

# The Wathonian



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JULY, 1932. No. XVII.

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## Editorial

It is not unfitting that at the end of a School year, when many of our readers will be leaving, we should draw attention to the debt that each of us owes to the School.

First the School provides us with excellent accommodation. We work in spacious rooms which are well-lit and can be well ventilated. There are specially equipped rooms for science, art, housecraft, wood and metal work. The buildings are surrounded by adequate grounds, so that our working conditions are excellent. Then the School provides us with the necessary tools for work. Each boy has in his possession at any time over one pound's worth of books, and in the Upper School each boy is given books worth several pounds. In the laboratories we have at our disposal the most expensive equipment, and all the special rooms contain a great amount of costly apparatus. The library contains hundreds of books that are of use for those who want to read more widely in any special subject. Few schools, excluding boarding schools, make so much provision for games and hobbies. Ample equipment exists for all games, a great many matches are played and School societies that cater for most tastes flourish and abound.

Too many of us take all that the School provides for us as a matter of course, and few of us make any effort to pay our debt to the School. Those who are leaving can at least join the Old Wathonians Association, and so keep in touch with the School. Those who are staying on can show by their keenness that they appreciate the many privileges they have.

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## School Notes

We have this term to say farewell to Miss Baker, who has been at the School longer than any other mistress. In addition to her work in English, she has been House Mistress of Sparta since its foundation, and has taken a prominent part in the activities of the Literary Society. We all wish her every success in her new post at Howell's School.

The Annual Sports were held on May 12th, and in spite of the bad weather in May we managed to run them off without any serious rain, and the House competition was keenly contested.

We are now in the thick of examinations, and as we have over thirty in for the Higher School Certificate, as compared with fifteen last year, we hope for some really good results.

For the first time we are able to chronicle some University successes. Prendergast has gained a second class (first division) in History, and Singleton a second class in Chemistry at Manchester: while George has obtained a second class (first division) in Physics, and Kirkby a second class (first division) in French at Sheffield.

We are losing at least twenty-four out of the Upper VIth this term; we wish them all good fortune in their future careers, and hope that their successors may worthily fill their place.

The winner of the competition for the best description of a summer holiday is C. W. Webb, of VI.Sc. We congratulate him, and are glad to see that his Form is once again taking an interest in the magazine.

The following are *Prefects*: R. Prendergast, M. Greenwood, C. Riley, M. Lythe, K. Steer, K. Dickinson, H. Howard, M. Abson, I. Tilbrook, M. Mitchell, J. Lawson, E. Wall, D. Clayton, R. Disley, H. Pears, M. Pickering, C. Webb, I. Chesney, D. Cresswell and T. Hyland.

*The Magazine Committee* consists of:—L. Peace, L. Holyoak, A. Heal, D. Hanson, C. Rees, E. Reeve, B. Gill, I. Ryalls, H. Howard, K. Dickinson, J. Lawson and M. Rimmer.

*The Games Committee* consists of:—R. Prendergast, M. Hardy, F. Cartledge, M. Pickering, H. Pears, I. Chesney, B. Gill, M. Greenwood, J. Outram, M. Hawksworth, I. Tilbrook and S. Atkin.

## House Notes

### ATHENS.

The most exciting event of the present term is the planning of the House outing, which is to take place shortly. Almost every member is looking forward to it and hoping to be favoured with suitable weather.

Both boys and girls are practising keenly for the House games, and the matches already played have resulted as follows:—

*Tennis* :—The Senior girls were defeated by Rome, 26 games to 10, while the Juniors lost by 5 games to 4.

*Cricket* :—The Senior boys beat Thebes by 5 wickets, and were defeated by Troy by 1 run ! The Juniors lost to Thebes and beat Troy by 15 runs.

At present the one black cloud on the horizon is the number of detentions obtained this term. The chief offenders appear to come from the Middle and Lower School. Our hopes of winning the Work Cup may be fulfilled if these offenders will make a big effort to improve. It is through this lack of effort that Athens, both last term and on previous occasions, has only just failed to gain the Work Cup.

To all those of our housemates and school-friends who are leaving us this term, in order to embark on a new life, either in college, university, or any other work, we all give our wishes of future success, and hope that one day they will return to encourage their comrades.

Many will remember our former House-captain, Prendergast, F., and also Kirkby, and will be pleased to learn that they have obtained their degree. To these two we send our heartiest congratulations.

### CARTHAGE.

At the beginning of the term the Schcol sports were held, and Carthage exceeded all other previous performances and finished second to Thebes. This augurs well for Carthage in the future. The boys have done well at cricket, the Seniors having beaten Rome, and Sparta, after a replay ; and the Juniors having beaten Sparta, and lost to Rome by one run. At Tennis the Senior and Junior girls have performed creditably each heading their respective leagues.

Besides being in the running for the Spraggon Cup, Carthage is also after the Work Cup. The detentions have decreased, and it seems that the points for work will be the deciding factor. The working parties have worked well and taken their share in the preparation of the tennis courts.

The annual House trip takes place on July 2nd, and the place chosen is Hope, followed by a tramp over the Derbyshire moors.

