

The
Frestonian

THE MAGAZINE OF
NORMANTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Volume LIII. Part I Spring Term, 1957

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The Frestonian

VOL. LIII, PART I

SPRING TERM, 1957

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EDITORIAL

Editor: K. Holroyd.

News: J. Glaze.

Sport: C. W. Whale.

Sub-Editor: G. B. Milner.

Our aim is to have a fresh issue of " The Frestonian " in your hands by the last day of each term. We have not regularly achieved this yet. " The Frestonian " arrives, but sometimes it is a little late. You received the Autumn Term, 1956, issue in early January, 1957, instead of December, 1956. We hope to do better with this one.

The Magazine has been, and still is, undergoing a gradual change. Readers will no doubt note with interest and, we hope, amusement the appearance of two sketches in this issue. If we don't meet overwhelming disapproval from our athletes and " freshmen " we will publish more cartoons to cover other departments of School life.

There has been a fine crop of contributions this term as a result of a publicity campaign waged within the confines of the Foundation by the Editorial committee. Some of these articles have achieved immortality by securing a place in this issue and we hope that they will satisfy the demand for entertaining contributions.

We have at least tried to select those which have some entertainment as well as literary value and we hope that those whose articles have failed to qualify for publication this term will not throw down their pens in disgust but aim to produce articles no editor can refuse.

SALVETE

IIIB—M. Abbott, J. Harper, A. C. Macdonald.

IIB—R. S. Beckett, A. R. Child, J. S. Hayward, K. Lindley,
A. S. Oldroyd, W. White.

IB—J. L. Benton, G. E. Dean, D. Holland, T. Roberts.

VALETE

LVIA—J. Shires.

LVISc.—E. H. Beedle.

VB—E. M. Taylor, G. Wainwright.

LVIM—A. Beavors, R. P. Schofield, B. Toddington, R. E.
Watson, K. West, G. Woods.

IVB—D. Jones (to Thornes House G.S.).

DE OMNIBUS

We have been very pleased this School Year to have, on Wednesday mornings, regular visits from Mr. J. H. Dodd, Principal Lecturer at Carnegie College, Leeds. Mr. Dodd, who was British Pole Vault Champion in 1937 and Northern Counties High Jump and Pole Vault Champion in 1936-38 and 1946-48, has been keeping his hand in, taking P.E. lessons with various forms from the 1st to Vth year.

We are delighted to print in this issue of "The Frestonian" a very stimulating article by Mr. Dodd.

An interesting visitor to School this term has been Mr. W. E. Tate, Lecturer in Education at Leeds University. Mr. Tate, who has helped to create a Museum of the History of Education at Leeds, is of the opinion that our School was not **founded** in 1592, but **re-founded**. His view is that the School was first founded in 1548. Mr. Tate is now pursuing this very interesting matter with Mr. Law.

Founder's Day this year is on Tuesday, July 16th. The preacher will be the Right Rev. H. De Candole, Suffragan Bishop of Knaresborough.

A collection for the Hungarian refugees, made at the end of last term, realised £9 0s. 3d.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge the receipt of magazines from King's School, Pontefract, and Wakefield Grammar School.

For the second Christmas running, parties were held for the 1st-4th years. The parties were arranged by the various form masters, and the hall was suitably decked for the festive occasions. The second year is still complaining that it was | done out of " its party, because the boys had to leave at six owing to thick fog. As it was, some of them had to spend the night in the Grammar School House.

This term has seen the "naissance" of a Club Francais in the School. This has been inspired by the presence of M. le Hir, our French Assistant.

The S.C.M. Conference was held this year at the High School. The speaker was the Reverend Professor A. R. Vine, M.A., B.Sc., D.D.

Mr. R. T. Thompson, B.Sc. (Hons., Zoology and Botany) of Bristol University, has joined the staff in a temporary capacity until July. He was educated as a boy at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury.

OLD FRESTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

" For we were nursed upon the self-same hill "

Association officers for the current year are as follows:—

President: J. S. Baker (1926).

Vice-President: J. T. E. Akers (1914).

Chairman: H. White (1937).

Treasurer: G. W. Fieldhouse (1940), 6, Newlands View, Altofts.

Hon. Secretary: W. Smith (1934), 39, Illingworth Avenue, Altofts.

Hon. Secretary, A.F.C.: J. Richardson (1939), 24, The Grove, Normanton.

The Annual Invitation Dance of the O.F.A., held this School Year on December 14th, 1956, was a pleasantly successful affair, which would have been even better had a few more Old Boys arrived. Orchestra, dinner and bar all contributed to the success of the evening.

The following day, an O.F.A. XI played the School at football. We will not advertise the result here (see, if you must, the School Football report further on), but everyone thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant fixture and the tea that followed. The Headmaster refereed and the new Games Master, Mr. J. Malpass (O.F.) played a dour game at centre-half for the Old Boys, whose team was: H. Richardson (1946); D. Hartley (1951), J. L. Akers (1956); J. S. Freston (1945), J. Malpass (1945), R. I. Warrington (1944); J. Richardson (1939), J. Lowe (1948), W. E. Sadler (1952), C. Thompson (1951) and H. Coule (1947).

J. S. Freston spoke at tea on behalf of the Old Boys and G. Cooper responded for the School.

The Football Club had a festive dance on January 18th, 1957; the Committee of the Association has met regularly under the chairmanship of H. White; the Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday, March 23rd, in a private room at the Black Swan, Normanton; and the Annual Dinner will be at School on Saturday, April 6th.

J. M. Dean (1951) is now teaching at Glass Houghton Junior School. He spent three years in commerce and then went to Westminster Training College from 1954-6.

C. Allen (1930) is educational psychologist to Northumberland Education Authority. His prowess at chess has been spotted by his adopted county, for whom he appeared in a match against his native Yorkshire recently.

D. Slack (1946) has left the "Wakefield Express" and joined the "Yorkshire Evening Post" at Doncaster.

K. M. Fenton (1954) is now a fitter at Sharlston West Colliery and lives at the Police House, George Street, South Hiendley, near Hemsworth.

G. N. F. Wildey (1946) has started a new life as secretary to a playwright and farmer at Feniton House, near Honiton, Devon. For some years, Wildey has been prominent in local amateur dramatics.

P. Key (1948) is now employed at Hull, with Woolworth's.

J. Chapman (1954) is now demobilised from the Army, having served with the K.S.L.I. in Kenya, as Orderly Room Corporal.

M. Haigh (1953), a draughtsman with Hoist and Co., Reinforced Concrete, Leeds, has taken his Ordinary National Certificate in Building and hopes to proceed to his A.M.I.C.E. at Bradford Technical College.

G. M. Fryer (1956) began his University course in the Honours School of Geography at Leeds, but has now changed to the B.Comm. and Accountancy degree course. He has -raised an Old Boys' Rugby XV to play the School on March 23rd, at Castleford R.U.F.C., Methley. He thinks the Old Boys will win

J. Madeley (1941), who went up to University College, Oxford, on leaving School, is now teaching modern languages at King's School, Pontefract.

R. Clarke (1938), who graduated at London University, is also on King's School staff, teaching Mathematics.

J. Bastow (1948), a qualified teacher, is taking a third year course in Mathematics at Cambridge.

N. Gittins (1951) is on the same Cambridge Mathematics course.

J. Roberts (1952) is an apprentice electrician at Ackton Hall Colliery. He is playing football for Pontefract United.

R. Scrannage (1952) has a similar post at Ackton Hall.

We congratulate R. Wilby (1949) on his marriage on February 23rd, to Patricia Rowan, at St. Joseph's, Pontefract. He is now living at 15, Miller Avenue, Pontefract, and is a cashier at the York County Savings Bank, Wakefield.

A. B. Parker (1954) is in his final year of Electrical Engineering (Hons.) at University College, London.

We deeply regret to announce the death of G. E. Cawthraw (1914). Mr. Cawthraw, in addition to being an old boy of this school, was formerly a member of the staff of King's School, Pontefract.

NORMANTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman: J. T. Akers, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: J. H. Pyrah, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer: W. H. Major, Esq.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. Ryder, 19, Poplar Avenue,
. Townville, Castleford (Tel. Castleford 2610).

Hon. Minuting Secretary: G. Cudworth, Esq.

It was with some feeling of satisfaction that members of the committee learnt the other evening that the association now has 218 paid up members. We are, therefore, representative of more than half the school's student body, which is fair progress some eighteen months after our formation.

