

Mr Fisher

# THE ELIZABETHAN

WESTMINSTER · IN · HEREFORDSHIRE

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## LOST TRADITIONS

All editorials, in that they are written by one person who is possessed of one set of opinions, must be biased in some way or another. This can be no exception, and if a note of envy seems redolent in this article, it is not, on the whole, surprising. No less than two complete generations of Westminsters have now passed who have never set foot in Westminster except in the capacity of a visitor; amongst these this editor must be numbered. We started this school year with such optimistic articles as "The Return and "Four Years in Exile" in the rather pathetic self-delusion that that might be our last issue in Herefordshire. Needless to say, they were inaccurate in their prophecies and premature in their titles.

However, at last the time of reinstation is upon us, and next term the School will find itself back in its lawful abode. Much has already been written

of the advantages that have accrued to Westminster during the last five years; these advantages in many cases are quite real, but behind many arguments must lie a half-conscious attempt at self-justification to past and future Westminsters. And the fact remains that though much abides, yet much is taken; in many ways we certainly are not that strength which once we were. The value of tradition *per se*, though much disputed, must carry some strength behind it; and those which we have tried to transplant to the country are bound to be artificial and a little forced in their spirit. For tradition, the last five years have been decisive; and when life in London is again begun, it will only be those that have survived this rude transplantation that will be reinstated; the weaker plants have withered and must die; and perhaps that is not a bad thing.

Apart, however, from this external inheritance from our predecessors at the School, there is a far more important and all-pervasive spirit that has left us, which we must hope will return when we do, and that is a vitally active absorption with questions of the day. After all, we see little partisan spirit in the School at Herefordshire during the time of a General Election that no doubt will be more far-reaching in its consequences to the Public Schools than ever before. Such a lack of interest, though in itself a small example, is significant of a trend in the School's outlook.

We have, undoubtedly, lost a contact which we must regain; because schools are such self-contained units, they must be insular in their outlook, but Westminster has been forced more upon herself lately than many other Public Schools. It has

been inevitable because of our fortunes and locality, but we must, when we return, re-establish our touch with external affairs and earn again our position as the most universally minded and liberal of the Public Schools. The situation of the School in London cannot but remedy this situation. But it is for the boys that remain to see that it is effected.

We believe that it is merely a matter of time before we will right our mental balance and expand our outlook. We do not wish to create a false impression; the critical and cultural standards of the School are as high as ever, but they have taken an insular turn. Let then the kindly light of Westminster shine upon our School to make us realise that we have a place to fill in the future life of London.

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE MODERN WORLD

Westminster's traditional home in London commands an unique position among the Public Schools for the steady hand it has been able to hold for three hundred years on the pulse of Great Britain. This has had the obvious effect of making the School more politically conscious than any other; since boys who for five years live continually under the shade of the Abbey and Parliament during the most malleable stage of their lives have obviously felt the influences which those buildings, and more particularly the men who work in them, and the ideas that are disseminated from them, so manifestly exercise. But with our removal to a place a hundred and thirty miles away, the influence which that region generated has largely passed away, and so, consequently, has the School's interest in political matters. This is but one inevitable result of our evacuation, and though interest in art and literature has to a certain extent taken its place, there is no point in minimising the consequent loss of vision for boys who have passed all their public schooldays in Herefordshire.

Many of the momentous events that have taken place over the whole world in the last few years we have met more or less unmoved. For all the Home Guard and food rationing, war has seemed very remote. Nevertheless, current journalism has not been completely ignored and it may have been the publication of a popular journalists' pamphlet concerning the Nazi Concentration Camps that has set a mind a train of thought going that perhaps deserves written expression.

Recently we have had to endure in the press a deluge of horrified articles describing German Prison Camps. Though the writers are no doubt sincere in their horror, and behind their appalling

rhetoric, there lies a real missionary ardour, it has all missed its mark; for the imagination of the ordinary man literally boggles. He cannot fully grasp the whole tragedy. No doubt this welter of articles is part of the Government's prevailing policy of instilling into us an artificial and malicious hatred of the German nation. If so, we take liberty to criticise the policy. It would be as well to realise that it is not an impossible gulf that separates us from those camp commandants against which so many journalists are railing.

Westminster has been described elsewhere in this issue as "The most adult of the Public Schools," and hope has been expressed that we should not have lost our "sophistication" during our period of exile. This (if it is true) is a remarkable tribute because Public Schools are not on the whole prone to sophistication. Indeed, for a civilised country, England adopts very primitive methods of education, at a time when our primitive passions are nearest to the surface. The desire to hurt is one of the most prevalent of such passions. No doubt in essence it is part of our inheritance from our forefathers, the monkeys, but with us it can be scientifically educated so as to become a most effective instrument of destruction (*viz.* the concentration camp commanders). What few Public School men realise is that in many cases they have been educated in the rudiments of this applied cruelty up till the time when they were 18. Barbarism at Public Schools may now be largely disappearing, but there are still considerable vestiges left of a cruelty, the teaching of which was all the more diabolical because its pupils can continue after they have left school to express satisfaction at the scholastic system in which they were educated. As a famous

Old Westminster has recently remarked in his autobiography :

" It is often assumed, a little too confidently, by Magistrates and Members of Parliament, that the fact that they were themselves thrashed at school is in some way a vindication of corporal punishment. To their opponents it seems, rather a condemnation, as accounting for a stupidity and insensitiveness otherwise inexplicable. The curious but not infrequent boast, ' Thrashing never did me any harm,' invites the retort, ' then what did ? ' "

The same author condemns thrashing as casting a shadow over a boy's life at school. But this is not the primary reason for the need of its exorcism. Its basic defect lies in the pernicious influence it casts over its executors, causing, as the writer says, " stupidity and insensitiveness." From insensibility to others' pain it is not a far leap to the organised infliction of cruelty which is now being contemplated with amazed incredulity by the British public to-day.

Nobody has succeeded in laying the Public School ghost yet, although Alec Waugh has laid one aspect of it. Its great failing is that it allows older

boys to inflict pain on younger ones when they are both at their most impressionable age. The Public School partisan would no doubt reply that there may seem a number of faults in the system, but the results are satisfactory ; its products have been ruling England for the last century. It is more questionable whether their government has really been conducive to a more refined civilisation. At any rate, it would be argued that Public Schools and Concentration Camps have nothing in common. But I wonder ? The comparatively mild cruelty in which former Public School boys were, and indeed some are to-day, surrounded, leads to a general indifference to the sufferings of the smaller fry. Magnify this apathy, and there you have " The Man of Belsen." I do not say that Tom Brown is in a way to become Kramer. But they both more or less symbolise manifestations of the same basic impulse. Nor do I say that all Public Schools incur this charge. Perhaps the tendency is obsolescent. At all events let Westminster, when it has returned to its place, show that no lingering traces remain of a barbaric and savage abuse of a great prerogative.

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## THE CHALLENGE, 1945

The following boys have been elected to resident Scholarships :

- (1) C. F. KINGDON—The Rev. W. H. Oldaker, Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford.
- (2) D. S. WALKER—Mr. F. G. Turner, Tormore School, Deal.
- (3) J. CAINES—Mr. F. R. Lindsay, Sherborne Preparatory School.
- (4) P. C. PETRIE—Mr. F. G. Turner, Tormore School, Deal.
- (5) D. F. WHITTON—Westminster School and Lincoln School.
- (6) T. G. PHEMISTER—Mr. C. T. Linford, Downsend, Leatherhead.
- (7) J. W. ROXBEE-COX—Messrs. Goldman & Leeds-Harrison, Brunswick, Haywards Heath.

- (8) R. T. ROBINSON—Mr. A. R. Barbour-Simpson, Hillstone School, Marlvern.

The Ellershaw Scholarship has been awarded to :  
N. P. V. BROWN—Mr. G. B. Stafford, Kingshott School, Near Hitchin.

Exhibitions have been awarded to :

- J. F. BRITTEN—Westminster Under School.  
E. S. CHESSER—Mr. A. E. Lynam, Dragon School, Oxford.  
S. J. BARRETT—Westminster Under School.  
H. WARD—Westminster Under School.

An Exhibition of increased value was awarded to :

- R. E. NAGLE—Westminster School and St. John's, Pinner.
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## SCHOOL NOTES

This issue is the last that will appear from Herefordshire. The School is making the move back to London during the Summer holidays, and boys in each house are staying behind after the end of term to help with packing and loading. All correspondence to the Editors next term should be addressed to 18 and 19, Little Dean's Yard.

M. D. Longford, K.S. has been awarded an Open Exhibition to Trinity College, Cambridge, in Modern Languages, and with it the remuneration of a Westminster Exhibition.

The Hon. R. Bruce has been appointed a School Monitor. G. W. P. P. Regendanz is now Prin. Opp.

The Vincent Prize for English Literature has been awarded to G. A. W. Sharrard; the Stebbing Prize to J. P. Watts.

Trials for Senior Orations last term were won by J. N. Murphy in the Senior and S. E. Smith in the Junior.

There was again no School Pancake Greaze this year, but a Greaze at Whitbourne, in which College and Rigauds took part, was won by M. D. Longford, K.S.

A concert by the Westminster and Whitbourne Choral and Orchestral Societies will be given at the Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester, on Saturday, 21st July. Amongst the items performed will be Vaughan Williams' "Benedicite," and Arnold Foster's Piano Concerto.

Farewell Garden Parties will be held at Whitbourne on Saturday, July 7th and at Buckenhill on Tuesday, 17th July.

Mr. Foster organised and conducted a concert on June 23rd at Malvern Girls' School in aid of the Henry Wood Memorial Fund, in which boys from the School took part. Amongst other items performed were Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto and Benjamin Britten's "Ode to Saint Cecilia."

There was a Confirmation Service held at Bromyard Church on Sunday, May 20th, taken by the Bishop of Hereford. Election Service will be held in Whitbourne Church on Sunday, July 29th, at which the preacher will be the Rev. Philip Simpson, O.W., vicar of Hunslet, Leeds.

