



DEVONPORT
High School
MAGAZINE

No. 118

FEBRUARY 1960

SCHOOL OUTFITS for BOYS & GIRLS

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in every detail

Sports and Occasional Wear



Boys' and Girls' Department

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The Devonport High School Magazine.

No. 118.

FEBRUARY 1960

Editor: R. BRISCOE, U.V.I.A.

Sub-Editors: G. F. WALKER, VI.S.; P. COHEN, L.VI.S.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PUBLICATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE Editors, D.H.S. Magazine, c/o The Headmaster, Devonport High School. THEY SHOULD BE WRITTEN LEGIBLY, AND ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER.

Editorial

In the past, it has been the custom to present in this editorial a somewhat complacent picture of the grammar school. Few have thought it worth while or dared to criticise the system. This ought not to have happened. Any organisation has its faults and criticism will ensure that it remains at a high level or by eliminating its faults reaches near perfection.

We, here, believe in the grammar school system, but we have to admit that there are those who do not take full advantage of the wonderful opportunities offered. We know that there are pupils in other schools who would be glad to have the chance of being here. Every boy who is in a school such as ours has the moral obligation either to get the best from his school and to give of his best to the school or to transfer out and let someone else take his place. It is not sufficient to do just enough to get by. There is so much in a lively establishment such as D.H.S. that requires the full co-operation, in some sphere or other, of every boy. See to it that you do your part. How many really do their homework, how many are active in even one society? How many really give something?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following magazines and periodicals: *The Plymouth High School for Girls' Magazine*; *The Magazine of the County Grammar School for Boys, Hove*; *The Devonport High School for Girls' Magazine*; *The Truronian*; *The Tamaritan*; *The Albanian*; *The Coathamian*; *The Periodical*; *The Plymothian*; *The Julian*; *Endeavour*, *The R.A.F. College Journal*; *The Plymptonian*; *The Suttonian*; *The Oak Tree*; *The Oketonian*; *Stoke Damerel High School for Girls' Magazine*; *The Patesian*; *The Review and the Magazine of the West Hatch Technical School, Chigwell*. Many thanks and apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

School Notes

Although the summer edition of the school magazine was delayed by the printing dispute and was not published until the beginning of this term, it was prepared for publication at the usual time and did not record the events of the last five weeks of the summer term. It is, however, pleasant at this time of the year to look back on those activities that enlivened the closing weeks of the school year.

The school Garden Party was held on Wednesday, July 22nd, and was again well supported and highly successful, although the proceeds fell just short of the record total of the previous year. Once again we must express our gratitude to the Parents' Association and to the members of the staff who worked together to ensure the success of this annual event.

The Staff v. School cricket match was played at Collings Park on Friday, July 17th, and for the first time for many years the staff were victorious, thanks chiefly to a fine all-round performance by Mr. Crump. Once again the cricket match between the 1st XI and the Old Boys was a most enjoyable occasion, as was the one between the staff XI and the Old Boys. We hope that the latter will be the first of many such games.

The School Speech Day, held on Friday, October 15th, was a memorable occasion for, after an interval of twenty years, it was again held in the Plymouth Guildhall. We were proud to be the first school to hold its Speech Day in the reconstructed building and proud also to welcome, as our guest speaker, an old boy of the school, Dr. A. W. Pearce, the general manager of the refineries operated by Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd. A fuller account of the occasion will be found elsewhere in the magazine.

We extend a hearty welcome to a new member of the staff, Mr. C. Gell, who has succeeded Mr. Crump as music master. We hope that his stay with us will be a long and happy one. At the time of writing, Mr. Lunnon is recuperating after an operation. We wish him a speedy recovery and, at the same time, thank Mr. D. H. Clark who has returned to school for the second time this term to deputise for absent members of staff. We are pleased to report that Mr. Evans is now back at school after his illness earlier in the term.

Owing to circumstances outside our control, the account of the spring production of the Dramatic Society was omitted from our summer magazine. We print it now with apologies to Mr. Larkins, the producer, for its belated appearance. We look forward with pleasure to Mr. Whitfeld's production of *Macbeth* at the beginning of next term.

In Memoriam

MR. M. J. RICH

M. J. Rich came to Devonport High School in 1945. After a highly successful school career he left school in 1954 to proceed to the University College of North Staffordshire where he was trained for the teaching profession. On the completion of his training, he was appointed to the Plymouth Education Authority and was on the staff of Martin's Gate School at the time of his death on November 21st, 1959. The school extends its deepest sympathy to his parents in their bereavement.

MR. I. J. COLLINS

I. J. Collins entered Devonport High School in 1952 and left in 1958. His successful school career was noteworthy for his outstanding achievement in reaching the finals of the All England Boxing Championships. He left to take up an appointment with the Civil Service at Bath and was later transferred to Plymouth. We extend our deepest sympathy to his parents in their bereavement.

MR. CYRIL E. GILL, F.F.Sc., F.C.S.

It is with very deep regret that we record the passing on 9th December, 1959, of Mr. Cyril Gill, who will long be remembered for his work on behalf of the Old Boys' Association, firstly as Secretary of the Plymouth Branch and then as General Secretary in succession to Mr. H. Ferraro. Mr. Gill's activities were many and varied both in business and public life. He was well known as an Analytical Chemist and figured prominently as a witness in many important court cases; he was for some time in charge of the Forensic Laboratory at the Police Headquarters at Plymouth until the department was centralised at Bristol. For many years he was local supervisor of examinations for the Civil Service Commissioners. In public life, in addition to his work for the O.B.A., he was a pioneer member of the Plymouth Rotary Club; and was also a noted billiards and snooker player, and a cricket umpire. In all his work he was genial and friendly and his many experiences provided him with a valuable source of stories of which he was a good raconteur.

The funeral service was held at St. Barnabas' Church, Stoke, where his father had been organist for many years, and was attended by representatives of the School and of the Old Boys' Association.

To Mrs. Gill we extend our deepest sympathy with the knowledge that our admiration for his work and fine example will remain as long as memory lasts.

Speech Day 1959

Devonport High School for Boys was privileged to be the first school to use the magnificent, newly-reconstructed Guildhall of Plymouth for its Speech Day on October 15th, 1959.

The Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor P. N. Washbourn, who was accompanied by his wife, took the chair. A leading industrialist, and an old boy of the school, A. W. Pearce, Esq., B.Sc., PH.D., M.I.CHEM.E., F.INST.PET., General Manager of Esso Petroleum Company Ltd., distributed the prizes and addressed the meeting.

In his report, the Headmaster said that he was pleased with the 'O' level G.C.E. results, the best the school had ever had (68 boys passed five or more subjects). The 'A' level results, although not outstanding, did produce a few pleasant surprises. Dr. Cresswell reiterated his advice to the boys to keep their non-academic interests alive, taking an active part in at least one of the school's societies. He reported on the success of the Boating Club and the Dramatic Society (both business concerns!). Stressing the need for more playing fields, the Headmaster reported that sport was thriving, twelve teams being fielded each week during the winter, although in a particular summer game, it seemed that the staff were more proficient than the school! Though not outstanding in any particular field, 1958-59 had been a good year.

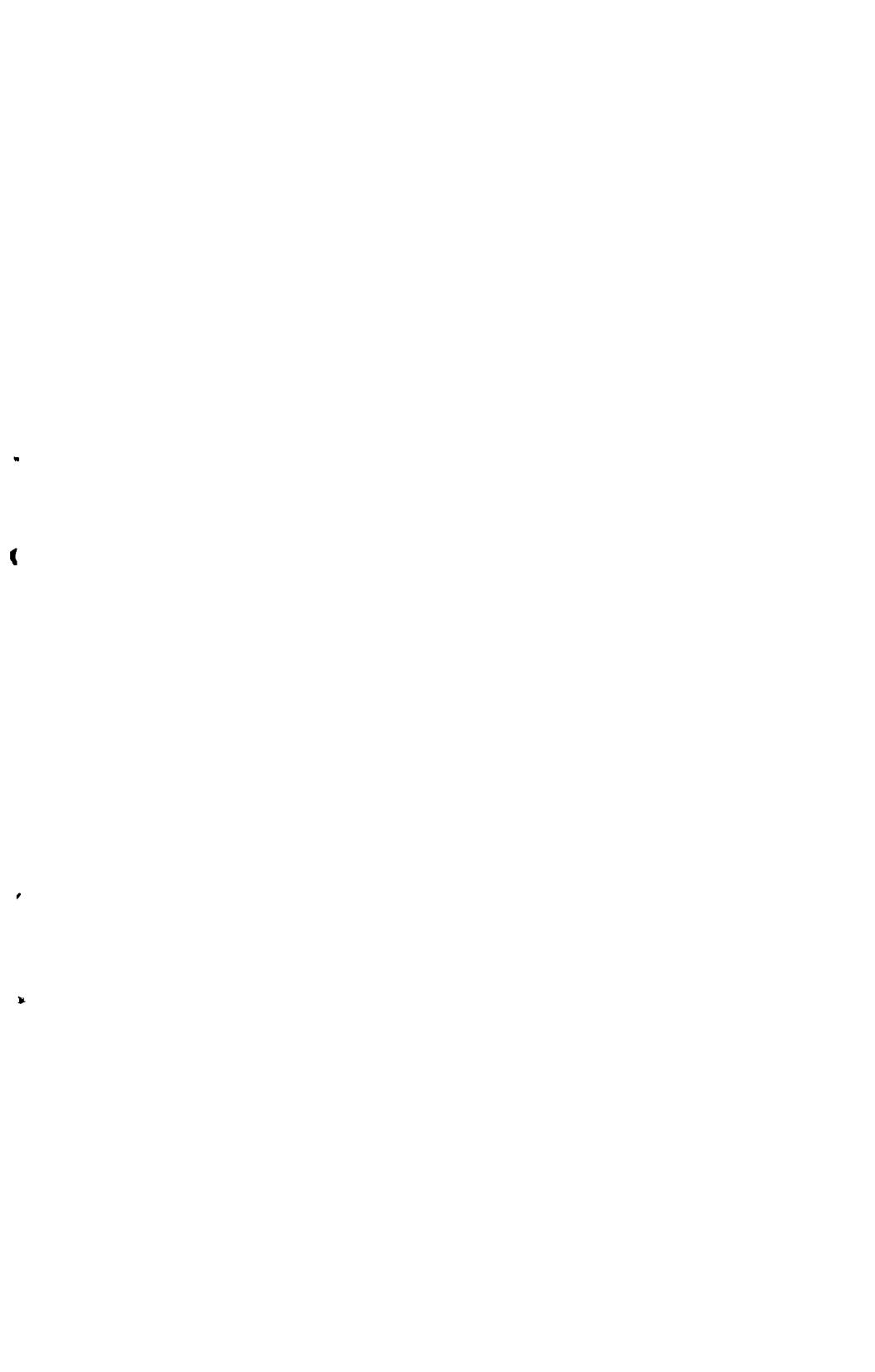
In his address, the Lord Mayor stressed the fact that, to keep their sons at school, parents often made big sacrifices. It was up to the boys, therefore, to work hard to make their staying on worth while.