Unfortunately, none of you has responded to the invitation published in the last magazine for suggestions on ways in which you think the association might develop its syllabus. We live in hope. Meanwhile, we are pursuing lines, orthodox though they may be, along which we think our influence can be best applied towards the well-being of the school.

Our womenfolk were happy to render back-stage services in a multiplicity of ways before and during the production of the school show, "The Pirates of Penzance." It is on such occasions that a school looks expectantly towards the possibilities of parent co-operation, and the association were happy in their contribution to what was a most successful undertaking.

In these days the word "social" probably smacks a little of the old-fashioned and that was the probable reason for a smaller company than was merited at our gathering in February. In point of fact, the evening's programme was sufficiently up-to-date to have a "rock 'n' roll" interlude, and the entertainment of a group of accomplished artistes proved ample fare for some sixty guests. Perhaps you parents will support us in more generous numbers if another such function is held.

We have several other events in the "blue-print" stage, of which you will be notified in due course, and, being a determined lot, we shall go on ringing the changes until we really whet the appetite of the greater body of parents.

And, in case you have forgotten one of the prime reasons for our existence, it may be mentioned that we keep making appreciated donations from our bank account to the School Fund.

A meeting of parents living in the Royston district was held under the chairmanship of the Headmaster on January 22nd, at Royston Junior Boys' School (by kind permission of Mr. Watts).

It was decided to form a Royston branch of the Association and officers were elected as follows:—

Chairman: Mr. K. B. Watts.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. W. Agg.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. C. E. Buckle.

A strong committee was also elected and the first meeting of the branch, on March 12th, heard an interesting lecture by Dr. Percival.

An "At Home" has been arranged for April 9th, at 7 p.m., when a general invitation has been issued to all parents of Normanton G.S. boys to attend a Social, which will be held at Royston Junior Boys' School and will include a film, musical items and monologues.

Films, other speakers and factory-visits are also being arranged by the branch. Anyone within reach of Royston is very cordially invited to any meeting.

END OF TERM CONCERT

To borrow the dull jargon of the experts, one could say that drama is an extremely valuable educational medium. Certainly, a school's dramatic activity should not begin and end with the School Play. It was this conviction that caused some twenty boys, mainly from the fourth year, to be roped in to the production of two "old chestnuts" of one-act plays, which formed the first part of a concert given at School on 7th and 8th December, 1956.

The programme announced the first play — a spy thriller, "Shivering Shocks" by Clemence Dane. Several critics were pretty rude about this thriller, some saying it was more of a "shocker" than a "thriller." It is true that Capt. Dallas' hands were so imperfectly tied by the

villain that you could almost hear the audience saying, "The string is not for burning," but the second night audience were treated to a much better exhibition of knotting and splicing and there were several convincing moments in the play, not the least being the pistol-bullet which shattered the french window and plunged the stage into darkness. D. A. Worth, as Capt. Dallas, is to be congratulated on some clear speaking; J. B. Popplewell at times seemed to live the part of the scientist, Hughes, and M. Hill made a vigorous attempt at the difficult part of the drunken "Rowley," who is a smart detective in disguise. W. A. Walker, N. S. Wilford and P. Rhodes also did well in this melodramatic little play, which was specially written for young boys to enjoy, rather than for adults.

The second play, Stanley Houghton's "The Dear Departed," appealed more to maturer tastes. R. Lord and A. D. Burton were very well received as the corpulent housewives who dominated their sufficiently mouse-like husbands, I. W. Oxley and G. Beaumont,, the latter of whom displayed an excellent sense of timing. C. J. Makin was a gay old man, while M. Powell and R. Wilby, who shared the part of Victoria, gave evidence of a mis-spent youth in their skill at Yo-yo.

In both plays, Mr. Moreton's sets were very much appreciated, and M. D. Hill was an efficient electrician.

After the interval, the audience was charmed with the playing of Alex Green, an Old Boy, and a very well-known teacher of music. His splendid rendering of "Fantaisie-Impromptu" by Chopin was followed by Grieg's "To the Spring" and "Liebestraum" by Liszt. Mr. Green's pupil, Ernest Beedle, also delighted the audience later on in the evening. He gave us Mendelssohn's "The Bee's Wedding" and "Scherzo" by Chopin.

The musical versatility of the School was further demonstrated when, under the leadership of B. Mountain (saxophone), a swing quartet, which included Beedle at the piano, D. J. Hopwood at the drums and timpany and J. M. Cooper, climbing up and down his synthetic double-bass, gave us "Rock a-beating Boogie," "Old Man Mose," "I know why" and "When the Saints go marching in." They would have willingly given us much more, but these Featherstone buses and Royston trains rock and roll along at certain fixed hours.

The rich mixture of this end of term concert included Will Nuttall and his very popular monologues; The Hill-Billy Singers, press-ganged and trained by Mr. Harrison

and mightily appreciated by fellow-cowboys in the audience; and a Carol Choir, trained by K. Holroyd and conducted by M. J. Vonemloh.

This pre-Christmas variety show brought forth many appreciative remarks from visitors.

SOCIETY JOTTINGS

FILMS

Regular film shows which were so successfully initiated last year were continued this year and have proved very popular. In the autumn term a varied collection was shown including "Magazin du Rail," a French railway film; "Nurburg-ring," 25 years of motor racing; "Down a long way," a cartoon film dealing with the story of oil; and "Enterprise," a film dealing with the development and structure of I.C.I.

Only one film has been shown this term. This was "Servant of the People," a film which illustrated the work of a British M.P.

LIBRARY

The librarian wishes to acknowledge the receipt of books from K. Holroyd and R. Wilby.

Mr. R. Wilby, who is an Old Boy, has sent us a number of books from Pontefract where he is now living.

THE WOODWORK CLUB

Last term a Woodwork Club was formed in the school for boys who wish to use the Woodwork Room for recreation. The boys are allowed to work alone and use any tools that they want. They seem to get their various models made much more speedily than boys do in ordinary lessons. The room, on club nights, is a buzzing hive of activity.

THE STAMP SOCIETY

During the term, in spite of rather small attendances, displays were given of stamps of Great Britain, France and Newfoundland.

One or two boys have taken advantage of the open invitation to attend the meeting of the Wakefield Philatelic Society and were most enthusiastic about the display they saw.

Meetings are held regularly after School on Tuesdays.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

In spite of the unfortunate illness of Mr. Machin, many members of the Society have continued to make good use of the dark room. There have been talks on a variety of subjects, including cameras, exposure, and colour photography.

It is likely that Fourth Form boys will be invited to join the society in the near future and a special class will then be formed, if necessary, to help with beginners' difficulties.

The weekly subscription has now reached a figure high enough to enable the society to purchase a developing tank as well as paper, fixer and developer.

Meetings are held on Friday afternoons and evenings.

THE FRESTONIAN SOCIETY

It has been noted already in the magazine that, after a bright start, the Frestonian Society has relapsed into its previous dull state. The decline, which began with an uninteresting play-reading, was continued when the committee, in repetitive mood, ordained that the next meeting was to take the form of a " Balloon Game." The idea of this game is well-known to long-suffering Society members and others; therefore we will not bore readers with a description. Let it suffice to say that the stout hearts who put in an appearance were not rewarded for their pains.

The first meeting of the Spring term took the form of a social. The expected highlight of the evening, a " recital " by the swing quartet, which had been so successful at the School concert, unfortunately came to rather a disconsolate end, as the musicians were not on very good form. A " skiffle group " specially formed for the occasion fared no better, and therefore the meeting was not as successful as anticipated.

On March 7th, M. le Hir addressed the Society. This meeting was at least original, and proved to be entertaining. A general knowledge " quiz " has been arranged for the next meeting.

PASSING NOTES

The power of music at school has been illustrated recently in several rather disturbing directions. A novel form of dental extraction was instituted in the Junior School by the relatively simple process of singing top A with a certain amount of vigour and merely waiting for

the tooth to drop out, thus making a mockery of traditional surgical methods; the liberal pouring of "pirate sherry" inspired a certain regal baritone to attempt a minor landscape alteration single-handed (or was it "single-footed"?); a member of the Upper School proved clearly that we all tend to breathe far too often and that once a page is really quite sufficient; finally, a small section of Middle School students has thoroughly wrecked all established methods of harmony teaching—to their satisfaction at least. In spite of these disturbances, I am able to record with a certain amount of relief, that several other school musical activities have been continuing quietly and efficiently.