There was an exeat this term, from June 9th to 12th inclusive, in celebration of Victory in Europe.

On Tuesday, June 26th, Major J. P. Peake, O.W., delivered a lecture to the School on The General Strategy of the War in Europe.

M. S. Graham Dixon, K.S., was awarded the Philimore prize for Latin Prose. The Senior Neale History prize was awarded to R. J. H. Williams, and the Junior to C. C. C. Tickell.

The War Memorial Appeal has been launched. The Editors take this opportunity of commending it to past and present Westminsters alike, with a reminder to the latter of their obligation to assist the School in its present financial straits.

## THE WAR MEMORIAL APPEAL A GREAT EFFORT REQUIRED

The War Memorial Appeal was launched on May 24th, and by now Old Westminsters all over the world should have received their copies.

The progress of the Appeal will be reported to subscribers from time to time, together with details of work carried out and of plans for the future. The fund has started well. There have been generous contributions—a few exceedingly generous contributions—from a number of Old Westminsters and the variety of the sums given, ranging from £1,000 to 4/-, shows that friends of the School from all quarters are subscribing according to their means.

The Appeal makes it clear that the object of the fund is not merely to restore what has been destroyed; that, it is to be hoped, will be done by the War Damage Commission, at all events to the extent of making our ancient buildings habitable again. Not re-building the past, but building the future is the task before us. After five years in the centre of the target, Westminster is returning to the centre of the stage, and anyone who has kept an eye on recent trends in education can see that the School is in a good position to play a leading part in post-war developments.

It is essential that Westminster's own development should not be cramped for lack of money, and unless a strong and concerted effort is made, it will be. In almost every respect the thorough shaking up which the School has had during the war has done it good, but reckoned in sombre terms of *£ s. d.* six years of exile have been a calamity. There can be no harm now in stating that in the autumn of 1940, when things looked at their worst, it was seriously debated whether it would not be better to cut our losses and shut down the School for the duration. In the end it was decided to carry on, whatever the cost, and there is not an Old Westminster living who will not applaud the decision. But applause is not wanted. It is cash that is required, or—equally good—the steady support of covenants or bankers' orders.

For years Westminster has been giving value for money in the things that money cannot buy, and all Old Westminsters, in greater or lesser degree, are the richer for having passed some years of their lives there. The Appeal provides an opportunity for balancing the account.

## WESTMINSTER MUSIC IN WORCESTER

Only those who have experienced it personally can appreciate the disintegrating effect on school life of an "evacuation." That Westminster survived three moves in rapid succession, finally settled down, not in comfort as an entity, but in scattered groups, and yet preserved its corporate activities, is a tribute to the power of a tradition. The organisation of academic life in such circumstances is not easy, though ordinary class work can be carried on somehow under improvised conditions; but the survival of artistic life is a triumph. Westminster has always had reason to be proud of its music, and now it should be doubly so, when it realises that not only has the old standard been maintained but that it has actually been raised under conditions of great difficulty.

The presence of the right man, backed enthusiastically by authority, turned drawbacks into positive assets. Choral singing must continue, though it entails double work in divided rehearsals; very well, here is a chance to solve the perennial problem of the public school choir—invite local sopranos and altos to join in. A divided orchestra, however, is impracticable, but enthusiasm collects a round score of boys to rehearse weekly. A choir and an orchestra mean concerts; Bromyard Church is available for suitable music, but what for secular programmes? Only in Worcester can a hall, and there only of medium size, be found, therefore, let the concerts be held there. At this news, Worcester singers and players express a desire to join in. That means further rehearsals in yet another centre, but the Director of Music is equal to it.

Thus was born the remarkable series of concerts which has been such a feature of war-time Worcester. Towards the end of every term, first in the Perrins Hall of the Royal Grammar School and later in the hall of the Christopher Whitehead School, a large body of performers has gathered. Unfortunately, neither of these halls has proved completely satisfactory. The Perrins Hall, narrow and lofty, possesses unusual and disconcerting resonance. The other hall, wider and lower, has too little, and is not large enough to contain in comfort the sound of a really full orchestra. In addition, the orchestra has to be accommodated on the floor of the hall, while the chorus is enclosed behind a stage proscenium. The problems of balance are acute.

Westminster contributes to the choir almost all the tenors and basses and a handful of unbroken voices. The sopranos and altos, ladies of Whitbourne and Worcester, outnumber the other voices very considerably. The orchestra has a smaller proportion of boys, only the most efficient of those who rehearse weekly being allowed to play in the concerts. The rest of the orchestra is made up of amateurs (more rehearsing!) and a number of professional string, wind and brass players. All these various groups have only one combined rehearsal, on the day of the concert.

Such are the conditions under which the concerts are given. What of the music performed? By looking over the notices of the concerts printed in *THE ELIZABETHAN* from 1941 onwards the impression will be received of very varied and interesting fare, but the full achievement is not realised until one sits down with a pile of programmes and

compiles a catalogue, listed under composers' names. The result is almost unbelievable. It is a pity that it is impossible to print the impressive complete list here, but a rapid survey must be made. Of works for chorus and orchestra, there have been Parts I and II of the Christmas Oratorio and five other Bach Cantatas, Handel's "O Praise the Lord," the Requiems of Mozart and Brahms, and the latter's "Song of Destiny," Dvorak's *Te Deum* and *Stabat Mater*, Moussorsky's "Joshua" and *Defeat of Sennacherib*, the Sadko Suite of Rimsky-Korsakov, Parry's "Pied Piper," Dyson's "Canterbury Pilgrims," Vaughan Williams' *Benedicite* and "In Windsor Forest," and Holst's *Rig-Veda Hymns*; of unaccompanied works, three sixteenth-century motets, Kodaly's "Matra Pictures," and the "Hymn to Saint Cecilia" of Benjamin Britten. The orchestral works have ranged over the normal repertoire—Bach and Handel arrangements; movements of several classical symphonies, numerous Russian, Spanish and French pieces, some Sibelius and Vaughan Williams. Boy soloists have played movements from piano concertos by Mozart, Beethoven and Schumann, and from the Violin Concerto of Beethoven. All this is a remarkable achievement, and the boys and others who have taken part in the performance of such a range of music are fortunate indeed.

At first the concerts were given free, but after a while, in spite of the magic words "in association with C.E.M.A." (a body which has helped considerably by providing solo singers), it was found necessary to charge for admission. It is gratifying and significant to note that Worcester showed its enthusiasm for the music provided by coming in as large numbers as before. Large-scale music making in Worcester since the war has only been possible in the Cathedral, and has not been lacking, so the smaller-scale and enterprising concerts given by Westminster in secular surroundings have filled a gap, and have become such a feature of the city's musical life that the thought of losing them is indeed a sad one.

It is difficult to know by what standards to judge the quality of the performances. The concerts are planned, as all school music should be, for the instruction and enjoyment of the performers, and in the hope that the audience may reap the same benefits. But these are not purely school concerts. Most schools import outside help in some measure, but few, if any, on the scale which has been possible for Westminster in Worcester. The concerts are held at a distance from the school's temporary home, and far from its real one, so the audience is drawn, not by feelings of loyalty to or friendly interest in a famous local foundation, but by real interest in the music and its performance. Perhaps the proper standpoint for the critic to take is that suited to the activities of a flourishing provincial amateur group.

It must be remembered, however, that this body has for its conductor, by the greatest good fortune, a man of wider experience and fame than many provincial choirs and orchestras can obtain. Arnold Foster has been accustomed for many years to the training and conducting of

very various gatherings of musical folk, and Westminster is to be congratulated on possessing a Director of Music of such courage and resource in difficult circumstances, and to be thanked most heartily for allowing the whole district to have so generous a share of his energies.

Conductors are to be judged by their choice of music as well as by their executive ability. The rapid survey given above is an indication of the catholicity of Arnold Foster's taste and of his nice judgment in matters of practicability. If there appears to be a leaning on the orchestral side towards the picturesque and colourful nationalistic music of middle and eastern Europe, that is understandable in one who has spent so much of his energies on the cultivation of English Folk-music. There is no doubt, too, that amateur performers (and audiences) are attracted by the sensuously exciting scoring of such works, and though the strings may at times be pushed beyond the limits of their technique, the wind and the brass in particular must rejoice heartily in their freedom from classical symphonic restraint. (There is also the opportunity for the display of frantic bar-counting by the serried ranks of school percussion-players!).

In the choice of choral music, except for the Bach works, the presence of which is taken for granted nowadays, Bach being for the twentieth-century choralist what Handel was for the nineteenth, the same leaning towards picturesque folkiness is noticeable. There is a limited choice of modern works, and doubtless the conductor would wish to introduce other new works if rehearsal time permitted, but he has shown that with a willing choir it is possible to perform music strange in idiom and complex in texture. The performance of Benjamin Britten's "Hymn to St. Cecilia" was a gallant and successful effort. Surely it was a pity not to repeat it later in the same programme. Vaughan Williams and Holst, obviously congenial to the conductor, and who, however unusual their idiom, have always had a thought for the amateur player and singer, have been well represented, and possibly one of the finest all-round performances ever given at these concerts was that of the Rig-Veda Hymns.

As a conductor, Arnold Foster prepares his choir with great thoroughness, insisting on clear lines, steady tone and audible words. Every moment is spent in essential work, and there is none of that "it will be all right on the night" attitude. At times there is possibly too much earnestness in performance—not from the boys; they sing with an enthusiastic self-abandon which the ladies might emulate, except that their large numbers might upset the already precarious balance! But it is a reliable body of singers, small enough to be flexible and big enough to give a good account, in a small hall, of bigish works. It is obviously devoted to its conductor, and shows no signs of being not one choir but several.

The orchestra has not the same unity. The amateur help remains pretty constant, though it cannot be rehearsed as thoroughly as the various sections of the choir. But the quality of the professional help, particularly wind and brass, varies a great deal from time to time, and to that is mostly due to the occasional uncomfortable moment.

