

THE
SURBITONIAN



Surbiton County Grammar
School
MAGAZINE



Autumn - - - - - 1956

NO. 37





MR. HAROLD G. MASTERS

Surbiton County Grammar School Magazine

Editor : GEOFFREY HOLLOM.

Assistant Editor : RUSSELL BARNES.

Editorial

Mrs. A. J. DOIG.

When this magazine was already in the hands of the printers we learnt, to our great sorrow, of the sudden death of Mrs. Doig, wife of the Headmaster, while they were on holiday in Oxfordshire.

The funeral took place at South Croydon on September 10th and was attended by a large number of the Masters and the School Captain, in addition to members of Mrs. Doig's family and friends and members of the varied organisations in Croydon with which Mrs. Doig had long been actively associated.

Unfortunately Mrs. Doig's health did not permit her to take as active a part as she, and we, would have wished in the social life of the School, but she was keenly interested in all our activities, especially in the annual Gilbert and Sullivan productions where, seeking none of the limelight, she worked untiringly as pianist at rehearsals and with the orchestra at the actual performances. Those of us who had some idea of how ill she really was could not fail to admire the courage with which she continued her normal life. To the Headmaster and his family her passing is an irreparable loss and we assure them of the sincerest sympathy of us all.

Some years ago a group of worthies called the Consultative Committee of the Board produced a 'Handbook of Suggestions' concerning the education of children in schools. In this book it was suggested that 'the school must help to explain and illuminate to the child the world as it impresses itself upon his senses day by day, and as he tries to impress himself upon it by his creative activities.' Whatever else our present system of education accomplishes towards this end it does provide us all with the opportunity of learning to read. The importance of being able to read is underestimated by most people. For them it means that they can gain an impression of world affairs from the newspapers, and that, if they find themselves with nothing else to do, they can agreeably pass the time by reading a 'thriller.' They do not realize how much their being able to read can help them to live more satisfying and satisfactory lives. A person able to read intelligently can draw on the experience of countless generations of men who, in their writings, have presented the world with their interpretation of many of its mysteries. Not to take advantage of such a rich store-house of knowledge is a grave mistake. As early as the first century A.D. a great Roman rhetorician, Quintilian, wrote, 'With so many teachers and with so many examples has antiquity furnished us that no age can be thought more fortunate in the chance of its birth than our own age, for whose instruction men of earlier generations have earnestly laboured.' We to-day have an even greater amount of experience and examples to draw on, and it is available to a far greater number of us through our ability to read.

Unfortunately even to-day only a small minority of the people knows how to read to the best advantage. Few realize that reading, as well as writing, is an artistic process, making a substantial demand on our mental capacity. The intelligent reader must be able to discriminate between what is worthy of consideration and what is to be disregarded. Having made his selection he must try to allow the writing to mean as much to him as it did to the author, and this needs great concentration on the part of the reader so as to induce in him a state of mind which resembles as closely as possible that of the author when he wrote the passage

being read. Finally the reader must draw his own conclusions, which need to agree with those of the author. This is a very important, though often neglected, part of the process of reading. To-day it is so easy for us to allow our tastes and opinions to be formed for us by such influential concerns as the popular press, and that is what the majority allows to happen. We do not want a race of iconoclasts to develop, but we must guard against apathy and its consequences. If we do not bother to form our own opinions then we are likely to become the prey of schemers with undesirable doctrines. Such people will then be able to take from us the right to say what we like and finally the right to read what we like.

Undoubtedly the fate of civilization is bound up with the fate of books. The latter in turn depends on a permanent nucleus of competent readers—people who are artists in their approach to books and determined to remain so, whatever restrictions are attempted or imposed. The responsibility of these people will be great for, as well as being those with a greater understanding of the world, they will be the guardians of human consciousness and of the arts of living, to whom writers who are artists will appeal and be responsible.

G. D. HOLLAM, U.V.I.A.

School Notes

Firstly, it is our sad duty to record the deaths of two of our schoolfellows, John Broughton and Christopher Browning, both of whom died during the Easter Holidays. In John Broughton, the school lost one of its brightest stars, both in regard to achievement and to personality. A senior prefect, captain of Villiers House, and a very keen sportsman, he was, moreover, extremely popular. His intended career was in the Army, his aptitude for which his success as a sergeant in the School Cadets could vouch, and indeed, he had already passed the entrance examination to Sandhurst.

Christopher Browning, being only in his second year at the school, had had little chance of establishing himself as a member of the school.

To the parents, relations and friends of these boys the Editorial Staff would like to express its deep sympathy, on behalf of the whole school.

At the end of the 1955 Summer Term, we had to bid farewell to two members of the Staff, Messrs. I. Bucknill and J. Noble, who were leaving us after all-too-short stays of two years and one year respectively. The former was entering the advertising business,

while the latter intended to make a career of operatic-singing, in which sphere he had already had some experience.

To fill the places of those leaving us came Messrs. Harvey, Stubbins, Sing, J. Turner and P. Turner, to all of whom we extend a hearty, if rather belated, welcome. To another of those who joined us in the Autumn, Monsieur Jean-Claude Pouvreau, we must already say a regretful 'au revoir.' Monsieur Pouvreau was the fourth French Student to be appointed as French Conversation Master here, and his cheerful personality, which won for him the popularity enjoyed by his predecessors, will be greatly missed, especially since we hear that there is to be no replacement for him next year.

Another hearty welcome was given to the new building which slowly arose on the site of the cricket-nets, behind Braemar. Due for completion on September 1st **last**, it at length reached that desirable stage by the Easter Holidays. Necessitated by our increasing numbers, it provides two new classrooms, whose modern interiors and fittings must have presented, for their first occupants, IIIA and IIIB, a pleasant contrast to their former abodes in the decaying pile of Aysgarth. The building has a pleasant finish of light green, with a chocolate-coloured roof, and thus matches the nearby Science laboratories and Dining-Hall.

Congratulations, now, to L. A. Dable (V.Sc.), who, in the Spring, gained considerable success in the boxing-ring. He not only fought well in the Surrey Championships, being awarded, as a result of his performance, the Langham Statuette, but also became National Champion, at his weight, in the National Army Cadet Championships at Birmingham on March 10th.

Praise is also due to those members of the Sixth Form who, after being made probationary prefects at the beginning of the last School Year, proved themselves, in due course, worthy of full prefectship, and with it, of the distinguishing gold braid.

We should also like to congratulate Mr. Stubbins, our new Geography master, on his marriage at Thornton Heath on March 31st.

On January 24th, in the School Hall, six members of the Modern Sixth represented us in a Quiz on the United Nations, organised by Mr. Bidmead. Their opponents were a team from Hillcroft College, and after a close and interesting contest, our team emerged victorious. An interesting and entertaining film-show concluded an evening enjoyed by all who attended.

Our thanks to all those members of the Staff who gave such interesting and entertaining talks during the Book Week held in the Library at the beginning of the Summer Term.

During the Summer Holidays, there was another Paris Trip—35 boys, under the guidance of Messrs. Lonsdale and Heymans, departing for the French Metropolis on July 26th. They spent eight days there, carrying out a programme of sightseeing and excursion, being accommodated at the Lycée Janson de Sailly, which, with 4,000 pupils, is the largest Grammar School in Paris.

A highlight of the Summer Term was the School Trip to Oxford on July 19th. Led by Mr. Forward, who had conceived and organised the project, some 300 boys and 20 masters set out from Surbiton station at 9.30 a.m. in a special train, reserved both for the School and, happily enough, for some girls from Surbiton High School. The steamer trip, which formed the second part of the journey, was somewhat marred by the dull, rather cold weather. On arrival at the City of Spire, the party was divided into groups, who were then conducted by guides on a most interesting and educational tour of the main colleges. An ample tea was afterwards provided at a restaurant.

All who went enjoyed themselves immensely, and it is to be hoped that many more large-scale School outings will follow so successful a precedent.

There was no Fair this summer, or at least, not one in which the School played as large a part as in the previous two years. On July 7th, however, an Old Surbitonian Fair took place, arranged by the Old Boys, and was a great success. The profits gained from it are to be used to reduce the mortgage on their Sports Ground at Cobham.

We were again pleased to see several French boys in our midst at the end of the Summer Term, this for the second year in succession. The boys were scholars in the Pierre Loti Grammar School at Rochefort-sur-mer, who, as pen friends of boys from our own school, were visiting England under the exchange-visit scheme. Their stay here reciprocated that made by their Surbitonian counterparts in the Easter Holidays.

Another event to take place towards the end of the Summer Term was the taking of the School photograph, which, by occurring a year too early, took everybody by surprise. However, the ordeal, which provoked both groans and laughter, was duly undergone, and our faces were once more recorded for posterity.

An innovation last year was the School Calendar, which, issued each term, and giving the dates and details of all school activities and events, has proved very useful. Much useful foresight is also gained from the menu-sheets which are now posted on the Notice-boards at the beginning of each week!

We congratulate John Hollom, who left the school in 1952, on being the first Surbitonian to gain entrance to the Royal College of Art, Kensington.

R. BARNES, L.VIA.

Mr. Masters

It is with great regret that we have to report the passing of the third member of our staff in so short a time, the death of Mr. Masters, following so soon on those of Mr. Findlay and Mr. Holdaway.