The elementary recorder group meets each Thursday at 4 p.m.; the word "elementary," is now rather ambiguous, since great improvements in recorder playing and music reading have been made. A limited number of school instruments is still available on loan for boys who wish to join this group. The more advanced group meets • each Friday at 4 p.m.; the standard of recorder playing and music reading among the members of this group is now quite high, but any boy who feels he has the ability to join this group should present himself for audition. An additional recorder group is being formed to study the treble recorder and, eventually, boys with larger hands from the descant groups will be invited to take up the tenor recorder, thus forming a fairly full consort.

The violin students meet each Monday at 4.30 p.m. and it is hoped to increase the number of these classes in addition to forming other instrumental groups.

Whatever instrument you play, I do urge you to practise regularly—at school, if it is impossible at home; no progress at all can be made by merely attending a rehearsal, blowing or scraping steadily for half an hour, packing up the instrument and forgetting about it until the next rehearsal. Difficulties are bound to be encountered, but quite often with a musical instrument, the solving of these difficulties is relatively simple compared with the realisation that they are present.

During the past few months, the activities of the school choir have been concentrated upon the production of the opera. However, a series of additional rehearsals before Christmas enabled the choir to lead the singing at the Carol Service in the Normanton Parish Church, and the Normanton Arts Council Concert in January provided a good opportunity for the choir and soloists to perform in public prior to the opera production. When a

further selection of appropriate music becomes available, the normal Tuesday lunch-time rehearsals will re-commence to provide additional music for the morning assembly.

A new venture in Yorkshire has been the formation of a choir of over 400 mixed voices from the Sixth Forms of the Grammar and High Schools of the West Riding. Twelve tenors and basses represented our school and many Saturday afternoons were spent in an unusual yet stimulating way—rehearsing Mendelssohn's "Elijah" for the concert on March 19th, in Leeds Town Hall. A full report of this concert will be given in the next issue of the magazine.

Coda.

Finally, I wish to thank all boys who have helped to make a success of our various musical activities and to urge everyone to carry on music making. D.W.A.

THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS, 1956

The School Carol Service was conducted by the Vicar of Normanton, Rev. C. A. O. Warman, in the Parish Church, on Thursday, 20th December, 1956. Although many stalwart members of the VIth were giving invaluable aid to the G.P.O. at that time, the service was carried through with reasonable success.

The Carols were "Once in Royal David's City" (soloist, J. M. Cook), "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (K. Jenkins), "Angels from the Realms," "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High" (choir), "Still the Night" (D. Brown), "While Shepherds Watched" (P. J. Lockwood and D. Powers), "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

The lessons were read by A. N. Hoyle, a first year boy, J. P. Scott (second year), R. C. Gayton (third year), T. Abbott (fourth year), B. W. Hardcastle (fifth year), K. Holroyd (acting senior prefect), the Headmaster, Rev. W. Hewison and the Vicar.

It is very easy for a long service of lessons and carols such as this to become tedious but, on this occasion, the congregation seemed to have little difficulty in maintaining its attention. The singing was interesting (two first year boys made their debut as soloists in the School) and the lessons were carefully read. Particularly effective in the attempt to achieve some variation was the performance of "Good King Wenceslas," with D. Street and J. Strutt taking the solo parts.

A few parents were most welcome guests on this occasion; it is unfortunate that many are unable to attend the Annual Carol Service because of travelling difficulties.

At the School's request, the collection was given to the Church's Building Repair Fund.

THE ARTS CLUB CONCERT

On Thursday, 31st January, we welcomed the distinguished pianist, Miss Valerie Tryon, who gave a recital of piano works by Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel and Liszt. The School Hall, with its new curtains, made a charming setting and the concert was much appreciated by a large audience.

During the first half of the concert the School Choir under Mr. D. W. Addy, gave extracts from the "Pirates of Penzance." The singing was admirable and the choir discipline of its usual high standard. The performance must have helped to give the boys confidence for the stage production which was to be given a week later.

From the opening chord of the G major sonata by Beethoven we felt that we were under the spell of a very gifted musician. Miss Tryon's phrasing and tone gradations were admirably controlled and the music took on a new life under her skilful hands. Musicianship allied to superlative technical skill were displayed in the works of the French Impressionists included in the recital. Debussy's " Claire de lune " was delightful and in his " Jeux d'eaux " by Ravel the pianist caught the sparkle and lightness of the music. In the Ravel " Pavane pour une Infante Defunte " the quiet pathos was movingly conveyed in passage work of rare beauty and the tenderness of the music was realised by means of exquisite playing. The last group in Miss Tryon's recital was selected from works by Liszt and included the Transcendental Study No. 10, and the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, both calculated to test the technique of any pianist. In these works (and in fact throughout the recital) the pianist's command of the instrument was complete, and her flawless performance and rapt concentration upon the task in hand justified the generous applause with which her recital was received. At the beginning of her career as a concert pianist may we wish Miss Tryon every success.

H.W.



Some of the cast of "The Pirates of Penzance."

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

A new venture is not undertaken without trepidation. This was true in the case of the School's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" for three nights, 6th-8th February. For weeks before the actual performance, boys of various sizes trooped in daily procession into the hall, whence came sounds of singing in various keys, piano music, exhortations, and occasionally, when the stage-hands were at work, sounds of hammering and kindred noises.

Eventually came the crucial test. On Tuesday, 5th February, a performance was to be given before the ultra-critical eyes of the School. Huge bundles of clothing had arrived including a selection of ladies' clothing and a dozen policemen's uniforms which respectively interested and shocked several boys. Everyone and everything was tuned up and ready, and then one of the principals failed to appear on Tuesday morning. Feverishly a substitute was unearthed and trained in the unfamiliar part. Despite this unhappy state of affairs, the opera passed its first test satisfactorily.

Much to the intense relief of the producer and the musical director, the first public performance of the opera

on the Wednesday evening took place with the original team. No doubt everyone heaved a hearty sigh of thanks when the curtain fell on the finale and the cast trooped off the stage with the applause of the first-night audience ringing in their ears.

For the remaining two nights, everything went as smoothly as could be expected, save for one minor crisis on Thursday when all the lights fused during the delicate operation of making-up. However, the make-up staff had just decided to resort to candles, when thanks to our efficient electrician, the scene became once more illuminated. From then on, all was comparatively easy, and when the last member of the Friday audience had gone, we could well afford to pat ourselves on the back for a fine and worthy, as well as a profitable, effort.

Every member of the cast put the utmost effort into his part, and it is difficult to single out any individual performance. W. S. Hayle's noteworthy performance in the leading role must not go unnoticed, and A. Jenkins took the part of the Pirate King with a convincing blend of comedy and villainy even though he did literally "put his foot in it" one night. P. J. Lockwood made a very praiseworthy attempt at one of the more difficult characters, that of Ruth, the Pirate maid-of-all-work; Mabel (D. Brown) spoke and sang well in a demanding part; D. Rose as Major-General Stanley was both confident and convincing; and Mr. James was deservedly well-received as the Sergeant of Police. As for our three "happy bands," the Pirates were wicked in a pleasant sort of way, the Police were suitably complacent or terrified when the occasion demanded, and every time the girls appeared from behind our beautifully realistic cardboard rocks, they were greeted by a gale of laughter and a mighty burst of applause from an audience which thoroughly appreciated their coy glances and feminine simperings.

The final word of congratulation must go to those who made their "appearances" off the stage—to Mr. Addy who spent the whole of every performance on a mutilated chair conducting the singers; to E. Beedle whose fine piano playing will, alas, be heard here no more; to our devoted electrician and assistant stage manager, who every night stood in cramped positions with the fate of the whole production in their hands; and to Mr. Moreton who with a faithful band of helpers built the stage, to Mr. Robinson who painted the scenery, and to the Headmaster who produced the opera.

NEW BOY IN OPERA

My idea of opera was as vague as that of most boys—thin plot, plump sopranos, middle-sized tenors.

How wrong I was! How could we offend with plump sopranos, when all our females have to be male and all are fed on school dinners?

I was senior enough to escape "womanising" and emerged from the auditions with the part of the Pirate King himself—no less.

I had great difficulty learning to "come in with the music." On many occasions I managed to remember my part only on the last few notes of introduction.