It seems that this year has been the turning point in the career of Carthage, there having been a general improvement, and it only requires Carthaginian matriculation candidates to do well to conclude a successful year. We wish good luck to all public examination candidates and all those who are leaving at the end of the term.

### ROME.

The activities of the House this term have been few. The Senior and Junior girls' tennis teams were successful in beating Athens, but were defeated by Carthage. The Junior boys successfully defeated Carthage but lost to Sparta. The Senior boys were defeated by Carthage and Sparta.

Although Rome failed to win the Sports Cup we put up a gallant fight. We wish to congratulate Barrass, Bailey and Steel, who were the first Romans home in the School cross-country. Pears and E. Reeve were the most successful of the Roman entrants. We thoroughly enjoyed the running of Pears in the last lap of the relay race.

Owing to a decrease in the detentions and an improvement in the standard of work, we are hopeful of winning the Work Cup.

It is lamentable to see the scarcity of Roman boys who work on the tennis court sites. This lack of enthusiasm has been prevailing in the House since the beginning of the School year. We think that by now the last term has been reached the right public spirit should have been developed.

We hope to make the House outing a great success. The House Mistress and House Master feel that this is the best opportunity for the members to assemble and have a really enjoyable time. The Senior boys never seem to turn up in their appropriate numbers. The date has been provisionally fixed for the last Saturday in term.

At the end of term we are to lose many of our best members. These include the House captains Pears and I. Chesney, who have managed the House with great success. Others include E. Reeve, E. Wall and R. Disley. Pears, I. Chesney and E. Reeve have been successful in gaining admission to the York, Portsmouth and Bingley Training Colleges. E. Wall and R. Disley are going to Bristol and Liverpool Universities. We wish them all success in their new spheres.

### SPARTA.

This term we are losing both our House Mistress, Miss Baker, and our House Captains, M. Greenwood and K. Steer. Miss Baker has always taken a keen interest in the House, and we wish her every success in the future.

At the beginning of term Sparta managed to gain a higher place in the Sports contest. The results were much better than those of last year, the Juniors being particularly good in the high jump and relay races.



cessors will try to improve the House and maintain Troy's reputation as the keenest House in the School!

We wish those members of the House who are taking School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations every success.

We were not very successful in the School Sports, which were held at the beginning of the term, but this was largely owing to a lack of individual stars. Troy specialises in team-work. In the cross-country, tug-of-war and the girls' relay team we were worthy winners.

Last term the House bought over a hundred magazines, which constitutes a record.

Games are fairly satisfactory. The boys have only played one match against Athens, so far. This resulted in a victory after a hard fight. The girls' Senior Tennis team has gained a place in the final.

We are hoping to spend an enjoyable day in Derbyshire before the end of term.

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## School Societies

### ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY.

This term, as is usual in summer terms, the Society has very little to report. The weather and the prospect of forthcoming examinations have jointly been responsible for the decreased number of regular attendants at all three sections of the Society, but next term, being Christmas and the beginning of a new School year, the usual increase in membership is to be expected. In the Metalwork and Woodwork Clubs those who have shown interest have been few, but their interest has been active and creative, and some good work has been done. It should always be remembered that the Society much prefers a few really keen and enthusiastic members to a crowd of people who wander in and say they "don't know what to do."

In the Art Club, enthusiasm still seems to be shown only by members from the middle and lower School, of whom E. Clark, M. Charlesworth, Fitch, Ingham, Maiden, Youel and Sadler deserve special mention.

There has been a marked decline in the production of craftwork; activity has been limited chiefly to the Sketching section, which meets weekly and sets its own subject. This



term a frieze has been designed, and is being executed by the combined efforts of the Club, with which it is proposed to decorate one of the laboratories. It is interesting to recall that the last frieze was painted in the old buildings, during the first year of the Club's existence, on the occasion of the general exhibition, which was given by the School on the first speech day. The frieze illustrated scenes from ancient history and was largely painted by Barratt, who is now at Leeds Art School. Perhaps there are some who still remember it, though few of the foundation members of the Club now remain. That is a long time ago now. *O tempora, o mores!*

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## Scouts

We are pleased to see, this term, there is an increased membership list, and it is also pleasant to note that the new members appear quite keen and eager to get on with their jobs. The Junior members of the troop have been concentrating on Ambulance, and they are working quite well. Another alteration in the troop, this term, is the forming of new patrols. The old method was to have House patrols, but this was a disadvantage, for patrols possessed an unequal number of members. We hope that the new method will be a success.

On Fridays, after our usual meetings, we find some respite after our work, in the gymnasium.

Early in the term, a handicraft exhibition, for Scouts, was held at Rotherham, and our entries were rewarded by several successes, including Ingham and Atkinson, who were successful in the poster and oil-painting sections.

It is probable that this summer's camp will be held at Evesham on the River Avon. If we go, we hope to pay a visit to Stratford-on-Avon, which is only fifteen miles distant from the site.