The conductor does marvels in the one combined rehearsal, and he wastes no time. He knows exactly how much he can get out of his players, and they know that they will receive every possible help from him. But the conditions are against perfection, and the orchestral playing has seldom been on a level with the singing. The conductor's sentiments on length of programme are well known; "we've got all these people here, let's give them a good innings"; but fewer items would mean more thorough rehearsals and would make a better concert. The strings would benefit from the more thorough drilling that would be possible. From such serried ranks of violins the quality and quantity of tone is often meagre.

When every drawback is mentioned, and they would all be admitted freely by conductor and performers, there remains that particular quality present in every Westminster concert which overrides objections and carries each event through to the delight of the audience. It is a genuine enthusiasm for the best music, which communicates itself to the listener and encourages him to supply imaginatively from his memory or experience what is unavoidably lacking in the performance.

These public concerts have not been Westminster's only contribution to the music of Worcester. Orchestral programmes have been given to the Alice Ottley School, and to the Christopher Whitehead and Samuel Southall schools under the auspices of the City Education Authority. The two latter events were pioneer work in providing orchestral concerts for children in Worcester, and were highly successful.

Finally, it would not be fitting to omit mention of the enormous amount of work put in by Mrs. Tylor (who has a family connection with Westminster) in acting as liaison officer between the School and the various local forces. Without her backstage organisation the scale of the concerts would have been considerably smaller. She has always found a solution to the pressing war-time problems of the transport, entertainment and above all the feeding of a large number of performers in a magnificent way.

It is sad to think that there is to be only one more Westminster concert in Worcester. The programme should ensure a brilliant leave-taking; Brahms's Academic Festival Overture (an apt choice), Verdi's *Stabat Mater*, and Borodin's third symphony. The School will take away to its ancestral home the best wishes of its Worcester friends, who will feel that the most appropriate thanks they can pay will be to see that the enthusiastic activity which Arnold Foster and Westminster School have stimulated does not die down with their departure. FREDRIC WESTCOTT.

#### CONTEMPORARIES

We acknowledge the receipt of the following contemporaries, and apologize for any inadvertent omissions:—

Academy Scholium (2), Aldenhamian, Ardingly Annals, City of London School Magazine, Christ College Register, El Nopal, Eton College Chronicle (10), Fettesian, Glenalmond Chronicle, Malburian (2), Meteor (Virginia) (2), Mill Hill Magazine, Milton Bulletin, Ousel, Panorama, Penn Charter Magazine (2), Portcullis, Reptonian, St. Edward's School Chronicle, St. Peter's College Magazine, Sedberghian, Shirburnian, Sotoniensis, Stoneyhurst Magazine, Tech Talk, Wykehamist (3).

## ASPECTS AND PROSPECTS

Five years of war have made Westminster more democratic. Not that the top-hat and tail-coat of pre-war days denoted any particular stand-offishness. It just never occurred to anyone that the School could enter into the life of the district around it, and it has taken the war to show us that there are plenty of jobs waiting to be done on our door-step. In farming, in musical activities, and in the Home Guard, the School has made a contribution to the life of Herefordshire, and in doing so has enriched its own.

These war-time pursuits have involved some sacrifice of other interests. At Westminster, as elsewhere, the needs of the time have over-ridden the conventions, and one of the most sacred of pre-war school conventions, namely that certain afternoons of the week are devoted to organised games, was one of the first to go. At Lancing, Exeter and Bromyard there was much that simply had to be done before the School could get going, and in the pioneering days of 1939-40 it was natural and necessary to spend the afternoon in putting up bicycle sheds rather than in playing football. So long as there was a real job of work to be done, games took a back place. It was revolutionary, but (at the time) it was right.

Side by side with this external democratic trend the School has become more democratic internally.

This is partly a reflexion of general war-time informality, but our enforced dress-reforms have also had something to do with it. Clothes rationing, by sweeping away "colours" and butterfly collars, and by putting everyone, new boy and monitor alike, into shorts and open-necked shirts, has obliterated even those modest sartorial class distinctions which pre-war Westminster kept up. For better or worse the scholar and the athlete now have to get along on their own merits with no outward mark to distinguish them, and Westminster, which at the best of times never produced many "bloods," now produces none.

What effect are these war-time changes going to have when we get back? First, it may as well be said bluntly that our problems will not automatically cease the moment we set foot once more inside Deans Yard. They will, on the contrary, begin. A tremendous effort will be needed to put things straight and to get the wheels turning smoothly again—an effort in which past, present and future Westminsters will be called upon to join. But whereas during the war all action has been temporary and tentative, and every improvement that has been made has improved someone else's property, we shall now be able to embark confidently on long-term projects and plan for the future. Westminster must not merely be as good as it was in 1939. It must be better. And here the experience gained in exile is going to prove useful.

The jobs to be done in the City of Westminster may be very different from the war-time jobs at Bromyard, but no one can doubt that there will be plenty of opportunities for the School to do its bit. The pre-war state of affairs in which the School took no interest in its historic and famous city, and the City took no interest in its famous and historic school, was indefensible and was no credit to either party.

Intellectually the School should gain by its return to London. The standard of school work has not suffered from its exile: rather the reverse. But (with music as a notable exception) the routine of country life has left little time for purely intellectual contacts, and the versatility and slightly quicker tempo which comes from living in London and which was a feature of the School before the war have been lacking. No one wants Westminster to produce sophisticated intellectuals, but at the same time it is true that all spit and no polish makes Jack a dull boy.

So far as games are concerned, war-time experience has shown that organised games can be cut down or even cut out without any sacrifice of that team spirit which school masters and school stories used to consider to be their principal merits. Team spirit has been replaced by community spirit—a wider quality which is not necessarily acquired on the playing field. Nevertheless, in the last two years, football, cricket and rowing have come into their own again. Farming is not to everyone's taste, and as soon as the need to produce foodstuffs became less urgent the sporting instinct reasserted itself spontaneously and enthusiastically. It would be a pity if anything were allowed to kill that spontaneity on our return, and it seems possible that the time has come to abandon the old-fashioned rigid conception of organised games—a product of late Victorianism—and to replace it by something more flexible. In particular, the pre-war artificial distinction between "major games"—football, cricket and rowing—and "minor games" no longer holds good. The "minor games"—fives, tennis, squash rackets, fencing (at which Westminster excelled), and so on, were regarded as of secondary importance only, but a game is surely "major" or "minor" in proportion to the amount of fun and exercise which can be got out of it. If some people are better at fives than at football, that is every reason why they should make fives their "major game." They will enjoy it and—an important point at Westminster—they will not take up valuable space on the football field.

However much or little of our war-time experience we choose to carry back with us to London, one thing is certain. The Westminster of September, 1945, will not be the same as the Westminster of July, 1939—not, that is, if we value our tradi-

tions, for Westminster's oldest tradition, never forgotten except for one short and disastrous period in its history, is the ability to adapt itself to the changing world around it. The present generation at the School will have the exciting job of setting the tone and the pace for the post-war era, and of finding an answer to the question "Where do we go from here?" So now, as we start loading the lorries for home, it is as well to decide just what we are going to put into them. For the first and last time in history it may be truly said that what Bromyard thinks to-day Westminster will think to-morrow.

### THE WESTMINSTER TEA

Some 110 Old Westminsters with their guests, parents of Old Westminsters and Masters assembled at the Hyde Park Hotel on Saturday, the 28th April, 1945, to meet the Dean of Westminster, members of the Governing Body, and the Head Master. We were particularly glad to see the Dean after his recent absence in hospital, and Colonel Davson, the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, who presided, asked him if he would say a few words by way of introduction to the Westminster War Memorial Appeal.

The Dean commended the appeal most warmly to all Old Westminsters and friends of Westminster, stressing the need for funds for the reconstruction required, and the happy combination of architects selected for this work, Mr. Russell, the School Architect, and Mr. Worthington, so recently elected an A.R.A. He stressed the greatness of the financial needs, particularly in view of the School's evacuations from London. He stated that Westminster would be transformed, while still leaving it essentially Westminster. He appealed for a substantial number of large contributions, while hoping that everyone would feel it their duty to give something, as only by a large number of small contributions as well could the appeal be deemed successful.

The Head Master was then called upon, and once again congratulated Mr. E. R. B. Graham on the excellence of the arrangements, and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity of meeting Old Westminsters. He particularly welcomed Alcock, back after his exile as a Prisoner of War.

He referred to the School's return to Westminster in September, when, by a process of using Nos. 18 and 19 Dean's Yard for each house in turn, it was hoped to get all the houses put successively into good order.

The Under School had triumphantly vindicated itself as a venture, but he regretted the impending retirement of Mr. Willett, who was responsible for this success. He would be succeeded by Mr. Young in whom he had the utmost confidence.

He again referred to the value of the ELIZABETHAN as a purveyor of Westminster news, and hoped that anyone not receiving it would communicate with the Editors.

The prospective new entrants for September showed that there was no need to worry on the score of numbers, though he set no particular value on that. He did not believe in advertisement, or a long waiting list, but he had great faith in a democratic basis of education and in the future of Westminster.

He deprecated boys who came to Westminster for a short period. They did not get the Westminster stamp, which he thought was so obvious when one met an Old Westminster, almost invariably distinguished by his good manners, his versatility and his loyalty. The good name of Westminster, he said, lies in the hands of Old Westminsters.

He hoped for many more entertainments to follow this, organised once more, as this was, by Mr. E. R. B. Graham.

## RICHARD BUSBY

1695—1945

On April 5th, 250 years ago, Richard Busby died. He had been Head Master of Westminster for 57 years—say, for comparison's sake, from Queen Victoria's first Jubilee to D-day—and during that long period he had raised Westminster to the first rank, if not to the first place, amongst English schools.

If times were normal, the anniversary would call for some fitting commemoration: a service in Abbey or a laudatory oration up School. As things are, we can only pause for a moment in our work of getting the School back to London, and remember with gratitude a great man.