We all attained a certain degree of confidence by about a week before the first performance. Then many of the principals, including myself, caught cold. We dieted almost exclusively on cough sweets, throat tablets, indeed on any pills which came readily to hand.

When the costumes arrived I picked up a vicious looking sword and a piratical looking hat and coat. These were very smart. Then I was given a pair of tights—tights? Pirates? This was strange. All was explained in a moment, however. I discovered that in addition to the "uniform" I had already acquired I was to wear — a skirt! "Surely this can't happen to me!" I thought, but I was mistaken. Fortunately, I was not alone in my humiliation; other senior members of the cast had to wear skirts, too, and remembering that "trouble shared is trouble halved" I allowed myself to be consoled.

My make-up included a long curly black wig which, unfortunately, was not completely effective without moustache and beard to match. These made me feel much more like a bold buccaneer, but the burning glue with which the beard was fixed made my lips uncomfortably stiff when it hardened. Taking the thing off was quite a nightmare. To drink (cocoa) during the interval was practically impossible.

Hiding behind my make-up I felt much less self-conscious, and on the first night I took the instruction to "swagger on" too much to heart; I put my foot in it literally and left a hole shaped like a foot-print in the hard board ramp leading onto the stage.

The producer may have left his mark on the opera. So may the musical director and the stage manager. No-one can deny that I left mine.....
A. Jenkins.

A FISH-MAN'S DIARY

Wednesday, October 17th

The stock of fish in the two fish-tanks is getting rather low, making them look more like miniature green-houses than tropical fish-tanks. The Headmaster suggested we buy more fish; so Gray and I arranged our visit to Leeds to coincide with games-afternoon.

Thursday, October 18th

A hurried lunch; then, armed with two vacuum flasks and an insulated jar hastily made by Mr. Pate, we boarded the one o'clock train to Leeds. The tropical fish shop was our first call where we bought eleven fish, amongst these being a pair of Angel Fish. Our return journey at four o'clock was a test to see if we could hold the containers still whilst the train swayed.

Friday, October 19th

The Angel Fish are certainly living up to their name. They are gentle, decorative and do no harm to the other fish.

October 22nd to January 10th

During this period, the fish have been reduced by two dying. One was a "Mollie" and the other a very ancient X-ray Fish. The plants continue to flourish and we have taken six cuttings from one plant. This has been a great relief to us as many difficulties crop up when buying these plants, most of which have long Latin names.

The Headmaster says we may buy some more fish.

Thursday, January 10th

Hurried lunches; two late boys and an early train gave an unsuccessful start to our trip; so we caught a bus to Leeds and made our way to the little shop. After continually asking for more fish the assistant became uneasy and asked us if we could afford them all. We now have an expensive pair named "Platty Variatus."

January 28th

Many of our beautifully-coloured fish are dappled with tiny white spots, a spreading disease caused by a fungus. We have referred to text books to find a remedy.

January 29th onwards

The temperature of the water was raised with great care. (We didn't want boiled fish.) This only halted the spreading of the disease; so we experimented with a patient mixture. A large sweet-jar complete with the mixture was placed in one of the tanks to act as a fish hospital, all the affected fish being put in it. This was a success and the epidemic cleared with the minor loss of four fish, some of which had outlived their normal span of life by many months.

G. T. Lealman.

FIRST YEAR IMPRESSIONS

(N.G.S. as it appears to some 11-year-olds)

"Prefects should be abolished."

"Everybody in the school takes an interest in sport"

"It is more strick than the other school."



A FRESHMAN.

"Homework interferes too much with my hobby, which is watching television."

"My hobbies are collecting football programmes, and girls. School doesn't encourage either of them."

"Our form-master gave us the Greek alphabet."

"I don't like the lines and detentions you get from the prefects. I prefer watching Barnsley."

"I would not like Mrs. Walker's job as head of the kitchen staff, as she has two dinners to serve. What I like is collecting stamps. I have about 1500 which

includes five of the eight in the Monaco wedding set."

"The dinners I found to my surprise, were jolly good."

JUNIOR ARCHER

My hobby is archery. In mediaeval times archery was encouraged by law. On Sunday archery was the only sport allowed. This rule, however, was not always kept.

A "clout" or clay-bird was used as a target. The modern target, adopted in 1844, was four feet in diameter. In the centre is a bull's eye or "gold," which counts nine points; surrounding this is a red "7," blue "5," black "3" and a white "1."

Bows have two classes, the self bow and the backed bow. The former, as its name suggests, is made of one piece of wood. A backed bow is made of two pieces, the best is a yew bow with a yew back. The weight of a bow means the weight needed to pull the string back the length of the arrow.

Arrows are made of deal or light alloy and are flighted with turkey or goose feathers. R. Booth.

ORDEAL BY STEAM

Monday morning; once more the hour for struggling for a vacant "horse-box" on the 8.6 a.m. train has arrived. Caps are lost in the blind struggle; satchels and cases burst open showering the neat little Royston station with Latin books, cigarette ends and glamour books. The few prefects travelling in these "live cargo" trucks, are passed unnoticed by the throng of fighting boys and girls.

A screech from the train's soprano whistle slightly increases the din. Those who are slyly loitering in the distance hear it and slacken their pace. The keener types, however, rush towards the sound, "ankle-tapping" one another as they run.

When the last body has been dragged into a compartment and the last door slammed tight, the train glides away leaving a very efficient porter lying flat on his face under a poster headed, "Travel in Safety by British Railways."

The train, now at full speed, is passing over the Thirteen Arches bridge, which spans the road on Chevet Hill. Every able-bodied man is crouching against his window with a "deadly missile" in his hand. The moment is ripe; a sleek, shining sports car approaches the foot of the bridge. Unleashing his agile body, a renowned marksman lands a particularly juicy tomato on the wind-screen. Other objects rain upon it amid gurgles of delight.

All windows are now tightly closed, and feet are pressing against the door handle of each carriage—the train

is approaching Walton. A long screech of brakes, a nerve-racking shudder, and the train halts—just past the small station. Howls of disapproval come from the "Waltonites" who are crowding the end of the platform to watch the train reverse. When the train is brought within the station's limits another mad scramble follows with crowds of small boys frantically knocking on doors to be admitted. The " Roystoners " hold fast. Cursing furiously the crowd surges along the track searching for a vulnerable carriage. One " Waltonite " creeps stealthily away from the rest and dashes to an open door where his Royston friend is waiting. He has been spotted, however; the Walton crowd dives into the same compartment as the train rumbles away.

Not a word is uttered now, fights are forgotten; each soul remembers he has still to do his homework. Once more cases are burst open, pens scratch madly away at the English essay or Latin translation.

At " Sherwood Forest " (a small copse by the track) all hope of finishing the work is gone. Pens are gloomily pocketed and cases re-packed. When the train reaches Normanton everyone rushes to the barrier madly searching for misplaced passes.

Then a cap goes on each tousled head, an angelic expression on each face, and the boys trip innocently through the streets to school. D. Street.

AERO-MODELLING

It may surprise you to know that the most vivid memories that I have retained of aero-modelling are, the wonderful smells of the materials used and the thrill of seeing my own creations fly.

Littered around my workroom are the carcasses of some of the " winged wonders " which I have created, and in one corner are the dismembered remains of a few of those, which, in their haste to land, unfortunately " ditched," spinner first.

Near - poverty, however, stalks the enthusiastic modeller. This is the price of most hobbies, although aero-modelling is one of the most expensive, and only the participant with a considerable income can enjoy it fully. Enjoying it fully is to be completely detached from worldly affairs. An aero-modeller is only rarely conscious of reality, but lives in a world of make-believe, always dreaming up some new design, or developing an old one. Aero-modelling is completely absorbing.

My main interest in aero-modelling was the tuning and maintenance of the small engines which powered my creations. These engines are divided into three groups, compression-ignition or diesel, glo-plug, and petrol. My greatest successes have been scored with the first of these groups, the compression-ignition type, and I have spent many happy hours dismantling and modifying these miniature miracles, amid the reek of ether, which is the basis of the fuel used to run them.

I was told, before I took this hobby up, that aero-modellers are not in complete possession of their faculties, and so it may seem to the casual watcher, to see full-grown men chasing after pieces of balsa wood, which tear about the blue on Sunday mornings and more so when, although the ground has a deep blanket of snow, covering the "air-strip" and the shrill whistle of the North wind adds to that of the "power egg," the staunch aero-modellers still make an appearance. What the casual watcher does not understand, however, is the complete relaxation that is achieved from such apparent childishness and that is, as far as I am concerned, the pleasantest form of complete, healthy relaxation, which offers unlimited companionship to all who indulge in it.

