenty of after school entertainment during the dark evenings; one or two of the people must have brought along some of their speedway stunts and slogans with them.

Some promising players emerged from these games, many of whom will be at school next winter and will provide the backbone of next winter's teams, The UVI, whose team manager always wore a rather worried look, preserved good combination but lacked shooting capabilities, however the UV forms provided the best teams; and it was from these that the winners and runnersup were drawn. Form UVC were the champions and UVA the runners-up, UVC losing only one match against LVI A and E.

R.L.O.

SCHOOL CRICKET.

At this stage in the season the School teams are definitely settling down and results to date

show good prospects for the future. Although the successes which have been achieved so far have not been so resounding as we hoped, there is however, no lack of enthusiasm throughout the school and the response shown by all can hardly fail to produce good results.

The Term Galendar shows a good fixture list and there is only one new fixture, against Sir-George Monoux Grammar School. We are having a Cricket Week again this year, and the first fixture against Westcliff High School will be played on July 13th.

The 1st XI, includes five members with colours: D. J. Gay (captain), G. W. Bannister(vice-captain) J. W. Bulcock, T. R. Lester and G. R. J. Cole.

RESULTS TO DATE

May 7th v Westeliff High School, 70 , Westchfi H, S 89 34 Westchiff H, S 100 ist Xl 2nd XI. May 21st v Ilford County High School ist XI to7 (Cole 30), Illord C.H.S., 88 for 8,

2nd XI. 82 , Illord C,H.S., 47 (Rouse 3 for 7) Junior XI. 39 for 8 ; Illord C,H.S. 57 (Warner 4 for 6) May 28th v Southend High School-

1st XI 38 : Southend H S, 69 (Cole 4 for 20) 2nd XI 44 for 8 ; Southend H S, 111 for 6 Junior XI 98 for 3 (Hills 53 u.o.) Southend H.S. 67 (Warner 5 for 9)

June 4th v Gravesend Grammer School

1st XI: 78 for 1 (Ulyatt 38 u.o. Gav 24 n.o.) Gravesend G.S. 140 for 3

2nd XI 133 for 7 (Kelly 29, Clark 25) § Gravesend G.S. 14 (Kelly 5 for 6, Rouse 5 for 7)

Junior XI. - i Gravesend G. S. 39 (Hills 5 for 12) Bannister 3 for 5)

June 6th v Stork C. C. (Jurgens) Mr. G. Ross's XI, 134 (Mr. Roberts 29, Bannister 36+ Stork C C 158 for 5 (Treloar 3 for 30)

Inter-House Cricket Championship

		A STATE OF THE PERSON AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON ADDRESS OF THE PERSON AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON ADDRESS OF THE PER		
l	Shaftesbury	19	points	
2	Marlborough	1.7		
3	Priestlev	ΙΙ	,,	
4	Brooks *	()		
5	Addison	1		

D. L.G.

The Elm Tree at the Corner

In grassy verge, beside a street Where this road and another meet, There stands an elm tree, hollow too, Where age and rot have eaten through. Its boughs are twisted, gnarled its trunk, And roots deep in the earth have sunk. Its foliage of dingy green Is not so pleasant to be seen As other trees with brighter hue Which proudly stand exposed to view. But this majestic, gnarled, old tree Has magic that bewitches me.

RAC., IVa.

HOUSE NOTES

ADDISON.

House Masters: Mr. Frank Hughes,

Mr. L. T. Harris and Mr. C. G. Burridge.

House Captain: D. G. Mabey. Captain of Cricket: D. J. Gay.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING.

In this event the House came fifth. This position was not due to lack of enthusiasm or practice, especially on the part of the juniors. The best performance was by R. B. Saberton, who came first in the junior event. Other runners worthy of mention were W. A. Metherell (fourth in the senior event) and, following Saberton in the juniors, R. J. Gore, who came fifth.

W A M

Annual Sports.

Addison did not retain the sports trophy but there were some good individual performances.

P. Thurlby obtained first place in the long jump, throwing the cricket ball and 220 yards race; and second and third places respectively in throwing the discus and putting the shot. J. Smurthwaite ran well to win second place in the 440 yards, while D. J. Gay and D. W. Falkus took third places in the VIth form 220 yards and IVth form 440 yards. T. R. Birch unluckily fell just before the tape in the 440 yards race, but by a fine finish in the 440 of the Relay race, he gained third place for the Addison Vth Form team. W. B. Cragg represented Addison in the long jump, gaining third place.

Great keenness was shown at all practices.

D.G.M.

CRICKET.

Addison are once again having a poor season, though we still have one game in hand. We appear to lack enough good juniors and an aggressive spirit.

ADDISON V. BROOKS.