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## Guides

During this term all Guides have been celebrating the twenty-first anniversary of Guiding. On the Thursday of Guide Week we held a Birthday Party at School. We had a huge cake and played games and sang camp-fire songs. On the following Sunday afternoon some of us attended a service

for Guides at Barnsley. We finished our birthday celebrations in glorious weather and surroundings at a Guide Rally held in the grounds of Stainboro' Castle on June 18. Here we had sports and went through the beautiful gardens. A most enjoyable day was ended by songs round a large camp fire. Prizes for sports were presented and the Commissioners of each district gave the "Guide Week" subscriptions to be used for Post Guides or hospitals.

Besides parties and outings, much Guide work has been done this term. There have been Second Class tests and an Enrolment is expected soon. Badge work is hindered by examinations and the system of Thursday evening tests for badges. Many of us are looking forward to our camp which is to be held at Barmston, near Bridlington. All who camped at Bretton last year feel sure that this year's camp will be quite as successful for once again it is in charge of Miss Steer.

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## The Cycling Club

The runs of the Cycling Club this term have been noted for their scanty attendance, and the complete absence of girls. There have never been more than 11 members present in any run, and the number has often been as low as four or five.

This term the Cycling Club has visited Bolsover, Ewden Valley, Selby, Gringley on the Hill, Wharnccliffe Craggs and Roche Abbey. The runs to Selby and Gringley were especially enjoyable, but those to Bolsover and Ewden Beck were marred by rain.

The committee now consists of Pease (captain), Gill (secretary) and Wollman, Martin and Bunn.

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## Naturalists' Field Club

This Club, which is in the first term of its existence, was originated in response to a desire expressed by members of the U. IVth and U. IIIrd Forms. It was formally constituted at a meeting of these forms held in the Junior Laboratory on April 20th, when the following officers were elected: President, R. Horn; secretary, R. Lake; committee, V. Swift, M. Gregory, J. Lowcock, V. Bennett, F. Youel, F. Broadbent, C. Dorlin, W. Lee.

This term the Club has a membership of over 60, and as its operations are of necessity confined largely to Saturday

afternoons, the chief difficulty so far has been the fixing of a sufficient number of dates to provide all the members with at least one excursion. This difficulty is increased by the fact that for useful work the number that can operate on one excursion is small.

So far, three excursions have been held : one along the Canal banks on Saturday, April 30th, when some good specimens of *Dytiscus* beetle and Water Boatmen were secured. On the evening of Wednesday, May 11th, a party from U. III. A & B. visited the lane leading to Hooper Hall, and found some very interesting material in the stream and hedges there. A number of small frogs and aquatic larvæ were brought back in addition to some fine specimens of Stanwart, Arrowhead, Liverworts and Mosses.

On Saturday, May 28th, another excursion was made to the same district, when a good haul of Caddis Worms and May Fly Larvæ was made. On the way home the party visited Hooper Stand from the top of which we had a delightful view of the countryside in its early summer freshness.

These three excursions have revealed two pleasing features : namely, the enthusiasm of most of the members and the comparative richness in interesting material of what appears at first sight a somewhat barren district.

The Club will continue its outdoor activities until about the middle of next term, after which, we hope, it will resolve itself into a Natural History Society and hold its meetings after school.

Next term, of course, when the members of the new U. IIIrd forms become eligible, we hope to see a considerable increase in membership.

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## Literary Social

The annual Literary Social was held on March 21st. The play presented by the Literary Sixth was "The Tempest." It was preceded by a short whist-drive which lasted until the play began at 7 p.m. Most of the members of the Literary Society were present, and some of the old boys and girls, together with a good number from the Lower School.

"The Tempest," with realistic lighting effects and the help of the Orchestra, was a considerable success. Tilbrook presented a very dignified Prospero, and M. Pickering portrayed Ariel as an obedient but frolicsome spirit. She showed a realistic fear of Prospero and a great glee at the

misfortunes of Caliban, and his confederates. Cresswell played the part of Caliban with real understanding. He typified the half-savage slave with a horror which was quite impressive, and his revels with Stephano and Trinculo were no less alarming. Prendergast and Coultard played Stephano and Trinculo respectively with considerable gusto, and the audience were greatly amused at the antics of these three. M. Greenwood played Miranda with charm and grace, and Abson played the part of Ferdinand with real understanding. The masque and the dance were a charming interlude, while the Shapes and Spirits suggested an atmosphere of mystery and magic.

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## Orchestra Notes

The work of the Orchestra has been much more extensive this year. A varied programme was given at the plays last December. The chief selections included the "Sailor's Chorus" from "The Flying Dutchman," "Gems from Schumann," "The Magic Flute," and "Melody in F."

The interval music was supplied at the Choir Concert at the end of the Easter term: the music consisted of selections from "Merry England." In addition the incidental music was supplied at the production of "The Tempest" by the Senior Literary Society.

For the coming plays in December a great variety of music is being prepared. The pieces already being studied are "Slow Movement from the First Symphony," by Schubert in four parts, "Hope March," in five parts, and "Minuet from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme," in four parts. The Orchestra are showing enterprise in introducing second and third violins into the playing.