M. Marsh.

TO ANOTHER PLANET ...

Stars and planets slid by the coasting rocket, and all outside lay blackness, empty, cold; a lifeless void of revolving spheres, where all hung in suspension emitting glowing, ghostly light, like myriad blooms in some vast jungle.

Venus swung into view on the "telescanner," as the great ship turned into free orbit round the great planet.

All was decked with a greenish glow, stretching into the blackness, dimming the flicking stars and asteroids, that revolved in the foreboding wastes. Round the pole-caps of the planet, patches of white splashed down into the interior, marked with black crags and hills of unearthly kind, everything looking desolate.

The ship began its long turn and the sleek tail dipped down towards the floodlit globe. The gyros began their hideous whine; flame gushed from the stern, splashing all with flickering light, as the rocket shuddered, vibrated and strained to combat the tugging gravity which pulled it nearer to the craggy surface. The landing gear extended like steely fingers from the rocket's side, as the distance between planet and man lessened. Harsh scraping filled

the small cabin. The rocket lurched sickeningly and came to rest. Automatically the gyros cut. Silence reigned.

Space-equipment was ripped from the cut-away racks: helmets clamped in position, oxygen gear adjusted and all stood trembling with excitement and anticipation in the cramped air-lock. The air-pressure reached normal and the green light winked on. The twin doors drew back with a resounding click, and the full splendour of Venus was revealed to all.

Stretching away from the glimmering space-ship lay vast barren expanses of rock crevices and enormous twisted spirals of amazing height. Away on the horizon loomed huge cliffs, piercing the purple Venusian sky, where the Sun glowed with a dull metallic ray, robbed of its full glory and colour by the heavy sweeping clouds. A ladder clumped down onto the rocky planet. We descended, treading on Venusian soil for the first time in man's existence.

We stood aghast on the desolate planet; all was quiet; no wind was present, just an eerie silence, shattered frequently by weird echos, as we clumped over the strangely-coloured rocks and set surveying gear in position. Everyone was working; records and calculations were checked..... Then something caused all eyes to turn to a rocky plateau which towered above all else in the dark distance. Something moved. A hideous wisp emerged from the rocks, apparently coming out of nothing; it took shape; more followed, till all hovered over the plateau. A horrible scream split the tense silence; a man slumped over his gear, his body glowing with a yellow light. The corpse turned black and dissolved into ashes.

The things in the distance advanced on us; we turned and ran, terrified, leaving everything. We clawed our way up the flimsy ladder into the air-lock. The doors clumped to. The horrible things came nearer, now only yards away from the slanting rocket. The gyros "revved," the ship hovered, shuddered, and then the licking flames pushed the heavy craft from the surface. It accelerated and then something like a vast hand seemed to hit it. The scream of our comrade re-echoed in the cabin; the ship sped onwards, rocked again, and then the walls seemed to spin crazily; they darkened to a crimson red—then blackness.....

J. F. Fairclough.

THE MUCH-MALIGNED MOTORIST

Why is it that after an accident the general public is often more willing to blame the motorist rather than the victim? The psychology of this is simple; they do not like admitting their faults, for how many of us have dashed across a road without taking the slightest heed of the on-coming traffic? In 1956, 267,960 people were killed on the roads and it is more than likely that over 50 per cent, of the victims were killed because of their own lack of " road sense." People don't seem to realise how much concentration is needed to drive a car and consequently, without thinking, they blame the driver for inefficiency. Several attempts have been made to reduce the number of road accidents but the majority have been designed to curb the motorists and not the people who are responsible—the pedestrians.

Of course, there are always the " road-hogs" and " speedsters," but probably the worst offender is the adolescent. When driving a fast car, he " steps on the gas " just to show his friends how " big " he is. There is also the clown who fools about on the road, not only endangering his own life but the lives of the pedestrian and his fellow-drivers. It is useful to remember these two appropriate slogans, " Clowns in the circus are funny, but on the roads they are murder " and " A careless motorist does not drive his car—he aims it!" (At pedestrians!) Such men give not only themselves but their fellow-motorists a bad name.

However, by far the biggest problem is that of children. Seven hundred and seventeen were killed in accidents last year. Naturally it can be said that the " Highway Code " is drilled into them at home and at school; but the question still remains, " How can we put a stop to accidents involving children?" The parents are mainly to blame, for children learn by example and what an example many parents give! All over England last year a campaign was introduced with the slogan, " Mind that Child " and because of this the number of deaths among children on the roads has decreased appreciably.- I believe many more of these campaigns should be introduced.

" What can we do about all these accidents? " That is the burning question. England is a small country with an ever-increasing population. I believe that the accident laws should be intensified against both motorists and pedestrians. It is common knowledge that the roads in England are no paradise and that no car is perfect. Thus

the driver should drive carefully and give the pedestrian a chance, while, most important of all, the pedestrians should abide by the rules of the " Highway Code" and help the motorist.

D. Ashton.

THE A.G.M.

It is Friday evening at 5 o'clock. I open the door and lay my weary bones in the nearest chair. " There's a letter....." says my mother. I reach for the brown envelope, and recognising the scrawl on the front of the envelope, I know it is from the secretary of the Featherstone Road Cycling Club. Inside is a balance sheet for the past year, and a note reminding me of the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, the 20th, at 6 o'clock. Sunday! I grab my jacket and extricate my cycle from the outhouse, splitting the rear mudguard as I do so, and race off to tell my pals. Tea is forgotten. I spread the news. " Now don't forget," I tell them, " be home for 5 o'clock on Sunday or you'll be late." I emphasise the word " late."

It is now Sunday. The time is 5.30. I am leaving the cyclists' cafe at Aberford. Aberford is nine miles away from home and fifteen from Featherstone. There is a howling headwind; all is pitch black. However, my companion and I set off, and I reach home at 6.20. I set off for Featherstone at half-past six and reach the St. John Ambulance Hut at five minutes to seven.

I open the door. The meeting has not yet started. I prop my bike up and sit down with my friends. Above the din a voice is heard. It is Larry's. " Anybody coming for a pint? " Miraculously the room empties and we are left alone, with the exception of a few junior members. After some minutes the rest are back and the meeting starts. Jack, the secretary, begins to read out the minutes of the 1955 A.G.M. All runs smoothly for a quarter-of-an-hour or so, until Bill, one of the racing brethren, remembers last year was 1956. He tells Jack and a riot starts, only ending when " Paddy," the chairman, has nearly broken the table with his little wooden hammer.

At last the 1956 minutes are read, but halfway through the expenses of the past year the door opens, and a blue bike, with the initials " K.B.L." on the seat tube, comes through; an ironic cheer arises and the newcomer enters with a sheepish grin on his face. This is " Bas," second fastest rider in the club, and an acknowledged " Charlie."

After this interruption the meeting proceeds steadily, the only disturbances being when a paper aeroplane floats onto the chairman's table, and when " Deg " Fox is elected as club captain before he knows what has happened. The proper racing men clamour for March as the date of the club's ten-mile time-trial but we novices get our own way, having it in May, by six votes to five.

At last everything is finished and we prepare to leave. Cycle lights are put on and we set off. Bill and " Bart" come up behind us and we are travelling at a furious pace round Cressey's corner on the left, middle, and right hand sides of the road.....

C. M. O'Rourke.

REPORT ON SCHOOL v. YELL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

School quickly lost the toss, and kicked off with a blinding snowstorm at their backs. After only four minutes' play, a forceful clearance by the opposing full-back resulted in the ball being lost in a nearby cowshed. It soon became evident that play would be rather restricted without a ball, and a few minutes later the game was stopped, while a search-party was sent out.

On the resumption of play, School set up a series of fierce attacks upon the right wing, but these met with no success as the whole opposing team, including the goal-keeper, were packing the right touchline. After about half-an-hour, came a new development, when School's centre-forward hit upon the brilliant plan of passing to the left wing. Had the outside-left not tripped over his shorts, this move would undoubtedly have resulted in a goal. However, the defence had now discovered School's new move, and thereupon all moved over to the left touchline, and broke down all School's attacks. Half-time arrived with no score in this hard-fought struggle.

Half-time score: School 0, Yell G.S. 0.