After distributing the prizes, Dr. Pearce, the guest speaker, gave a colourful and informative address. Schools, he said, had one major function: to train their pupils to do three things. The first was to think logically, the second to reach a conclusion, and the third to take action on the basis of that conclusion.

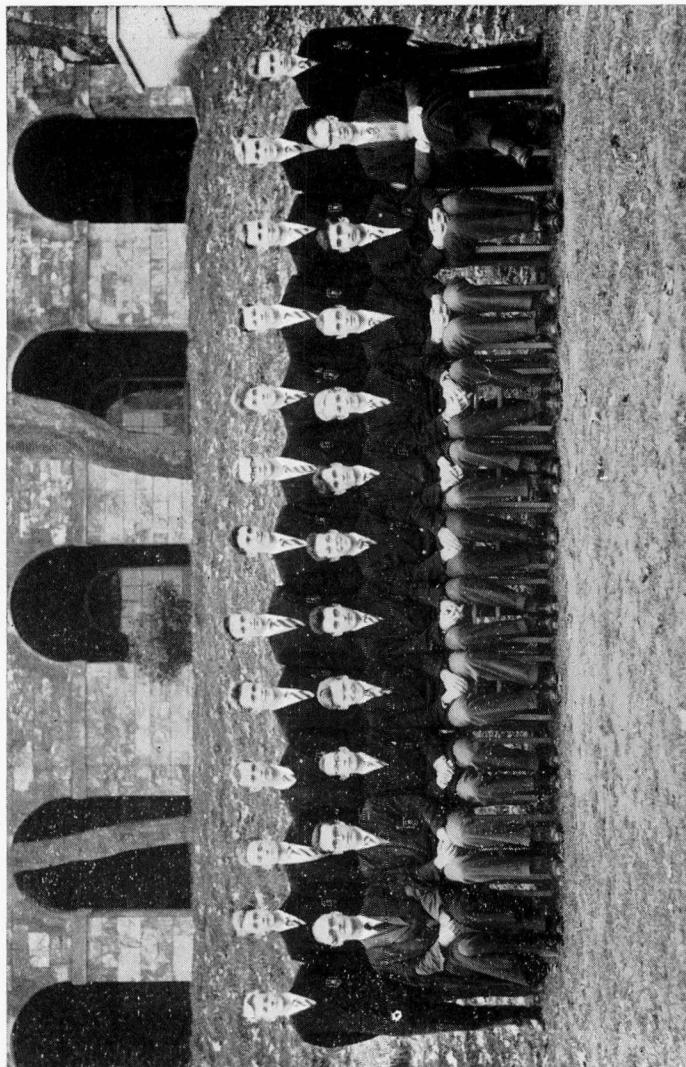
Dr. Pearce drew an analogy between a school and a motor race. The pupil was the car, whose engine had been tuned by the pit mechanic (the school master). The driver was his will-power, without which he could not hope to win. To the prize-winners, he said that if the car out in front did not keep up the pace, another from behind would slip into the lead at the last minute. Dr. Pearce's meaning was clear.

Our guest speaker, having thought logically, reached his conclusion and acted on it. Much to the delight of the school, he asked the headmaster to declare the next day a holiday.

A vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and to Dr. Pearce was proposed by Alderman L. F. Paul, Chairman of the Education Committee, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. D. M. Fleury, Chairman of the School Governors, and Dr. Andrew Scotland, M.A.,



SCHOOL PREFECTS, 1959-60



Back row (left to right): T. K. Rogers, J. A. Beattie, G. F. Walker, J. P. Norman, J. W. Quick, J. W. Axworthy, J. Davies,

R. F. Donne, J. E. Taylor, M. A. Stevens, R. Doidge, J. French, R. Briscoe

Front row: Mr. A. C. Truman (*Senior master*), S. A. Hodge, G. E. G. Palmer, K. W. H. Sadler, R. C. L. Searle, M. I. J. Woodward (*School Capt.*),
D. J. Butler, P. M. Wonnacott, E. M. Pickering, C. J. Jeffery, Dr. J. L. Cresswell (*Headmaster*)

Director of Education. A final speech of thanks was made by M. I. J. Woodward, the School Captain, ending in three cheers for Dr. Pearce.

The evening closed with the school's rendering of the school song, led by the choir, which had performed four works during the evening under Mr. Gell, who had trained the choir most ably, earning much praise from the platform and applause from the audience.

G. WALKER, 6S.

PRAEFECTI VALETE

- A. G. BURRING. Entered School 1952. Left for South Africa 1953, returned 1955. G.C.E. 'O' level 1957. G.C.E. 'A' level 1959. School Prefect 1959. Left in November 1959 to take a post at Martins Bank.
- M. A. STEVENS. Entered School from King Edward's Grammar School, Aston, Birmingham, 1957. G.C.E. 'O' level 1958. School Prefect 1959. Left school Christmas 1959 to take up a post in H.M. Dockyard, Devonport.
- P. M. WONNACOTT. Entered School 1952. G.C.E. 'O' level 1957. G.C.E. 'A' level 1959. School Prefect 1958-59. Entering Customs and Excise.

Careers

We have in Plymouth a special aptitude scheme which, properly embarked upon, enables a boy to live away from home quite adequately while learning how to become a skilled engineer or something leading to a worth-while career. This, of course, has in the past been necessary because Plymouth has lacked the large firms of proved repute within her boundaries. This is rapidly changing and there is now a small choice which is growing yearly. One firm, in particular, offers excellent training to young mechanical engineers and is not getting the support its schemes merit. I refer to Tecalamit at Marsh Mills.

Here, a boy with Maths, English and two other 'O' levels can embark on a five-year course which will assuredly lead to the letters A.M.I.Mech.E. following his name. The good boy can do it in five years, but the slower learner can qualify over a longer period.

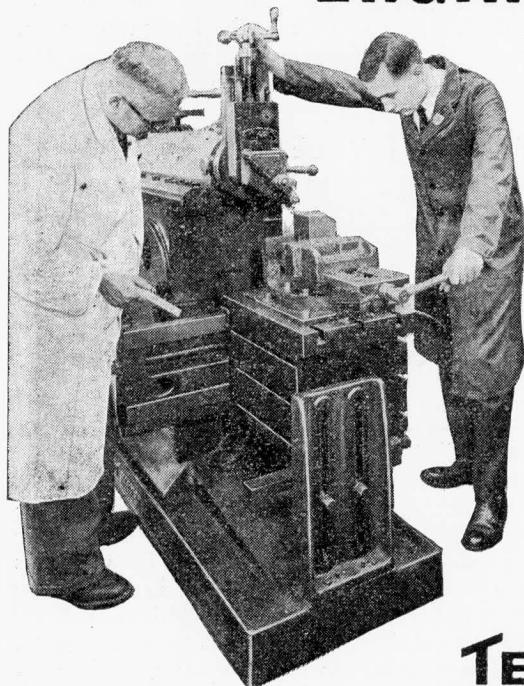
Every effort is made by the firm to help their apprentices succeed. Time in working hours is spent at the Technical College and the opportunity is a valuable one. Will some boy come to me next term and consider this?

It can lead to a well paid, responsible and satisfying career. Why not think about it? If six serious enquirers from the fifth or fourth forms will approach me I will arrange a visit, in school time, to the firm and many interesting aspects of such a career will become apparent.

Fuller details are published in an advertisement in this magazine.

W.H.W.

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IF YOU ARE aged 16 to 17 and have passed the General Certificate of Education Examination at the ordinary standard in Maths., English and two other subjects, and are willing to study and take the Higher National Certificate, **this is your opportunity to become a fully trained Engineer**, and eventually to be entitled to put M.I.Mech.E. after your name ! That is something well worth working for, and the Tecalemit Student Engineers' Scheme will help you to obtain it.

THE COURSE is designed to cover five years, during which time you will be paid the normal rates for the factory, applicable to your age.

TIME IS ALLOWED OFF up to nine hours per week on full pay to attend day classes to enable you to take your Higher National Certificate, which is essential. You will receive interesting training in the Experimental Workshops, Maintenance Departments, Tool Room, Foundry, Design and Drawing Offices and General Works Administration, according to your ability.

YOUR PROGRESS will be studied closely and quarterly reports kept which are made up into a book which is presented to you when you have completed your course satisfactorily — a record you can always keep with pride.

APPLICATION should be made to the Personnel Manager, Tecalemit Ltd., for all details of the scheme.

TECALEMIT PLYMOUTH DEVON

Farnborough Display 1959

The school party this year which went to Farnborough was the largest ever sent by the school. Instead of the usual ten or twenty boys, over 100 went to the display.

On the eve of Farnborough Display, it was announced that the aircraft industry had exported, in the first seven months of the year, £100,000,000 of aircraft and equipment. The display itself was a record, featuring more equipment and weapons than ever before. The outdoor equipment display was 50% enlarged and the guided weapons by 40%.

On the day of our visit, September 12th, 95,000 people were at the display. We were all able to see something which not even the special guests of the S.B.A.C. on previous days had been able to see. This was the first public showing of the Short S.C.I. vertical take-off aircraft and its change from V.T.O. to forward flight. Coupled with the appearance of the remarkable Saunders Roe Hovercraft, this showed that, although small by comparison with America and Russia, the British aircraft industry is not lacking in vision and new ideas.