1st XI. Brooks were all out for 31, T. R. Lester taking 6 wickets for 9 runs—this analysis included a hat trick.

Addison passed this score with 40 for 3 wickets (B. S. Mapperley 17, B. G. Chaplin 16).

2nd XI.

This was a poor game, Brooks winning by 36 runs to 24.

3rd XI.

Brooks won by 7 wickets. Addison scored 49

Addison v. Shaftesbury.

rst. XI.

Addison batted poorly, scoring 38 runs to which Shaftesbury replied with 51 for three wickets.

2nd XI.

Addison batted first and complied 30 runs. Shaftesbury replied with 68 for 6 wickets...

3rd XI.

Addison were overwhelmingly defeated, scoring 28 runs in reply to 74. R. L. Eaton took 6 wickets for 16 runs, including the hat trick.

Addison v. Marlborough.

ıst XI.

This was the most keenly contested of the series. Addison made 59 runs for 5 wickets. Marlborough went for the runs but lost 8 wickets for 27 before stumps were drawn. D. J. Gay took 3 wickets for 0 runs.

and XI.

This game ended on an exciting note, with Addison's last men in with one over to go, they did not however survive. Addison obtained 31 runs. 3rd XI

Addison scored 48 runs of which T. C. Prentice made 12; Marlborough replied with 71. (Eaton 5 for 24).

D. L.G.

BROOKS.

Although the Football season started well for the House, our hopes of winning the trophy for the second year in succession were dashed when we lost five points to Marlborough. However our teams played very well in all their matches and, we must admit, did far better than expected.

For several years the House has found difficulty in getting enough members to attend the Cross-country practices. This year there were only just enough to form teams in the Senior and Middle groups. In the final result we secured fourth place, and our comparative failure must be attributed to this lack of selection. In the Junior section where competition was keen we came second. We must congratulate B. D. Foster who came first in the Senior group, D. A. Taylor of the middle group who came fifth and J. C. Wright of the Juniors who gained third place. It is hoped that next year we find more support in all groups and then we can hope for greater success.

We have, however, no cause for complaint with regard to our preformance on Sports Day. For the first time for many years we won the competition. Well done, everyone! Special congratulations are due to J. D. Havis, who scored eleven points out of our total of sixty-nine and D. A. Taylor, who scored seven, to Foster for his magnificent victory in the mile and to the third form relay team who gained first place and a valuable six points. D. W. Lambert, our house captain who organised the practices and submitted the entries, was amply rewarded by the result for his patient and untiring efforts. We feel that K. S. Crowhurst and C. R. Jeffery also deserve special mention for coming forward to fill gaps at very short notice.

In Cricket we are weak in the Senior part of the School but J. K. Hunt is proving a very capable Cricket Captain and D. Rouse and A. C. Thomas set a good example of really thorough keenness and are shaping very well. Moreover we are really strong in the junior part of the school and a further influx this year of very promising newcomers gives us great hopes for the inture. Meanwhile so far this season we have gained nine points in three matches which is quite a creditable achievement at our present strength.

Lastly Mr. Bohm and Mr. Scott, our House-masters, wish to add as a conclusion to these notes that, while the general tone of the House has always been quite good, lately they have noticed a marked growth in the feeling of corporate loyalty and a greater readiness to subordinate self to the interests of the whole. This is a spirit which will give to every member, boy or master, a feeling of pride and pleasure in belonging to Brooks and makes it a matter of secondary importance whether we fare well or ill in the various competitions.

G.H.

MARLBOROUGH.

House Masters: Mr. E. L. Bone and Mr. P. L. Ross

Captain of Cricket and Cross-Country Running J. W. Bulcock.

On Friday, 20th May, the House held its first Tea party since the war, in the tuck-shop. The reason for the celebration was that the House now has three trophies to its credit, last year's Swimming Cup, the Football Cup and the Cross-Country Trophy. The Headmaster and Mr. G. V. Ross were invited. After tea, Mr. Bone called upon Moore (almost the smallest member of the House) to propose the toast of the House, to which J. L. Crone, the Captain of the House, replied. Mr. Bone, then informed us that it was just twenty-

one years since he had first taken over the House and said that during that time, the House had always maintained a high standard of keenness and enthusiasm though it had naturally had bad periods. At present, however, the House was on top, and, judging by results, was likely to stay there. To bear him out he then called upon J. W. Bulcock, who is our all round sports captain, to tell us about the year's sport.

Bulcock presented a very impressive list, ranging from the winning of the swimming cup to the defeat of Priestley in the current House cricket season by 5 points to 1. His list included the success in the cross-country at Orsett this year, which makes the third successive win. He also mentioned the Sports where the House did well to come second, with 62 points to Brooks's 69.