We were sorry to lose Hancock at the end of the Easter Term, and now we are going to lose Haigh. New members are welcomed to fill the places of those who have left. Miss Deeks would be glad to have any girl instrumentalists in the orchestra, and also a bigger variety of instruments. The full orchestra this year consisted of Miss Deeks (leader and pianist), Miss Knowles ('cellist), Faigh, Hancock, Bottomley, Maiden, Hall, Atkinson, Orme and Turner (violinists).

## Sports Day

At the beginning of this term the annual Sports Day was held. Although it had been postponed on account of the weather, quite a large number of spectators were present. The day was reasonably fine, with a shower or two towards the end, and each event took place most punctually, some even being before time. There were no lagging competitors to delay the races, and keen enthusiasm was shown throughout the afternoon. The only trouble seemed to be the unwillingness of the spectators to keep within their bounds, and the "white line" was often disregarded. Apart from this, the Sports were a great success, and the results were most pleasing.

The records set up showed a great improvement upon the results of last year's Sports. Hollingsworth, of Carthage, broke the record for the Senior Boys' mile by 15 secs. Last year's time was 5 minutes 30  $\frac{4}{5}$  secs., while Hollingsworth won it in 5 mins. 15  $\frac{4}{5}$  secs. Pears, of Rome, ran well, setting up new records both for the Senior Boys 100 yards and the Senior Boys 220 yards. His time for the former was 10  $\frac{3}{5}$  secs., and for the latter 24  $\frac{3}{5}$  secs. Scholey of Sparta, won the Throwing the Cricket Ball event (Middle Boys), and set up a new record of 67 yards. The winning height for the Junior Girls High Jump was 3ft. 9in., the same as last year, and was won by G. Mawson (Troy), and M. Valentine (Carthage). The Trojan Girls won the Senior Girls Relay Race, and set up a record of 1 min. 5 secs. Thus five new records were set up this year, a pleasing reward for the numerous practices.

The final results of the six Houses were as follows:—Thebes 165 points; Carthage 125  $\frac{5}{6}$ ; Rome 124; Sparta 114 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Troy 108  $\frac{1}{6}$ ; and Athens 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Thebes had the top score from the beginning and kept the lead, but the Romans, who won the Staff Cup last year, were optimistic almost until the end. Carthage also based great hopes upon Hollingsworth, Ingamells and others. The results of the Cross country and House Hundred gave Thebes a good start, and owing to the admirable efforts of all the competitors, Thebes managed to keep the lead. On the whole these Sports were a great improvement upon the last, and it is to be hoped that there will be even better results in the future.

## Cricket

1st XI. v. Thorne 1st XI. At Thorne.

Result: School 84; Thorne 90.

The first two matches of the season having been completely spoilt by rain, the members of the team were eagerly looking forward to fine weather and the possibilities of a game. Rain fell shortly before the match, and made the wicket somewhat soft. The School won the toss and elected to bat, Pears and Howard opening. Pears left when the score was six, and Lancashire had the misfortune to be run out a few minutes later. Things were looking black for the School when Cartledge went in and knocked the bowlers off their length for a fine twenty-five. The innings eventually closed for 84.

Thorne batted steadily against a keen attack, the School fielding being splendid, but the bowlers were very unlucky. Time and time again the batsmen were beaten and the wickets missed by a narrow margin.

1st XI. v. Mexboro' S.S. 1st XI. At Mexboro'.

Result: School 106. Mexboro' 109.

On arriving at Mexboro' the team was informed that owing to reasons concerning the ground, the match must be over by half-past twelve. This left only two and a half hours play, and it was decided that each team should bat for one and a quarter hours. Mexboro' won the toss and sent the School in to bat. The opening batsmen put on 18 before Pears hit his wicket with his score at 12. An over later Howard also hit his wicket. Lancashire batted splendidly from that time and gave only one chance in compiling a fine 35. Cartledge again batted well and helped the score very much with his 21. No one seemed to have much difficulty with the bowling, and when time was called the School had scored 106 for 9.

Mexboro' did not make a brilliant start, and soon lost three wickets, but a valuable stand for the fourth wicket probably won the match for them. The match was not won until the last five minutes, and a most tense situation prevailed. The last wicket fell two minutes from time, showing how remarkably keen the closing stages were.

1st XI. v. Mexboro' S.S. 1st XI. At Wath.

Result: School 47; Mexboro' 49 for 7.

The morning of the match was fine and sunny, but a strong breeze prevailed. The School won the toss and batted first. The first wicket fell at 19, and then wickets fell

steadily—only Lancashire making any resistance to the bowling—until the score closed at 47. The match appeared to be an easy win for Mexboro' but they had to fight for runs all the way. The School's bowling was keen and accurate, and the first four wickets fell for under 20 runs. However, Mexboro' rallied and a stubborn resistance at the sixth wicket put Mexboro' in a winning position. The School fielding was good, and Howard took 5 wickets for 11 runs.

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## Tennis

1st VI. v. Penistone 1st VI. Away.

Result: Lost, 34—65.