On the re-start, School took the initiative and quickly scored an own goal, from a pass by the School right-half, which School's right-back turned into his own net," with the goalkeeper leaning helplessly against the post. This goal inspired School who made a number of raids on the Yell penalty area. From one of these raids Yell scored, when a wildly-booted ball went to the centre-forward who picked it up and threw it into the net, with the referee unsighted.

Things were now looking desperate for School especially when it was seen that Yell were playing fifteen

men. However, with about five minutes to go, the School supporter who was standing on the touch-line received a terrific thrill when School scored, through their centre-forward who went through and scored his first goal in nineteen games with a shot which gave the goalkeeper every chance.

Two minutes later, thunderous applause from the spectator heralded the equaliser, headed in off the goalkeeper's boots by a School forward, who was thereupon assisted from the field. School now attacked vigorously. The dying minutes of the game were notable for some brilliant play by the School left-winger who drew the goalkeeper out to the centre-spot and lobbed the ball over his head. The ball was pounced upon by the School centre-forward who, by a good bit of elbow work, took it into the penalty area, neatly tripped the centre-half and crashed the ball home with his left knee. The ball hit and broke a post, and, in the ensuing goalmouth scramble, in which three defenders were permanently disabled, the ball, the goalkeeper, the School centre-forward and the broken post were all bundled into the back of the net to ensure a School victory by the odd goal (and what an odd goal!) in .five. A few seconds later, the whistle blew and those members of the teams, who were still able to stand, retired, supporting their less fortunate comrades.

School need not be proud of this result. The team lacked punch, although the School centre-forward did send down a defender for a count of eight mid-way through the second half. The inability to play attacking football (or any sort of football) has not gone unnoticed by those who select the team, and the whole mob have been relegated to the U19 XI, and sent to a judo school to learn certain basic football skills.

Result: School 3, Yell 2.



BACK ROW:—Tucker, C., Cooper, G. (Vice-Captain), Atkinson, H. I., Hirst, A. R., English, B. W., Blakeway, K.

FRONT ROW:—Frost, M., Phelps, K. E. (Secretary), Miller, M. V. (Captain), Harcastle, T. A., Rummings, C.

Absent:—Cooper, J. M.

A.F.C.

1st XI Results .

v. LEEDS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (h) (G. Cooper 5, C. Rummings, A. Beavors).	7-2 WON
v. COCKBURN HIGH SCHOOL, LEEDS (a) (G. Cooper 3, C. Rummings 2).	5-1 WON
v. O.F.A. XI (h) (T. A. Hardcastle 3, G. Cooper 3, M. Frost, C. Rummings).	8-0 WON
v. THORNES HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (G. Cooper 2, C. Tucker, A. R. Hirst).	4-1 WON
v. OSSETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) (A. R. Hirst, M. Frost 2, C. Rummings 2, G. Cooper 5).	10-0 WON
v. KING'S SCHOOL, PONTEFRACT (a) (G. Cooper, C. Rummings).	2-0 WON
v. CASTLEFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (G. Cooper 4, C. Rummings 2, A. R. Hirst).	7-1 WON
v. HOLME VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) (G. Cooper 5, C. Rummings 2).	7-1 WON
v. BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (G. Cooper 2, K. Blakeway).	3-2 WON
v. HOVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (M. Frost, K. Blakeway, C. Rummings).	3-0 WON
v. CHRIST'S COLLEGE, FINCHLEY (a) (G. Cooper 4, J. M. Cooper).	5-0 WON
v. BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD (a) (G. Cooper 5).	5-2 WON
v. ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE (h) (K. Blakeway 2, G. Cooper).	3-1 WON
v. PERCY JACKSON'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a)	0-2 LOST
v. KING'S SCHOOL, PONTEFRACT (h) (G. Cooper).	1-3 LOST

2nd XI Results

v. LEEDS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (a) (B. English, E. M. Ellis 2).	3-3 DRAWN
v. COCKBURN HIGH SCHOOL, LEEDS (h) (J. M. Cooper 3, P. J. Arscott, A. R. Hirst).	5-1 WON
v. THORNES HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (E. M. Ellis 5).	5-3 WON
v. OSSETT GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (E. M. Ellis 2, E. Binns 2, R. Harrap).	6-0 WON
v. KING'S COLLEGE, PONTEFRACT (h) (P. J. Arscott 3, R. Harrap 2, C. Riley, E. M. Ellis 2, D. Bradley, O.G. 2).	11-3 WON
v. CASTLEFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) (J. M. Cooper 3, P. J. Arscott, K. Barnes, E. M. Ellis).	6-2 WON
v. HOLME VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) (J. M. Cooper 2, E. M. Ellis 2, K. Barnes, P. J. Arscott).	6-2 WON
v. ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE (h) (E. M. Ellis 3, R. Harrap 3).	6-0 WON
v. KING'S SCHOOL, PONTEFRACT (a) (P. J. Arscott 2, E. M. Ellis 2, E. Binns)..	5-2 WON

U.-15 XI Results

v. COCKBURN HIGH SCHOOL, LEEDS (a) (K. Barnes).	1-3 LOST
v. BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (J. Strutt 2, P. Williams, R. Harrap, K. Barnes).	5-0 WON
V. HOVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (R. Harrap 5, P. Williams 3, J. Strutt 2, G. Sleight).	11-0 WON
v. CHRIST'S COLLEGE, FINCHLEY (a) (R. Harrap 5, P. Williams, J. Strutt, G. Sleight).	8-1 WON

U.-14 XI Results

V. LEEDS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (h) (M. D. Horner, G. Sleight, J. Strutt).	3-0 WON
v. THORNES HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (M. D. Horner 4, G. Sleight, N. Ellis).	6-0 WON
v. KING'S SCHOOL, PONTEFRACT (a) (D. M. Cooper).	1-0 WON
v. CASTLEFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) (G. Sleight, M. D. Horner, A. M. Ritson, J. Strutt).	4-2 WON
v. HOLME VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) N. Ellis 2, G. Sleight 2, M. D. Horner 2, D. A. Gibson).	7-2 WON
v. ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE (h) (J. Strutt 2, M. D. Horner, W. R. Watson).	4-1 WON
v. PERCY JACKSON'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) (G. Sleight).	1-6 LOST
v. KING'S SCHOOL, PONTEFRACT (h) (J. Strutt, M. D. Horner).	2-4 LOST

U.-13 XI Results

v. COCKBURN HIGH SCHOOL, LEEDS (h) (A. H. Morgan, W. R. Watson).	2-3 LOST
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COLOURS

The Captain of Football, M. V. Miller, has awarded colours as follows:

1st XI	2nd XI	U.-14 XI
Cooper, G.	Binns, E.	Strutt, J.
Phelps, K. E.	Hirst, A. R.	Sleight, G.
Hardcastle, T. A.	Cooper, J. M.	Cooper, D. M.
Frost, M.	Hayle, W. S.	Nicholson, A.
Atkinson, H. I.	Lumb, B. L.	Ellis, N.
Rummings, C.	Arscott, P. J.	
Bullingham, J. M.	Cooper, B.	
	Ratcliffe, R.	
	Hopwood, D. J.	

THE FOOTBALL TOUR

Friday, 22nd February, 1957

The party set off on the 3.26 p.m. train from Wakefield to King's Cross, London. The first major stop was at Grantham where an urn of tea and some biscuits were taken on board to be served to our party, which comprised 41 people, including four masters.

We arrived at King's Cross about 7.30 p.m. and made our way by tube to Finchley Road Station. After a short bus ride we arrived at Lyndale Hall, which we found was to be the lodging of three of the masters. The Headmaster and the rest of us walked round the road to the Students' Hostel where we were to stay. We were all soon asleep after the fatiguing journey.

Saturday, 23rd February

We were up bright and early, and after breakfast we made our way to Victoria Station where we were to catch the 10.25 a.m. train for Hove. We were a little early and we therefore had a chance to look around. Some boys went along with the masters into the lounge of the Grosvenor Hotel, while others were content to look round the station or have a walk in the Victoria district.

The journey to Hove in the electric train passed very quickly, but on the way we noticed that it had started to rain. It was still raining when we arrived and we made our way along the sea-front to the King Alfred Sports centre which had facilities for table tennis, badminton and swimming. It had a very luxurious lounge, into which some of us proceeded for coffee.