The fly-past of new British civil aircraft was very striking and impressive. Everyone was impressed by the grace and quietness of the D.H. Comet 4B, which has been ordered by B.E.A. and Olympic Airlines. The three new turboprop airliners which had their first appearance at Farnborough this year, the Vickers Vanguard, H.P. Herald, and A.W. Argosy, were also seen in the air and on the ground. The revolutionary Fairy Rotodyne V.T.O. aircraft was also seen and may soon open the era of quick inter-city travel.

The new naval bomber, the Blackburn N.A. 39, was also on show for the first time and impressed everyone by its speed and manoeuvrability. The Folland Gnat light fighter and its trainer variant both showed that, although small, they did not lack the speed of their bigger brothers. A Hawker Hunter gave a fine display by spinning earthwards for several thousand feet and then gradually levelling out. The aerobatic displays by the Royal Air Force Hunters and Royal Naval Scimitars was, as usual, beyond compare. The V bombers were represented by three Victors and three Vulcans, and Vulcan B.2 nearly succeeded in deafening the crowd when it roared skywards at full throttle.

The ground display was extensive, and the main exhibition hall with all its stands, from all the various aircraft companies, was very interesting. Aircraft engines were also well represented. The guided missile park exhibited many well-known missiles, including the Bloodhound, Thunderbird, and Seacat. A full size Black Knight rocket was also on view.

Finally I would like to extend, on behalf of the school party, our grateful thanks to those people who worked so hard to enable this trip to take place so efficiently and smoothly, and especially to Mr. Stankley who organised the school party.

S. A. HODGE.

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

In choosing to present "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt Brecht, the Dramatic Society and Mr. Larkins took on a considerable challenge in production. The play is unorthodox as drama and thus disturbing to playgoers fed on American Musicals and West End 'Pops'. Marxist in sympathy and inchoate in structure, it was a bold and enterprising choice which bred its own species of success.

David Wilson, as the storyteller, was excellent in his rôle as intermediary between actors and audience. His urbane manner and suave voice gave his commentary an air of unruffled aplomb. In spite of the fact that he seemed vaguely embarrassed with his hookah, he smoked and cajoled the discrete elements of the drama into a recognisable unity.

In Part I, the central figure was Grusha, played by David Pike who succeeded with commendable tenderness in a difficult part. The hard-working, compassionate peasant-girl who succours the abandoned child against the promptings of her practical peasant wisdom was movingly and credibly acted. It was hard at times to resist the impression that a real child was being awkwardly but splendidly nursed.

Perhaps the most piquant individual performance was that of Geoffrey Griffiths as Azdak, the central figure of the second part. His magisterial eccentricity and astringent performance dominated the whole of this part of the play.

Many other individual performances deserve commendation. Amongst the rest of the cast, too numerous to mention all by name, I was particularly impressed by the sensible romanticism of Malcolm Woodward as Simon, John Jeffery as the monk (as magnificently anti-clerical as Brecht could have wished, over-caricatured, but very funny) and Edward Floyd as Natasha, the high-born, strident, bitchy wife of the Governor.

It was good to see unconventional and important drama tackled; pleasant to savour the real successes attained; the energy and ardour of the thing was exhilarating.

A.J.C.



'Jones invented an ejector seat for Meredith, Sir...'

How do young men get to the top in the R.A.F. today? Do you know that Cranwell and Henlow, for instance, give the finest start to a permanent career in the R.A.F.? **R.A.F. College, Cranwell.** Here, apart from learning to fly and navigate, you are groomed for leadership, so that you may one day be capable of filling senior executive and command posts in the R.A.F.

R.A.F. College, Henlow. Here you are trained to become one of the scientific leaders of tomorrow's R.A.F. and if specially selected, your training will include three years at a University.

Ask your Careers Master about R.A.F. Scholarships. These help boys, from the age of 15 years 8 months, to continue their studies until qualified for a place at Cranwell (minimum age 17½) or Henlow (minimum age 17).

If you write to *Air Ministry, ARI (DHB 12a)* *Adastral House, London*, we will tell you all you wish to know.

THE CRICKET CLUB

*President : THE HEADMASTER. Master-in-Charge : MR. WAYNE.
Captain : J. R. PARSONS Vice-Captain : R. C. SEARLE Secretary : D. P. HOLLIDAY*

With the departure of seven of the previous season's successful team, prospects for the 1959 season were not particularly encouraging. Four of the seven leavers had been awarded full colours and their departure left only one member of the team with real experience of 1st XI cricket—the captain, J. R. Parsons. As was to be expected, the team lacked the poise and ability of their predecessors, but, in the course of the season, keenness and confidence increased rapidly and the fighting spirit of the team is shown by the fact that only three of the fifteen games played were lost. Of these three defeats, one was inflicted by the Staff XI, which also had a very successful season, one by Sutton H.S., and one by Launceston College. Victories were obtained over the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, H.M.S. *Fisgard*, Plympton Grammar School and Plymouth C.C. 'A' XI. An encouraging feature was that in the eight drawn matches the team acquitted itself well and, in many cases, appeared capable of forcing a victory had time allowed. The match against the Old Boys' XI was particularly interesting with the 1st XI scoring 127 for 4 wickets in reply to the Old Boys' total of 147 for 7 (declared). At the end of the season full colours were awarded to Parsons, Holliday, Widger and Callicott and half-colours to Searle and Cooper.

We congratulate B. Widger and J. R. Parsons on their selection for the Devon Colts and W. E. Gully and C. J. Parsons on being chosen for the Plymouth Schools XI.

The 2nd XI were also handicapped by lack of experience and won only three of the ten games played. However, they played with commendable spirit and achieved fine victories over Sutton and Totnes Grammar School.

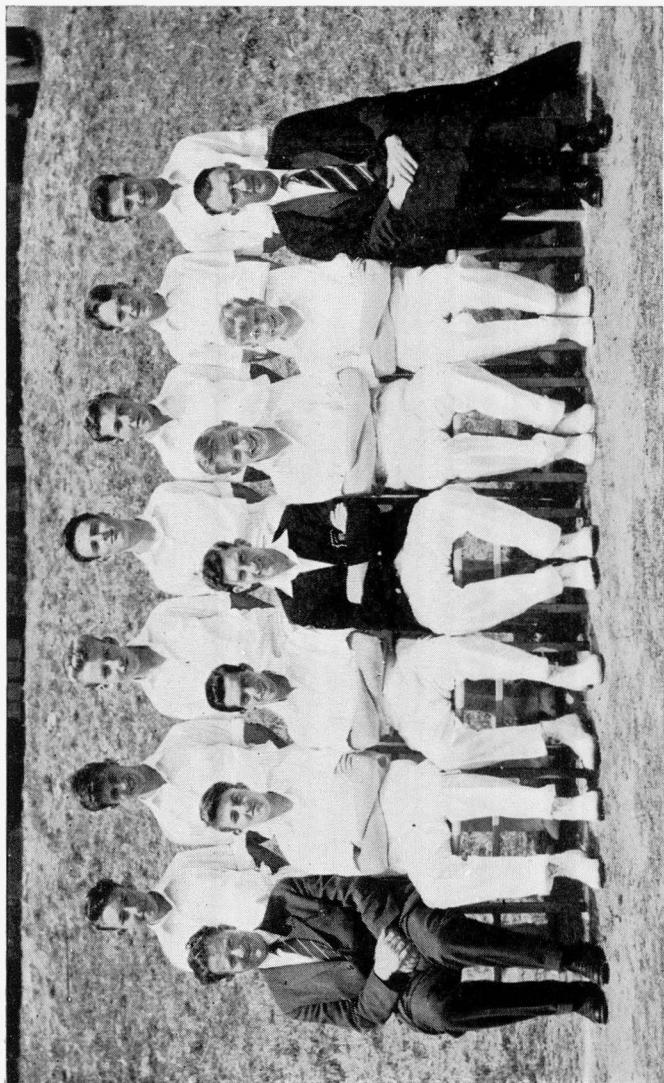
The Colts XI had a reasonably successful year, winning four and drawing three of the eleven matches played. One of the defeats was by a Plymouth Schools Under 15 XI.

The Junior XI lost only three of the eleven games played and, throughout the season, showed a keenness and ability which promises well for the future. The highlights of the season were a win over Sutton H.S., avenging a defeat by Sutton at Collings Park earlier in the season, and an exciting match against Plymouth College which ended in a tie.

The Cricket Club thanks most sincerely those members of the staff who coach the teams and those who give up their spare time to umpire the matches. It is also deeply indebted to Mrs. Gent and her helpers in the Parents' Association who give up so much of their time and energy in providing teas for the various teams.

F.W.

FIRST XI. CRICKET, 1959



Back row (left to right): L. F. Callicott, J. F. Horne, P. R. Warn, M. J. Ryder, J. A. French, R. Widger, M. N. Smith
Front row: Mr. F. Wayne, D. H. Ruberry, D. P. Holliday, J. R. Parsons (*Capt.*), J. F. Cooper, J. S. Oxley, Dr. J. L. Cresswell (*Headmaster*)

THE RUGBY CLUB

*Master-in-Charge : MR. W. NASH Captain : M. I. J. WOODWARD
Vice-Captain : K. R. F. VIRGO Hon. Secretary : J. W. QUICK*

Owing to the hard grounds, the 1st XV's opening fixtures against Barnstaple G.S. and Sutton H.S. were cancelled, so that at the time of writing the 1st XV have played 9, winning 6 and losing 3. Amongst these games are notable victories over Truro School, Kelly College, and St. Boniface's College. Injuries and positional weakness have resulted in 20 boys representing the 1st XV, but now it is hoped that the experimental stage is over and the side will settle down. The 1st XV is ably led by M. Woodward, whose personal example on and off the field is an inspiration to everyone. Generally the team needs to show more confidence and an ability to fight back when things are not going so well. We hope that next term the team will show the needed improvements in quicker thinking and greater speed off the mark.

Our thanks are due this year to Mr. Nash, who has taken over the 1st XV after Mr. Mallinson's retirement. Apart from the war years, Mr. Mallinson has been associated with the 1st XV since 1933 and many fine sides have benefited from his experience. Mr. Nash has thrown himself into this difficult job with characteristic zest and spirit.