Mr. Philip Ross then told us something about individual performances. The list is quite amazing. Consider, for example, the Athletic Sports. In this we had two members (B. S. Norford and D. H. Cave) who were placed in 4 and 3 events respectively. Both were very creditable performances and each had at least one first place. Cricketing successes included 34 not out by J. W. Bulcock, and P. J. Treloar's 4 wickets against Priestley's 1st XI and also A. E. Wardell's 9 wickets for a runs in the 2nd XI (these wickets did not, to Mr. Bone's relief, consist of three har tricks though four of them fell with consecutive balls) In the cross-country, the notable performance was that of the senior team whose members all came in before No 27; C. H. Gredley (2) D. S. Bulcock (5), P. J. Trelear (7) and C. A. Horsman (9) came within the first ten. It was probably this performance which ensured our winning of the trophy Their success was contagious for, as Mr. Ross admitted, he had not expected the Juniors to do as well as they did in their race.

But such a mighty House as Marlborough does not confine itself to sport. In the Opera we had been represented among the principals (notably by J. S. Goodall) and of course, in the chorus. A more recent success had been that of T. J. Moore in the verse speaking competition. Finally the Debating Society Committee showed a Marlborough majority.

Following this much applanded speech, A. J. Salishury proposed a toast to the School. In reply the Head started with what was to many the most important item of his speech. This was the promise to see what could be done about having a half-holiday for the Swimming Sports. Another earnest request—or rather a challenge as presented by Crone—with which he dealt was the all-round trophy. Again, he promised to see what could be done. The Head agreed that the future of Marlborough was in excellent hands and then reminded us with an admirable touch of

learning, that Marlborough himself had been responsible for four great battles—Blenheim. Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet—and stood for victory; at which point the last instalment

of these House Notes finished.

The tea party, too, was nearly finished. J. A. D'Arcy expressed our thanks to Miss James for the excellent spread, though not, lamentably, for the equally excellent peonics (which it is perhaps unnecessary to add, were red) so the members dispersed with just enough time to catch the train which, as we were twice informed quite correctly, was responsible for much of the House's co-operative spirit and enthusiasm.

P.H.

PRIESTLEY,

House Masters: Mr. E. Barker-Jones and Mr. R. Lockett

House Captain: R. Cook.

House Cricket Captain: G. W. Bannister House Swimming Captain: P. T. Greatrex

House Secretary: B. H. Nicholson

Lent Term 1949 brought Mr. Lockett to the House where he takes the place of Mr. Barrand.

We extend a hearty welcome to him-

The finish to the Football season was very close. By taking six points from Shaftesbury, we had high hopes of at last putting a gold rosette on the trophy, but, in the end, Marlborough gained the victory—by one point only, however. The 3rd XI remained undefeated in their four matches. Thompson, unfortunately, broke his arm in the last match against Shaftesbury but, after a long absence from sports, we are pleased to see him back on the cricket field.

This year's Cross-Country Run, in which Priestley were placed third with 524 points, though not a startling success, was certainly not a failure.

The Setters gained third and fourth places in the Middle Group though probably the actual order is known only to the twins themselves. J. A. Woolliams led the team in the Senior Group with third place, with A. Wardrop, the Cross-Country Captain, in sixth place. B. H. Nicholson who took up running only this year, came a very creditable eighth. The Junior Group did not gain such high positions, J. Cook being first with roth place, but it showed some good team work-Perhaps some constitutions were impaired by the second running of the race, due to some mishap in the first.

At the beginning of Sports Day this year Priestley hearts and hopes were high and up until a little before the half-way mark the House was fighting Brooks for first place. But we were not so fortunate in the junior races and field events, despite some very able discus-throwing and jumping by C. V. Ullyatt. Woolliams did very well in the sprinting (1st in Senior 100 and 220 yards) and J. Smallcombe gained first place in the discus-throwing and putting the shot in the Middle Group Nicholson pulled off another surprise by finishing second to Foster in the mile race. But, at the end, Priestley were fourth with 49 points.

Cricket has not got off to such a flying start this year as it did last. Bannister and Ullyatt are doing well in the 1st XI and the Junior XI, to which the Setters have been restored, can usually be depended on for a win. The 2nd XI is still rather weak, but it is difficult to concentrate on sport with the examinations looming

overhead.

Priestley, then, has gained second, third and fourth places in sport this year. There are two places yet to be filled and the Swimming Sports take place on July 21st. The position of the House depends upon its supporters. How about some hard practice in the swimming bath?

R.C.

SHAFTESBURY.

Captain of Cricket: B. J. Lang. Captain of Swimming: T. W. McSwan.