Since 1935, apart from the war years when he was with the R.A.F., Harold Masters has been with us as woodwork master. Of all of us he was the one who most belonged to Surbiton, having been born and brought up here. Although comparatively young, he knew the old Surbiton, before the great post 1919 development. I particularly remember his description of King Charles Road, when the Tolworth end was just just a lane with a water-splash at the bottom of the hill, near the Queen Alexandra Recreation Ground.

Mr. Masters was a fine schoolmaster, quiet, unassuming, efficient. Here he was much like Mr. Holdaway: everything he had to do, whether teaching or organizing, was done willingly, cheerfully, and methodically, with no fuss or bother. He liked his work and he liked the boys; in return he was both liked and respected by them. As with all good schoolmasters, his activities went far beyond the classroom. There was the organization of swimming; participation in school camps before the war; interest in sports—whenever there was an evening athletics match Mr. Masters was there—home and away rugby matches he regularly attended; indeed at Mitcham, shortly before the end, he was cheering the school team to victory. Mr. Masters was a colleague we could ill afford to lose.

As a friend we miss him; he was a good friend to many of us and one of his outstanding virtues was great and obvious sincerity. Always he was ready to help us, and many of us sought his help, especially in his own particular craft. He was always prepared to give his time and skill to assist any of us.

Until a few years ago he was a keen and skilful tennis player, then illness struck him. For two years he put up a great fight against what a few of us knew to be the inevitable. Whether at school or in hospital he was cheerful and optimistic, always feeling sure that he would soon be fit again. Indeed, the last year he

seemed so much better, so much like his old self that we hoped against hope that the impossible might happen.

Now again we have to say a sad good-bye to a friend and colleague, and again to extend to the family he has left behind our deep and affectionate sympathy.

A. J. FORWARD.

Welsh Rugby Tour

On a Rugby Tour, the main objective, it seems, is to wipe the opposition out of existence. If this is not possible, owing to the other team being bigger or playing with sixteen men, one must persevere, and be content with sitting on their heads and chewing their fingers. If that is your idea, then you are wrong. A Rugby Tour is educational. It is cultural.

It has been put to my charge to recount the daily happenings of the 27 boys, two masters, and one coach driver who invaded Wales last January.

We left Duval's Coach Station at 9 o'clock on the Monday morning in rather dreary weather. A short stop was made for coffee, and then we progressed through Cheltenham, via Gloucester, and over the border. We reached our base, the Y.M.C.A. hostel at Barry, about 6 o'clock and got "bedded in." The following day marked the match against Cardiff. We rolled down to breakfast, and were immediately taken by the charming waitress, who with a fine service and appetising charm, provided a first-class breakfast. A report of the match has been given, but I would like to congratulate our fifteen on putting up such a fine show. It made us proud to be Surbitonians.

The next day we went down a mine. It was said to be the cleanest mine on top, and the filthiest below, in South Wales. We were immediately impressed by the fine buildings, and the notice which read "Workmen's cars parked here." Soon we all donned uniforms, as also did Messrs. Davies, Morris and George, the driver. The uniform consisted of overalls, boots, head-lamps, etc. We were a very stirring sight, especially Wright, whose already ample figure seemed to treble in size. His figure gave you the impression that Wright's body had sought this kind of medium without success for years and years. In two batches we descended the shaft, and climbed into a small train pulled by a powerful diesel engine. The expedition ended in our going right up to the coal face, an excessively dangerous and hazardous operation. The journey back was even worse, and we were relieved to find that the nation's coal supply had not suffered, and that Wright hadn't been dumped on to the conveyor belt by mistake.

After a hefty miner's lunch, we were shown the chemical products of the mine, and from there, "home," to play a game of billiards or go and buy some supper in Barry.

Wednesday will always be remembered as "Operation F+C," where F=fish, C=chips, and the plate is constant. In the afternoon, we were to play Monmouth, so we started out in the morning, and had a fish and chip lunch in Barry. The game in the afternoon was a splendid exhibition of open rugby. After the game we assembled in the dining-hall and were treated to a splendid plate of fish and chips. We laughed inwardly. "Fancy that! Twice in a day! Jolly Good! Ha Ha!" From there we went into Pontypridd to a restaurant where a dinner was waiting for us. "Wouldn't it be funny if it was fish and chips?" It was not. It was sausage and chips. Only about four heroic people managed to eat the lot. A pleasant evening was spent in the West Monmouth Old Boys' Club. That night we dreamed of fish and chips.

On Thursday we were left to our own devices and vices. Most of us finished up in the pictures or the American Bar. The following morning saw the most touching part of the tour. David "Tubby" Wright had purchased for the journey down a collection of tin whistles, vulgar red whistles. Imagine his surprise when he couldn't find them! He was bitterly disappointed, and it was no use telling him that a wicked musical fairy had stolen them. That Friday breakfast time, mark it well, D. Jardine, with great solemnity, folded his napkin and, having expressed a heartfelt condolence for Tubby's musical genius, gave him a toy drum. We all wept bitterly, and many left the room, not wishing to show their emotions.

After the game at Penarth the following morning, we all went to see the final Welsh Trial at Cardiff Arms Park. The next day we arose early, and sadly packed our things. There was a short ceremony of thanks to the Hostel Staff, and George. Both Mr. Davies and Mr. Morris received small tokens of our respect in putting up with 27 unruly boys for six long days.

The journey back was uneventful, except for Dai Foster displaying a white mouse, which shook the life out of the buxom country girl in a pub outside Gloucester. Tubby Wright was silent. His drum had disappeared.

B. CRESSWELL, L.VI.M.

"The Mikado"

Three performances of 'The Mikado' on the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth of last December, which drew lavish praise both from the general public and the local press, mark this production as one of the most successful in the history of the school.

There were no 'weak links,' thanks to the producer Mr. Doig, assisted by Mr. Hayward; all the principal parts were competently performed in the true Gilbert and Sullivan tradition and were backed up by an enthusiastic chorus. Special mention must be made of Len Stubbs, who sang with confidence in the difficult role of Nanki-Poo, and of Niels Polden for an excellent rendering of 'The Sun and I.' No one, however, would deny that it was Brian Cresswell, admirably cast as Ko-Ko, who 'stole the show.' Using his own inimitable brand of 'Goonery' he clowned his way through each performance, to the delight of audience and cast alike. Individual performances were inclined to vary from night to night, but on the whole there was little to criticize.

A special orchestra, consisting mainly of Old Boys, played well under the skilful direction of Mr. Bolt: undoubtedly the star here was 'Nellie,' Noel Philo's versatile bassoon.

The lighting was in the practised hands of David Adams. Credit is due to Derek Codling and John Holley for the simple but extremely effective scenery: Brian Jones proved himself a capable stage manager.

Two things, however, have become apparent from these performances. I feel many of the cast will agree with me that, had rehearsals started earlier, they would have been still better. Indeed it is a great tribute to the producers that the performances were brought to such a high standard in so short a time: but more rehearsals would have brought greater confidence and brought some of the extremely difficult passages for the strings of the orchestra up to standard.

It is essential to future productions that a larger profit is made. Because of the cost involved in staging such an opera, four performances and greater advertisement, especially in the local press, would probably be necessary.

To conclude I should like to say that everyone who was connected with 'The Mikado' in any way, is to be heartily congratulated.

A. S. BARNES, L.VI.A.

Un Séjour en France

Quand le jour de mon voyage en France est arrivé je me suis levé de bonne heure, et j'étais à la gare de Surbiton vers sept heures, où j'ai rencontré mes camarades de voyage. Après que j'ai dit au revoir à mes parents le train s'est mis en route pour Waterloo, où nous avons pris le métro pour Victoria. Après avoir voyagé trois heures nous sommes arrivés à Newhaven où notre bateau pour la France nous attendait. Nous avons débarqué du

bateau à Dieppe et nous étions alors sur le sol de France. Là j'ai trouvé que les trains étaient très longs, et ma valise était malheureusement bien lourde. Enfin j'ai trouvé une place mais j'étais bien fatigué.

Après environ trois heures de route nous sommes arrivés à Paris. Là nous avons tout de suite fait un tour de La Ville. Nous avons traversé "La Ville de Lumière" et avons marché dans Les Champs Elysées et avons vu L'Arc de Triomphe. J'étais bien désolé quand il nous fallait partir. Après avoir repris nos bagages à la gare d'Austerlitz nous avons pris le train qui se dirigeait sur Rochefort. Je me suis bientôt endormi et quand je me suis réveillé nous étions presque là.

Nous avons rencontré à la gare de Rochefort nos correspondants et leurs parents, qui nous ont emmenés chez eux.

Heureusement pour moi le père de mon correspondant possédait une auto et j'ai eu la chance de visiter beaucoup de villes, y compris Bordeaux, La Rochelle, et Royan. J'ai aussi visité une petite île qui s'appelle l'île de Ré. Dans l'île de Ré je suis monté au sommet d'un phare. C'était une expérience très intéressante pour moi.