In spite of the inclement weather the match was enjoyed by all, although the School were rather at a disadvantage on Penistone's splendid gravel courts. Penistone played a very good game, and the School was badly beaten.

1st VI. v. Rotherham 1st VI. Away.

Result: Won 61—38.

The meeting between the School and Rotherham took place in ideal weather. The courts were well situated and in a good condition. The game was keenly contested by both teams. Rotherham was not so agile as the School team, but their serving was commendable.

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## Old Wathonians Association

The membership of the Association has continued to increase during the past year, and has now passed the "hundred" mark. As the membership increases the re-unions take on an added interest, and are better attended. The increased income also permits of better preparations being made and the re-unions are very cheery and lively functions.

The Christmas re-union took the form of a dance, and the Easter function was organized as a Social. Both events were well attended and were very enjoyable.

During the past season the Old Wathonians Rugby Club continued its activities and had a good season. The Club has now joined the Yorkshire Rugby Union, and made history by entering the Yorkshire Challenge Cup competition. Although the Old Boys were defeated 35 points to 5, consolation can be found in the fact that a good fight was made, and the issue was not decided until towards the end of the match;

the Club is strongly determined to do better another year. A good list of fixtures has been prepared for the 1932—33 season, and in future the team will play in the Association colours—Navy Blue, Maroon and Gold.

The Old Girls have now formed a Hockey Club, and although greatly handicapped through lack of members, the Club had a fairly good season. Preparations are being made for a busy season next winter and it is hoped that all Old Girls will join the Club.

The Old Wathonians continue to support the School Magazine, and the first copies to be "exported" made their journeys to Old Wathonians in foreign lands during the past year.

The membership of the Association covers all phases of the School's history, and many of the members entered the School on the first opening day in September, 1923. Although we are only a youthful society, from the School of three forms in Park Road to to-day sounds almost like ancient history.

Old Wathonians now help to make the world go round in many walks of life, and in their work and sport are helping to build up a tradition worthy of the School. A great step has recently been made in this direction, for no less than four Old Wathonians have succeeded in obtaining degrees.

"MELIORA SPECTARE."

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## A Week-end in a Youths' Hostel

Miss Jones, Miss Edge and Miss Henderson took ten girls from the Sixth Form to Kildwick, near Skipton, the last week-end of the Easter Holidays. We slept, had breakfast and tea at "Stone Gappe," an old country house, high in the hills, last year made into a Youth Hostel. We went out each day, visiting the interesting spots of the neighbourhood. We were all delighted with the house, it was so clean and spacious. We slept in a large dormitory, on beds with two decks, one sleeping on top, the other underneath—cooked our meals on a primus stove, and ate them in the Common Room.

We arrived on Saturday about 1.0 p.m., had lunch, and set out for Skipton—about five miles away from the hostel. We visited the Museum and the Castle. The guide recited to us the history of the castle, and pointed out to us with fond pride, its characteristics. He told us that it had been



destroyed by Oliver Cromwell and restored by Anne Pembroke in 1653. Those who have read Marlowe's Edward II. may be interested to know that it was given to Gaveston by the King as a token of love. We were particularly interested by the courtyard, the most beautiful in Europe (according to the guide), and the unique Shell Grotto at the gate. By now the inevitable rain had begun to fall and we were faced with a five mile walk uphill, with the wind and rain in our faces. Four of us, "the Saturday tea squad," hurried on in front to cook the tea. There was no light in the house, and we had to boil potatoes and cook sausages by candle-light. What was infinitely worse, we had to eat them in darkness. We rolled into our bunks that night thoroughly contented and tired.

On Sunday morning we went to Malham. First of all we visited Gordale Scar, where Gordale Beck descends through a natural bridge as a waterfall. After lunch we made our way up the side of a hill to Malham Tarn, where the River Aire rises. At the water sinks the river disappears to re-appear at Malham Cove. To get to the Cove we had to walk through the dry valley. The valley did not prove too dry, and one of the party put the others in peril by refusing to stand on her feet. By the time we had walked back to "Stone Gappe" we were all tired, and Sunday evening was spent in recuperating and attending to blisters.

On Monday we visited Bolton Abbey. An architect who had done a lot of excavating round the Abbey gave us an enlightening dissertation about it. We walked along the banks of the Strid in Bolton Abbey Woods and were particularly interested by the potholes which the river had eroded in the limestone. In the evening we played games in the Common Room and certain members of the community gave a graceful dance.

The hills were covered with snow on Tuesday morning when we awoke, but it soon melted away. It was our last morning, and we had to pack. Our only "consolation" was the thought of School in the morning! We caught a train early in the afternoon and parted at Wath only to meet on the morrow.

## The Schoolboy Navvy

If I should die (as I think I may)

Say that my duty I never shirked.

Say that on even the hottest day

I heard the call of my School and worked !

Say not I died of Certificate shock,  
 If I had been selfish I might have passed,  
 But I was digging at stubborn rock,  
 When the rest their notes were learning fast.

If I should die—from sunstroke caught  
 Whilst working at eighty degrees (in the shade),  
 Please say that I worked as a schoolboy ought,  
 And carve on my tombstone a pick and a spade.