We were very sorry to lose the services of Mr. W. Henley who resigned the Housemastership after guiding the fortunes of Shaftesbury for more than ten years. We are very grateful to him for all he did for the House, and are happy to know that we shall retain his interest and affection in our luture endeavours.

Mr. J. R. Hayston is our new Housemaster and Mr. J. M. Grove has joined us as Assistant Housemaster

In the last football matches of the championship, Shaftesbury lost every match with Priestley by the odd goal, a circumstance which might not have risen had we had more supporters on the touchline. Thompson (Priestley) was unfortunate in having his arm broken in a tackle with the writer of these notes, but is happily now fully recovered. Shaftesbury's final position in the championship was fourth.

A feature of the cross-country race was the magnificent running of our junior team, who finished victors in their group and even overshadowed the middle group's excellent effort which obtained second place, V. Hobson, who won the middle group, and stokes whose position of second place in the junior group shows much promise for future year both ran extremely well, We obtained second place in the competition.

The athletic sports were noteworthy for our performances in the high jumps and relay races, from which we obtained thirty of the total fifty-two points which gave us the third place in the competition. Several incidents will long be remembered: some brilliant baton changes which showed that the long practices had borne fruit; the hitherto unsuspected speed of D. S. Horsman which paved the way for J. L. Down's grand effort which won the fifth form relay race: P. T. Barton's gallant running in the senior 440 and 880 yards races, the successful efforts of our diminutive high jumpers to emulate their more suitably built senior counterpart M. D. Glew; finally [. Abel's magnificent performance in

obtaining two first positions, one second and one third.

The first two matches of the cricket championship have resulted in our obtaining 10 out of a possible 12 points. Everyone anxiously awaits the outcome of the matches against Marlborough, which will decide the future of the championship, G. R. Cole, who has scores of 24 not out and 12 not out, and L. P. Kelly with bowling analyses of 3 for 3 and 8 for 9 deserve our fullest appreciation for their timely efforts, while N. A. Hills and G. T. Stone have batted well for the 2nd X1 and M. D. Owen has bowled well to obtain 12 wickets for 18 runs in the junior XI.

B.I.L

CON SPIRITO

As I opened the lid of the piano, there slowly

emerged a tousled grey head.

"Oh!" I exclaimed, for one does not expect a head to emerge from a piano, especially on a Sunday. And I had definitely not expected to see a hole from which a small gnome-like man was climbing.

The little man looked at me with a mixed expression of surprise and dislike on his small

wrinkled face.

"What do you mean by 'Oh?'" he asked in a small piping voice, which had a certain obscure ring of authority in it.

"I'm sorry, sir, I was startled," I replied,

unconsciously putting in the 'sir.'

By this time he had climbed out of the hole

and sat facing me on the music rack

"Why should you be startled?" he asked. But I could tell he knew the reason for he started to smile. It was a pleasant smile and showed a set of pearly teeth rather like a piano keyboard, and his voice had the strange musical quality of the top notes of a piano.

"Well, sir, it is not usual to find small men in pianos," I ventured.

"Why not?" he said. "There are nymphs in trees and naiads in streams, so why shouldn't there be elves in pianos? There are, you know, and I'm one." He ended triumphantly.

Here the 'elf' puffed himself up and strutted up and down the polished top of the piano. Suddenly he stopped and peered over the edge at the cat, who, seeing him, licked her lips in her own feline way and sat down as if to ponder on how to reach this 'tasty morsel,'

The little man became very serious and leaned confidentially towards me and said, "My father was 'killed' by a cat, but of course he didn't die. Oh, no! Why? Well...er you see...er we

don't die." He ended vaguely.

But as he was talking the cat jumped onto a chair and from thence onto the piano. In a flash the little man had gone and I was left looking at the cat sniffing around the legs of the instrument and looking very puzzled. And indeed so was I.

J.B., Iva.

THE ART OF BELL RINGING

IT is surprising how little the average person knows about bell ringing. I have spoken to several people on the subject and I have found that their knowledge is almost non-existent; and it is for this reason that I have written this essay.

In bell ringing there is something to interest everyone. An artist cannot but recognise the beauty of a well rung peal.

"Bid the merry bells ring to thine ear, For bells are music's laughter." A musician's interest will be aroused by the musical combination of the notes produced, a peal on six or seven bells producing every permutation which is possible with six or seven notes.

A mathematician can spend many delightful hours working out the 'proof of a peal or why 'grandsire' cannot be rung without singles; this has attracted the attention of Dr. R. A. Rankin, of Clare College, Cambridge, whose interest was aroused by reading Dorothy Sayer's novel, "The Nine Tailors." A metallurgist can spend an

equal number of months finding out the best tone for the cheapest price, a peal of bells costing about one thousand pounds; or finding out the best way of making a bell with a good resonant tone, for

"A crackt bell can never sound well."