Le temps a bien vite passé et j'ai dû rejoindre mes camarades à l'école, car leur trimestre a commencé le 1^{er} avril. Après une ou deux heures à l'école j'ai remarqué que toutes les portes étaient fermées et qu'on ne pouvait plus sortir sans permission. Nous avons suivi avec curiosité les différents cours pendant la première journée et après nous avons fait des excursions en dehors de la ville—nous avons visité le musée de la Marine, une école d'aviation, et La Mairie. Mercredi nous avons fait, en groupe, une excursion à Brouage. Le matin de notre départ nous étions invités à un vin d'honneur avec nos camarades français par le proviseur. Il y avait aussi M. le sous-Préfet, M. le Maire et les autorités militaires. Le soir nous avons dit au revoir à nos camarades jusqu'en juillet, et alors nous nous sommes mis en route pour Paris. A Paris (il pleuvait malheureusement) nous avons quand même visité La Tour Eiffel et d'autres lieux, les plus jeunes avec Mr. Fernyhough, les autres seuls. Après un voyage agréable et sans incident nous sommes enfin arrivés à Victoria un quart d'heure en retard, après des vacances mémorables.

J. HENSON, IIIA.

"Mammy Waggon"

"Mammy Waggon" is the name given by the Nigerians to a primitive type of native bus. These buses are all privately owned, either by the drivers or perhaps by a wealthy African who owns

several. The Mammy Waggon are made up of the chassis and engine of a commercial truck, such as a Bedford or an Austin; the sides and cabin are built of wood, and the top of canvas. Inside, benches are installed, and a double door about three feet high at the back, leaving the top space free. Following this, the whole flimsy structure is painted in various gaudy colours, and inscriptions, such as "God is Good" and "God knows best," are painted on the sides.

These Mammy Waggon can be seen careering from one village to another, the back packed full of shrieking, laughing, and singing Africans, some hanging on to the back, some sticking their heads out, all taking their fruits and vegetables to the nearest large village for 'market day.' Meanwhile, regardless of what is going on in the back, the driver has his foot hard down on the accelerator, travelling about sixty miles an hour (his speedometer never working), and hooting a bicycle horn attached to one of the front mudguards.

I have often seen a Mammy Waggon careering out of a village with several Africans clinging to the back and another running behind to get aboard because he had been pushed off in the wild rush of those claiming seats. Often the driver will set the Mammy Waggon in motion while the passengers are still getting on, in order to hurry up the proceedings a little. How these Mammy Waggon hold together will remain a mystery for ever!

E. MILTON, IIA.

Monday Morning

A fine drizzle rained down on the sleeping array of close-packed terraced houses which was Sheffield. The network of dreary streets glistened dully in the yellow, foggy night, and the only sounds were those of trickling water and distant trains, whistling and rumbling along their metal-shod routes through the heart of the steel country.

In the gutters were a few soaked and faded streamers, and outside one house lay a Christmas tree, carelessly thrown into the street. For two days the homes of many industrial workers had been lightened by the Yuletide Spirit which pervades all our homes every year. Miners, underground for most of the year, had been released from their prosaic, every day lives to play amongst families and enjoy childish games and pursuits. But now, as abruptly as it had arrived, the spirit which had made miners throw coppers to beggars in the road and changed dreariness to gaiety, had died its annual death; the last streamer had been thrown, the last balloon pricked, and even the last drunkard had stumbled his

bemused way home. The long streets, once blanketed crisp and white, were pools of sludgy ice and water, and had resumed their normal appearance of desperate poverty. The happy Christmas atmosphere had given way to one of bleak and deadly depression.

Slowly, as the cheerless grey light of dawn relieved the darkness of the night, a few people began to appear on the streets. An old man shuffled his way up a deserted street, which was sparsely lit with winking gas lamps. As his figure grew small and dim in the distance more people began making their way to the large factories, many of whose tall stacks were already belching sulphurous fumes to darken the already leaden sky.

Women, wearing drab mackintoshes and scarves about their heads, were moving towards their places of work, women with tired faces who did not bother to chatter, as was their custom. Soon the streets, now light, echoed to the clatter of miners' boots as the workers walked quickly to the waiting buses which took them to their pits. Some managed to grin wanly and exchange light banter, but most were silent and unsmiling.

Monday morning had arrived with a stark reality which dazed the many people who faced the return to a dreary, workaday routine. The streets, now rumbling with heavy traffic, which passes through Sheffield all day and everyday except at Christmas, and now seemed eager to make up for its brief respite, had resumed their usual aspect—that of heavy industry in progress.

I. DUNCAN, L.V.A.

Army Cadet Force, 1955-56

The Battery would like to express its great sorrow at the untimely death of John Broughton, a Sergeant and an extremely active, keen, and efficient member of our Force. His outstanding vigour and cheerful attitude will be sorely missed.

The total strength of the Battery in October 1955 was 77. Twenty-one recruits joined at the beginning of the Christmas term; since then fifteen resignations have reduced our number to sixty-two. In particular I should like to mention those resignations due to paper-rounds and other extraneous distractions. Boys who do not intend to appear weekly at parades should not join the Battery.

During the year the usual examinations have been undertaken, with considerable success.

Certificate 'A,' Part I, 12 passes; Part II, 12 passes.

Artillery, Part I, 16 passes; Part II, 3 passes.

Fourteen boys qualified as marksmen on the .22 range and seventeen as 1st Class Shots.

In the sporting sphere Cadet L. Dable is to be congratulated on winning the Cadet National Boxing Championship, by way of the Surrey, London and Southern titles. In the Inter-Battalion Cross-country championships the Junior team represented the 4th/5th Btn. and came second, Cadet Ladd coming second in the individual race.

The County Cadet Commandant's Badge was awarded to Sgts. Chandler, Broughton and Heath.

On the 23rd March, the Battery undertook an all-day field exercise at Ash, with the theme of 'Platoon in Attack.'

Seven cadets enjoyed an artillery course at Mons O.C.T.U. from the 4th to 14th January, when they received instruction mainly on gun-drill. Later in January Bdrs. Wright and Manby attended a successful signals course at Catterick.

Considerable success has been attained in the year's shooting competitions. In the .22, 'News of the World' competition, the Battery team was included in the Surrey team which won. At Bisley, five cadets, Bdrs. Blythe, Stradling, Wright, Foreman and Feaver, were included in the Battalion team in the Inter-Battalion competition at which the 4th/5th won six of the seven available trophies.

Last year the annual camp was held near Felixstowe and proved a great success. Camp is an integral part of any cadet's training, and every effort should be made by all cadets to attend.

Lastly, but by no means least, I should like to express, on behalf of the entire Battery, many thanks to our officers, Major Lefevre and Captain Hillier, for the amount of time they sacrifice and interest they take in the Battery.

Sgt. D. J. HUGHES.

The Musical Society

The Orchestra—"how sour sweet music is, when time is broke and no proportion kept!"—Richard II.

We must face the fact that this year the orchestra, when compared with that of previous years, is in a very poor state. Its condition is most easily seen if we consider the contribution of the full orchestra to the last two school concerts.

A concert was given in November in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in which we shared the programme with Miss Sophie Wyss. From six pieces the orchestra had had in rehearsal, four were chosen. One of these was an addition to our repertoire, and indeed it sounded like it; of the other three pieces, one was enjoying its fourth consecutive performance, while the

other two had been performed continuously for three and four years respectively. In the spring concert the latter three pieces were again presented, in spite of the fact that four new pieces had been in rehearsal.

We must ask ourselves the reason for this state of affairs. Above all, it is caused by the poor attendance at rehearsals. Less than half the orchestra come regularly to Monday rehearsals, and the morale of these few seems to break down completely because of the absence of their fellows. Certain elements (most of whom should by now know better) seek entertainment in playing their music upside down or by seeking to rediscover the lost art of improvisation; this results in a most unmusical noise, which, the conductor feels, can only be kept together with the help of a piano. This, however, defeats its own purpose and the before mentioned elements have even more chance for private rehearsal; poor intonation is hidden, and the sections have no chance of listening to each other, because only the piano can be heard. Little wonder this practice is considered useless.

Attendance must be better or the full orchestra will never pull itself out of the rut it finds itself in.

In the Senior Orchestra, again under the sole direction of Mr. Bolt, things have been a little brighter; the orchestra has rehearsed hard and well, with the result that it has been able to present a completely new concert each term, with considerable success. A short analysis of the last concert is enough to show the faults which must be rectified. The Overture to the "Messiah" started well, and except for some poor string intonation, carried on in the same spirit, until, for some unknown reason, all the first violins ceased to play, a thing that has never before happened in the history of the orchestra; this showed the potential weakness of the violins, which can only be overcome by more private practice so that each person knows exactly what he has to play and can play it. In the ballet suite "Comus," by Purcell, there was some precise string playing and excellent clarinet playing, but the performance was marred by the playing of the trumpet part (written for an instrument in C) on a B flat trumpet.

In this orchestra, besides the weakness of the violins, the poor intonation of the firsts and the poor attention of the seconds, there is a lack of rehearsal in the cello section and poor intonation and lack of attention to the conductor in the violas. With these improved, the Senior orchestra could reach a high standard.

In January we welcomed Mr. Sing to our music staff. We hope that with the arrival of such a qualified musician the musicians of

the school will stir themselves to a little more activity than they at present display.

Greenham (U.VI.Sc), our very distinguished first clarinet, was picked to play in the National Schools Festival Orchestra, which gave a concert, under the conductorship of Sir Adrian Boult, at the Albert Hall on May 6th. This is a great honour and he deserves our congratulations.

The House Music Competition was received last term with more success than its predecessor. It attracted a large number of entries, and lasted for one and a half days. The preparation and performance of many of the items was excellent and some very entertaining and original ensembles had been arranged. But it is a pity that the high standard of these was contrasted by some performances that appeared to have no preparation, and at times veered on the ridiculous. However, it is certainly to be hoped that this innovation will become an annual event.