M. SMITH, Upper Va.

## Personalities in the Library

I. F. TILBROOK : "No, you're wrong this time. I am no longer the heaviest boy in the School—much to my disappointment. My weight has been reduced not by grapefruit diet but by strenuous acting, hiking, and galloping round the Cross-country course. Oh yes, I am the leading agitator for Swimming Sports this summer, and I hope to win for Troy down at the Baths."

R. PRENDERGAST : "Who's casting aspersions at Irish blood? Although my name is neither Patrick, Michael, nor Flannagan, I object very much to anti-Irish slander. What! Me have a ticket in the Irish Sweepstake?—Never! I don't gamble. However, I should have been very pleased if the Stephano part had included a real 'butt of sack.'"

J. LAWSON : "Exactly! I do intend to write a book on the Oxford Movement, but not at present. You may, or you may not, have noticed that I have very little time to spare nowadays, because I am so busy with my School work. I cannot even find any time for navvying, acting, or sketching, although I am a very promising artist. During the holidays I shall certainly go camping."

D. J. CRESSWELL: "As the oldest Scout in the Schools patrol, I always do my good deed every day. I founded the Boys' Tuck Shop—a very prosperous institution. Why did I choose Geography as a main subject? Because I—er—er—Latin is the alternative! I have helped Troy in her rugby, cricket, and navvying teams, and I also had my name printed on the Sports programme. For a long time I have been an authority on Disraeli's successes and Gladstonian blunders."

R. DISLEY : "Yes, I have crossed the Atlantic, but I am not boasting about my sailing powers. My travels took me as far as Winnipeg, and I am now studying Geography."

I am a keen official in the Literary and Debating Society, am good at acting "shape"-parts, and am the custodian for the 2nd Hockey XI."

C. RILEY : "When am I going to leave ? Oh, I don't quite know yet, because, personally, I don't think you could get along without me. My school career has been very eventful, and I have held all sorts of positions. This is my second year of office as Trojan House-captain. I have captained the 2nd XV., played in the 1st XV., helped Troy in the Sports, and have done some valuable work under grease-paint. I have cut many capers on the cricket-field, and have even been top in the form—when ? Oh, that's a detail.

"REPORTER" (Upper VI.)

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## Courtesy on Tram Cars

I had reconciled myself to the prospect of hanging on a strap when a small boy, remarkable for a clean red cap, rose from his seat and politely said, "Will you sit down, madam?" I sank into the proffered seat, in a complete haze. Surely this was Heaven, and these were angels around me. I had mentioned my slight acquaintance with the district, and one boy, whose face radiated with good-will and kindness said, "Any of our boys will always help you to find your way." I presume he meant those in the pretty red caps. Still in this mist of courtesy I saw a tassel. "That must signify another step forward in this campaign of courtesy," I thought. "Those who wear tassels must be lieutenants who, if necessary, get off the tram to provide room for old ladies." I felt like Alice in Wonderland, but there was no rude Dormouse crying "No room, no room!" just a crowd of polite school boys and girls saying, "There's plenty of room."

The girls were past criticism! Never had I heard such well-modulated voices, and those wearing skirts, who, I presume were models of carriage and deportment to the younger girls, passed all understanding. I was roused from my reverie by the gentle voice of one of the "models." "You are there, Madam." All stood aside to let me pass. I felt like a queen. A "tassel" helped me down the step. The age of chivalry has begun again.

K. DICKINSON, Upper VI.Lit.

## School-dinners and their proper function

Please let it be understood from the first that my object in writing this article is not to attack that admirable institution—school dinner. I have no axe to grind ; neither have I a school-dinner to eat much longer, for my stay at school will, I fear, soon be drawing to a close.

For six years have I eaten school-fare five days out of seven every week, and I wish to give to others the fruit of my experience. As a result of this long apprenticeship, and also of a careful study of the subject, I have made a most important discovery ; namely that up to the present all have entertained a wrong view of the function of school-repasts.

Let me boldly declare that the object of a school-meal is not to satisfy all cravings of hunger, nor to build bone and muscle. Its function is primarily educational.

Had I had eyes to see it, I should have reached this fundamental conception during my first week as a pupil, for in dissecting what may be termed the "Grand Old Man" of the second course—some form of boiled pudding—a certain mathematically minded server announced to a gaping audience of youngsters, that at the rate of twelve persons per two puddings, each one was entitled to exactly 60 degrees. Thus was practical Geometry instilled in the youthful mind.

In similar fashion, an observant mind may learn a great deal of Geography, I distinctly remember how, several terms ago, the whole School was reminded of the proximity of Sheffield, and of the excellent quality of armour plate there manufactured, as many forks and spoons testify in crooked fashion to this day. The young lecturer on physical Geography is given ample scope for displaying his knowledge—in a practical manner—by the meanderings of rivers (caused by frequent spills) and fold mountains and canyons (formed by the folds of the table-linen).