### OLD WESTMINSTERS' LODGE No. 2233

The first annual general meeting of the Benevolent Association of the Old Westminsters' Lodge No. 2233 was held at Freemasons' Hall on 15th March. The Master of the Lodge presided and Bro. R. B. Orange, the Secretary of the Association, reported that a good beginning had been made with enrolling subscribers. The first ballot was taken and the two members who were successful chose the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and the Royal Masonic Hospital as the institutions in which life governorships should be taken out in their names. It was decided that further drawings should be made in June. Afterwards more subscriptions to the association were tendered by members.

At the meeting of the Lodge an initiation was carried out. Several officers of Grand Lodge were present, and the schools which were specially represented included Cheltenham, Haileybury, St. Paul's, Harrow and City of London. After the closing of the Lodge a copy of *Annals of Westminster School*, by John Sargeant, published in 1898, was presented to W. T. de B. Barwell, the Senior Member, who was initiated on March 16th, 1905, and was Master in 1926-27, to mark his membership of the Lodge for forty years.

At the subsequent dinner a copy of the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* and a copy of *Westminster School*, by Lawrence E. Tanner, which had been signed by the author, were presented to Captain Philip M. Shearman, R.A.S.C., with the congratulations of the members on his recent marriage.

All inquiries about the Lodge should be addressed to the Secretary, H. L. Geare, Esq., Grays Inn Chambers, 20, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

### VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

The following have signed their names in the Visitors' Book since last February:

B. W. Treffgarre, H. A. Budgett, M. Wylie, T. C. Hardy, Peter Murray Hill, Michael W. O'Brien, E. W. Lonsdale, M. R. Johnson, L. E. Tanner, A. Devereux, B. D. Naylor, S. V. Watrous, Major C. A. Harvey, Lt. C. I. A. Beak, W. J. Reed, Cuthbert Maughan, Neville D. Sandelson, E. Blanchard Christie, J. D. Grant, H. Thornton Lofthouse, Stewart J. G. Neal, J. R. B. Hodges, F. G. Overbury, J. McForland, E. Remington-Hobbs, E. Rodney Smith, G. G. F. Greig, G. Eastney, B. H. Baker, J. B. Sturdy, C. E. Pickering, R. D. Crawshaw, A. K. Cortauld, R. S. Chalk, L. G. Hunt, P. F. Alcock, J. W. Hopkyns, D. O'R. Dickey, A. F. Sherrard, J. C. Eady, L. B. Tarsley, G. W. P. Fisher, Guy M. Eden, Brian Greenish, Ian McFarlane, P. J. H. Dunn, Henry Willis, R. F. C. O'Brien, Lt.-Col. A. P. Connor, J. P. Willsher, A. R. Edey, R. Willoughby, F. H. R. Fuller, L. R. Caw, C. R. Julian, G. R. H. Schneiders, R. M. O. Havers, R. G. Woodwark, Rev. Dudley Clark, Edward Grace, A. N. Wedgwood Benn, R. L. Bennett.

S. H.



## CRICKET

I would first like to express my great gratitude to all the many O.W.W. who so generously and promptly answered the appeal for cricket gear in last term's ELIZABETHAN. Without their help we would not have been able even to make the attempt at setting cricket on a level with other sports this term. In particular I should like to thank Mr. W. E. Gerrish, Mr. McBride, Mr. R. G. Acton, Mr. E. O. Bartlett, Mr. H. Batten, Brig.-Gen. Wells and Mr. E. R. B. Graham for the help they have rendered. With especial gratitude I remember Mr. Jack Elson, who is a well-known figure to many hundreds of O.W.W. and who, along with his contribution, sent news of his welfare.

Holiday matches have been arranged as follows: on Wednesday, August 1st, against Lancing at Ashtead, Surrey; on Thursday, August 2nd, against Highgate at St. John's School, Leatherhead, Surrey; on Saturday, August 4th against the O.W.W. at Esher, Surrey. Anyone who would like to watch these matches will be very welcome; the grounds are all easily accessible, being quite close to stations on the South Suburban line.

Cricket has flourished this term, in spite of many adverse circumstances. At the end of last term, a cricket pitch was prepared at Whitbourne in a field adjoining the river Teme. The pitch has proved to be quite a good one, and is used regularly three days a week, on Wednesday, on Thursday (Big Game) and on Saturday. Recently a herd of bullocks have been introduced into the field with almost disastrous results, but so far they have only compelled us to shift the position of the net. A little spade work before each game is necessary to remove all traces of them, but during the games, they interfere little. The outfield is a greater problem; it is already several inches high and there is no prospect of its being cut. This means that practically all ground fielding is impossible, and a hard-hit drive along the ground will only yield at best a single. Batting suffers in consequence, but bowlers thrive. At Bromyard, the Grammar School ground is used on Saturdays by Buckenhill, and the two nets put up Buckenhill are regularly used by cricketers in every house in the School. We have also been able to make use of the Bringsty ground.

There are a large number of cricketers in the School now, so large that it has been found possible to play Seniors and Juniors. The standard of play in these games is often low judged by most standards, but there is plenty of enthusiasm and enjoyment. Seniors and juniors were won by King's Scholars, who managed to beat Grants both times in the final.

Lamprobaties are to be played on the Worcester County ground on Friday, July 27th.

Prospects for the 1st XI and for the Colts are indefinite. Though there are many more people playing cricket this year than in the last four years, the level of play, judged by Public School standards is distinctly low. Batting is the chief weakness; this must be attributed largely to lack of any sort of professional coaching, for batting is a skill which needs constant attention to maintain. Low and Law are the best bats of the side. Both have good styles and the makings of useful Public School cricketers, but neither of them can positively be relied on to make runs regularly, and Law particularly, starts shakily. Of the other batsmen, Wall (a new boy), Eccles, Warburg, Somerset and Denniston sometimes make runs, but equally often fail. The bowlers are more hopeful, but we still lack a fast bowler. Murphy, Willsher, Wall and Low bowl medium pace with fair accuracy, while Eccles, Law, Somerset, Tilney Bassett (another new-comer to the School), Warburg and Denniston can take wickets at times, but are apt to be expensive. The fielding, for which Westminster in the past has been renowned is not bad, so far as it is possible to ascertain on the fields on which we play.

Among the Colts there are some cricketers who might prove useful in a year or so with a little coaching. Lummis is a forceful batsman and a fair bowler; Guymer sometimes bowls very well, and is a solid, reliable batsman; D. L. Almond bats with confidence and shows signs of being a good slow bowler as does Davison who is also a smart fielder. Steward and Murray are very useful wicket keepers.

All in all, future prospects for cricket are quite fair. There is a certain amount of talent in the school, which under proper conditions would yield a good 1st XI in a few years' time. For the moment, however, we cannot expect any great success against other sides. But the practice we put in this year may prove of great advantage in the years to come, and so, on a long-term policy, our efforts will prove not to have been wasted.

R. A. D.

### MATCH ACCOUNTS

#### WESTMINSTER v. I.T.C. WORCESTER

Lost by 9 wickets

This was the first match to be played, and the team lacked confidence, particularly in batting. There are several batsmen capable of scoring runs, but this was not the first occasion in which they nearly all threw them away. The bowling showed more promise, G. R. Wall and G. L. Law being especially accurate, and the latter successful. The fielding was on a considerably higher level than during the last few years; there was much more alertness in the fielding and H. L. Murray kept wicket very well indeed. The whole tenor of the match, though we were defeated soundly, was hopeful, and promised a greater degree of success than was anticipated.

**Westminster v. King's School, Worcester**  
**Drawn. King's School 150 for 6 declared; West-**  
**minster 88 for 5.**

Westminster won the toss and sent in their opponents. Willsher got a wicket with his first ball, but after that the King's School batsmen mastered the Westminster bowlers, and succeeded in scoring 150 before tea, which included an admirable innings of 46 runs by Hawkins. Westminster was left with just under an hour and a half to make the runs. There seemed no hope of reaching a decision from the first, and we played out time with five wickets in hand. The batting was on a much better level than in the last match, against bowling that was by no means easy. Eccles and Low both played good innings; it was a pity that when they seemed settled to make a really good score they threw away their wickets. Law also, who played some good strokes, came out before achieving much. Our bowling was steady without really having enough venom behind it to take many wickets. The fielding, though not so good as last time, was on the whole satisfactory. A little more alertness is still required.

**WESTMINSTER v. WORCESTER CITY**

**Result: Drawn. Worcester City 152 for 8 dec.**  
**Westminster 56 for 6.**

Worcester City, fielding a very strong team, won the toss and batted first. The wicket favoured batsmen, and their first pair looked like making a long stand. We got two lucky wickets in an over, however, and after that, though the wickets came slowly, they came fairly steadily. Eccles, Somerset and Law all bowled well, the latter particularly so (3 for 54). We were left with an hour and a half to bat in. Against fairish bowling we did not on the whole shape well; once again wickets were inclined to be hurled away unnecessarily. Though we obtained a draw it was not a "creditable" one.

**WESTMINSTER v. H.M.S. DUKE**

**Drawn: H.M.S. Duke 122. Rain stopped play**

This match, which had already once been postponed owing to the weather, was played in difficult circumstances. There was a continuous drizzle which made the ball slippery, and considerably impeded the fielders. We did well to bowl out what was undoubtedly a strong batting side for 122. It was certainly a slow bowler's wicket, and advantage was taken of it by Denniston (5 for 56) and Law (4 for 42). H.M.S. Duke were all out by 4 p.m., but after tea the drizzle increased in intensity and it was obviously impossible to continue play.

**THE COLTS**

The Colts have played two matches and won both, though so far they have not fielded a full team. The first match, versus a strong "A" XI was won after an exciting finish by 5 runs. The Colts, weakened by the loss of their captain, Law, through illness, batted first and made 90 runs on a wicket which favoured bowlers. The "A" XI score reached 34 for 7 against good bowling, but a stand of 37 between Steward and Bassett put a different complexion on the matter. However, the "A" XI were all out for 85 runs.

The Colts, playing without Lummis, Almond, D. and Almond, F., defeated Bromyard Grammar School 1st XI quite easily by 8 wickets. The Grammar School batted first and were all out for 46 runs, most of their runs coming from a fifth wicket stand of 34. Westminster had no difficulty in knocking off the runs for the loss of 2 wickets.