An architect can enjoy himself working out and planning the structure of a tower to hold a peal of bells with perfect safety.

In fact many professional men can find something intriguing about bells, and Anton Chekhov, in his notes, wrote of a person as

"A rationalist, but he had to confess that he likes the ringing of Church bells."

In this essay, however, we must remember the motto:

"The bell never rings of itself; unless someone swings it, it is dumb."

It has often been thought that the ringing community consisted of a few simple country folk. This is far from being the case. Numerous teachers are bell ringers; many business men from the City find it a delightful hobby: most clergymen, at some time in their lives, became ringers, only to give up under pressure of work. It is interesting to remember that the first bell ringers were elergymen, until ringing became so complicated that the job was given to laymen who specialised in it.

"Bells," it has been said provide "the music Lordering nearest heaven."

Let us for a few minutes ponder over the bells themselves. The average tower has six and sometimes eight bells, ranging in weight from 2 cwts. to about 25 cwts. The largest one rung in England is of 122 cwts, at Liverpool Cathedral.

The bell is fastened at the closed end or "crown" to an axle. The axle is suspended horizontally and joined to it at one end is a grooved wheel of about six feet diameter.

A rope is fastened to this wheel and leads down through a series of guides to the ringing chamber. The rope in the ringing chamber has a looped end and a piece of fluffy material called the sally about 5 feet from the end.

By pulling on this rope the bell, which is hanging upside down, is gradually swung through increasingly large arcs until the whole circle is described and the bell is upside down.

The bell is then swung a little way further over and is allowed to rest over the balance by means of a device called a stay.

The bell is then rung by pulling the sally or tail end of rope so that the bell describes a complete circle and the clapper in the bell strikes the bell once as the bell revolves.

The possibilities of error in ringing a peal are many and if a ringer has lost his way and does not know where to strike, the others try to put him right with such phrases as—"You're in fourth's place," "Hunt down to lead," You've missed a dodge" and many such exclamations.

The present Bishop of Colchester must have noticed this, for he told a ringing meeting:

"I like to see you absorbed in your task, uttering your wild cries, too absorbed to notice . . . my arrival!"

A.J.S.

''THE ENGLISH UNOFFICIAL ROSE''

IN stately gardens neatly kept,
With hedges cut, and paths well swept,
The pompous rose is always grown,
With special care all on its own—
But this is not the English Rose,
Which in the country hedgerow blows;
This is a cultivated flower—
A captured flower, which hour by hour
Obeys man's wishes gratefully
And looks at all disdainfully.

The English Rose is wild and free, As any countryman can see. Its stem is green with thorns arrayed, The leaves have armour, too, displayed. The bloom itself has petals pink, And bees the yellow stamens drink. And none can match this beauteous thing—The birds their praises to it sing, Because of England it's a part, And what can match an English Heart?

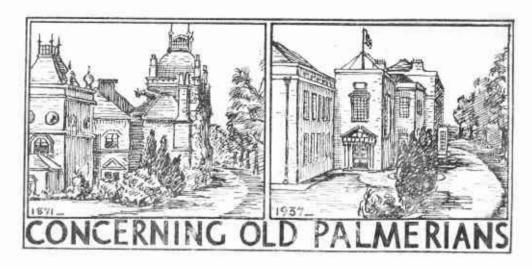
R.T.S., IVa.

FRAGMENT

SHE sleeps, and no more love Or beauty lives, at her sweet glance to soar Above the mountains, or to lend the brook Her gently-lilting melody of song.

Sad is thy long refrain, sad is thy voice. Ever to weep thy weary soul away, In an eternal elegy of tears.

R.G.S.



EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE last six months has seen the end of the "second" Palmer's School—the 1840 to 1874 edition in Orsett Road—and the older Headmaster's House alongside (?1711). Altered out of all recognition about the beginning of the century and then turned into ruin by a flying bomb in 1944, the buildings could never have been restored to their original condition. Demolition was the happiest end—But, as with a ship, the name and record of a School does not die when the useful life of the buildings is endedit is merely carried forward to a different structure.

Your Editor recently had occasion to study an old 25-in. Ordnance Survey map of the Grays area which is in the Public Library. It is from the 1862-4 survey (though not published until 1879), and shows an "Endowed School (Boys). in the Orsett Road position. The buildings were very truly isolated from the town then, with Shakespeare Villas as the only "considerable" property beyond the Railway and just a row of cottages in Orsett Road. Brickfields abound in the (now) Clarence Road area and the tramline from the chalkpits is shown just beyond the School. The old National School in West Street is to be seen. Incidentally, photographs of the cottages mentioned are also available; they hardly come up to modern ideas of housing!