As my studies progressed I still found dinner a useful adjunct in the cause of education. Occasionally we have a practical exposition of the truth of political science : that a people ruled at length becomes incapable of ruling. Servers are occasionally absent, and novices take their place. Generally quite a considerable amount of potatoes are deposited, not on the plates, but on the floor !

Then just consider the scope for research there is for lovers of chemistry. A man could get his Doctorate of Science for throwing light on the exact chemical processes resultant on an injudicious mixture of the usual Friday fare—fish and potatoes, with rhubarb and custard !

I. LAZENBY, VIr.

## A Feeble Fable

“Salaam, kiddo,” said the Kaid of El Raschid. “Hast come for thy usual earful of wise words and logic?”

“Verily, thou art a wizard,” answered the weedy youth standing at the tent entrance.

“Yea, by Allah ! Enter and park thy hips on the lino, and I will forthwith begin.

“Long ago within this town there lived a greedy grocer, whose meanness excelled even thine. Now it happeneth that he hath a brother, and he dieth and leaveth his son without pence to the care of the mean merchant. And the grocer hateth the kid exceedingly, and he maketh him to do hard labour and to sleep with the flour and onions. And he kicketh him hard, when he catcheth him bending.

“Behold the cunning currant dealer hatcheth a plot to rid him of the youth. At night he streweth coin about the shop and then goeth to bed, hoping that the youth would take it, so that he could accuse him. But the youth returneth him the money in the morning and he curseth and kicketh him. Likewise the second night he spreadeth more shekels and goeth to bed in glee. But the youth falleth not, and the grocer groaneth with chargin. On the third night he plastereth the floor with coin and letteth the keys of the strong-box fall with a thud to the floor and goeth to bed chuckling. And he sharpeneth his fountain-pen to scratch the youth from his will.”

“Proceed no further, for I see the end of thy story. The kid giveth back the keys and coin in the morning—the grocer’s heart is softened and they live in peace ever after,” quoth the listener.

The Kaid frowned. “Why wilt thou always break in on my story with thy miserable tongue ? The youth seizeth the keys, openeth up the strong box, collecteth all the coin, taketh all that was not nailed down and hoppeth it, leaving the greedy grocer to go to the home for seedy sugar sifters. Which illustrateth well the proverb—‘Pick well, when thou pickest.’”

H. R. HOWARD, Science VI.

## Cycling

As the ages pass by man invents more and more machines. To many people this increase in machinery appears to be progress. What would the people of the nineteenth century say, could they, from the world of shades, look out upon the present time? One can imagine a Victorian writer comparing a war of his period with the Great War. Comparing the machines used in his time to our machines used in the last war. How blandly would he assume that progress in the art of warfare is real progress.

Probably of all inventions, that of the cycle has brought a great deal of pleasure and yet done very little harm. The motor car is luxurious but yet expensive, whilst the bicycle is like sin—within easy reach. What is a cyclist? The dictionary will tell you "One who rides a cycle." Such a definition, however, is entirely false. He who rides a bicycle merely to go to work is no cyclist. The true cyclist is one who rides a cycle for pleasure.

One of the best forms of cycling is touring. How delightful are the joys of setting out! You prepare in feverish haste the night before, then retire fervently hoping that for once it will not rain. Nearly all books on cycling advise cyclists always to take extra clothing, but they keep a discreet silence on the pleasures of carrying that extra load. The wise cyclist remembers that he carries his own pack and reduces it accordingly.

However, once started all is well. You swing into the saddle, you pass along familiar roads, and at last you come to new ground. What a pleasant sense of freedom; you can go where you like and stop when you like. There is no joy like the joy of the open road and the adventures it brings.

When impossible to go on a tour there is always the alternative of day excursions to places of interest. In order to obtain the full pleasure it is necessary to lead a roving life. Even the best cycling district palls if one has always to approach it by the same roads. We have been taught that "a rolling stone gathers no moss," but who wants moss, the sign of immobility? Far better it is to avoid that attitude. The attitude of Goethe is much better:

Keep not standing fix'd and rooted,  
Briskly venture, briskly roam!  
Head and hand where'er thou foot it,  
And stout heart are still at home;

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In each land the sun doth visit,  
We are gay whate'er betide ;  
To give space for wand'ring is it,  
That the world was made so wide ?

M. STEEL, Va.

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## Writing

A certain friend of mine has recently been reaping the first of the fruits of friendship. In other words, he has kindly allowed me to share his troubles. I find that he is one of those unfortunate people who are smitten with bad writing. The poor youth can never send in a piece of written work but he hears about his writing, while he has been so harassed on past occasions when fetching new books that now it is only by the most determined effort and after much internal debate that he can pluck up sufficient courage to go for one. The poor youth has been driven almost to distraction by the incessant attack upon his one weak point. And for no little reason too. For more than ten long years his writing has been the bane of his existence. I wonder if the staff ever think of his wounded pride when they touch upon (to put it lightly) this tenderest chord in his heart strings. I wonder if they think he forgets the least of these references, exhortations, insults (call them what you will) to his writing. We whose writing is beyond reproof can understand but little of the agony of mind which some few thoughtless persons cause. I have it from his own lips that every master or mistress with whom he has come into contact, has remarked about this writing at some time or other. Every piece of written work which gets marked brings dreadful forebodings of the dire results such writing has in exams. He has had lectures on it down by the fume cupboard and all round the back bench. His very first greeting from a member of the staff came in the form "writing like this will be a serious handicap in any exam." He has no single page in his report book free from remarks on his writing. He has even been entreated in the middle of an examination to "make it so that the examiner can read just a word here and there," and one master actually put, "writing needs attention" on a piece of work which he was never intended to read. He tells me he has been grumbled at so often that he feels like the pilgrim "beset round with dismal stories."