R. C. L.

**ATHLETICS**

For some years we have been complaining about the field in which we have to do Athletics. This year another effort was made to find a better one, but as before it went unrewarded. Mr. Powell helped us a great deal by harrowing away many of the thistles and mole-hills before the day of the Relays, but even then, though it looked quite good, the course was well on the way to being an obstacle course.

This had two effects on our running. One—it was virtually impossible to achieve any good times because of the ground; and two—it was impossible to train at all minutely. The sprinting this year was not up to the standard of last year. Gayer and Gerrish had left and there was no one really competent to follow them. Brenton and Eichholz however ran quite well by our standards, though there were runners in the longer distances who could sprint as well. Anderson in the under 16 age group was possibly the best sprinter in the school, and in matches he was ably seconded by A. Graham-Dixon.

In the longer distances we did much better in all age groups. This was especially so in the half-mile, which was run well by Edwards, Bradley, Frampton and the two Almonds. What is more, they all did well in other events—Edwards in the high-jump, Bradley in the mile, Frampton in the 440 yards, and the Almonds in the high-jump and mile. Fortunately for the School all these and many other of our competent athletes will be here next year.

In the inter-house events Grants won the Standard Points Cup with ease. College, thanks to their advantage in the open events, won the Relay Cup and the Inter-House Athletics Challenge Cup with almost equal ease. Soon after the opening of the season, Athletics developed into a duel for first place between these two houses, and if College gained the more impressive awards, it was due to the coincidence of age. For, in all cups except the Standard Points Cup, open events are pointed higher than any other age group. Homeburnham as usual suffered from lack of numbers. Busby's though they had some very good individuals, had no one to support them. Rigauds, which has so long figured only in its failure in Athletics, excelled this year in the Under 14½ events, which holds a great deal of promise for the future.

Two new races were introduced this year—½-mile standards for Under 14½, and a half-mile relay for Under 16. The standards were altered to make the mile more difficult, and the long-jump easier; both these changes proved worth while. It was found, however, that we ought also to have changed the half-mile standards to a more difficult minimum. Entrance for individual events

corruption and inflation have been removed, and a full democracy obtains; at any rate there is no doubt that the zone (which extends as far east as Peking) is entirely self-sufficient.

Both the Communists and the Nationalists (under Chiang Kai Shek) are attempting to introduce democracy into their constitutions; and Chiang has endeavoured to bring about a reconciliation between the two parties, but the attempt failed. What may be happening in China at the moment is what may be traced in every revolution. After preliminary bloodshed, the revolutionary party splits into the idealists and those that are prepared to sacrifice principles for efficiency. Finally these two come together and settle down. If some sort of reconciliation can be made between the Communists and Nationalists, if the efficiency of the army is increased, and if China's natural resources were more thoroughly exploited, then China might become (what she certainly is not now) a power of world importance, which would considerably upset present estimations of the balance of world power.

### THE ESSAY SOCIETY

On 18th March R. M. Golding read an essay on "Henry Fielding." The essayist started by claiming for Fielding the position of the founder and also the greatest exponent of the novel in England. Certainly he stood pre-eminent in the eighteenth century; his only possible rival, Richardson, being of altogether less significance, in his style, his manner and his attitude towards life. Smollett is closer in spirit to Fielding, but the former lays all his emphasis on plot, to the detriment of character, while the latter chiefly lives through his characters. Fielding started life by writing plays, mostly imitations of the Restoration Comedy, and of little worth. He was inspired to write his first novel by reading Richardson's *Pamela*. *Joseph Andrews*, *Jonathan Wilde*, *Tom Jones* and *Amelia* are his four novels and contain many memorable characters, the best being undoubtedly *Tom Jones*. It is as a painter, not of human perfection, but of human nature that we know and love Fielding. It was a well-written and competent essay, showing appreciation.

On 25th March M. S. Graham-Dixon read an essay called "The Apotheosis of the Word." This essay dealt individually with a group of writers from Elizabethan England to the present day, who are united in their aim to *suggest* rather than to *state*; who endeavour to delve into their own being and write of emotions unfelt by the majority of humanity in language purged of idiom and convention. Such writers are Donne, Webster, Tourneau, Baudelaire, Poe, Mallarmé, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Proust, Rilke and George. These writers in turn were considered, and their connection in thought and manner was well brought out. The

style of the essay was terse and the thought on a higher intellectual level than most in the last year.

On 13th May G. A. W. Sharrard read an essay on Tolstoy. The biographical material was well presented, and his character was touched on. But there was a noticeable lack of criticism of his writings and of his philosophy, which made the essay incomplete and unbalanced. Tolstoy was famous chiefly for his philosophic writings, of which there is a great abundance, and the theory which he has stated in them is still being put into practice to this day. He stands one of the greatest figures of the nineteenth century, and one of the most remarkable personalities in all history, and certainly one of the most interesting. In view of this, it was felt that much more could have been made of the subject.

On 20th May a General Meeting was held at which the President proposed introducing Buckenhill members to the Society, and holding meetings in future at Buckenhill. After much discussion four members from Buckenhill were chosen.

On the 28th May, in the Head Master's Study at Buckenhill, R. A. Denniston read an essay called "The Christian and the Pagan." The essay was divided into three parts, which were interconnected logically, but at the same time which were complete in themselves. The first, subtitled "The Failure of Christianity" was a criticism of the Christian Church to-day, on the grounds that its demands were too many and too subtle, and its faith was too remote. The second section, "The Lure of Paganism" sought to expound pagan conceptions of the universe and pagan ethics. The last section, "The Triumph of Christianity" first confuted the pagan argument, claiming that for men in tribulation the need for God is overwhelming. Three categories of Christians were described and the way by which they attain faith.

On June 14th, R. M. Sweet-Escott read an essay called "A Sketch Philosophy of Art." First art's origin was considered, and its development out of ritual was clearly described, with especial reference to the metamorphosis of ritual into art in the Dionysia at Athens. Art and ritual were then discussed, and their similarities and differences outlined. The second part of the essay was devoted to the function of art; it has both a moral purpose and a practical value, but though without it, man would be a mere animal, it is not an essential part of his being, and at least one section of humanity "The Practical Man," is out of sympathy with art and artists. The position of artists in the social organism was then discussed, and defence was made against the charge frequently levelled against them of immorality. The essay tended to be diffuse in manner, and not quite coherent in form, but it showed a good grasp over the subject and was well presented.

R. A. D.

## THE HOUSEMASTER

By IAN HAY

Plays about Public Schools seem to resolve themselves into two classes, those that take themselves and the whole system seriously, for example "Young Woodley"; and those that merely look upon the lighter side of Public School life. The former points a moral and seeks to reform; the latter only tries to divert, with an occasional serious justification, to give some solidity to the comedy. Their aims are completely different but in its class "The Housemaster" succeeds admirably. However, both for amateur and professional production, it does present some very large difficulties. The characters are all fairly real people or types, but practically impossible to put onto the stage without losing something of the book or reality. You just cannot put upon the professional stage the illusive atmosphere of a Public School without either over-acting the characteristics of the boys or missing the point altogether. A school production has the inestimable advantage of having the real raw material for the boys which the professional stage cannot hope to gain, but the great defect of no female counterparts. We establish a necessary convention in our realistic plays at school; we accept it and occasionally must accord praise for remarkable performances of female impersonation (for that is what it is); but it is not what the playwright meant and, more often than not, it irks and jars us. But undoubtedly it is a welcome relief not to feel the embarrassment of *ersatz* youth upon the stage.

The producer is responsible for the acting of all the smaller parts and the smaller parts can make or break a play. The anguish we have suffered from a wodge little part we will not dwell upon, but in this production there were no blotches of this description; and we particularly remember Dyer's and Watts's performances as examples of the best type of Public-School-on-the-stage. Petherick was obviously hampered by the narrowness of his stage, though he used its depth to advantage; but we sometimes felt that flower vases in front of faces and occasional

masking could have been avoided. On the whole, however, the production was conscientious and imaginative.

We also liked the unselfconsciousness of Johnstone-Noad's Button (the best of the females), perhaps because of the tomboyishness of the part, and Trebucq's personification of Trebucq dressed up as Marsdon; whether it was Ian Hay's Marsdon didn't seem to matter in the least. Of the masters other than Donkin, we liked Edwards's pedantic if rather stilted Head Master, and Roxbee Cox as Beamish seemed to us to fit the most satisfactorily into his part and give the most enjoyable performance of the evening.

Now for the Housemaster himself. We must not confuse in a school production suitability by temperament for a particular part with real acting. We have seen performances by boys who, from their very natures, suit their parts perfectly and are extravagantly praised, while a real piece of conscientious acting is born to waste its sweetness on a desert audience. From the point of view of benefit to the actual play the former is obviously the best, but the latter in an amateur production surely is most to be praised; others can cast until the desired catch is made, but a school must make its decisions in casting by the power of its acting potentialities. We thought Bannerman's performance by this standard was admirable but by temperament and personality he was not fitted. The novel says that "he habitually boomed at boys." Now Bannerman cannot boom; he has too sensitive a voice. And by his very personality he cannot be Hay's Donkin. But it was a valiant attempt, and what he lost on the natural swings he made up on the acting roundabouts. It was an approximation by endeavour but not the original Housemaster.

To sum up, however, it was a good performance and performed in a spirit in which it was written: vigorous and good-humoured. We left feeling that The Buckenhill Players had finished their series of plays in an apt and satisfactory key.

## GARDEN PARTY AT WHITBOURNE

Nearly two hundred guests accepted invitations to the Farewell Garden Party given at Whitbourne on Saturday, July 7th. The weather was all that could be desired, and the only regret was that an unexpected omnibus strike prevented some people from reaching Whitbourne.

The guests were received on the lawn by the Head Master and Mrs. Christie, and tea, lemonade and ices were brought round. After tea a gymnastics display had been organised, the first part of which took place in the shrubbery on the horizontal and parallel bars; the company then returned to the tennis lawn for performances on the horse and without apparatus. Congratulations are due to R. C. Low, and thanks to Mr. W. F. Monk, for the high standard which the team attained, and for the good work done in preparation.