Some person who has had charge of the map, possibly "John Howell", whose signature appears in the corner (? the licensee of the Railway Hotel at the end of the century), has added a proposed lay-out for the Palmer's Avenue area and has inserted the new School, labelled "Palmer's Charity School." Is this term a minor repercussion of the feeling which then existed regarding the new status of the School?

May we extend a welcome to the "Mag" now being produced by our sister School? Its pages will be scanned critically from time to time to ensure that our own journalistic efforts are up to standard. A rival is always of advantage.

Once again we must congratulate the School on their February light opera—this time." The Pirates of Penzance." The production must have necessitated a tremendous effort from all concerned, but it was well worth while. In two years the School's yearly production has become the most important effort of its type for miles around, particularly to G. & S. "fans," who are starved of their fare in this neighbourhood. A few weeks beforehand your Editor—in another capacity—was asked to display a poster advertizing the performance; he made enquiry for tickets some half-hour afterwards to the Chief Steward and was told he was not sure that any were left! Surely Sadlers Wells cannot beat this record?

It would be invidious to mention any of the outstanding individual performances, but we must, as before, comment on the remarkable young ladies to be found in the School. Rumour has it that the stage door was well attended.

The Autumn Reumion has been arranged for Saturday, 12th November—please note the date, together with the following Sunday, referred to below. Members should receive a reminder well in advance of the days.

Old Boys outside the immediate neighbourhood may not be aware of the Sunday Evening Service which is held in the School Hall each week during term time—at 6.30 p.m. in the Autumn and Spring terms and 8 p.m. in the Summer Term. Though it is intended particularly for younger people, a number of adults attend and the Head welcomes the presence of Old Palmerians among

them. He has proposed that Sunday, 13th November—following on the Autumn Reunion—shall be made a special occasion for O.P.'s to be present and has arranged that the Rev. L. Bewers, an Old Boy himself, shall give the address. It is to be hoped that all will make an effort to attend.

The conduct of the next Old Boys Section will be in other hands, since your present Hon. Editor is giving up the post. May he extend his thanks to all who have assisted him, with information or in other ways, during the 2-3 years that he has held the position—and his good wishes to his successor?

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the 13th November last was referred to briefly in our previous issue and the following notes must be regarded as a continuation of the earlier report.

After the Dinner itself in the School Hall, the Royal Toust was proposed by the President followed by The Association from Mr. E. Horncastle, as the oldest member present. He recalled many of the incidents of his time—including some that would have interested his Head (assuming that Headmasters are as innocent about certain activities in the School as their pupils suppose!.) The Chairman, R. Grimes, in his reply welcomed our guests, the School Captains, and made reference to the Memorial Service for certain Old Palmerians which had been held in the same Hall a fortnight previously.

F. Hempstead proposed The School and referred to its gradual development from the time when he was a pupil to the present period, when his own son was there. It was generally agreed that the high-light of the evening was the reply by Mr. J. C. Taylor, as Captain of the School—a speech that provided a very happy climax upon which the more formal part of the evening could end. The gathering then broke up into smaller groups for more personal discussion.

Between the speeches entertainment was provided by John Keet, with Mr. F. Smurthwaite asaccompanist. Mr. Smurthwaite also demonstrated his versatilty by supplying us with his own selection of songs—and was roundly applauded for them.

FOOTBALL.

We can't do better than quote Stannard's own report on the above matter:—

"Through whole-hearted support we have over come a bad patch at the commencement of the season and since December our teams have improved to a surprising extent. Admittedly, our Thurrock Combination team finished rather near

the bottom of the League, but after an excellent display against Aveley (Essex Junior Cup winners) in the semi-final of the Stanford Charity Cup we have every reason to feel satisfied and look forward to next season with optimism.

"Our Thameside League team finished with their position for next season ensured in this division. We are still, however, hoping for new talent, as we shall again be competing in these Leagues, our home ground being Blackshots.

"By the way, we are hoping to arrange training nights throughout both summer and winter, in which basket-ball will be included.

"With regard to our social activities, we ran a very successful draw at Christmas, all members co-operating well. Maurice Bradford promoted this effort. The Old Tyme Dance held at the Oddfellows on April 20th was not as successful as anticipated.