M. FRASER, V.A.

Librarian's Report

Easter 1956.

Since the last magazine two reports have become due which are combined in this single Report, which thus covers a year's activities in the Library. However, we welcome this opportunity of recording the year's events and airing a little foul linen. Three words sum up the year—achievement, disappointment, hope.

This Report can well begin with some of the achievements. About 1,000 new books have been added and the task of weeding out the unrepairable and unnecessary volumes is well under way. Several sales of rejects from the Library have been held. The Penguin library is increasing and, thanks to the rebinding kits now available, all paperbacks are rebound on accession. The present number of books is 3,664 which is rapidly nearing the optimum of 5,000. Suggestions for new books are still welcome.

The roof has, at last, been repaired and three walls of the Library have been repainted in a pleasing oyster-grey which, however, some members of the school seem to think would look more attractive when smeared with bootpolish and ink. The first stage of the card-index system was completed by September but to make a subject-index was soon found to be impracticable. The present call-number system is inadequate and, having recatalogued all books, we are now engaged in making an author-catalogue and converting the Library to the Dewey system of classification—an ambitious undertaking to be completed by August. All books have now been collated, although the task of repair is continual. Two bookcases have been installed and two showcases constructed.

Early in the summer term a book-week was held. Many of the school listened with evident pleasure to the lunch-time lectures but book issues did not greatly increase. On Fair Day there was a highly successful exhibition of newly acquired and ancient tomes. We would like to thank all who loaned books for this exhibition. The fortnightly exhibitions have continued whenever possible though they did not all receive the attention they merited.

The number of tickets now in use is 276, of which about 125 are used regularly. This is a slight improvement which we hope to increase with the aid of the summer alterations. The attitude of the fifth-former, for example, who can boast that he has not read any books other than a text-book since he was 'so-high,' is clearly wrong—the Library has an increasing number of books to suit all tastes and it is part of every boy's education, not to say pleasures, to use the School Library regularly. No progress has, however, been made with the problem of the second-dinner boys who can only use the Library for a very short time in the lunch-hours (although the Library is open every Monday from 4 to 4.30 p.m.)—we hope to solve this by September. During August the Library will be divided by a partition into a reading-room and Library proper. This is not the place to mention all the reasons for the alterations which are designed to lead to a very great improvement in the looks and the services of the Library. With the completion of this the Library will have been systematically organised and its work reduced to a routine.

The list of disappointments is long. Owing to theft and persistent abuse, the Sixth-form Library has been closed. Despite some extremely generous gifts, notably one from a local bookseller, we have not received as many books as might have been expected. The losses through theft have not, we believe, been great but the number of illicit borrowings has increased. It should be clear that boys are responsible for the books they borrow. Books should not be left in desks overnight, and boys are required to replace, wholly or partly, any books they may lose. Heavy fines will be charged for any undue damage to books; modern bindings, of course, wear badly, but lately new books have been returned, after only four weeks' use, looking as if they are at least three years old. This ill-treatment of books should stop.

The fines system has been unfortunately abused. Charges are made on the same system as the Public Library's to ensure the prompt return of books but some boys, especially Sixth-formers, appear to think that if they allow the fine to mount into the region of 3/6d. they will be excused payment. This is not so. Although we try to issue reminders of overdue books it is not our duty so to do but it is the responsibility of the borrower to look after the

books and return them in good time. In the past year we have received over £5 in the payment of fines—a very useful but unwanted (in this form) contribution to our funds. The fines charges are 2d. for the first week, or part week, overdue, 4d. for the second and a 1d. per day thereafter.

We have continued to take "The Times" and "The Listener" and we thank those who have brought magazines regularly, especially the Public Library. In January, however, as the magazine intake was too small, it was suggested to a School Council meeting that every boy be asked to contribute 3d. per year to a magazine fund to be administered on behalf of the Council. The reaction of some of the school to the collection of this sum was not pleasing: it would seem that the school is prepared to read magazines but not willingly to help purchase them. This is unfortunate as it severely limits the choice and number of magazines available to the school. We hope there will be a more ready response when a further subscription is collected.

It may seem strange to give open praise here to the work done by the Library Staff but it is probably relevant to this Report to mention these aspects of the Library. Considerable work is done by the Staff which, excluding lunch-hours and holidays, involves one or two boys and the Librarian working from 4 to 5.30 p.m. every night and often on Saturday and Sunday mornings and before school. Although boys will boast that they never enter the Library, we press on, confident of the value of our work for the few who do trouble to use it. We regard the well-being of the Library as a challenge which we are proud and happy to meet but we should like the school to have some idea how much work is put in on their behalf.

May I thank all the few who have helped in the past year and especially Mr. Parrott for his assistance, guidance and encouragement, and the hardworking members of the Library Staff—G. Hollom (U.VI.A.); L. Frank (ex. 4.A.); D. Packham (U.VI.A.); B. Jones and J. Lomas (U.VI.Sc.); R. Barnes (L.VI.A.); C. Fretwell and M. Fraser (V.A.); I. Duncan (L.V.A.); P. Dawson (L.V.C.) and A. French (4.C.)—do not let them see their efforts **wasted**.

D. W. ADAMS (U.VI.A.)

Lack of space does not permit the inclusion of a list of additions to the Library.

First Aid

After the great success of last year's course, when all fifteen boys taking the course passed the examination which was conducted by Dr. Kinstrie, it was decided to run another Preliminary

First Aid course of the St. John Ambulance Association. The course was started last autumn with about twelve boys and it is hoped that all these will have great success in their examination, again under Dr. Kinstrie, whom I would like to thank, on behalf of the boys, for his services.

Here now are a few facts and figures to show how necessary these courses are in the school. In the autumn term of last year no less than 58 boys were treated for minor burns, cuts, etc. Five boys were taken to hospital, after treatment, with injuries varying from concussion to fractured ribs.

The course consists of the essentials of first aid and is suitable for boys of all ages. If you are trained in first aid you are able to help in all cases of accident and sudden illness, wherever you are, so why not come along to Room 8 at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and learn to help others.

P. HOGGIN, L.V.A.

Class Secretary.

The Debating Society

During the winter season of debates several boys have represented the School when various topics have been debated with other schools in the district. The first representative debate found the house in favour of "Married Bliss" as opposed to "Single Blessedness," when a lively discussion developed into a battle of wits (and confetti) at Tiffin Girls' School. When a return visit was arranged the behaviour of a careless few rather marred the proceedings; however, the house rejected a motion favouring "World Dictatorships." Another double fixture concerned Hinchley Wood County Secondary School, when a Stone Age Civilisation and the good example of the United States of America were refuted.

As for the future, it is hoped to arrange an inter-house debating competition, which should arouse lively interest in the school.

M. A. SLORICK, L.VI.M.

The Natural History Society

The Natural History Society was started in September 1955 by J. Andrews of L.VI.Sc., who felt that our school needed such a Society. The Society meets fortnightly on Wednesdays after school. The meetings are usually held in the Junior Biology Laboratory, but several have been held in the Art Room. Talks, on a large variety of subjects, including Birds of Prey, Insects, Conifers, Reptiles, Prehistoric Animals and Bird Recognition, have been

given, illustrated with the aid of the epidiascope. The talks are restricted to British species, as these are most likely to be seen, and they are given mainly by the boys in the Society.

There have also been several outings, but these, I am sorry to say, have been poorly supported.

R. G. HOOPER, L.VI.Sc.

The Stamp Club

It is a tribute to philately that the hobby still maintains its attraction and so in January the club was revived. The following it has had is very satisfactory, and the club looks forward to even greater support during next year. Last term we were visited by Messrs. James and Page of Kingston Philatelic Society who gave us very interesting illustrated talks; it is hoped that we shall receive further such visits this term. Two very successful auctions were held, the auctioneers being Messrs. Stubbings and Heymans. We were indeed fortunate to have received a visit from Mr. W. B. Haworth, M.A., the editor of 'Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly,' who gave us a splendid talk entitled 'Editorially Speaking' in which he told us of the job of an editor.

We have an interesting programme arranged for you next term, so why not come along and help us to help you? The services we have to offer are many; a retreat for the philatelically minded to be found in the small geography room (for which I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Skene) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1.30 to 2.10 p.m. We have a fairly large library of catalogues which may be borrowed or consulted; we hold auctions regularly and stamps are accepted from anybody on the Friday preceding the auction; stamps may be offered for sale on a board in the office. We have talks from visiting speakers and it is hoped that volunteers to give a short talk on their favourite country will come forward. The talk need only last for about 10 minutes. Stamps will be identified on request and rare stamps may be professionally valued by one of the leading expert committees in the country; the latest magazines are available for consultation. Films and filmstrips are frequently shown. What other society can offer such facilities?

Finally there are three things the society is always willing to receive: stamps for the club collection, which is housed in a large loose leaf album; suggestions; YOUR SUPPORT.

GRAHAM F. LEA, L.VI.Sc.

School Gardens

The County Horticultural Department has at last tidied up the ground at the side of the main drive. The cost of planting out the main bank was considerable, but it was a pity that the price did not include a strong fence to protect the delicate shrubs and young saplings from all forms of vandalism.