The 2nd XV, captained by K. Sadler, have played eight matches, winning 3 and losing 5. Thirty-four boys have so far played for the 2nd XV, consequently the side has not yet settled down. Mr. Warn has been concerned with the interests of the 2nd XV and his services are much appreciated.

The Colts XV, owing to the absence of their captain and several of the better members of the side, who were required for trials, have won only two of their six games and lost the remainder. They have played inconsistently and with a little strength outside the scrum, they could well improve upon their results to date. We would like to congratulate Powderley and Smith, who were selected to represent Devon, and Powderley, Smith, Forse, Souness and Chant who played for the Plymouth Schools XV.

The Under 14 XV, in the capable hands of Mr. Mallinson, have played six games, winning five and losing one. Their backs are direct, strong runners and their tactics are ably controlled by Vosper, the captain, from the scrum half position.

The Under 13 XV, in the charge of Mr. Pring, have played six games, winning four and losing two. They are very keen, and with more direct running outside the scrum will be able to take full advantage of their scoring chances.

The Under 12 XV, under the auspices of Mr. Stone, have won all six games. Most of these boys have started playing rugby this year and show great keenness and aptitude for the game.

It remains to thank all masters concerned with the running and organisation of the Rugby Club for their services, especially those who have refereed and who have been responsible at away games. Without them it would not be possible to carry out so many fixtures. Our special thanks are extended to the Ladies' Committee of the Parents' Association for their teas, always of a high standard, which help so much in the entertainment of our visitors.

J. W. QUICK, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE SOCCER CLUB

The opening of the new season saw the introduction of a dozen new faces to the senior teams. The majority of these are from the fifth and lower sixth forms, so that, as they gain experience and confidence, they should have a bright future.

The 1st XI started badly on the hard grounds, but as the ground softened and conditions became more suited to the team's style of play, the pattern changed and four successive victories were recorded—those against Britannia College, Dartmouth, and Seale Hayne Agricultural College were particularly praiseworthy. Latterly the team has lost some confidence in sustaining three defeats and has lacked the fighting qualities necessary to overcome unexpected reverses.

The 2nd XI has been inconsistent, recording good wins over Saltash G.S. and Seale Hayne, but sustaining defeat at Kingsbridge and Torquay. Their play generally lacks teamwork.

The Under 15 XI has enjoyed a moderately successful term and obtained a creditable position in its league. The defence is strong but the forwards lack co-operation. Congratulations to Morgan on his appearance for Plymouth Schoolboys.

The Under 14 XI contains skilful footballers who lack physique, but who, because of their basic skill, are having a successful season; perhaps their best performance was their 2–0 win at Torquay.

The Under 13 XI, too, is a small side and experiments are continuing to find the best blend. Inability to score from easy positions has resulted in matches being lost which should have been won, though the team contains some promising youngsters.

		<i>Goals</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>A</i>
1st XI	9	4	1	4	23	24
2nd XI	10	3	2	5	29	33
Under 15 XI	10	5	2	3	23	19
Under 14 XI	8	5	0	3	30	17
Under 13 XI	7	2	1	4	8	11

We continue to be grateful to masters who give of their time to referee and to accompany teams and to the Parents' Association for the provision of refreshment for our visitors.

M. J. RYDER, *Hon. Secretary.*

House Notes

DRAKE

It is my great pleasure to be able to record that Drake has won the St. Levan Shield for the first time since 1931.

GAUDEAMUS!

For once, football, rugby, cricket, athletics and swimming "clicked" at the same time. We must be very careful, however, to avoid resting on our hard-earned laurels, but there is every promise that if everyone once again pulls his weight, we can retain the shield, and not only for this year, but for many more to come.

The year started with Searle being elected House Captain, as Woodward, who held the post last year, is now School Captain, and feels, quite rightly, that that is responsibility enough. It is only fitting that we should congratulate him on his appointment to this exalted office, and Searle on being made School Vice-Captain. Hodge and Palmer, two of last year's prefects, are still with us, and we congratulate Beattie, Doidge, French, Norman, Stevens and Walker on being made school prefects. This gives Drake a total of ten out of twenty-three school prefects, including the School Captain and Vice-Captain, which is, in itself, something of a record.

The year has started well, with only the senior soccer team having lost. The senior rugger team beat Gilbert, while the junior soccer team did extremely well to draw with the strong Gilbert side, and augurs well for the remaining matches. The senior chess team has won both its matches, and the Chess Cup might well be if the juniors do as well when they play their matches.

My thanks are due to Woodward, who has lent me the wealth of his experience; to Norman, a most efficient House Secretary; and to Couch, the Chess Captain, for having organised the chess so well without help from the senior members of the House; to these and others unmentioned, my thanks for having made my job much easier and more pleasant.

Last, but not least, I know the whole House will be with me when I thank Mr. Nicholas for all that he has done for us in this past, triumphant year, and hope that we shall reward his efforts by winning the shield again. R. C. SEARLE, *House Captain.*

GILBERT

Now that the "quiet" term of House activities has ended, Gilbert may look back at results which, although bettering last year's performance, still leave much room for all-round improvement in the new year. Last year we said farewell to the senior nucleus of the House: D. Ackroyd, D. Daw, A. Quick, and our long-standing captain, J. Parsons, who had worked hard and

unselfishly often with little reward. We congratulate R. Donne, T. Rogers and J. Quick on their appointment as school prefects.

The following officials were elected at the beginning of the term: J. Quick, House Captain; D. Butler, House Secretary; T. Rogers, Soccer Captain; J. Mountjoy, Junior Soccer; J. Quick, Rugby Captain; P. Rowell, Junior Rugby; S. Willis, Chess Captain; and C. J. Miller, Junior Chess.

Owing to the conditions of the grounds early in the term, only one out of the proposed three senior rugby games was played, in which we were defeated by Drake by 29 points to 10. Despite the result, we were drawing at half time and playing with surprising spirit and enthusiasm. It is hoped that such spirit will be fostered in future fixtures and that Gilbert's traditional complacency in House rugby will be a thing of the past. It is also encouraging to see so many Gilbert juniors representing the Under 12 XV and Under 13 XV; a sure sign of an improvement in our position this year and in the years to come.

The senior soccer side, as usual, balanced any loss incurred by the rugby team by beating Drake by 5 goals to 2. This team, a fine blend of experience, skill and enthusiasm, will maintain Gilbert's usually high position in House soccer. In the only junior game we scored a creditable 1-1 draw against Drake.

Senior chess shows a dismal record: two lost, one drawn, but it is pleasing to see four members of the junior school representing the senior side.

Mr. Berry's vast experience in "House craft" is, as usual, invaluable. His services are, as always, greatly appreciated and we thank him, together with Mr. Barkell, who deputised in Mr. Berry's absence.

J. W. Quick, *House Captain*.

GRENVILLE

Last year Grenville was placed second in the competition for the St. Levan Shield. This year the competition promises to be even closer than last year, and a sustained effort by every member of the House is vital if Grenville is to wrest this prized trophy from Drake, the present holders.

As usual, this term's inter-House activities started with the senior rugby matches, though only one has been played, the rest having been put off until next term. The House team was not, on paper, an outstanding one, and it is much to their credit that they soundly defeated a strong Raleigh team as much by sheer determination as by skill. If this indomitable spirit is present in our remaining games we have a good chance of retaining the Rugby Cup. We must congratulate Vittles for ably captaining this team.

The senior House soccer team has not, however, fulfilled what it first promised, for it had not been depleted much by departures

and yet it lost 2-1 to Raleigh. We hope the senior team will confound its present critics and do well in its remaining matches.

Conversely, the junior soccer team had lost almost all of last year's junior team and is this year composed of the very junior members of the House. It has lost its only match to date, but we hope it will lay a firm foundation for the future.

We must extend our congratulations to McGee and Ruberry, who have been elected School Soccer Captain and Vice-Captain, respectively.

The senior chess team does not seem to be particularly strong this year, it being composed of boys from the middle school and has not so far enjoyed much success. The junior team has yet to show its prowess.

There is now a cessation of the majority of inter-House activities until next term; a lull which will only be broken by the occasional cry of "check mate", as the various chess brains clash. Let us hope that this cry is uttered more frequently by Grenville players.

In conclusion we express our gratitude to Mr. Mallinson, whose continued guidance and encouragement have been a constant source of inspiration.

J. TAYLOR, *House Captain.*

RALEIGH

Last term both the House Captain, A. A. Daw, and the House Secretary, D. P. Holliday, left us to enter Training Colleges. Their loss will be felt in all departments of House activity. This year K. W. Sadler was elected House Captain, and E. M. Pickering, House Secretary. Congratulations are extended to Axworthy, who was appointed a school prefect and also House rugby captain.

We have only three school prefects in Raleigh, and so to help administration, twelve house prefects were elected. If they are conscientious the House will benefit from their appointment.

Last year was not successful for Raleigh, especially regarding the St. Levan Shield Competition. In the Swimming Sports we could only finish third, despite some fine swimming by Atrill, who won the Under 14 Cup, and also went on to represent the South-West in the All-England Finals. However, we did win the Speech Contest Shield presented by Mr. Whitfeld.

Already this year we have improved, and, although many results are still in the balance, Raleigh is well placed. The senior soccer XI, captained by Ryder, defeated a Grenville XI by two goals to one, whilst the junior team beat them to the tune of six to one. The senior rugby team did not fare so well—losing to Grenville by the surprising margin of 26 points to 9. With more enthusiasm the results in the remaining matches could be very different.

Chess is becoming a very important school activity, and in Raleigh we have the captain of the school team—Ryder. Under his guidance the first formers are now all capable of playing a game of high standard. The senior chess team had two resounding victories over Gilbert and Grenville, and our juniors will prove worthy opponents to any House.

Typical of the House spirit is the enthusiasm shown by the juniors in organising a basketball team. This venture, and our efforts on behalf of the, "World Refugee Year Fund", have the full support of our House Master, Mr. E. W. R. Warn, and we, as a House, would like to thank him for his encouragement and leadership.