The Head Master then made a short farewell speech in which he thanked the people of Whitbourne for their unfailing kindness during the School's sojourn there, and expressed the hope that they would not forget to pay us a visit in our own

home. Later in the proceedings Captain Evans, of Whitbourne Hall, returned thanks on behalf of the assembled guests, and regretted the School's impending departure.

The final entertainment was a display of Folk Dancing by members of the School and ladies of Whitbourne. This provided a varied succession of dances, carried out with great skill and enthusiasm. Our sincere thanks are due to Mrs. Arnold Foster for arranging the display and for her untiring work with the class, and to the other ladies whose assistance she obtained with the music and the training.

The garden of Whitbourne Court seems particularly well-suited to entertainments of this kind, and we are very glad to have had an opportunity, now that some of the war-time controls have been lifted, to welcome so many from Whitbourne, Bromyard and Worcester, who have been our friends and helpers during the past five years.

D. C. S.

## A BOOK REVIEW

## "SOUTHEY" BY JACK SIMMONS

Two and a half years ago, the ground was rather cut from under Mr. Simmons' feet, by another eminent O.W. who remarked, "By an odd irony the fourth (and latest) of Westminster Poets Laureate, Robert Southey, was not really a poet at all." Poet Southey certainly was not, if we are going to draw a distinction between poetry and verse. Southey never took wings. His poetry "has no magic," as Mr. Simmons says; "it does not *sing*." The explanation of this is that there was, as Wordsworth pointed out "a little world dependent on Southey." Southey had to support out of his limited and irregular earnings as a political writer, not only his own family complete with a set of impecunious relatives, but his brother-in-law, Coleridge and his family as well. He could not afford the luxury of poetic "inspiration"; he had to fall back on his fatal fluency instead. This may be an explanation of why he did not write better verse; but, as Mr. Simmons has to admit, even if he had been given ideal circumstances for writing poetry, he would never have approached in merit either of his brother Lake Poets. Though, indeed, in his own generation he was esteemed chiefly as a poet, it is as a prose-writer, a historian and letter-writer that we remember him.

In his own life-time, his bitterest enemies could not deny his mastery over English prose. "Byron thought his prose perfect" Hazlitt declared . . . that his style could "scarcely be too much praised." Its great merit is that it is completely unselfconscious. Coleridge has hit the mark when he says "in the very best styles, as Southey's, you read page after page, understanding the author perfectly, without once taking notice of the medium of communication." This faculty, this *ars celare artem*, is the proper ideal of prose writing. It is only fair when we pass judgment on Southey to remember that prose writing has a criterion of values quite apart from poetry, and that judged by this criterion, he would appear very near the top of English prose writers.

About Southey's merits as a writer, we learn chiefly in the last chapter of Mr. Simmons' book. As he says in the preface, "it is with his biography that I am primarily concerned. I hope I have made it clear that I regard him as an important and admirable writer whose work is seriously undervalued to-day. . . . But my main attention has been fixed on his personal life, and his relations with his great contemporaries. . . ." Southey's life, taken by comparison with others of his contemporaries, is uninteresting. Byron, Shelley, Coleridge and Wordsworth were all flourishing at the time, and against the somewhat lurid background of certain of these poets, Southey's life seems a little ordinary. But he was a by no means uninteresting character. His most alarming characteristic, which estranged him from many of his contemporaries and provides a butt too good to be ignored by their biographers to-day, was his self-righteousness; that "biped Rectitude" as Mr. Blunden has called him. Coleridge diagnosed the matter more sympathetically when he said Southey had "too high a state of health" in moral matters. Carlyle, with his tortured style, penetrated Southey's character when he spotted "the methodic virtue" that dominated it. In his own domestic life Southey was a model of virtue and generosity. "There is no nobler portrait in our literature" are the concluding words of Mr. Simmons' book and, when we arrive there, we cannot gainsay him.

In the many political and literary controversies with which his name is associated, Southey always seems too compelled to endure the ridicule of posterity. The famous "Wat Tyler" episode, and the still more notorious feud with Byron, which inspired Byron's biting satire, *A Vision of Judgment*, both brought him to an ignominy such as an ordinarily sensitive writer would perhaps never have got

over. But it was otherwise with Southey. His sublime confidence in his own rectitude was proof against all the assaults of his enemies, for it gave him an unusually thick skin. Nevertheless, it has eternally blotched his character so far as posterity is concerned. The average man to-day turns with equal horror from this apparent priggishness and from the formidable bulk of his work. His consequent neglect, it is Mr. Simmons' avowed intent to dispel.

There remains a brief account of his life at Westminster. He entered the School in 1788 and was expelled, in the true tradition of English poets, in 1792. Westminster during the eighteenth century was a hot-house for culture. Under the gentle and scholarly Vinny Bourne it had fostered the genius of Dryden, Prior, Churchill and Cowper, but towards the end of the century it was beginning to lose its vitality. It was at this point that Eton, Westminster's only possible rival, hitherto, began to draw ahead. William Vincent was Head Master, and he immediately came into enmity with the young Southey. The latter became notorious for his revolutionary opinions, and on the 29th March, 1792, he published in a School paper, called *The Flagellant*, a contemporary of *The Trifler*, an attack on the system of corporal punishment, which he claimed "was utterly inconsistent with the character of a school master"; he ended by proving, in a wild parody of St. Athanasius, that "whosoever floggeth committeth an abomination." For this fine flourish Vincent expelled him.

Southey did not owe much to Westminster in the way of scholarship, nor did the School have much effect on the formation of his character; he was too self-willed for that. But for one thing he was eternally grateful to his old school. Twenty-nine years later he wrote: "scarcely a week passes in which I do not dream of Westminster, so strong a hold have those years on the mind," and this he said in connection with all the friends he had made there. At the School he had struck up many friendships, notably with Wynn, a famous early-nineteenth century statesman, and with Peter Elmsley, Westminster's one great contribution to classical scholarship. Throughout his life Southey made many firm friends; not all the courses of his friendships ran smoothly; Southey was an impatient man, and often his moral rectitude, or should we say narrow-mindedness brought about misunderstandings and estrangements; but in the course of his life, he had among his friends such people as Coleridge, Lamb, Scott, the Wordsworths, Shelley, Carlyle and De Quincey, and many others of lesser repute.

Southey was, as we know, a member of the so-called Lake Poets School. "If my name be found in such company hereafter," he wrote, "it will be enough." He wrote truer than he knew. Nowadays it is only his connection with Wordsworth and Coleridge that keeps his name alive to us at all. In sympathies he was not even allied with them; for most of his life he was a high Tory, and though he appreciated the significance of the "Lyrical Ballads" he was from the first out of sympathy with his fellow-poets' ideals. He was too independent really to become one of a school, and not great enough to stand by himself. In consequence of this and of some disagreeable episodes in his life, caused largely by his own stubbornness, which are practically the only things remembered of him by posterity, he has become one of the most despised and under-valued of English poets. Mr. Simmons' book, written at the same time with sympathy and discrimination, being the first important biography of Southey that we have, constructed with great attention and care out of the mass of his correspondence, gives a clear and just picture of the man and the writer. This book ought, at one and the same stroke, to set up Southey in his rightful place in the history of English literature, and Mr. Simmons as the latest name to be added to "Westminster's contribution to English letters."

## THE UNDER SCHOOL

Last term we were able to play a couple of football matches against the Hall, Hampstead, and although we just lost both of them, they were good games and much enjoyed. It was interesting as well as depressing to see the old weakness of most Westminster forward lines in front of goal displayed by the Under School forwards. Apart from that, the XI showed considerable skill and an improvement that was creditable to their own efforts and to Mr. Young's coaching. In the Play Term of 1943 I used often to wonder if one could ever teach young boys to play football, and I now try to remember this when I am assailed by similar doubts about cricket.

Now to come to this term; we have reached our maximum of fifty and we could easily have been sixty. Entries for next year are numerous and Mr. Young's difficulty will be to keep the numbers down, a more difficult and certainly more unpleasant task than many people would believe. In work we have been cheered by the success of three of our candidates in the Challenge who were awarded Exhibitions. To them the Under School offers its congratulations and good wishes for their future in the Upper School. Another ten are taking the entrance examination on the 20th June, and we hope that most of them will be successful. Fields at present do not permit of a game of cricket, but Elson has made us two tolerable practice wickets and he coaches skilfully and indefatigably like his father, to whom Westminster owes so much. There are one or two promising batsmen, but the weakness of the bowling makes the coaching of the batsmen difficult. The two junior forms still play rounders once a week and all forms are being given instruction in playing Fives. This Mr. Young undertakes. Nor is this all that he does, for he takes the School to the baths, half on Tuesday and half on Thursday, and manages to give them some P.T. on other days. Some of the older boys he also teaches to shoot.

At the end of this term I hand over the Master-ship of the Under School to Mr. Young, pupil, colleague and friend. His untiring help has meant more than I can say to me. But for him my deficiencies would have been more obvious. Without Mrs. Young, too, I do not know how the Under School could have managed. Though I hope that a School does not, like an army, march on its stomach, her catering has contributed much to the welfare of the School. Nor must I forget Mr. Earp, the most patient and best-tempered colleague and friend, a man as I think ideally suited to teaching young boys.

In conclusion I should like to say farewell and thank you, not only to past and present boys of the Under School, but also to the much more numerous

band of past and present Westminsters, by whom, I hope without undue conceit, I like to think I am regarded as a friend. They have made my life a happy one. Whatever other changes I should like to make if I had my life over again, I should still like to serve Westminster with such ability as was granted me.

A. T. WILLETT.

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## AN OXFORD LETTER

Sirs,

As this term is so overawed by the prospect of schools and so many remain in their rooms or on the river pretending to work, except Mr. Barnett who derives more inspiration from the cinema queue, it would be more fitting to depict our versatile band on those celebrations nights of Victory in Europe.