A few boys have kept up the good work on their plots and I hope to see all relinquished plots taken over by the end of this year. Would boys who have to go round the back to retrieve tennis-balls please keep to the paths, and not charge across gardens or plots. Remember, the boys spend much of their spare time working there, and you, in a few thoughtless seconds, can ruin a well-kept plot.

L. W. BECKER, Z.VI.Sc.

Scientific Society

During the last two terms the Scientific Society has been holding meetings in the Junior Biology laboratory on alternate Mondays. The programme for the Autumn term included a film on Turbo-jet propulsion and a second talk on Meteorology by Mr. Morris. Towards the end of the term a large party of boys with Mr. Davies visited the United Insulators factory at Tolworth, at the invitation of Mr. Westcombe, Vice Chairman of the Governors of the School, who is managing director of the firm. After a detailed tour of the factory the party was given refreshments in the canteen, when questions were answered by Mr. Westcombe and members of his staff.

During the Spring term three members of Upper Sixth Science gave talks. They were D. Mitchell on Dyes, B. Hogbin on Acoustics and L. Becker on Space Travel. The last of these talks caused some speculation in the junior forms. Later in the term, two films were shown on Plastics. On a bitterly cold Saturday, at the beginning of February, a party of boys, with Mr. Smith, spent the morning in the warmth of Kingston Power Station.

Attendances at meetings have been small. Once again a reminder that membership is not restricted to Science forms—I am sure that even the most confirmed 'Artist' would find something of interest!

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Morris for his interest and help in the Society.

A. C. GREENHAM, U.VI.Sc.

The Chess Club

"Vivent nos Rois"

SEASON'S RESULTS :— Played 8, Won 3, Drawn 1, Lost 4.

HOUSE MATCHES :—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
COUTTS	3	1	1	1
EGMONT	3	1	1	1
LOVELACE	3	3	—	—
VILLIERS	3	—	—	3

The final position of the houses for the season, taking into account points gained for representation in a school side, and the house matches, was : 1st. Lovelace ; 2nd. Coutts ; 3rd. Egmont ; 4th : Villiers. We have had a season of narrow losses—perhaps because our team this year is a very young one. It has no doubt gained considerable experience during the year, which promises well for next season. We twice lost to Woking and were narrowly defeated by Kingston Grammar. During National Chess Week the team took part in the 'Teenagers versus Old Timers' match against Surbiton Chess Club, which was played 'away' in Braemar! Experience won, however, and we were defeated 4—2. We were successful in defeating Hinchley Wood and Tiffin Girls'.

I should like to remind you that Room 10 is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the dinner hour for those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity for practice, although there is a better chance on Fridays after school. Please take every care possible of the sets by keeping complete sets in a box and always replacing them in the cupboard after use.

The Club owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dyer for his advice and help about all matters connected with the Club and we should like to take this opportunity of sincerely thanking him.

GRAHAM F. LEA, L.VI.Sc.
(Secretary).

The Folk Dance Society

This last school year the Folk Dance Society has been rather poorly supported, with the result that, in order to keep the class going, we invited the girls from Tiffin to come up and learn how to do Folk, Sword, and Morris Dancing. They responded well to our request, enabling us to keep the class going for another period. This, of course, with the added advantage that we boys could concentrate more on our own steps and thereby be able to learn more new dances.

Two Dances were held in the School Hall by the Society, one at the end of the Winter Term and one at the end of the Spring Term. Despite the lack of enthusiasm for the class, both these functions were quite well attended. It is to be hoped that the younger boys who enjoyed these Parties will form the backbone of the Society next year, and prevent the death of this Society from lack of support.

P. J. BEST, L.VI.Sc.

Photographic Society

The new committee elected at the beginning of the Autumn term decided that the programme for the coming year should cover the basic knowledge needed for good photography. In consequence, we have had talks both on elementary and more advanced aspects of photography. These included lectures on developing and printing films, and on table-top photography. The highlight of our meetings was an exclusive preview of pictures from the celebrated Focus on Life Group's exhibition. My thanks go to Mr. Busby who made this and several other lectures so enjoyable.

Excursions. At the end of the Spring term twenty members were privileged to visit the Kodak factory at Wealdstone, where we spent an interesting afternoon being shown the processes involved in the manufacture of plates, papers, and cameras. After we had walked over four miles around their extensive grounds and buildings, the visit ended with a much appreciated tea.

Because of the weather, the excursion to Richmond Park in March was somewhat dampened, but I am hoping for better weather on our trips to Kew Gardens and Richmond Park this term.

Darkroom. The enlarger is now completed and through the kind co-operation of Mr. Rose we are now able to use part of the Physics laboratory, so that an ideal darkroom with a large sink, plenty of running water, and adequate equipment will be available for use by members during the coming term. Members who have previously had to be cramped up in a small room, with no facilities for developing and printing their films, should make good use of this darkroom, together with the books at their disposal in the photographic library.

In conclusion I wish to thank our very able secretary A. B. Payn (V.Sc.) for all his work during the past year. Both the society and I are deeply indebted to him.

L. W. BECKER, U.VI.Sc.
(Chairman).

The Railway Society

Although the Railway Society was formed in the summer of 1953 it has hitherto not been mentioned in the school magazine, due to the fact that membership was not strong enough to warrant it. However, since last September the number of members has almost trebled, and has now reached a total of 58.

The activities of the society vary greatly. Talks are given after school on railway subjects of general interest, and films on railways are shown periodically.

The society operates during the holidays as well as in the term. Visits are arranged to places of railway interest, such as Southampton Docks, Swindon and Ashford Locomotive Works. The next visit will be to the Isle of Wight, where unfortunately most of the lines are closed to passenger traffic.

Anyone who feels he would like to join in the activities of the society will be welcome at the next meeting which is shown in the school calendar.

T. GOUGH, V.Sc.
(Secretary).

House Notes

COUTTS

Housemaster : Mr. A. J. HAYWARD.
Captain : D. Cheeseman.
Vice-Captain : K. Masters.
Secretary : B. Cresswell.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Mr. Masters, a Coutts master. Much has been said in tribute of him, but I should like to add the thanks of the House for his help and guidance, especially in swimming, the last competition of which we won.

On behalf of the House I must congratulate last year's captain, Jock Miles, on his fine contribution to the House. It was mainly due to him and his fellow officers that Coutts was named "Cock House."

Our chances of retaining the Dibben Cup this year are not beyond the capabilities of the House. We regained the Rugby Cup, even though the senior side lost to Lovelace. We have not been as successful as last year in Cross Country, but the position gained in this Competition was by no means hopeless. The two Boxing Cups are once again in our possession. This was due to the good response of the House in entering the competition.

The all-round standard of plays in the House Drama competition was much higher than last year, and the result was in the balance until the end. We managed to gain third place, one point behind Villiers and seven behind Egmont. I take this opportunity to thank the cast for their hard work and trust that we do better next year.

The new members of the House can help immensely towards gaining the Dibben Cup by sending in a good batch of entries for such competitions as House Art and Crafts and House Essay competitions. A great number of points can be gained simply by a boy joining a society. If there is any boy who wishes to join or know the particulars of any society, he should contact its secretary.

The House attained a pinnacle last year, and it is up to every member to see that we are not knocked off, and if we are knocked off, not ground underfoot. The standard of behaviour has been satisfactory on the whole, but there are still some members who by their disregard of others and the sheer wantonness of their behaviour are keeping the House down. This applies especially to the middle school as, in the next two years, they are the people to whom we look to lead the House.

B. CRESSWELL, L.VI.M.

EGMONT

Housemaster : Mr. J. M. LONSDALE.
Captain : B. Hogbin.
Vice-Captain : D. Hughes.
Secretary : B. Jones.

Egmont seems to revel in extremes! Last year we were led in a very able manner by M. Maude and had a number of notable victories; for example, we were top in Boxing, Arts and Crafts, and, most convincingly, in the School Athletic Sports. In spite of these we slipped to the 'unfortunate' position of fourth in the Dibben Cup. The word unfortunate may imply an element of bad luck, but this is not the case, for the Dibben Cup points are calculated and awarded very carefully, this fact being readily demonstrated in the new system.

In point of fact we were last because several sections have been rather overlooked, and it is to those we must pay special attention this year, and of course in future years! First of all we should notice that work is of extreme importance. A large percentage of the points are awarded for the standard of work attained by the House as a whole. Yes, we must all work and if we are working hard then we will have no time or inclination to misbehave. Good work and good conduct usually go hand in hand, and as members of Egmont let us all seek to attain the highest possible standard in both. When we are all working hard and

behaving well there is but one step to all-round success. Every boy in the House should take this step by attending a society meeting at least once a week. There are many societies for varying purposes and there must surely be one to interest you—if not, why not enquire about starting one? We have, of recent years, had declining numbers in many activities; for example, I clearly remember the days when Egmont's triumph in the music world was a foregone conclusion. Recently, however, we have slipped right down to a mere third place. A similar thing has happened in many instances and we must all pull our full weight in this respect.

So far this year we are in second place in the points for the Dibben Cup. This shows a distinct improvement, boosted by winning the Cross Country, and the House Drama Competition; but there is yet more to come and so we must at all times keep clearly in our minds that there are four distinct, but equally important sections for which points are awarded; these are: work, conduct, activities and societies.

We are united as a House and yet it is the individuals who matter, so let us think of it as:

“Everybody Gaining Marks, or Notably Trying.”