K. W. H. SADLER, *House Captain.*

Parents' Association

Our activities have followed their usual pattern since our last report. The Garden Party was held on a fine sunny day in July and attended by over a thousand parents and friends who showed keen interest in the numerous displays and side shows. The concert played to a full house at each performance and some six hundred teas were served by the Ladies' Committee. The profit was nearly £200 and our warm thanks are extended to all who helped to make this result possible.

The Annual Meeting was not as well attended as usual, but volunteers were readily found to replace several retiring committee members. The business meeting was followed by an interesting illustrated lecture on "Youth Hostelling" by an enthusiastic group led by Mr. Jimmy Martin. The slides of west country youth hostels and of Dartmoor were really beautiful and parents present learnt much about the facilities available for young people at these hostels.

We held a successful Whist Drive in November with just over thirty tables and some excellent prizes donated by parents and local businesses. The effort yielded a profit of nearly £13.

Within a few days we shall be holding our Annual Dance and advance sales suggest a larger attendance of parents than for some years.

The routine activities of the Association have continued in the provision of teas for visiting teams and in making a number of flags for marking rugby and soccer pitches. Curtains have been provided in the Headmaster's room and the staff room, a gesture which is much appreciated.

We look for the support of all parents to enable us to maintain our efforts to serve the school.

H. WARREN.

Since going to press the Dance has been held and it was undoubtedly of pre-war vintage, a really grand evening. Let's promise to keep it up!

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Out of School Activities

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY SOCIETY

With a larger sixth form this year, a record membership seemed possible, but the expected increase in the number of members from the sixth has been offset by a decrease from the fourth and fifth forms. As a result of this the number of boys who had joined the Society by October 31st is almost the same as the number for the corresponding period last year.

As usual, the G.C.E. examinations were followed by a series of excursions. The first was a most enjoyable visit to the submarine H.M.S. *Taciturn*, during which we were shown, among other things, a method of escape which employs a new survival suit incorporating an astonishing number of devices for the welfare of the submariner. The series included two other visits to Naval establishments: H.M.S. *Cambridge* and H.M.S. *Thunderer*. The afternoon at H.M.S. *Cambridge* proved as enthralling as on previous occasions. This time we witnessed the larger guns being fired at a target towed by a motor torpedo boat, and saw personnel learning to track the operation by radar. We were able to estimate the accuracy of the gunnery by watching the radar images of the splashes of shells falling around the target. We were then taken to the anti-aircraft section, and, although poor weather conditions prevented actual flying, we were allowed to man and operate the guns. At H.M.S. *Thunderer*, mechanical and aeronautical engineering are taught to students who will become the officers of the Navy of the future. Here we were shown an aeroplane engine being run on a test bed, accompanied by a deafening roar.

Two factories were visited: that of Messrs. Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., where a party was shown the essential processes of valve production, and that of Messrs. Brown & Sharp Ltd., an American firm of precision toolmakers, where we were astounded by statistics and demonstrations of the standard of accuracy in present day engineering. A small group spent a pleasant afternoon at the Plymouth 'B' Generating Station, where they learnt much about the electricity supply of the city. We offer our most sincere thanks to all those who made these excursions possible, and to those gentlemen who conducted us on our tours of the establishments.

A gratifying feature of the summer activities of the Society was the re-introduction of the photographic exhibition at the Garden Party. The quantity and quality of the work shown was encouraging to those responsible for the maintenance and improvement of amenities in the darkroom.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the beginning of July. The attendance figure of twenty-six, out of a possible one hundred and twenty-eight, left much to be desired. Comparing this with an average attendance of sixty to seventy at film and

lecture meetings reveals that too many members are content to reap the benefits of the Society and give nothing in return. The retiring chairman, R. C. Griffin, praised the rapidly developing photographic section, and went on to say that "*The New Scientist*" venture had been a great success. The resignations of the officials were received and a new committee appointed. The principal officers elected were: D. J. Butler, U6, Chairman; M. I. J. Woodward, U6, Vice-Chairman; and T. K. Rogers, 6S, Hon. Secretary.

At the time of writing, two of the three lectures arranged for the autumn term have already been enjoyed. Mr. Thomson, of Messrs. Pyrene Ltd., gave a most interesting outline of the various kinds of fire and the essentials of methods of extinguishing them, and then showed an excellent colour film demonstrating many methods of fire fighting. The second talk was given by Mr. Watson, of the Reed Paper Group. The lecture revealed that paper is not as easily made as is imagined. We extend our thanks to these gentlemen, who travelled several hundreds of miles to pass on to us some of their expert knowledge.

The popularity of *The New Scientist* continues to increase. At present, sixty-four copies are sold each week. The Society subscribes to a new journal called *Contemporary Physics*, which deals with advances in physics in an easily understood manner.

T. K. ROGERS, *Hon. Secretary.*

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

Our programme this term started with a mock election, held at the time of the General Election. The Society wishes to thank all the members of the staff for their co-operation and especially Mr. Cross and Mr. Truman who acted as returning and presiding officers. The Society would also like to thank the candidates (from left to right) Woodward, Briscoe and Jeffery, who, over the period of the election, had to stand up to a constant barrage of cheering and boozing.

Our next fixture was an Inter-Schools debate on "Nuclear Disarmament". The main speakers were Miss J. Vickers, M.B.E., M.P., and Mr. J. Mitchell, whose very presence led to an improved standard of debate. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement. On the 9th November, we were invited to provide speakers for a debate at the Y.M.C.A.

Although debating is becoming more popular in the school, there are still only about a dozen boys who are really competent debators. It is, however, only practice that will lead to improvement and so we ask everyone to forget his nervousness and come along and speak at our future debates. Speaking is an art which can easily be learned, and we cannot over emphasise the importance of being able to do so with intelligence and force.

J. C. JEFFERY, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

At the beginning of this term, David Ackroyd, the Secretary for the last two years, left school to take up an appointment with an insurance company. It is due mainly to his efforts that we have been able to enjoy a full and varied programme through the past year: we would, therefore, like to take this chance of thanking him for his invaluable work and of wishing him "God's Speed" on his chosen career.

Our general programme consists of a prayer meeting on Mondays and a discussion or lecture on Fridays. Again we are indebted to the Rector of Stoke Damerel Church, Mr. Adams, for the use of his church for our prayer meetings. The attendance at these meetings is encouraging but far from impressive and this is a constant source of worry for the Committee. We have repeatedly had it announced that *all* boys are welcome to the prayer meetings and boys from the fourth year and higher, to the Friday meetings: yet it has no effect. It is naturally a matter of "Faith" as to whether a Christian turns up to either of these meetings, but I would like to make it clear again that boys who either wish to learn about our Saviour, or who can see nothing to believe in concerning him are equally welcome. We believe that if we awaken a sense of reality concerning religion in a boy we have done our job.

Our programme this term has included talks on the parables by Mr. Cross, Bible discussions by Messrs. Hopford and Whitfeld, and a lecture by a visiting minister, Mr. Pickering. We have also had a "Fact and Faith" film entitled *Time and Eternity*, which was very well attended. In connection with this we would like to thank Mr. Coombe for the use of the laboratory and necessary apparatus.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Cross and Mr. Hopford for their continual guidance and help, and also all boys who help the Christian Union in its work.

J. NORMAN, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE DANCING CLASS

This September, the Class resumed its activities after the long summer break, and it was pleasing to see that a new, fresh air had been breathed into the class by the entry of new pupils of both sexes.

Once again I am delighted to be able to extend, in writing, our thanks to Miss Tout, our instructress, and Mrs. Bradley, our pianist, who continue to work so hard for us, but regret to say that we are still desperately in need of another class, as this time I had sixty-five applications for twenty places

R. C. SEARLE.

Editor's comment—The answer to the last sentence is for both boys and girls to attend one year only

SAILING CLUB

The beginning of this term marked the completion of the first year of the Club's activities, and the launching of the first "Cadet" sailing boat. The building of this boat has produced many problems, all of which, we hope, we have successfully overcome.

With the launching of *The Revenge* the end of the first stage in this venture was completed, but a second "Cadet" is already on the stocks. Enthusiasm is now made keener by the opportunity to sail the first boat. Weather permitting, we hope to sail throughout the winter.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Dodd, Mr. Adams and Mr. Osborn, without whom the Club could not function.

P. GARLAND, *Captain of Sailing.*



"THE REVENGE" *Photograph by C. Budge.*

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

To eliminate the necessity of numerous exhaustive book checks, it was found essential to modify the organisation of the library. This modification was not greeted with great enthusiasm by many of the boys, because they thought that a "police state" had been imposed upon them. But the new system has worked so well that any resentment is fast disappearing.

The library is becoming increasingly popular. During the dinner-hour the facilities of the library are used by many of the younger pupils who are (or seem to be) working and reading conscientiously.

I would like to thank all the Assistant Librarians who give up much of their spare time to keep the library going. Mr. Whitfeld has, of course, been most helpful and encouraging, as always. Without his help and suggestions, I am sure the "centre of learning" in this school would be in a pitiful state.

R. BRISCOE, *School Librarian.*

CHESS CLUB

Last term the school chess teams completed a fairly successful season, when they were respectively second and third in the Goodman Cup and Horley Cup. Their final positions in the leagues were as follows:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
GOODMAN CUP							
Devonport High School ..	12	8	2	2	48½	23½	18
HORLEY CUP							
Devonport High School ..	13	8	2	3	46½	31½	18

The Horley Cup, for boys under fourteen, was presented by Ken Horley, who played for the school team two years ago.