Mr. Murray had organised the O.U. Scout Club, of which he is secretary, in column of route, and was marching them, with the guide section, up and down the Corn. Meanwhile in the High, Mr. Mellor, surrounded by his Oriental friends was striking up light opera—for which he has recently developed a flare. Also in the High was to be found Mr. Pete Davidson with his hair longer than ever and his face which has grown so long in the absence of his twin, occasionally registering a smile.

Mr. Eichholz at Hertford has the dubious honour of being our only cadet and as a holiday from his distasteful militarism was seen dabbling in combined operations on the river. Mr. Brown was not seen on that night by your correspondent—unless he was the man on the Martyrs' Memorial waving a fencing foil and chanting "Onward, Christian Soldiers,"—nor was Mr. Croft seen, who presumably did not consider the occasion warranted his dancing in the streets, unlike the dignified Mr. de Mowbray of Worcester.

There have been several O.W.W. visiting during the term, and amongst those whom we especially welcome were Mr. Robinson, Mr. Priestman and Mr. Rider. Amongst older O.W.W. returning to the University besides Mr. Brown is also Mr. Hayes at the House, and Mr. Mitchell at Trinity. The latter was only discovered by his persistently wearing an O.W. tie—what a pity he does not wear an O.W. at Oxford tie, as do so many, but by none with less justification than

YOUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

## THE MUSIC

On March 23rd last a party of boys from the Court and the Rectory gave a concert in Alfrick Village Hall. Quartet Soc. sang three part songs, and various solos, duets and a trio were played. Each performer before playing, gave a brief description of the piece he was to play, to enable the bulk of the audience who knew little about music to listen with more interest. The performers were afterwards entertained at Professor Barling's house. We have been asked to give another such concert to the Whitbourne Women's Institute on July 10th. Two informal concerts were held at Buckenhill last term, and it is hoped to hold two

more this term, after the Music Competitions. These latter are occupying most of our time this term, together with the end of term concert, which has the longest programme of any we have done before.

As last year, Mrs. Tylor is helping us out by accompanying some of the wind and string solos in the Competitions. I should like to thank her here for all the help and time she has given to aid the music. Without her, many of us would not have had the rich musical experiences which we have enjoyed during the past five years.

R. A. D.

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## CONCERT

**Given by the Westminster and Whitbourne Choral and Orchestral Societies and The Worcester Singers and Players at the Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester, on 17th March, 1945.**

The music of the School ventures far afield and successfully. In 1941 it was my pleasure to judge the House Competitions in Bromyard Parish Church, and now once again I have heard for myself what can be achieved in other directions, the new occasion being an orchestral-choral concert given on 17th March last at the Christopher Whitehead School.

Judging by results, your Director of Music obviously thrives on difficulties. It may well be that his four or five years of peripatetic duties have developed in him no small measure of Aristotelian philosophy, enabling him to tackle seemingly impossible tasks with a logic and assurance that command success. But how he managed to weld that grand March concert together I do not know. Singers and players had been assembled from three or four counties to strengthen the substantial contribution made by the School, in the performance of the music, while the programme itself was as fresh as the lovely spring weather outside the concert hall—which, by the way, has splendid acoustical properties. A programme containing such masterpieces as Bach's Church Cantata "O Light Everlasting," Beethoven's B flat Symphony, Brahms "Song of Destiny," with Korsakov's "Mlada Suite" served up as a kind of syllabus, is indeed one to keep the interest from flagging. A large audience showed much appreciation, as well it might.

The Chorus, drawn from School sources and from Whitbourne and Worcester, sang the Bach, Brahms and the final number of the "Mlada" Suite with excellent tone and attack. Particularly

did I like the Tenors in the Cantata at "Our Darkness Illumine" and the fine assurance of all voices in the wilder moments of the "Song of Destiny." Here too, a musically sensitive timpanist gave a really good account of those pulsing C's which in their context seem vaguely to foreshadow the more measured opening bars of the composer's First Symphony.

The Beethoven Symphony had a virile performance, with much attention to light and shade. Lapses were few. The intonation of the woodwind was noteworthy. Oboes and flutes (from the School, I believe) showed to advantage throughout. But was the otherwise excellent flautist, coming in a bar too soon in that pastoral D major entry in the first movement, dreaming, like myself, of spring birds, wild daffodils, or of the cherry blossom soon to turn Worcestershire into the whiteness of a snowdrift? Or (more prosaically) was he merely juggling with a spot of mental arithmetic that failed to register?

What can be said of the "Mlada" suite? It was certainly played with charm, while the Procession of Nobles therefrom was quite thrilling in its original choral-orchestral dress. But what a hotch-potch the Suite is, ranging, as it does, from Russia *via* Bohemia and Lithuania to remoter India. Colourful, yes; but so often cheap and tawdry, particularly in the Indian Dance which demands a whole battery of percussion instruments to do it the justice it scarcely deserves. And the effects here were not quite within the School's resources in instruments. Never mind. I for one am all against too great a development of the study of the fancy percussion instruments in

schools. Wood-blocks are more suitable to the Tower than to orchestras. Let us leave it to the hot-music and boogie-woogie entertainers to cultivate their talent for agitant paralysis and make sure we do nothing to encourage those who seek

percussively to turn the noble art of music into a plaything for morons.

I was indeed glad to have been present at the concert. The music of Westminster flourishes, that is certain.  
JULIUS HARRISON

## THE MUSIC COMPETITONS

### HOUSE CHOIRS AND CHAMBER MUSIC

The Inter-House Music Competitions took place on Saturday, June 30th. The Vocal Ensemble, House Choirs, and Chamber Music were held in Bromyard Church, and the Individual Events at Buckenhill.

Both adjudicators were present during the morning. Dr. Desmond MacMahon judged first. King's Scholars opened the Vocal Ensemble, the first item of the day, and with their spirited singing of a madrigal by Morley were judged a good first. Dr. MacMahon described both the King's Scholars and Rigauds competitors as experienced madrigalists, and was delighted to have been woken up so vigorously that morning.

The House Choirs came second, also won by King's Scholars; who were not criticised at all as a choir. The adjudicator commended their performance as the only one to remain well in tune throughout Brother James' Air, a simple tune, yet very difficult to sing well; and simply stated that the conductor asked for what he wanted and obtained it. R. A. Denniston was taken as an example to all aspiring conductors how to manage the baton, and was well compared with Sir Thomas Beecham.

The Chamber Music followed, the pieces played being devoted to works by Mozart and Haydn. The slow movement of Mozart's Quintet for Piano and Wind was placed first; it was the most difficult, but allowing a few faults of technique, inevitable, the woodwind playing was accurate and beautiful. A Divertimento, by Haydn (in which is the well-known St. Antoni Chorale, in the second movement), was delightful and was runner-up. Both other works were of high standard, and the flautist in the Mozart Quartet possessed really good qualities, but hardly received adequate support from the string players. Haydn's Trio in C also deserves mention for a sound and pleasing performance. All four pieces were highly thought of.

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The system of marking was the same as that adopted last year. The most striking performance was by Langrish, playing the last movement of Beethoven's Sonata in E $\flat$  opus 110, which won the Senior Piano Solo beyond all doubt. Of some other good performances the most noteworthy were J. A. Davidson's Broken Voice Solo and oboe playing, and Allchin's masterly recorder playing.

The Wind Solo is always interesting and was as

much so, at least, this year, and quite up to standard. It is also most difficult to place in order of merit, as Dr. MacMahon said, especially when a horn—an instrument intended first for orchestral use—tries to play something beyond its powers, and has to be compared with a recorder—an instrument easy to play—that produced a much harder piece and made a much more pleasing effect.

We, indeed, owe much to both adjudicators, Dr. Desmond MacMahon and Mr. A. Vaughan Davies. They had come from Birmingham, where they are connected with Music in Education, early in the morning, and were throughout frank and helpful. It is no slight demand to devote a long day wholly alert to an unknown school. But as soon as Dr. MacMahon spoke, it was obvious that we were in a friendly atmosphere. He did not claim to be a woodwind expert, when criticising the Chamber Music, but said he had to judge on what he knew, the standard of his city's orchestra. His useful remarks did not fail then, though; while, on the other hand, declaring the string performances of lower standard than others (with the exception of S. E. Smith's playing, which stood out), he spared no pains to demonstrate on a violin all the main faults that he saw in the players. So did Mr. Vaughan Davies on the piano, and the latter ended the evening by saying, on behalf of both adjudicators, how much they had enjoyed the whole day, and how sorry they were that Worcester was to lose the school's musical talent. Our thanks go to them for all the trouble they went to that day; we have no doubt that it was well spent.

R. M. S.-E.

The full results of the competitions were as follows:

#### *House Choirs:*

1. K.S.S.; 2. BB.; 3. GG.

#### *Vocal Ensemble:*

1. K.S.S.; 2. RR.; 3. GG.

#### *Senior Piano Solo:*

1. W. H. C. Langrish, A.HH. and H.BB.
2. J. A. Davidson, GG.
3. R. J. H. Williams, K.S.

#### *Senior Piano Duet:*

1. R. A. Denniston and R. J. H. Williams, K.S.S.
2. J. A. Davidson and M. G. Baron, GG.
3. A. Potter and W. H. C. Langrish, A.HH. and H.BB.

#### *Junior Piano Solo:*

1. A. P. Graham-Dixon, K.S.
2. D. F. Whitton, RR.
3. C. J. Lummis, K.S.



*Junior Piano Duet :*

1. A. P. Graham-Dixon and A. M. Allchin, K.SS.
2. E. J. Lees and J. J. Potter, A.HH. and H.BB.
3. D. Davison and A. Clare, GG.