"The Annual Dinner, held at the Bricklayers' Arms on May 7th, was an outstanding success; 37 sat down to the Dinner, including members' wives and friends. There were three representatives from the School—the Head, Mr. G. V. Ross and the School Captain, Mr. J. C. Taylor. Ron Grimes was present for the parent Association; Jack Broad, also an O.P., represented the Leagues. Many fine speeches were made by those present please find enclosed menu, etc. (not quoted here; it would not be kind to those absent—Ed.) Entertainment was provided by one of our players. Roy Wise, at the piano and by Roy Harvey, comedian. The hall was kindly provided by our Vice-President, Jack Golden. It is intended to run further dances in the near future-watch out for these in the local paper.

"The Club is in very great need of a first aider trainer at Blackshots for all home matches. We would be glad if anyone interested in this work would contact the Hon. Secretary.

"The Annual General Meeting was held on April 29th and the following were appointed.

President—F. J. Jordan, Esq., B.E.M., M.A. Vice-Presidents—R. Grimes, E. G. Hughes, R. T. Jones, G. V. Ross, B. Catton, J. Golden, A. Bugler (sen.), E. Baird, W. Graylin and E. Horncastle.

Chairman—F. Gunn.
Vice-Chairman—G. Mepstead.
General Secretary—J. Stannard.
Social Secretary—M. Bradford.
League Delegates—A. Lee & R. Fairbairn—Ist Team Captain—N. Cossins.
Ist Team Vice Captain—D. Taylor.
2nd Team Captain—D. Wade.
2nd Team Vice Captain—H. Allison."

SWIMMING

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Swimming Club is now D. R. Obec, of 15 Chestnut Avenue, Grays. He will be glad to receive any enquiries from prospective members. Regarding the present position of the Club, he reports as follows:—

"Swimming sessions for O.P.s' are now being held at the School bath at 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. each Thursday and at 10 30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Sunday. It is hoped to carry on through the Autumn if the attendance justifies this course.

"Up to the time of writing weather has been the main draw-back to our sport, but a considerable number of members come along regularly for a swim. On Thursday evening our numbers have been augmented by members of the gymnastic squad run by the Football Club (This is the first reference we have had to this activity of the Football Section; Stannard, certainly has his hands full!—Ed.) New members, whether swimmers or non-swimmers will be welcome."

CRICKET.

A thorough attempt is now being made to form an O.P.'s Cricket Club. At present there are about a dozen or so interested members of the Section. At their inaugural meeting a week or two back E. A. Mederaft, 63 Chestnut Avenue, Grays, was appointed Hon. Secretary, and he is very anxious to hear from other people wishing to join.

This season work is to be confined to practice, for which purpose the Head has kindly put nets, etc., at the Club's disposal; net practice is already taking place every Tuesday evening there, when the Secretary can be seen and collect your name. Some scratch matches are also on the way. Application has also been made to the T.U.D.C. for a pitch for the 1950 season, when it hoped to have a full fixture list.

Once again we would emphasize the desirability of getting in touch with Mederaft NOW.

MEMBERS' NEWS,

The end of the Lent term saw the retirement of Col. E. A. Loftus, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., who has been Headmaster of our rival, Barking Abbey School, since 1922. Col. Loftus was on the staff at Palmer's from 1900 to 1919, with a four-year break during the war period, and then became Head of the Junior School at Southend High School. In 1920 he moved to the post of Assistant Director of Education for Southend and from there to Barking Abbey. Space does not allow us to mention his many other activities during a distinguished career, but we must recall the substantial contribution he made to the re-formation of our Association after the late war. And,

as one of our Vice-Presidents, he is usually to be seen at any of our gatherings.

Col. and Mrs. Loftus will still be living at West Tilbury. We all tender to them our wishes for the very best of good fortune now that the scholastic part of his work is relinquished.

Other news is given below; we apologize for those cases in which it is so extremely briefsometimes the source is only a few words from one O.P. to another, or a short 'phone message which cannot hope to supply details.

Many will remember Dr. H. J. Booker of Pitsea (? 1924-29,) who has undertaken work in U.S.A.—further information is elsewhere in the Mag. Your Editor called on him fairly frequently up to about 1936—not, it must be confessed, so much because of interest in his research as of the welcome to any O.P. which was assured in his rooms. Since 1936 the only "contact" we can recall is a distant view as we passed in a bus going in the opposite direction.

Another O.P. of the same period who has recently been in Grays is D. Nobbs (1919-27), now on the staff at Edinburgh University. Like Booker, he hasn't changed much in appearance. Incidently, he would like to hear from any of his old friends who may see this note.

Nobbs was able to supply information concerning the Rev. "David" Floyd, now at Fettes College, Edinburgh—still apparently the same energetic chap of old.