B. HOGGIN, 3.VI.Sc.

LOVELACE

Housemaster : Mr. K. BIDMEAD.

Captain : J. Harding.

Vice-Captain : B. Russell.

Secretary : L. Stubbs.

This year, for the most part, has not been a particularly good one for the House, our successes on Sports Day being only in the Senior and Middle Relay Races. For the future, however, the outlook is a little brighter in that the Junior and Intermediate School seem promising. In Lacy and Affleck, for instance, we had the individual winners of the Intermediate and Junior Cross Country Race respectively, though the House as a whole achieved only third place, mainly owing to the apathy of the Seniors.

Even so, we started well in the Autumn Term by winning the Rugby Cup, a triumph almost entirely due to a very determined Senior Team, captained extremely well by Russell. The Juniors and Intermediates were rather less fortunate. Another early success, particularly pleasing, was that of the Chess Team, who won all their matches. Recently we have completed the Arts and Crafts and the Essay Competition in which a respectable percentage of the House entered; the results are awaited with expectation and interest.

Despite some increase in keenness, the Athletics still seems to give too exact a cross-section of the attitude of the House. The prospects seemed quite promising from the original list of entries but, in fact, a large number failed to turn up for their event. This “couldn't care less” attitude must stop for until every boy pulls his weight we cannot hope to succeed. As it was, we started with a deficit of some twenty or thirty points on Sports Day and, though those representing us did their utmost to overcome it, they were unsuccessful.

Now to turn to the brighter side; Lovelace have this year set a good example to the rest of the School as regards work and general behaviour. It is indeed a pity that Lovelace is not as proficient on the games field as in School generally, for if this were so, our increasingly slender lead in the attempt to regain the title of “Cock House” would be greatly improved. But whether we succeed or not this year, let us hope that next year every member of the House will show even more enthusiasm and ability in sports, activities, and work, so that we may establish ourselves well ahead of the other Houses.

Finally I should like, on behalf of the House, to thank all the Prefects and Officials last year, especially the Captain, E. Howard, who spent much time in working for the benefit of the House; we wish them every possible success for the future.

VILLIERS

Housemaster : Mr. H. L. DYER.

House Captain : J. M. Broughton.

Vice-Captain : A. B. Heath.

Secretary : K. A. J. Hay.

During the Easter Holidays the House suffered a bitter blow when it lost two of its members, namely John Broughton, the House Captain of U.VI.Sc., and Christopher Browning, a young lad from IIIB. Both of these boys played their part very efficiently in the activities of the House and we shall all certainly miss their contributions, especially that of John Broughton in the leadership of Villiers. I feel sure the House will join me in expressing its sympathy to the parents and relations of these two boys.

As to the success of the House in activities, this year we are in the unfortunate position of being able to do better in those competitions which carry low marks in the Dibben Cup. For instance, we were top in the Music competition and second in the House Plays; all the boys who partook did extremely well and deserve hearty congratulations, and yet we are, up to date, bottom in the Dibben Cup results.

We have not been very successful in sporting activities so far this year. The main reason for this is the lack of numbers in the senior school. The senior and junior rugby teams were unable to win any of their matches and, although the intermediate team won all theirs, we still had the least number of points for the Rugby Cup. We were also bottom in the Cross-Country competition. Even with a large entry we were unable to do well enough to vacate this position. We were third in Boxing, which proved to be the only sport for which few were keen to enter. The fact that our entry was as large as that of any other House shows hard work on the part of John Broughton. We must all strive to do better next year in this field of sport.

We have yet to hear the results of the Essay, and Art and Crafts competitions, but I feel sure that we can look forward to some success. Other competitions to come involve athletics and cricket. The cricket looks quite promising, but since, to date, we are only third in the athletics heats, we will have rather a job on our hands on Sports Day.

(Since this report was written, Villiers House was successful in winning the School Sports).

A pleasing point to note in the House this year is the keenness in entering for the activities. Our entries have compared very favourably with those of the other Houses, and the majority of those boys taking part have done their best to bring us to the top.

Finally I should like to thank Michael Hornby and Brian Ridgewell for their work in leading the House last year, and wish them every success in their future careers.

A. B. HEATH, U.V.I.M.

Sport

RUGBY FOOTBALL—1955-56

Turning out about eighty boys regularly every Saturday, the Rugby Club had possibly its best season since the war, winning 75 per cent of its games.

The 1st XV lost only two games. They were narrowly beaten in the last few minutes by a push-over try in the game against Raynes Park and, after a very hard fought game, they lost to the Old Boys 9—13 points. Four 1st XV members were selected to play for Surrey. They were B. F. Russell, A. B. Heath, D. J. Hughes and K. Masters. Heath and Masters were selected to play for the London Counties.

Messrs. Davies and Morris accompanied twenty-seven boys on a tour of South Wales during the last Christmas holidays. They lost only two matches, due to the lack of an accurate goal kicker.

The team scored thirteen tries, of which one was converted, and only three tries were scored against them. The matches lost were to Cardiff High School, 9—10 points, and to Penarth Grammar School, 3—6 points. On beating West Monmouth Grammar School 29—0 points, the school team was complimented on its fine display of open rugby. The team, playing in unfavourable conditions, drew with Newport 0—0 points, and again was complimented. The tour was a great success, and proved that the school could hold its own against any other.

Congratulations must go to Mr. Davies whose loyal support and keenness encouraged the 1st XV to success.

The Colts XV maintained their ten year unbeaten home record although they failed to keep their three-year unbeaten record. Eggleston, Lavington, Harris and Nightingale were selected to represent Surrey against Kent and Leicester.

The Rugby Club has now an 'Under 12' XV which successfully defeated Thames Valley. The 2nd, 3rd, Junior and Lower School XV's have likewise maintained a high standard, due in no uncertain way to the masters-in-charge, Messrs. Lefevre, Morris, Bath and Harris-Ide.

FIRST XV PERSONALITIES.

- B. F. RUSSELL (Captain) (Lock Forward). Honours Colours 1954-5-6. 1st XV Colours 1953-56. A first rate player whose leadership was invaluable both on and off the field. His keenness in training set an example which was one of the factors contributing to the success of the side. His play is best described by quoting a member of the Selection Committee of the Senior Welsh Team, who, seeing the team playing on tour, stated, "If England have better forwards than Russell they must indeed have a wonderful pack." (D. M. Davies).
- A. B. HEATH (Vice-Captain) (Centre Three-quarter). Honours Colours 1955-56. 1st XV Colours 1954-5-6. A very able footballer, whose clever hands have foxed many an opponent. He played exceedingly well at scrum-half while Hughes was injured.
- L. G. STUBBS (Full Back). 1st XV Colours 1954-5-6. A safe handler, but more speed and determination would improve his play. Still shows a weakness in tackling.
- J. HARDING (Wing Three-quarter). 1st XV Colours 1955-56. A very fast wing who has improved as the season progressed. A little more determination needed. Tackling has improved. Top try scorer with 21 tries.

- K. **MASTERS** (Centre Three-quarter). Honours Colours 1955-6. 1st XV Colours 1954-5-6. A very intelligent and clever footballer. His crash tackling and determination have made him a dependable player. Outstanding in all departments of Three-quarter play.
- M. **PAY** (Wing Three-quarter). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. A strong, determined winger with good acceleration. He will benefit greatly from a further year in the 1st XV.
- S. **DAVIES** (Stand-off Half). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. A good footballer who always gets his line moving well. Still lacks speed and acceleration. Summer sprinting would help.
- D. J. **HUGHES** (Scrum Half). Honours Colours 1955-6. 1st XV Colours 1953-6. Unfortunately missed a large part of the season owing to a fractured ankle. An experienced and outstanding player in a vital position.
- K. **PLAYER** (Wing Forward). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. The most improved player in the team. He must avoid temptation to intercept, and cultivate habit of going for and stopping the man with the ball.
- A. **CHANDLER** (Wing Forward). 1st XV Colours 1954-5-6. A hard-working forward who was very lively in the loose. His handling could improve.
- D. **WADE** (Lock Forward). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. A good hard-working forward. His corner flagging is most prominent. He still lacks speed and determination.
- N. **JACKSON** (Lock Forward). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. A strong forward whose line-out work has been very good. A keener interest would improve his game.
- J. **WHEELER** (Prop Forward). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. A very good and solid prop forward. He plays a robust game, and keeps up with the ball very well. More experience would improve his play.
- D. **JAMES** (Prop Forward). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. Plays a hard game, and shows determination in the loose. His play would improve with faster movement.
- D. **CHEESEMAN** (Hooker). 1st XV Colours 1954-5-6. His hooking was of great value. Works hard and was always first up to the line-out. He still lacks speed in the loose.
- D. **FOSTER** (Prop Forward). 1st XV Colours 1955-6. A hard-working forward. He tends to be over keen, which results in rash movements. He would do well to concentrate on the rules.

SECOND XV.

The Second XV enjoyed a reasonably successful season, winning nine out of fifteen games. The season started very well and, half-way through, we had been defeated only once (by Bisley with a depleted team) in six matches. Then, however, we had a run of three defeats away. With fourteen men, two of them reserves, we lost to Bec 18-0, and the following week we were well defeated by Wallington 21-0.

The annual match against the Old Boys Extra A XV proved what the team was really made of. Although going down 12-0 the team played splendidly and was highly praised by the opposition.