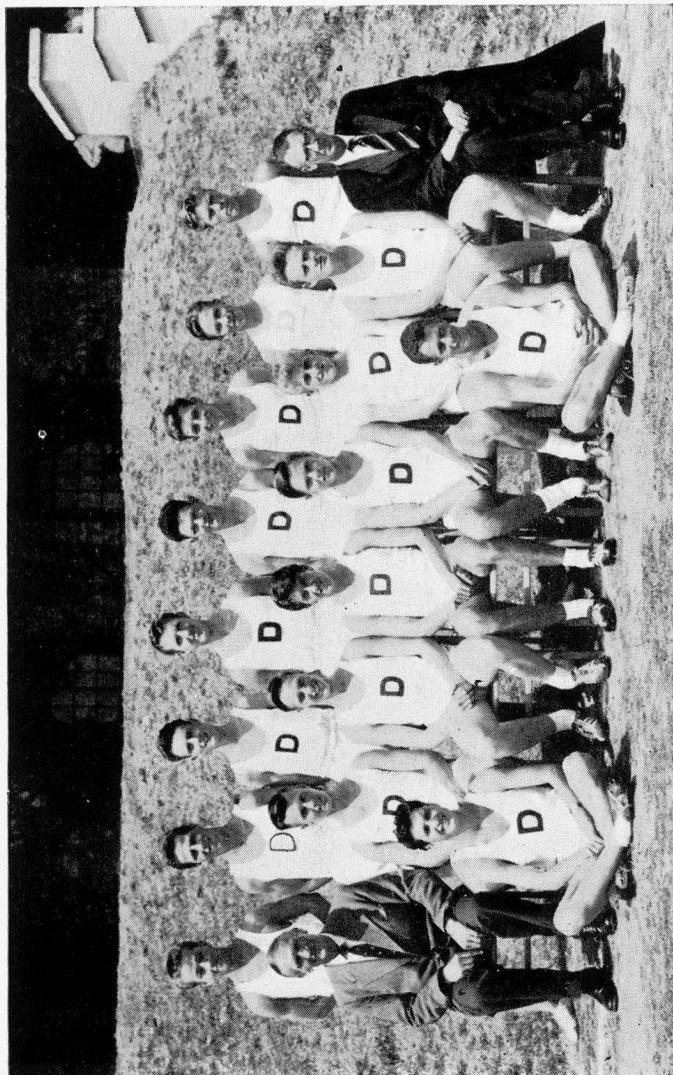
Ryder and Couch represented the school in the Devon under eighteen team, which reached the English Counties final. At the end of last term, we lost F. Cooper, our previous captain, but otherwise the Goodman Cup team, which is very young, remains unchanged. So far this season, the Horley Cup team, which is captained jointly by Bebbington and Cresswell, with Willis as their Secretary, has had a successful start by beating Plympton Grammar, Widey Technical, Sutton High School and St. Boniface College. However, the Goodman Cup team has not fared so well at first. It has beaten Widey Technical, but the matches against Sutton and Public are still in the balance of adjudication.

Once again this year, many first formers seem to be very enthusiastic about this fascinating game, and we hope that some of them will help existing members of the school Chess Club to win some of the prizes in the Christmas Chess Congress.

We are, as ever, indebted to the continued efforts of Mr. Adams and Mr. Berry, and all the school chess players extend their thanks to them.

J. COUCH.

SENIOR ATHLETICS, 1959



Back row (left to right): K. F. Virgo, M. I. Woodward, M. J. Ryder, A. Webber, M. J. Squires, D. Lewis, T. K. Knight, S. R. Vittles
Sitting: Mr. Nash, G. Reyburn, J. W. Axworthy, J. E. Taylor (*Capt.*), A. L. Daw, B. Finmore, J. W. Quick, Dr. J. L. Cresswell (*Headmaster*)
Sitting on ground: G. Andruz, K. A. Lilley

THE STAMP CLUB

The activities of the Stamp Club have proceeded along their usual pattern, although there has been no great increase in support from senior boys.

As usual there have been competitions: one was a collecting competition won by Ford of 3A.

The school stamp album, about which not many boys know anything, has been added to weekly and improvements have been made this term. We should like to thank boys and Old Boys who have presented stamps to the school. New stamps have been added to the album, which now contains many rare and interesting stamps.

The Club intends to arrange a visit to the G.P.O. sorting office in a few weeks' time and we intend to have a Thematic Competition before the end of term.

We should like to see many more members. So all you amateur philatelists roll up.

B. S. KRESSINGER, *Hon. Secretary.*

BADMINTON CLUB

This term has seen an increase in both the enthusiasm and standard of play at this branch of the school's activities. Although we have reached our maximum membership of 20 for this term, we extend a welcome to anyone interested in this sport next term.

We regularly play a first VI against other schools and on occasions have also raised a 2nd VI. Although we have not yet recorded a victory, our experience is increasing steadily.

Funds were raised by organising a dance at half term, which was most profitable both from the financial and social view points. In connection with this function, we sincerely thank Messrs. Coombe and Warren, who helped to make the event the success it was.

Finally, I must thank, on behalf of the Club, Mr. Warn for his unfailing interest and guidance in the Club's affairs.

J. C. CORNWELL, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE PRINTING GROUP

The printing group has continued to play its part in the corporate activities of the School, but we do still need some enthusiastic support from the main school.

The larger display at the Garden Party has resulted in greater calls on our printing facilities and we hope to use any profit in buying sets of material which will make us a little more independent. We continue to be very deeply in Mr. Brimacombe's debt for his kindness in teaching us how to handle print in all its various forms. Fortunately we have new members in the Junior School and we are trying to pass on to them what we have learned.

We should like to thank A. D. Pearson for his able management since we set up our printing scheme and we hope he will be able to devote more time to it after 'A' levels.

A. J. BILLINGS, L6Sc.

THE FIELD CLUB

This term has seen the start of busy Monday evening meetings, at which a splendid team effort is being made in several new fields, each under the guidance of one or more seniors.

One group has undertaken to complete the task of reaching some definite conclusions in the field of gull migration in our area. A survey of the creek is being performed, which includes regular tests of water density, salinity and content, in given areas. Another section are keeping records of bats in the Plymouth area in order to construct a distribution map and to add to the little known store of information on this subject. A similar survey has been started on the habits and distribution of the Little Owl.

The wild fowl counts on the Erme, and the creek gull count, have continued, and this term has shown two noteworthy records. The first was the large number of teal seen at the last count on the Erme, and the second, the appearance of a little auk on the creek on the 18th November, following a series of bad storms. As always we wish to increase the activities of the Field Club, at present to include a small photographic section for which extra support is needed. This applies especially at our meetings, when the various groups get together under the guidance of Mr. Dodd, to whom each and every member is indebted for his help and guidance.

A.D.P.

SCOUT LOG

From strength to strength we progress! From the rather anaemic state in which we were last year we have developed into a troop which ought to make a name for itself in Plymouth scouting.

The large troop is partly due to the many new recruits from the first forms who joined us in September. Interest in badge-work has increased appreciably and, during the summer, J. C. Cornwell, J. Davies and R. Doidge were awarded Queen's Scout badges.

The climax of many week-end camps this year was our summer camp at Guernsey which was the most ambitious since our troop went to Luxemburg in 1954. It is difficult to condense our impressions of Guernsey into a few lines, but it is safe to say that, for everyone, the time passed far too quickly and we found that ten days were not nearly enough to explore this delightful island. The troop would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. E. R. Doidge who, by taking charge of the preparations and by accompanying us, made the camp such a success. We would also like to thank the Rev. Brock and St. Mark's Scout Troop for allowing us to share their camp.

Back at school and with the winter in front of us, the troop is working hard at some of the more theoretical parts of scouting. Some of the seniors are working for Queen's Scout badges and others who have passed this are entering for the new "Duke of Edinburgh Award" scheme.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Venning and to Mr. Lance for their very generous help.

The Parents' Committee invite everyone interested in whist to come to their Whist Drives, which are held on the first Friday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the school.

The troop continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 4.15 p.m., and although we are rapidly reaching our maximum in numbers, we extend a welcome to anyone in the school who would like to join in the game of Scouting.

J. DAVIES.

THE PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT GRAMMAR SCHOOLS' FILM SOCIETY

The Society had a disappointingly small membership again this term. The choice of a varied programme—from the Swedish film *Wild Strawberries* to Laurel and Hardy—has not had the desired effect of increasing the size of the audience. If the Society is to continue next term, the membership will have to be increased. The other films shown this term were the German film, *Kameradschaft*, and the French film, *The Fiends*.

We must thank Mr. Stankley for the time he has spent in helping us, and also Mr. Stuart Keen who has helped to arrange the programme and has made the meetings so enjoyable.

J. A. BEATTIE, Hon. Secretary.

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Correspondence

13 Sunderland Avenue,
Belvedere, Salisbury,
Southern Rhodesia.

14th September, 1959.

Dear Sir,

This letter is, I am afraid, very belated, but Rhodesia is a country of variety and, in trying to see it in as many aspects as possible and establishing new friendships, letter-writing has been forsaken. Holidays also account for a period of negligence in my letter-writing; and perhaps too ample opportunities for playing tennis and swimming, should, in their turn, be blamed for my neglect.

School life differs greatly from that in England. School starts at 8 o'clock in the morning, and finishes at 1 o'clock, except for Wednesday, when we have a further $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the afternoon. On Fridays we have to attend Cadets, a very unpopular arrangement!

The standard of education seems to be lower than that at home, which is understandable when one considers that the system used is that of comprehensive schools. This is borne out by the fact that I was top of my form, an achievement which surprised me more than anyone else.

In less academic circles, standards are much higher. I have in mind sport, in which standards are extremely high. Our own school, Prince Edward School, has produced, and is still producing, top class athletes, cricketers, swimmers, fencers, rugby, tennis, hockey, squash and water-polo players.

Adrian Bey, a tennis player who reached the last sixteen at Wimbledon this year, was Head Boy three years ago. Our school relay team has broken, in practice, the Federation's record for that event, and we have representatives from our school in practically every junior sports team for the Federation. So much for sport! You might also be interested to hear that the school has, in its one term of "winter" sports, 26 rugby teams. . . .

The school has, of course, a swimming pool of its own; but all schools here have their own swimming pools. My mother, an infant-school teacher, says that there is even a swimming pool at her own school. The whole of her school comprises, one acre of land, three classrooms, a changing room . . . and a swimming pool.

Having spent a short holiday in the picturesque (!) eastern highlands of Southern Rhodesia, I have many impressions of this vast country, its variety of scenery and road surfaces, temperatures and peoples, a country where natives live in mud huts when a few miles away there are sixteen-storey blocks of offices.

This is indeed a country of variety but with a future so uncertain, its potential values are also uncertain.