Soon we had to move off and make our way to Hove Grammar School. Though this looked easy, it proved to be a very difficult task, especially for the group which was unable to get on the first bus. The rain became very heavy as we made our way by a roundabout route to the school and we arrived, a somewhat "drowned" party.

A very good dinner had been prepared for us, and we all satisfied our appetites. After some delay both matches commenced in the shocking conditions. The rain was pouring down, the pitches were muddy and a strange mist kept blowing over the pitches. Someone remarked that the mist must have been coming in with the tide. But the tides could not have been so frequent.

Both the school teams did very well, the Seniors winning a good match by three goals to nil and the Juniors having a walk-over, eleven goals to nil. The top

goal-scorer was Harrap who scored five of the Juniors' goals. After tea we returned to Victoria at 6.30 p.m.

We set up our Headquarters at the Grosvenor Hotel and deposited our coats in the cloakroom from where we could collect them after the visit to Piccadilly Theatre to see a performance of Ustinov's "Romanoff and Juliet."

The play was a lavish production and very comical, the centre of attraction being the unorthodox set which would occasionally swing round across the stage so as to give the audience an interior view of the buildings. But we were too tired to enjoy the play thoroughly and after it was over we made our way wearily back to Finchley Road, where we arrived at 2.0 a.m.

Sunday, 24th February

It was suggested that, because of the late night last night, we were to come down to breakfast in our pyjamas. The idea was then to go back to bed and sleep, but not many people managed this.

We made our way after breakfast to Lyndale Hall where we then decided what we were going to do during the day. After a successful telephone call, it was arranged that we should go to the General Headquarters of the Y.M.C.A. (Cent. Y.M.C.A.) where we were received by the general secretary, who conducted us on a tour of the headquarters.

After this tour, we were told that we would be free to do as we pleased, after we had had some lunch. Most of the boys went into one of the Lyons' tea-shops for lunch, but some chose a more fashionable restaurant in which to dine. Like many of the boys, I had planned which places I was going to visit and after lunch made straight for them. Among the places visited were the Tower, St. Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly. One group had the misfortune to be late for their much awaited visit to a jazz club, somewhere in the region of Leicester Square. But everyone enjoyed himself and returned to Finchley Road as directed at about 8.0 p.m. Everyone was quickly to bed for Monday was to be the busiest day of the tour.

Monday, 25th February

It had been arranged beforehand that we were to visit the Houses of Parliament and after breakfast we travelled there by tube. On entering the grounds we were met by two guides who were to show us round the place. We entered by the Norman Porch and in turn visited the Robing Room, in which there was a marvellous fireplace;

there was a porch which related by means of murals the life of Charles I; we also saw the House of Commons, the lobby, the House of Lords and Westminster Hall. Although we had only an hour in which to do this tour we saw just about everything.

We returned to Finchley Road and had a fish-and-chip lunch in one of the many foreign restaurants. After collecting our kit from the hostel, we caught a trolley bus to Christ's College, Finchley. The football matches were again played on muddy pitches but School won them both, the Juniors winning easily by eight goals to one and the Seniors by five goals to nil. George Robb was the referee for the 1st XI game and he said that he was particularly impressed with the goalkeeper, Miller, the centre-half, Phelps, the left-back, Atkinson, and the centre-forward, Cooper. Harrap was once again top goalscorer of the day with five goals.

After tea we had to go to Paddington Station where we caught the 6.45 p.m. train to Oxford. We arrived in Oxford at about 8.30 p.m. and were met by D. York, former Head Boy and now at University College, Oxford.

We were soon looking for the Youth Hostel and we were very lucky to choose a children's home very close to the Hostel, at which to make our enquiries. The Youth Hostel Warden, fearing that we were not coming that night, had taken the food which he had prepared for us down to this children's home to see if they could use it. When the cook at the children's home found out that we were the party, she soon surrendered the food and directed us to the Hostel. After supper and the distribution of blankets we were off to bed.

Tuesday, 26th February

After breakfast and the usual jobs which you have to do at a Youth Hostel, we went into the town of Oxford to look round. Everywhere you looked you could be sure to see a group of our blue-blazered boys, looking in shop windows or up at the University buildings. We had lunch at a municipal restaurant and then went back into the town.

It was a glorious afternoon and the football pitch of Balliol College was in perfect condition as the two teams kicked off. School were soon two goals down but after fighting back managed to win the match with five goals to two, G. Cooper scoring all five.

With the Headmaster acting as guide we had a grand tour of Trinity College and then went for dinner at the

Cafe de Paris. This was a splendid meal and we all had cider and coffee to finish. The dinner was made memorable by the fact that the roast pork was in excellent condition and also by a waiter who dropped a large and messy dish of vegetables on the carpet.

The play at the New Theatre was " South Sea Bubble" by Noel Coward and we had already booked to see it. Like the one in London, this play was a comedy and the scenery was very good with tropical plants growing at the back of the stage. After the play we went back stage to examine the mysteries of production and this rounded off a very successful evening.

We left Oxford at 11 p.m. and travelled through the night back home.

Wednesday, 27th February

At 5.45 a.m. we arrived at York and changed trains. We were able to have a sumptuous breakfast before we finally set off on the last, short journey back to Norman - ton. At 8 a.m. we were back at School, having cocoa in the canteen.

R.U.F.C.

1st XV Results

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| v. HEMSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2nd XV (a) | 0-12 LOST |
| v. HEMSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2nd XV (h) | 0-8 LOST |
| v. BARNSELY GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2nd XV (h) | 45-0 WON |
| (Tries: B. Mountain 4, S. Nicholson 2, M. Farrell, C. W. Whale, R. D. Roydhouse, K. Benton, J. A. Shaw; Conversions: J. A. Lyon 6). | |
| v. WAKEFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL 3rd XV (a) | 8-9 LOST |
| (Tries: C. P. Couch, R. D. Roydhouse; Conversion: J. A. Lyon). | |
| v. YORKSHIRE COPPER WORKS (a) | 18-6 WON |
| (Tries: R. D. Roydhouse, W. H. A. Major, J. D. Newton, D. K. Benton; Conversions: J. A. Lyon 3). | |

U.-15 XV Results

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| v. HEMSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) | 0-40 LOST |
| v. HEMSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL (h) | 0-22 LOST |
| v. WAKEFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (a) | 8-28 LOST |
| (Tries: E. M. Ellis, J. K. Clayton; Conversion: K. Barnes). | |

COLOURS

The Captain of Rugby, J. A. Shaw, has awarded 1st XV Colours to J. D. Newton and Colts' Colours to T. Abbott, D. Wilkinson, D. M. Trigg and K. Moorby.

THE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday, 5th March, the Inter-house Cross-country Championships were held. The first event was the Junior race which was won by R. B. Beckett, of Bennett House. The Middles' event was won by T. D. Hirst, of Hanson, and the Seniors' by I. W. Oxley, of Bennett House.

Results

JUNIORS: 1st Bennett; 2nd Freeston; 3rd Frobisher.

MIDDLES: 1st Bennett; 2nd Frobisher; 3rd Freeston.

SENIORS: 1st Frobisher; 2nd Hanson; 3rd Freeston.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1st equal Bennett and Frobisher 12 points; 3rd Freeston 8 points; 4th Hanson 4 points.