A recent addition to our membership is H. C. Wasley (1918-29,) of 319 Harwood Court, S.W. 15. In his letter to the Treasurer he mentions that he was a contemporary, but doubts whether we remember him. We do!—who could forget the little blighter who made the lives of many seniors unbearable instead of treating them with respect due to their high station in the School? Catton refers to him as "the small boarder-bug who, on his way home at the end of the term, got lost in a train." Your Editor can't remember that incident, but would be quite prepared to believe that he ran away with a train!

J. S. French (1933-42,) of Benwerrin, Livingstone Avenue, Rymble, New South Wales, has just obtained life membership. We don't know details, French, but the address seems to indicate that you may have experiences rather more exciting than those which come to many of us. May we have them some time?

A brief note has also come from W. R. Lythgo (1931-37) whose permament address is "Porthleven," Underhill Road, South Benfleet. He is at present working in the office of the U.K. High Commission in India, Eastern House, Mansingh Road, New Delhi, and would be glad to hear from any O.P.'s in that part of the world.

J. F. Humfrey is back in the Royal Navy, having returned after service abroad for three years—seconded to the R.A.N.

There is news of D. A. Ockendon (1936-43), who is on an agricultural course at Reading University. Exact information is at the moment scarce, so we can only say—good luck!

Two more members of the Catton family have now been accounted for. Gordon E. Catton (1930-39) went to the London Hospital Medical College after leaving School and took the final of the M.B.B.S. exam. at London in 1944. He is now Senior House Surgeon at the Royal Cancer Hospital, S.W.3. Michael J. Catton (1934-43) also entered the London Hospital and took his final M.B.B.S. in May of this year. He is now House Surgeon at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. These are the first two O.P.'s in the medical profession that we know of, but there must be others; has anyone any information?

There is news of D. P. Goodbody (1940-4), but as it is dated from last winter, it may be rather out of date by now. At that time he was in the R.A.F., stationed in Germany and working full-time on the Air-lift. His letter ends rather abruptly with a hasty apology as a Dakota is expected. He hopes to be demobbed about December of this year and to be present at our functions afterwards.

- B. E. Crawley (1942-8) is a Stores Rating in the R.N., and when last heard of, was serving on the battleship King George V.
- J. A. Falcon (1941-8) has been recently commissioned in the Royal Artillery.
- J- K. Scott (1941-8) is at Sandhurst, having thrown in his lot with the "Regulars"
- B. P. Hubbard (1944-9) has joined the Hardware Firm of William Key as an assistant to the Sales Manager.
- M. K. Suttling (1941-8), a recent visitor at School, is a gunner in the R.A., at present stationed in Edinburgh

D. M. Kirby (1038-46), having been demobilised from the R.A.E.C., is now in residence at S. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Whilst on holiday at Easter, Mr. R. T. Jones met Councillor Walter Fish, Mayor of Tenby, South Wales, and was delighted to discover that Mr. Fish was an Old Palmerian who left school in 1910.

OBITUARIES.

Many will remember E. H. Webb, who lived at Bridge Road, Grays, and was later at Cheam, Surrey. He died in January last at the age of 43. A quiet chap at School, but none the less popular for that, he served the greater portion of his career in Barclay's Bank. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Webb and the two children left behind.

Others of another period at School will deeply regret the death of L. A. Edwards, of Chadwell Heath, who passed away in April. He was in the Borough Treasurer's Department at Dagenham for most of his life—other than the war years, during which he became a prisoner of the Japanese; a fact which accounted in no small measure for his death at the age of 34. Many O.P.'s will share the sorrow of his widow and small son.

We offer our sympathy to R. A. Rath, whose wife passed away in 1948. He is left with two young children: and we hope that in the course of time they may in some measure help to fill the gap.

Old Boys of the pre-1918 era will recall Mrs. Long, who kept the tuck-shop then, and was as popular herself as were her wares. It is learned that she passed away some year or so ago in Bristol, over 90 years of age. All O.P.'s of the time will have a kindly and reminiscent thought for her.

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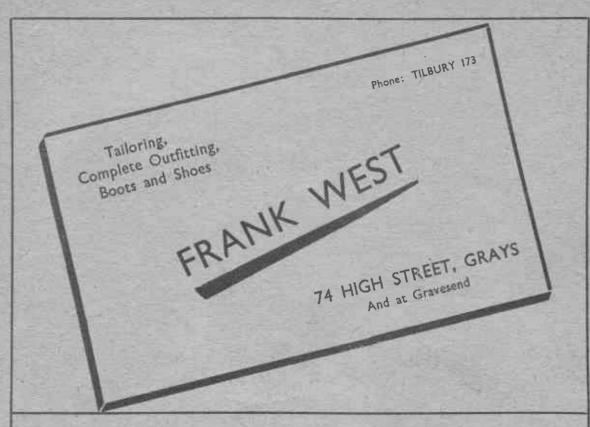
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