I would just like to finish by telling you of an unusual coincidence. About a month ago, a display was put up of photographs concerning libraries and books. One of the photographs was of the new Plymouth library, and in this photo were several boys from D.H.S. looking at some of the books. It was with mixed feelings that I recognized people like Barry Blight, John Parsons, and others.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN R. THOMPSON.

OXFORD LETTER

Exeter College,
Oxford.

Dear Editor,

In the past it has always seemed to me that a disproportionate number of Oxford letters have dealt with first impressions of Oxford life and the vast differences between existence as a schoolboy and as a university student. However, having added myself to the ranks of the Oxford students as recently as five weeks ago I am forced to the opinion that an account of my feelings and thoughts during my first few weeks in Oxford may well prove of considerable value for those sixth formers who may be coming to Oxford in the near future, in helping to condition them for the hazardous path ahead.

The first thing which must strike any "freshman" is the complete lack of formality and personal contacts to which he has been used at school. Notices, covering the whole range of university life, from tutorials to college teams and sherry parties, appear at random, without warning. No one seems the least bit interested in how many lectures the students attend, or how much practical work they do; and it would be possible to do no work at all, or alternatively to work all the time, without any relaxation. Each student, therefore, has to plan his own life so as to ensure a proper balance between academic studies, sporting activities and society meetings.

This is sometimes far from easy. Students who like playing games, and can manage to get selected for college teams, find every afternoon fully occupied. Added to this are the numerous society meetings, some of which are too impressive to miss, to say nothing of the coffee and crumpets gathering which are an almost daily occurrence. Furthermore, no account of Oxford life would be complete without a mention of the weekly "hops" in the Union Cellars, where I have noticed many a mentally exhausted student "nursed" back to sanity. Amidst all these activities connected with the

university it is necessary to make a conscious effort to keep abreast of events in the "outside world" in order to avoid becoming just another "piece" of Oxford, isolated and uninformed. Hence life is a continual bustle from waking to late at night, and to get into bed before 1 a.m. is a rare luxury.

Nevertheless, after the first few days, when one gets used to existing on six hours sleep or less a day, it soon becomes obvious that the three years at Oxford are going to be some of the best years of one's life, and it is difficult to understand the attitude of students who have failed, or claim to have failed, to enjoy university life.

In this letter I have tried to give an overall picture of what life in Oxford as a university student really means, and I can only hope that all those boys who have the opportunity to do so will strive to make Oxford their ultimate goal. I am confident that they will not be disappointed by what it holds in store for them.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. PARSONS.

D.H.S. Old Boys' Association

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Vice-Presidents :

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Hon. Secretary : B. GILBERT, 16 Melville Terrace, Ford, Plymouth.

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Committee :

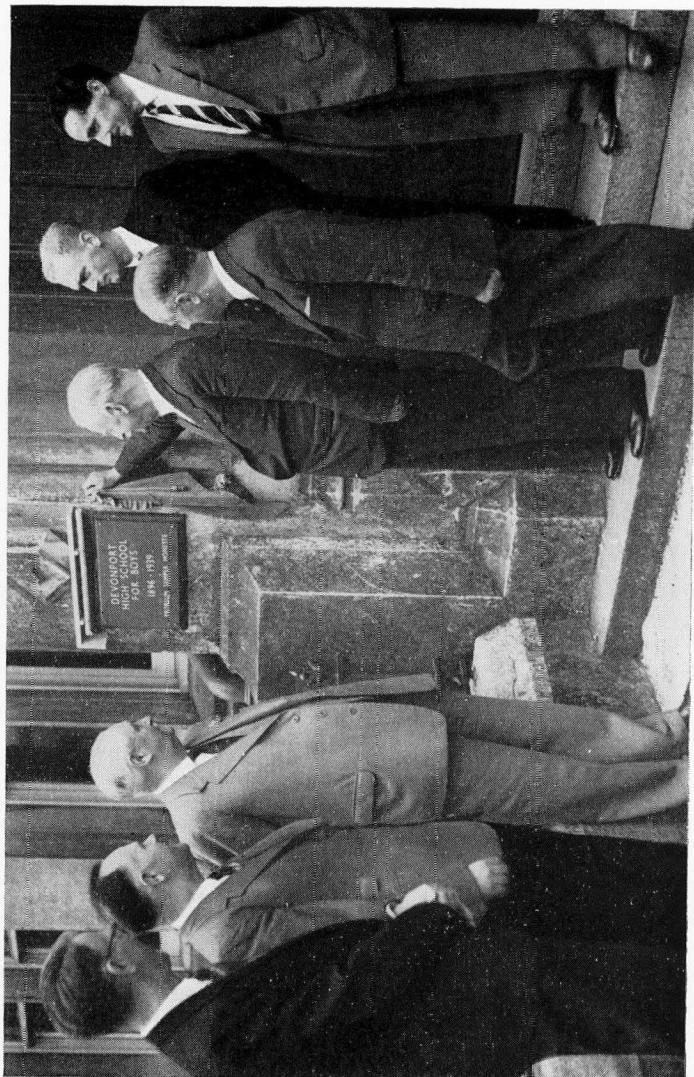
R. G. COLLINS, E. DAMEREELL, C. W. EVANS, D. G. PIKE, J. SOUTHERN
D. STARK, L. M. TAYLOR, E. W. R. WARN.

The evening of July 10th, 1959, was a memorable one for this Association. One of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. H. A. T. Simmonds, unveiled a plaque at Albert Road to commemorate the years during which Devonport High School for Boys occupied the old premises. Our picture records the event, which was well attended by Old Boys, both young and not so young. The ceremony was followed by a sherry party at the Raglan Barracks, where many a memory was brought to light. Everyone present voted the evening a great success, thanks largely to Mesdames Taylor and Warn, who provided the refreshments.

The printing strike prevented us from publicising the event, but a photograph appeared in the *Western Morning News* on August 6th. In our anxiety to record the correct year the school opened at Albert Road, an unfortunate error was made in the final year. This should be 1941—the plaque will be altered at an early date.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT ALBERT ROAD

The Unveiling Ceremony on July 10th, 1959



Left to right: Dr. J. L. Cresswell, D. F. Malloch (*Chairman*), Sir Clifford Tozer, Mr. H. A. T. Simmonds, Alderman L. F. Paul, R. G. Collings (*Committee*), B. Gilbert (*Hon. Secretary*)

Photograph—Western Morning News

Another happy occasion during 1959 was the Speech Day in the new Guildhall, when the guest speaker was an Old Boy of the school—A. W. "Bunny" Pearce. We who were his contemporaries at the School could not but feel proud that "our year" had produced a man who has achieved so much. His address was masterly; it contained good advice for every boy in the school and it is to be hoped that they will remember it. They will certainly remember the speaker—he persuaded the Headmaster and the appropriate authority to revive the pre-war practice of declaring the day following Speech Day as a holiday!

Continuing on a happy note it is pleasant to report that the Old Boys at last managed to finish on level terms in the annual cricket match against the school. A victory also resulted versus the staff—this game proved so enjoyable it is hoped to make it an annual event.

The badminton, rugger and soccer clubs continue to keep the name of the Association alive in local sporting circles and are always ready to welcome new members. A special word of thanks to Mr. H. G. Warren for all the work he does for the Soccer Club and also for supervising our Whist Drives. I would like to thank Mrs. Holman and Messrs. D. M. Baxter, W. L. Broad, G. Cocks, E. C. Dickenson, R. W. Hammick, H. R. Haydon and L. Revell for providing prizes for our November Whist Drive.

BERNARD GILBERT, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE LONDON BRANCH

Chairman : A. T. BROOKS

Hon. Secretary : C. F. AUSTIN, 10 Northfields Road, Acton, W.3.

Hon. Treasurer : K. DRUMMOND, 9 Westways, Ewell, Surrey

Committee :

T. M. BOSSOM, L. S. ADAMS, R. C. HORNE, A. R. PIKE, M. ALLISON

Since we last wrote, the London Old Boys have, like everyone else, benefited from the glorious summer. On June 28th we held another Car Rally at Burnham Beeches and those who came had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Our annual visit to Trent Park gave us, as usual, a day to remember. Thanks again to the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. T. Simmonds, as well as the co-operation of the weather, a wonderful day was had by those sixty or so O.B.'s. who, with their families, were wise enough to come. This year it was on 25th July, and next year the date will almost certainly be 16th July. Any peripatetic O.B.'s. who will be in the London area at that date will be especially welcome.

On December 19th we shall be holding our Christmas Dinner and Social at Ye Olde Cock Tavern, Fleet Street, E.C.4., and if it turns out to be as enjoyable as last year's event those Old Boys

who are lucky enough to get tickets will again have something to remember with pleasure. The entertainment laid on this year should help to make this a very happy occasion.

Our A.G.M. will come in March 1960, and we hope that, as we have found to our delight at previous A.G.M.'s., new but familiar faces will turn up to renew old acquaintances. The exact date will be published in London circulars later in the year.

THE OLD BOYS' SOCCER CLUB

The Old Boys' Soccer Club is once again flourishing. Playing strength is above that of latter years, enabling us to field two teams of all Old Boys.

The 1st XI are having a mixed season. We have only two wins to our credit in the premier division, but have drawn five matches and lost only three. The drawn matches have been against teams well placed in the league table. The 1st XI are still in the Devon Senior Cup, having reached the second round.

The reserve XI, although not in as high a league as we would like, have been playing with confidence and are well placed in the league table. The team had a grand win at Princetown, to reach the second round of the Devon Junior Cup, in atrocious conditions. Unfortunately they met stronger opposition in the following round, and were eliminated.

Thanks are again expressed to Mr. Warren, as Chairman, for his services to the Club.

E. DAMERELL, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE OLD BOYS' RUGGER CLUB

This season so far has not been so successful as anticipated. The team did very well last season and as most of the players are with us again we had hoped to do as well this season. Our record so far is eleven games played, three having been won, three drawn and five lost. We have not been beaten badly and a number of games have been lost owing to stupid mistakes rather than to weakness in the team. Our main drawback is a lack of forwards of any height and weight. The three-quarters are good, but do not get a good share of the ball. We are badly in need of "fresh blood", especially players who have just left school, and we shall be very pleased to see anyone who wishes to join our Club.