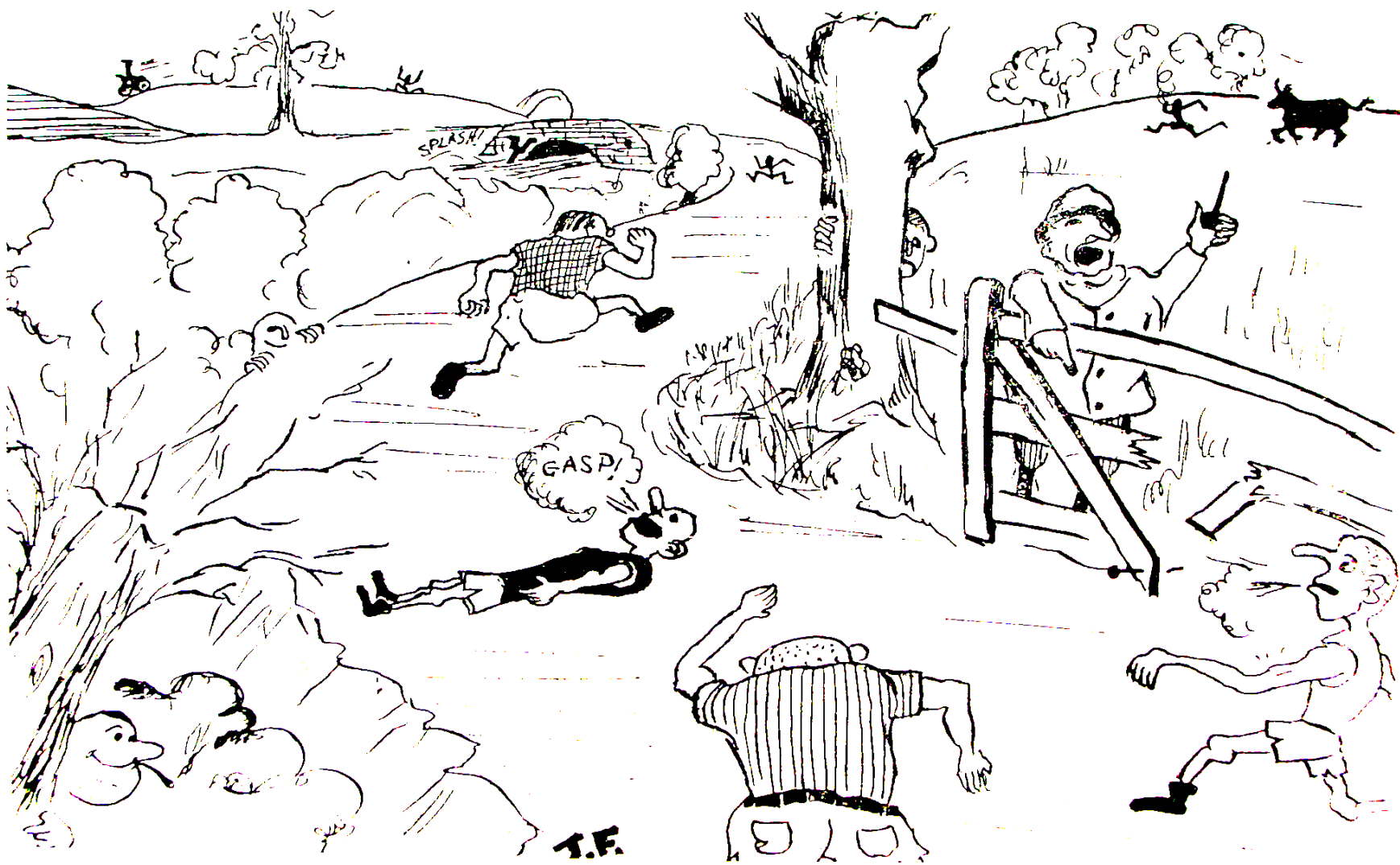
These points go towards the Athletics Shield.

FITNESS—THE BATTLE AGAINST GRAVITY

We are not starting our spaceship and venturing forth to other planets, even though the title may have set some of you off on the space trail. I have no doubt that by the end of this century such journeys will be quite commonplace. Goodness knows what the recreations, games and athletic events will be when we reach other planets. I suppose that instead of a European Cup in Association Football there will be an Inter-planetary Competition. The Olympic Games of the future will consist of some quite fantastic competitions.

However, on this planet at any rate, it will still be necessary for each individual to accept and conquer the challenge of gravity. That is what fitness is really all about. When we walk, we progress by leaning forward and catching up our weight by suitable limb movements. Someone has described walking as a series of "narrowly averted disasters or catastrophies" and I have very often heard the National Athletic Coach say that a person was a "bundle of muscular contradictions." In both instances it is a description of the ability to fight gravity.

Recently in America they have had hurdles races over obstacles about 6 or 7ft. high, basket-ball matches with the baskets about 30ft. high, and volley-ball competitions over nets some 20ft. high. They have covered 100 yards on the flat in something like 6 secs. Impossible, you say! Well, yes, but they have managed these performances by fitting long springs to the feet, rather like Pogo sticks.



We must, however, come down to earth and combat gravity. In this connection, a man called Newton had a few ideas which still hold the world together today. We can all win the battle to a certain degree, but I venture to suggest that fitness is all important. The highest that any man can lift his centre of gravity is something like 2ft. 6in. from a standing jump against the force of gravity. Sometimes when watching ballet dancers it may appear that they get a tremendous height, but it really is an illusion.

Our bodies should be fit to overcome this challenge in everyday life, on the games field, or on the running track. We all have unique bodies. No two human bodies are identical—not even what we call identical twins—but fitness is fundamental to us all. In America an estimation of fitness is often given by dividing the total strength of the body by the total weight of the body. They talk about a Strength Weight ratio. This suggests that the ability to control our weight is important. In dealing with fitness it is customary to be asked, "What is fitness?" There are really four stages or degrees of health—ill; well; fit; super-fit. The person who is ill is medically unfit and very often has lost the battle with gravity. Those classed as well are those just managing to walk about. Oh, they do grumble! When they meet in the street, you hear, "Well, Harry, how are you today? | " I am all right, but my back does ache, my feet are killing me" (or) " I do suffer a lot from my stomach." They are certainly not fit and they are the group who resort to all sorts of medicines advertised in the popular Press.

Now we come to a more positive condition where people move about with purpose and liveliness and are really in a positive state of health. They find life much more enjoyable and feel like "jumping over the moon." They take regular exercise and look after their own bodies to ensure maximum efficiency. They are physically fit, and they have gone a long way to winning the battle.

The super-fit are those who have really overhauled their bodies regularly and they have reached such a peak of condition that they are able to expend much energy with considerable economy of effort. They are especially fit for such activities as games, athletics, cross-country, swimming, boxing, gymnastics.

In considering this last group it is relevant to appreciate the change in outlook with regard to fitness for games and sports. Games, were originally played as pure recreation, and thank goodness, at some levels, they still

are. Soccer started by villagers kicking stones from one parish to another; later it was played to keep fit. "Fitness by playing." It was soon realised that if one wanted to play better it was necessary "to get fit to play better." Fitness training was essential to the playing of a game or participation in athletics.

Nowadays ideas have gone a step further. It is now recognised (not yet universally) that you must "get fit to train harder to play better."

We must be careful here to realise that games fitness is not the only type of value. Spencer Chapman, who wrote "The Jungle is Neutral," had no time for kicking a "bundle of air" around, but he proved himself one of the fittest and bravest men in the last war. Peter Scott, whom you have seen many times on television, was a boy at Sedbergh and would not turn out to play Rugger. He was punished by his house captain and eventually sent to his house master who was a reasonable sort of a chap. He asked Scott what he wanted to do instead of playing Rugby and he replied: "Go up into the fells, sir, and watch the birds and study the countryside." He got his fitness by walking.

To become super-fit, it is essential to change the slogan, which has for many years been so popular, "Little and Often" to "More and Oftener." It is amazing how much strenuous activity the body can withstand (ask the Fifth about Circuit Training). I also suggest altering "Practice makes Perfect" to "Correct, Intelligent Practice makes for Perfection." The important point to realise here is that it is useless to take physical exercise unless thought is given to what is being done by the body. A mere repetitive approach has little benefit.

We have so far talked about Medical Fitness and Physical Fitness, but there is a third which in my view is more important—Psychological Fitness. In other words the attitude of mind. Immediately to mind comes a story of a boy who was a playing member of a school team kicking about before a first team match. The visitors were not at all well turned out. They wore dirty kit, different types of stockings and generally were not of a very high standard. This boy was heard to remark, "We'll beat this team easily today." Someone said, "Why do you say that?" "Well, just look at their scruffy turn-out." What a psychological advantage. The home team won handsomely. I am convinced that "Pride in turn-out should precede pride in performance."

May I end this article by saying how impressed I was on my first visit to your school with the standard of your own turn-out? I am sure you will always keep it up and always remember " No physical fitness is worthwhile without the right mental attitude and approach."

J. H. Dodd.

GYM COMPETITION

One of Mr. Malpass's innovations has been a monthly inter-form competition for work and turn-out in the Gymnasium.

The results have been as follows:—

Dec., 1956	Jan., 1957	Feb., 1957
1st IA 82 pts.	IVA 81.75	IIIB 81
2nd IVA 81 pts.	VB 81	IIB 80
3rd IB 80 pts.	UVI 80	IA 79

A cup, kindly presented by Mrs. Roche, adorns the form-room of the winning form for a month.

We congratulate IVa and Ia on appearing twice in the first three, in three months.

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