## A Flight

At last I was going to ride in an aeroplane ! The great moment had arrived ! With a feeling of exultation, though somewhat constrained by trepidation, I climbed into the cockpit, and sat there trying to look unafraid through the frightful roar of the engines.

Suddenly the 'plane jerked forward, the ground began moving—faster, faster . . . The sheer thrill of motion, accompanied by the singing wind and the crash of the engines was indescribable. I felt like some super-man riding in state. The whole heavens were mine to roam at will, to explore in this bellowing chariot. A disquieting thought flashed across my mind, quite suddenly and unexpectedly. Suppose those engines were to fizzle out—spluttering, coughing . . . ? Fear gripped my heart. Don't be silly, I assured myself; it's absolutely impossible. I looked over the side—the earth seemed miles below. As I looked down, there came a great silence. Great Scott ! the engine. . . . The pilot was struggling frantically with the controls—the plane was vertical—nose-diving to destruction. Terror seized me. I could only stare at the earth we were rushing to meet—to meet in a devastating and crushing impact. Seconds only, seconds . . . I shut my eyes and screamed. . . . I found myself lying flat, everywhere was dark, the darkness pressed upon the eyes. Where was I, earth or . . . ? I felt my arms and legs, my body. I started ; was it possible ? No . . . it was true ! A great sigh of relief escaped my lips. I was safe.

Yet I could feel the horror of that fall, even as I picked myself up from the bedroom floor.

H. R. HOWARD, VI.Science.

## Touring in Devon and Cornwall

On a beautiful, sunny day in August last year, an old school friend and I set off on a motor-cycle tour of Devon and Cornwall. We carried camping equipment, and our aims were to see as much of these two counties as we could, stopping when and where we pleased.

The first two days were spent reaching our destination, camping on the banks of the Avon at Stratford and reaching the north coast of Devon on the second day. Passing on to Bideford, we encountered roads and scenery that have made Devon famous. From Lynton to Barnstaple, round the



coast and through woods, ran a narrow, loose-stoned road with a stream running down the middle.

Monday morning found us rambling along the rocky coast. After cooking our dinner we continued on our journey, admiring the scenery as we travelled round the coast and occasionally turning inland through hilly, wooded districts. Passing through Bude in the evening, we decided to stop just outside, and no sooner pitched our tent than we were cooling ourselves in the sea. Up to the present we had been favoured with hot sunshine each day.

Next day, however, outside Newquay, rain started, and so we stayed here for dinner. The rain stopped and nearing Tintagel it started once more, so we sheltered in a cart-house facing a headland on which were the supposed ruins of King Arthur's Castle, surrounded by mists. We continued to St. Ives, where we spent a comfortable night on straw in a barn. At night we had visited this village and walked round the quaint, old-world harbour. Every window round it seemed to belong to a tavern in which sailors were making merry.

St. Ives was again visited on Wednesday for supplies, and then we set-off for Land's End. Crossing a Cornish moor, three miles of St. Just, the motor-cycle refused to go any further without pushing, and this we had to do to the next village, where the blacksmith repaired the damage. Typical of the Cornish hospitality, we were invited to tea, and sat down in an old house, overrun with cats, to a simple meal of bread, home-made butter and Devonshire cream. Time being short, we had to cut across land to Penzance and camped in an orchard. In the morning we went to Land's End where we spent the rest of the day rambling on the rocks. On returning to Penzance rain started and did not finish until Saturday morning.

Saturday dinner-time found us in Plymouth en route for Torquay, which we reached in the afternoon. A halt was called at Paignton, and at night we visited these two towns. What a sight! Torquay seems to be built on the slopes of a steep hill decorated with foreign trees. The whole place was lit up in different colours and along the foot of the hill ran a grotto. We seemed to have been transported to the Riviera.

On Sunday we searched Paignton for a friend and already had decided to stay here as long as possible. We bathed in the evening and returned to cook fish given us by the fishermen of Brixham.

On Monday we tried to reach Brixham by way of the rocky coast, but the tide prevented us. Again we bathed in the sea and, in the evening, paid a farewell visit to our friends and Torquay.

Early next morning we were packed up and on our homeward journey, travelling most of this day and the next, and arriving home in time for tea on the Wednesday. Both of us were sunburnt and felt in perfect condition. Almost perfect weather, a healthy, out-door holiday, lovely scenery, and experience all combined to make the best holiday we two knew of.

C. W. WEBB, VI. Sc.