After the Christmas recess the return game against Tiffin was again deservedly won in shocking conditions. Mitcham was defeated and in the last game, against Reigate, we lost in pouring rain. Six members went on tour at Christmas and all acquitted themselves well.

I should like to thank all the team for their splendid support, and also those members of the Third XV who often came in at the last moment and played so well.

The season was concluded by a visit to the Savoy Theatre, London.

B. G. CRESSWELL, L.V.I.M.

THIRD XV.

The Third XV can look back over Rugby Football season 1955-56, feeling very proud of successfully filling the rôle of nursery team to the First and Second XV's. Players were provided, throughout the season, to fill important positions in both these teams. However, there still remained a sufficiency of faithful players to fill the ancient shirts and to record a successful season on the field.

Two striking matches during the season seemed to overshadow all others: these were, before Christmas against Tiffin and in the New Year against Wallington. On a dewy September morning, before a fairly good crowd, Tiffin were tackled at Hook. The match fulfilled its promise of good football and keen play but towards the end Tiffin found no answer to the thrustful back play of Jennings and Dable in the threequarters: Surbiton ran out the victors by 14 points to 6. Other matches before Christmas resulted in some other fine wins by this fifteen. Victims on the field were St. Olave's (18-8), Purley (15-3) and Windsor (12-6), while both Reed's and Thames Valley beat Surbiton by handsome margins. It must be recorded however that Thames Valley were visited on the same day as the match with St. Olave's, so that only one half

of the customary team could be fielded and at Reed's, an under 16 team from Surbiton were outweighed by some rather older Reed's forwards.

The highlight of the Spring Term was found in a visit to Wallington. Surbiton fielded a strong side composed of players who had had little experience together but from the start the keenness to combine was noticeable. After early periods of pressure Surbiton fought back and with some fine team play won by 29 points to 3. Later in the term, some very poor conditions spoilt matches at Raynes Park, where the home team won 17-6, and in a return fixture with Tiffin which was again won by Surbiton (3-0). So ended a season of early glory but late disappointment, a season providing some good rugby, some good results but, perhaps most important, some good footballers.

COLTS XV.

The Colts were a side of a few stars backed up by quite a number of excellent triers. The weakness was forward, where we lacked weight and a little life. Harrington's hooking improved and he did well for possession later in the season, considering the scarcity of push. Saunders led his forwards well by example and encouragement, but even so an effective effort was not always forthcoming. Sage and Nightingale gave him good support.

The mainstay of the side was around the base of the scrum. Harris, an excellent captain, played with pluck and skill. He possesses a good service and makes intelligent breaks on the open and blind sides. His defence set a wonderful example. Lavington, at outside-half, was an ideal link, with hands well suited for the job; but he often lacked confidence to create or follow up openings, and at times his defence was a little suspect.

At centre Eggleston and Smith were rock-like in defence. Eggleston's breaks were powerful, speedy and intelligent. He improved as the season progressed and was a match winner. He was also an excellent place kicker. The wings and full-back gave valuable support. Harris, Eggleston, Lavington, and Nightingale represented the Surrey Colts XV during the season.

Credit must be extended to the Colts 'VII' who brought honour to the school and to themselves by winning the school's first Surrey County Seven-a-side trophy. They became the first winners of the 'Canterbury Cup,' and on their way to the final scored 49 points to 8. The winning Seven were: Woodington, Lavington, Harris (Captain), Eggleston, Saunders, Harrington and Sage.

Colts Colours were awarded to: Woodington, Phillips, Eggleston, Smith K. C., Lacy, Raymond, Ridpath, Lavington, Harris (Captain), Powles, Harrington, Picton, Saunders (Vice-Captain), Nightingale, Sage, Hatherly, Dickerson and Herbert.

E. WATKINS.

LOWER SCHOOL XV.

We were fortunate in having Brand, last year's captain, still young enough to be available and his experience in tactics and leadership proved invaluable. The forwards were a hard-working lot, with Scott, I., outstanding in the loose. It was a long time, however, before the loose scrummaging was satisfactory and since also the scrum-half, Warren, though intelligent and capable of flashes of brilliance, could only with difficulty be weaned from taking the blind side as the line of least resistance, for much of the season the backs were starved off the ball. This was a pity, since in Ridley we had an exceptionally fast and determined winger, and in Goddard a "natural" centre who needs only to use his speed more. Jackson, the other centre, was the outstanding tackler. One problem—that of finding an adequate full-back—was never satisfactorily solved. The spirit of the whole team and their conduct on the field were excellent and they are to be congratulated on maintaining the XV's successful record.

G. HARRIS-IDE.

RESULTS—

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	
					For	Against
First XV ...	15	11	2	2	168	74
Second XV ...	15	9	6	0	142	129
Third XV ...	9	6	0	3	108	62
Colts XV ...	13	9	2	2	187	75
Junior XV ...	10	3	0	7	63	144
Lower School XV	11	8	2	1	99	16

SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENTS.

Results:—

Staines (Final)—Surbiton 8 pts., Bec 5 pts.

Surrey (Semi-Final)—Surbiton 3 pts., Whitgift 5 pts.

Wasps (Final)—Surbiton 18 pts., Raynes Park 13 pts.

Windsor (Final)—Surbiton 6 pts., Reading 0 pts.

Twickenham (Final)—Surbiton 9 pts., Raynes Park 8 pts.

The Rugby Club entered two teams in five Seven-a-side tournaments this season. The hard work which was put in by both teams, to reach maximum fitness, was well rewarded. The First Seven won four out of the five tournaments entered, and the Second

Seven, although they did not gain any honours, gave the First Seven excellent support in training as well as on the field.

The Staines Sevens was won mainly owing to excellent running by J. Harding who, having gathered the ball from a cross-kick by the Bec Captain, outran all his opponents to score under the posts.

The team was very unlucky to lose the Surrey Sevens; after gaining a great victory over Wimbledon College (6-0 pts.) in the second round, and over Bec School (10-0 pts.) in the third round, the team was narrowly beaten by Whitgift in the semi-final by 3-5 pts.

The winners of the Surrey Tournament, Raynes Park School, were conquered by the First Seven in the final of the Wasps Sevens. After an extremely hard fought match the team won 18-13 pts. The Windsor Sevens were won quite comfortably, the team never being extended to its maximum.

The Twickenham final was by far the hardest fought final. The School were 9-3 pts. up on Raynes Park School, when K. Masters had to leave the field with a back injury. The team held out Raynes Park magnificently, and only in the closing minutes, when the team was tired out, did Raynes Park score.

The members of the Rugby Club who have represented the School in Seven-a-side tournaments are:—

1st Seven. B. Russell, A. Heath, D. Hughes, K. Masters, J. Harding, K. Player, N. Jackson and D. Wade.

2nd Seven. S. Davies, Herridge, D. James, R. Ridley, D. Groves, J. Broughton and B. Lowe.

We must congratulate the Colts Seven on being the first holders of the Canterbury Cup. This is given to the winners of the Surrey Colts Tournament.

Cross-Country

Master-in-charge: Mr. D. A. Harvey.

Captain: B. M. Hogbin.

Vice-Captain: T. F. Rose.

Secretary: K. W. Miller.

Last season was quite successful and we feel that we revived a spirit of enthusiasm which has been lacking for some time in the Cross-Country Club. There has been regular training three times a week, and it has been most gratifying to see even boys who did not often make the team attending regularly. The juniors (under 14), who gave very strong support in training, indicate that the enthusiasm extends to all age groups, and it is to be hoped that the prospect of future opportunities to represent the school in this

sport will maintain the vital interest of the junior school. Competitive racing for boys under fourteen is not a regular feature of the club's activities.

For the Intermediate and more especially, the Senior teams, the season has been a full one, with a total of 23 fixtures (17 senior) during the Autumn and Spring terms. Individual performances still varied but no doubt the training helped us to be more consistent than usual. We seemed remarkably unfortunate in losing a number of races by a very narrow margin of points—often by only three or four. The most frustrating defeat was by Sutton, who won by half a point!

In the larger club races our best result was in the Surrey A.C. Inter-Schools race, when we were placed second out of twelve competing schools. It was a great race and Hogbin ran extremely well to attain the distinction of individual winner. The winning school was Sloane Grammar School, and indeed it is one of the few schools (out of about twenty) which we did not beat at some time during the season.

Other results were as follows:—

Judge Cup—5th out of 9 schools (3½ miles).

Densham Cup—6th out of 22 schools (South London Harriers).

Guildford Relay—5th out of 20 schools (4×2½ miles).

Walton Relay—4th out of 12 schools (4×2½ miles).

Raneleigh Harriers—6th out of 18 schools (4¼ miles).

These results compare quite favourably with those of previous years, but there is still much to be attained. In some of the larger races, where four scored in each team, we continually felt the absence of strong backing for the outstanding performances of the Hogbin, Rose, Miller trio. From this the future C.C. team must realise that just two or three good runners cannot bring success. Every man in the team counts, and any one man may lose the race. Yes, Cross-Country racing is a team effort and this must be remembered, especially in training.

There is still one most memorable race which has not yet been mentioned, namely that against the Old Boys. This year the match was held on the same day as the corresponding rugby match, at the Old Boys' ground. Their team was stronger than those of recent years and the Old Boys won by two points, 39 to 41. The winner was Budd, followed by Pepe, nearly two minutes ahead of the first three 'school' boys, who came in together, followed by a string of Old Boys.