J. SOUTHERN, *Hon. Secretary.*

30 Reigate Road, Plymstock.

PERSONAL COLUMN — *News of Old Boys*

By the time you receive this copy of the magazine we shall have held the A.G.M. An appeal will be made at the A.G.M. for you to remember that we cannot continue sending the magazine

to members whose subscriptions have lapsed. I know that many of you get very little of material worth from the O.B.A., but you do gain much that cannot be easily measured: the sense of unity, solidarity and of belonging to a great school with fine traditions. Moreover you do help others.

Don't forget when in London to contact C. F. Austin, Esq. Have you any musical instruments you want to get rid of? School crests are now available, 32/6 each.

We have decided to publish the magazine early January and early September. Ewart Brimacombe as you know has just moved into new premises and to add to this has been visiting hospital regularly for treatment. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Thank you Dr. Pearce for a fine Speech Day.

J. M. WIDDECOMBE, O.B.E. Apologies from Tex and myself for giving you more than the Queen gave you. During World War II he was, at 34 years of age, Senior Armament Supply Officer on the Staff of the C.-in-C. Mediterranean.

M. J. RICH, B.A. (1946-1954). Died after a short illness November 21st.

I. A. COLLINS (1952-58). Died as a result of a motor bicycle accident, December 6th.

R. PERRY (1947-55). Hons. Classics London. Appointed to teach Latin at Latymer Upper.

HARRY PEARN. Chief Planning Engineer B.O.A.C., Chairman of their Committee on methods, costs, wastage, etc.

HAROLD BARRY. One of Chief Secretaries to Shell, is just off on a visit to the U.S.A. Active member of London Branch.

J. H. FRANCIS. Also in the U.S.A. on behalf of the Ministry of Supply. Anyone who has his home address please contact C. F. Austin.

F. CLYNICK (1929-36), M.B., CH.B. Now regularly attending the London Branch. Enjoys life very much and loves to get back from Harley Street to Devon whenever he can.

N. H. DINGLE (1950-57). Elected Vice-President of the Students' Union of Goldsmiths, also Vice-Captain of Soccer.

R. GEORGE (1941-49). Now with English Electric Co., in Bradford, has a daughter. Congratulations.

T. WHITE. Headmaster Church Langton School, Leicestershire. Wishes to be remembered to the Old Boys.

R. J. CROSS (1951-58). Has qualified for Sandwich Course Diploma in Industrial Chemistry at Northampton College.

P. H. KNIGHT (1950-58). Awarded a scholarship via Hawker Aircraft to attend Southampton University.

J. BENNETT (1950-57). Has joined the Pirbright Research Institute as an Assistant Scientific Officer. Hopes to see more of his colleagues in London.

G. J. THOMPSON (1941-48). Now at New College, London, after 6 years in the Executive. Has decided to train as a Congregational Minister. Son born on July 3rd. Congratulations.

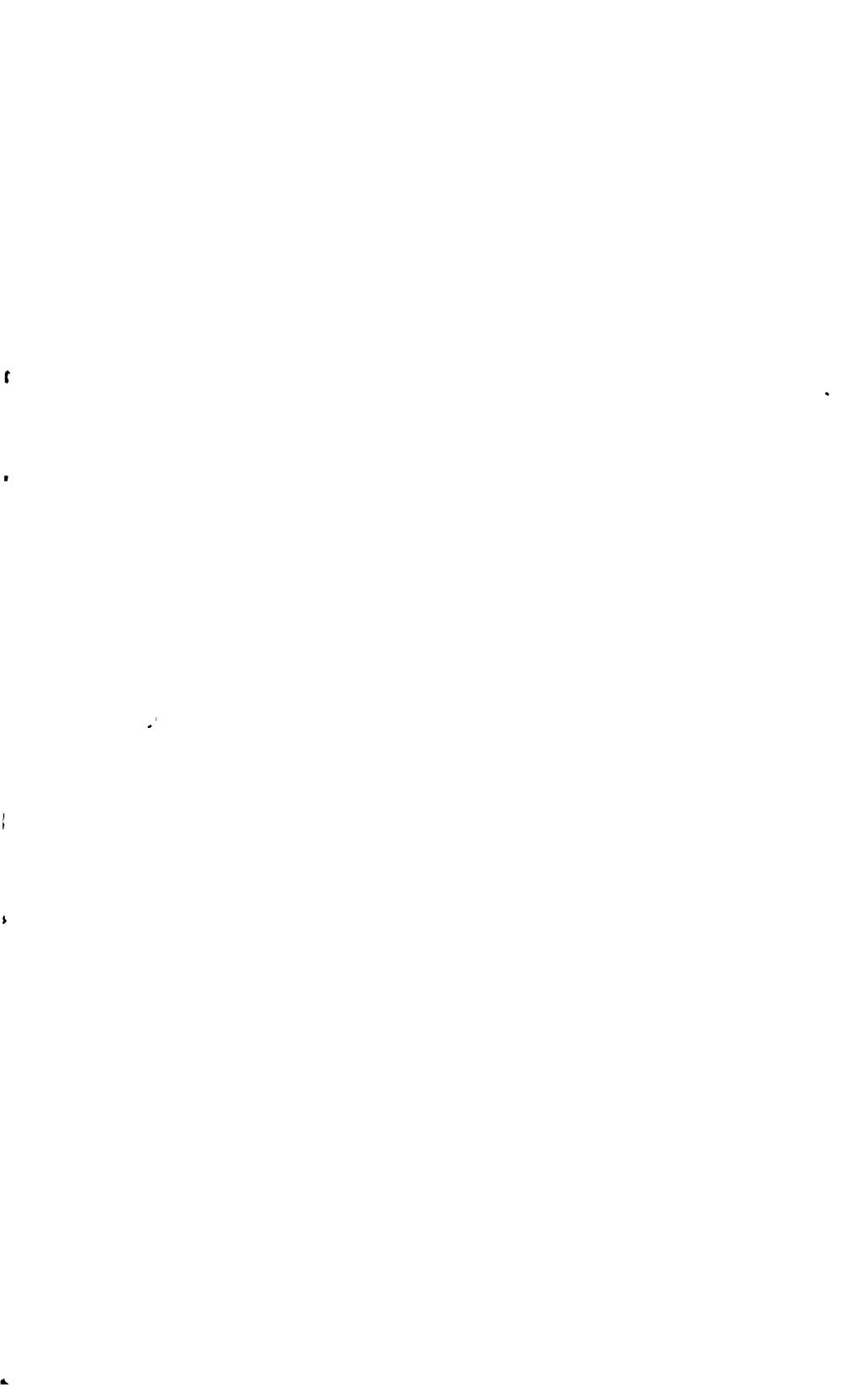
P. N. RAVEN (1951-57). Passed the City and Guilds examination via Ealing Technical College in Hotel and Catering. Hopes to run the Savoy eventually!

J. L. DAVIS (1940-48). Married during the holidays. Congratulations. Hopes to be able to bring his wife to London parties.

N. A. BENNETT (1940-48). At present at Harwell also married during the holidays. Congratulations.

BARRIE CROSS (1949-56). Now teaching English in Paris has suddenly decided he would like to take a French degree. Appears to be thoroughly enjoying himself trying out everything French.

- R. J. DAW** (1950-57). Has just returned from a course in Paris. Sent there by his firm, Parkinson & Cowan. Playing right wing for the works soccer XI.
- L. S. MILLS.** Congratulations on recent appointment to Assistant Secretary to Ministry of Aviation.
- JOHN BADCOCK** (1949-56). Trying to teach English in France too. But he is in Montlucon where temptations are few. Hopes to return to Germany early next year.
- R. C. QUARM** (1934-39). Called in at School with his wife and young son. Is at Lloyds Bank Bournemouth and would be very delighted to meet any O.B.s. in that area. Call and see him if you are ever in Bournemouth.
- P. SOWDEN** (1949-56). Commissioned as Pilot Officer in R.A.F. Has done extremely well. Congratulations.
- A. R. KNOTT** (1950-58). Has joined the Atomic Energy Authority and is thoroughly enjoying himself. Hopes to meet some more O.B.s. at Winfrith.
- ARTHUR WILMOTT** (1945-51). Called in at School and subsequently stood me a very fine dinner at Bristol Aero Co. Came to explain to us the fine openings that exist in guided missiles work. Of course you have to have some ability but initiative is the prime factor.
- EDGE SEMMENS** (1935-42). Sends me another most interesting letter. I shall have to read excerpts at the A.G.M. Has met Mick Annis plus a Rover go, wife and baby. Semmens is now in charge of the academic course at the University of Malaya.
- VIC WALKER** (1950-58). Awarded colours at Camborne. Hopes to visit Canada or South Africa this June as part of his Mining Engineering Course.
- F. K. DUKE** (1927-35). After much wandering is settled in London and has joined the London Branch.
- J. EDWARDS** (1937-42). Back home after a long spell in West Africa has met Tex. He has to return to Africa in the near future but hopes to see some of his old pals before then.
- G. DOWRICK** (1937-45). Congratulations. Has a baby daughter. Has just returned from a year in Canada.
- J. LEWTHWATE** (1950-58). Has met C. G. EVANS (1922-28), M. POTAPOWICZ (1950-56) and BRIAN SHARE (1950-57).
- C. J. PASSMORE** (1926-31), R. PASSMORE (1929-35) have also joined the London Branch.
- MAJ. W. A. CHAPMAN** (1925-31). Would be glad to have news of Old Boys. His address is 12 Upper Gordon Rd., Camberley.
- L. REVELL** (1912-18). Entered the Civil Service as a Boy Clerk is now Senior Executive Officer at Ministry of Pensions, Blackpool. He will be glad to have news of any of his contemporaries. Called in at School and found it very much changed, but fundamentally still the same.
- M. J. STARKS** (1926-32). Responsible for the design of the latest nuclear submarine. Is now resident in Bath and looking forward to calling in at School. Has two sons at School in Bath.
- R. H. SHEPHERD** (1924-30). Commander R.N. Is now on the staff at Devonport Technical College in the Dockyard. Looks very fit indeed. Hopes to join us at Xmas. He should have some stories to tell.
- W. FOSTER** (1950-56). Has left teaching to join the Royal Navy as an instructor.



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