Those deserving special mention for their regular support and fine running all through the season are undoubtedly the three club officials, B. Hogbin, T. Rose and K. Miller, and then, also, seniors G. Wright, R. Thorpe, Ladd, Jeffrey and Holl. We are looking

forward to great things in the future from Lacey, who returned three firsts and sixth out of seventy for his four races, and Rumsey, both of whom are intermediates. Raymond (intermediate) and Afleck (junior) also show great promise but have been too young for regular competition. We also thank Jones and Oborn, and all those who supported us by acting as organisers and markers. We hope that the next season will prove as enjoyable and even more successful.

Boxing Club

Season 1955-56.

RESULTS :—

Tiffin School, Home	Lost 3—9
Hampton Grammar, Away	Lost 2—9
William Blake, Home	Won 5—4
John Fisher, Purley, Away	Won 8—3

There has been the usual keenness during the season. In the matches against our old rivals 25 members represented the Club.

The main interest during the Spring term was the preliminary rounds leading to the National Schoolboy Championships. It was our most successful season so far. We gained three Surrey champions in Player, Williams J. C. and Hallt, and two runners-up in Dable L. A. and Gear. Player, Williams and Hallt were eliminated in the Southern Regional Finals — Kent and Surrey versus Hampshire and Sussex.

As a result of the points gained in the Senior Division of the Surrey championships the school won the 'News of the World' shield; for the best performance at all weights in the Senior Division L. A. Dable was awarded the Langham Statuette.

Another honour was won by the club and Dable when, in the finals of the National Army Cadet Force championships at Birmingham, he became National Champion of the 8 st. 7 lbs. class.

K. PLAYER, Captain.

COLOURS :—

Honours Colours—

Player (captain), Dable (vice-captain).

Colours—

Carter, Gear, Lewis, Wheeler, Williams J.C., Smith K. C.

Half Colours—

Beeks, Blake, Courtney M., Day, Hallt, Harrison, Jackson, O'Brien, Ridley, Scott I. F., Scott K., Wright.

A Mention for Enthusiasm and Future Honours—

Chandler, Mercer, Smith, Cooper, Murphy, White, Croft, Turner.

Old Surbitonians Association

SILVER JUBILEE SEASON

(Hon. Secretary : K. A. Higgins, 24 The Roystons, Surbiton).

TEAM RECORDS 1955/56

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against
1st XV	28	17	3	8	295	172
"A" XV	23	18	—	5	359	123
Extra "A" XV ...	21	13	2	6	326	133

Since its formation in 1931 the Old Surbitonians' Rugby Football Club has progressed from strength to strength and at present time can be ranked among the stronger Old Boys Clubs in the London Area. This attainment is due to the very keen interest shown by the members of the Club who are at present playing, but mention must also be made of those other members of the Club who have hung up their boots and who played for us in the days gone by. It is all too easy to assess a Club on its present merits but perhaps a thought or two in reminiscent mood is not a bad thing. Incidentally, if any of those older warriors who have not been along to see us at Cobham for some little time would care to look us up, they will be assured of a very high standard of play, whichever XV they care to watch, and also a hearty welcome from the Club as a whole.

In celebration of our Twenty-Fifth Season two games were played in addition to the normal run of fixtures. The first of these games was against a Combined London Old Boys XV at Cobham on Saturday, 10th September, 1955. The opposition, which included seven or eight County Players, was brought along by D. K. Brooks (Old Rutlishians, Harlequins and Surrey) who is Assistant Honorary Team Secretary of the Surrey County Rugby Football Union. This game resulted in a victory for the Club by 12 points to 9 and was watched by the Surrey President and other officials. Thus the season commenced and members of the 1st XV especially and, indeed, the whole Club, felt that a good start had been made.

The other Celebration Game was played on Sunday, March 11th, 1956, against a side brought along by K. Newman, who is an Old Surbitonian now playing for Rosslyn Park Rugby Football Club. This side included even more County Players in its make-up than did the Combined London Old Boys but an undaunted Club XV took the field against them and won an exciting game by the odd point.

During the season the Club joined battle with many opponents of long standing. Needle matches were fought against Lloyds Bank, Old Mitchamians, Old Reendonians and Old Tiffinians, to mention but a few. In passing, it is worthy of note that the 1st XV were one of only two teams to draw with the unbeaten Lloyds Bank XV of last season.

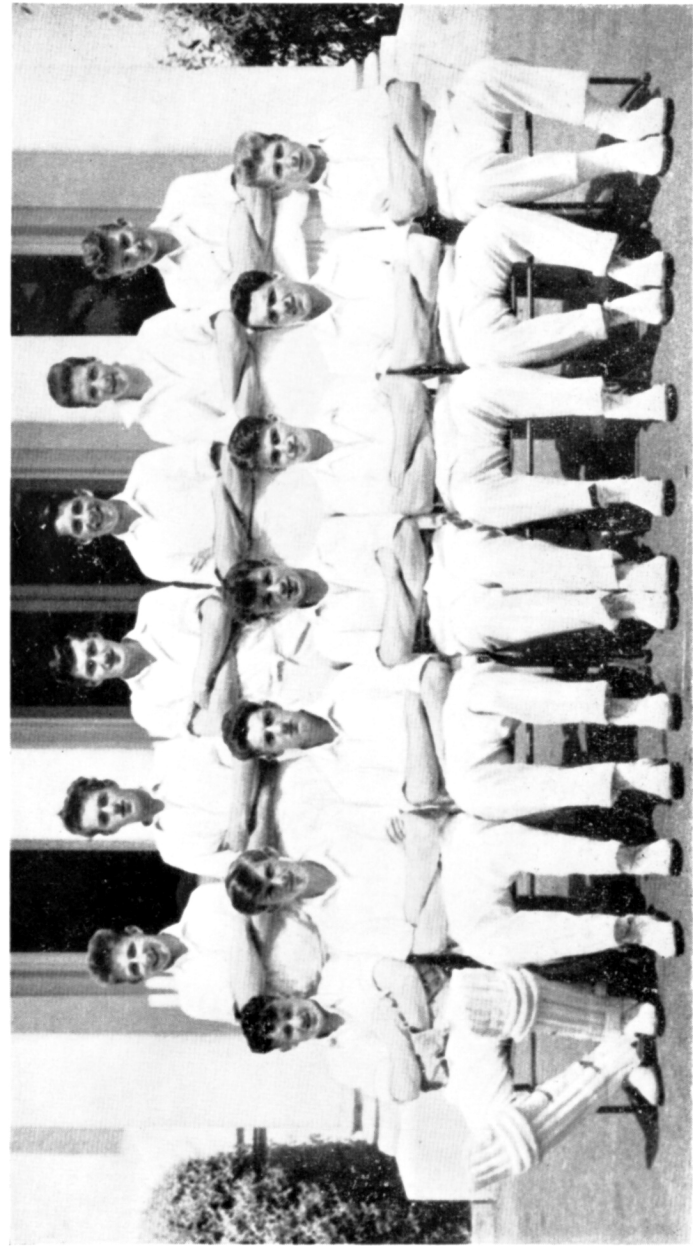
Having completed its regular fixtures the Club enjoyed the first post-war Easter Tour at Ramsgate in Kent, and, of the three games played, was successful in beating both Canterbury and Dover, but succumbed to the wiles of Thanet Wanderers in an hard fought match at Broadstairs. Apart from the play, all members were in excellent spirits from beginning to end of the Tour and were actually invited back to the same hotel, if ever the Club again toured the same area—a very singular honour.

Several personalities have stood out throughout the season, but special mention must be made of Rodney Thomas and Mike Wright, Captain and Vice-Captain, respectively, of the 1st XV, who have both done sterling work for the Club. The "A" XV, once again led by Bernard Cole, had the distinction of playing from the end of October 1955 until the middle of March 1956 without being beaten—possibly a Club record, certainly a post-war one. The Extra "A" XV was led by the Vice-Captain, Denis Sweasey, for the majority of the season, Geoff Southam, the Skipper, having unfortunately broken an arm in November 1955. However, their record shows that they convincingly held their own, and this must surely be a tribute to Denis, who has had the usual hard and at times thankless task of going on to the field with 14 and sometimes only 13 men, due, perhaps, to an especially heavy crop of injuries and no available reserves to fill the vacant places.

On the social side, the Club has held two Sausage and Mash suppers at Cobham, one at the beginning and one at the end of the season, both well attended and very successful. The Christmas Draw again attracted the shekels and last year a profit of £113 was made, largely due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Southam. The Annual Dance at the Surbiton Assembly Rooms in February received heartening support, taking into account the extremely cold weather at the time, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

We now look forward to next season with renewed enthusiasm and expectancy. One or two of our key players, who have been engaged on their National Service, are due for demobilisation before we go into training, and will doubtless help to strengthen the Club as a whole. The standard of play, coupled with a grand Club spirit, will certainly ensure another successful season.

Cricket 1st XI., 1956



A. DAVIS D. MORRIS D. COTTRELL D. WADE B. LOWE J. RIDPATH
 B. CRESSWELL M. SLORICK J. HARDING D. HUGHES K. MASTERS L. STUBBS J. JEFFCOATE
 (Captain) (Vice-Captain)



Victoria Printing Works
(Kingston) Ltd.
Kingston-on-Thames