*Unbroken Voice Solo :*

1. E. M. Joseph, BB.
2. C. J. Lummis, K.S.
3. R. R. Davies, GG.

*Broken Voice Solo :*

1. J. A. Davidson, GG.
2. J. S. Potter, BB.
3. R. J. H. Williams, K.S.

*Wind Solo :*

1. J. A. Davidson, GG.
2. A. M. Allchin ; R. M. Sweet-Escott, K.SS.

*String Solo :*

1. S. E. Smith, RR.
2. R. E. Nagle, GG.
3. G. A. W. Sharrard, K.S.

*Original Compositions :*

1. W. H. C. Langrish, A.HH. and H.BB.
2. J. A. Davidson, GG.
3. R. A. Denniston, K.S.

*Chamber Music :*

1. J. A. Davidson, M. S. Graham-Dixon, R. M. Sweet-Escott, R. J. H. Williams and R. A. Denniston

playing the second movement of Mozart's Piano and Wind Quintet.

2. R. M. Golding, J. A. Davidson, M. S. Graham-Dixon, R. M. Sweet-Escott and G. A. W. Sharrard playing a Haydn Divertimento.

*Erskine Music Cup—House Marks :*

1. K.SS.—22.
2. GG.—17.
3. A.HH. and H.BB.—11.
4. BB. and RR—5.

## ART

This term the usual annual competition will not be held owing to press of examinations and the preparation for return to London. I hope that in London a considerably better competition will be held at the end of the Play Term and that a larger number of boys will be able to take part in it. This term, however, there will be a small exhibition of sketches of the School's life and surroundings in Herefordshire.

R. M. B.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## THE ELIZABETHAN

16, Kensington Road,  
Bath.

2nd April, 1945.

To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Sirs,

I want to congratulate you on such an *adult* number of your magazine. As I am a mother of an old boy, perhaps you will not resent this letter. I remember such puerile controversies just before 1939 when the various rowing styles occupied the place of world questions. Probably things are much the same; boyish tastes do not tend to alter. It merely happens that you and your contributors have assembled an exceptional collection of intelligent articles. I always considered Westminster to be the most adult of the Public Schools, not excepting Eton, and it appears that your long sojourn in bucolic climes has not lowered the degree of sophistication.

Yours sincerely,

ASTRAEA STARFORTH.

16th May, 1945.

To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Sirs,

I congratulate you and your generation on raising Westminster from the Slough of Despond, which I gather from the last issue of THE ELIZABETHAN it must have been when I was there—many years ago now, alas! To me one of the most hopeful results of what you curiously call its immigration is the invitation to criticise the School paper.

What a bewildering variety of type sizes and spacing appears in its pages, arranged as it seems, according to no principle except editorial prejudice. Why not obtain an agreed order of precedence and keep print of one size together? Surely all Old Westminster news might be made accessible in one part of the magazine. It appears, by the way, that Mr. E. R. B. Graham is Chairman of the School Games Committee. Does the Head Master know of this new departure?

You are not very happy in your proverbs, Mr. Editor. I do not know the "source" for the goose and the gander,

but I do know the source of "an ill wind that turns none to good," and I submit that you have no right to enclose such a bad misquotation in inverted commas.

Thirdly, the reputation of your magazine is not enhanced by a shocking reproduction of an out-of-date photograph. A paper that is run on such unsound and unjust financial lines as your statement of accounts suggests, should begin by excluding such atrocities, by adopting smaller type and by omitting altogether the agglomerations of figures, letters, abbreviations and unnecessarily doubled consonants, which purports to give the names of visitors to the School.

Finally, give us back our old pink cover.

Yours sincerely,

PLANCUS (O.W., B.C. 42).

Heron's Ghyll,  
Uckfield,

Sussex

1st April, 1945.

To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Sirs,

Please accept an obscure O.W.'s congratulations and thanks for an outstandingly interesting number (March, 1945) of THE ELIZABETHAN. "Westminster Sport in Evacuation," "A New Tradition," "Early Days of Gow," "Terence at Westminster," "School Dress," the historic photograph of the Under School and the report of the Pol. and Lit. Soc. form an ironically crushing introduction to the absurd criticisms quoted on page 393! It is impossible (*expeyto credite*) to maintain a steady level of interest in every number of a periodical; does *Punch* do so? But if you can even occasionally produce a number like this one, such occasions are well worth waiting for. And of late you have done it more than occasionally, though perhaps seldom with such complete success as this time. The earlier articles on Dr. Gow, for instance, will be permanently treasured by a whole generation of O.WW.

Further, your critics might do well to reflect that even if every number of THE ELIZABETHAN were as dull as ditch water, your issues for the last five years or so will be for ever the unique source of information for future study of the most significant period in all the School's existence.

How we should treasure even the most jejune Eliza of Busby's days, had there been such a thing!—and not only for its record of facts, but much more for its unconscious presentation of the mind and manner of life of a bygone Westminster. We cannot have too much of that kind of record.

I am, Sirs, etc.,  
PHILIP H. MALDEN.

### A WEST AFRICAN LETTER

Officers' Mess,  
R.N.B. Kissy,  
Near Freetown,  
Sierra Leone.

24th February, 1945.  
To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.  
Sirs,

Teas, thanks to the Entertainment Committee, seem to have now become part of the Westminster Tradition; so your readers may be interested to hear of an unofficial and not quite so traditional tea held in one of "the outposts of the Empire." Certainly it lacked the customary Hyde Park Hotel atmosphere, but it had attractions of its own, which many war-weary Old Westminsters now in England might have given much to enjoy. For what could be pleasanter than an afternoon of swimming and sun-bathing on a tropical beach? with palms and mango trees in the background, eating one's fill of the delicacies we have missed for six years, coco-nuts, oranges, mangoes and pineapples? In this setting the tea itself, a slightly bizarre and un-English affair of bananas and peanuts, seemed the most natural thing in the world, and was no less delicious. The talk naturally ran on Westminster affairs and reminiscences, and the only pity was that there were no more Old Westminsters to join us.

Your West African Correspondents,  
R. W. YOUNG.  
R. J. P. MACMAHON.

### A LIBEL

Oxford.

30th March, 1945.  
To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.  
Sirs,

I would draw your attention to a slight (some indeed would call it a serious) mistake in the Oxford Letter of your last issue. The sentence: "But you will probably find Mr. Sampson . . . having breakfast at a mysterious resort known as Ma Brown's; unless you call before 10 a.m. when he will be in bed, Mr. Murray . . ." was wrongly punctuated. The semi-colon after Ma Brown's ought to have been a comma, I think; and certainly the comma after "in bed" ought to have been a full stop. I do assure you that Mr. Murray is not in the habit of rising late; Mr. Sampson is the gentleman I wished to describe.

As I have no doubt that the error arose from my own execrable handwriting, I feel it is I who should apologize; not only to yourselves, Sirs, and your readers, but most profusely to the gentlemen concerned in the error. I am therefore,

Your most humble servant,  
YOUR LAST OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

P.S.—I fear that my handwriting is no better now than it was before; so I implore you to study it with great care.

### THE FOUNDATION

6, St. Mark's Square,  
Regent's Park,  
N.W.1.

1st April, 1945.  
To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.  
Sirs,

The Head Master's reference, at the Westminster Tea last January, to a forthcoming 400th anniversary of the

School—as reported in the March issue of THE ELIZABETHAN—prompts me to write to you again on the subject of the age of the Foundation.

The belief—encouraged, no doubt, by the School Prayer—that the School was founded by Queen Elizabeth appears to be growing, and there is a tendency to forget that the origins of the School lie at a much earlier date. The occasion of my earlier letters on this subject was the near approach of what seemed to be the sescentenary of Westminster—in 1939—that date being based on the foundation date of 1339 quoted in *Whitaker's Almanack*, which is presumably not without some authority for its statement. Perhaps one of your readers can say what this authority is. As I pointed out before, the panelling inside the entrance to Ashburnham, bearing as it does the inscriptions "E. III" and "G. V." seems to support the theory of a foundation—or, as seems more likely, a refoundation—in Edward III's reign.

Whereas it is indeed right that all due honour should be paid to the memory of Queen Elizabeth in 1960—or, perhaps better, in 1958, the 400th anniversary of her accession—let us not forget those benefactors who preceded her, amongst them her royal father—who, in 1560, had already been dead for twelve years—and thus credit the School with a less ancient history than it, in fact, possesses.

Yours faithfully,  
SPENCER G. MAURICE.

### MRS. F. N. TYLOR

Whitbourne Hall,  
Near Worcester.

4th June, 1945.  
To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.  
Sirs,

As the period of our four years' music-making in Herefordshire and Worcestershire comes to a close, I personally, and I am sure all those Westminsters who have been privileged to have taken part in this splendid episode in the musical life of the School, would like to place on record our gratitude for all the help we have received from Mrs. Tylor. It would be impossible in a short letter to enumerate all that Mrs. Tylor has done. From the beginning in 1941 her time, energy, influence and splendid organising powers have been freely spent in helping to make possible the concerts given by the Westminster School and Whitbourne Choral and Orchestral Societies and Worcester Singers and Players. It was she who collected and held together especially to help in our concerts, the fine body of keen people who constitute the Worcester Singers and Players. Food arrangements, accommodation, transport, advertising, finance, accompanying: all have been tackled and every war-time difficulty has been overcome. Her interest in the School Music may have been influenced by the fact that two of her uncles were O.W.W., but the continuation of this interest throughout the four years was, I am sure, because she realised that something vitally important in music was being achieved.

We say goodbye to Mrs. Tylor and all our musical friends in Whitbourne, Bromyard, Worcester and Hereford, knowing that none of us will ever forget how much our life down here has benefited by our combined association.

Yours truly,  
ARNOLD FOSTER.

### ASHBURNHAM HOUSE

The Malthouse,  
Beenham,  
Near Reading.

June 14th, 1945.  
To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.  
Sirs,

It has been common for men to wish to live part of their

lives over again. There must be many O.W.W. who would like to re-live the years they spent in Little Dean's Yard. Is it known that for some of us the wish was granted?

I have been one of a score of O.W.W. who, serving in London for a few months of our war-time existence, have belonged to the Churchill Club. An old Ashburnhamite, I have revisited Under, Middle and Upper for meals. A former "Historian," I have sat once more in the Scott Library looking up from my book to the familiar grey walls outside, or seeing John Angel, still busy below, as if we were back in 1925.

To see with older eyes the celebrated staircase, to hear Inigo Jones' work admired in unfamiliar accents, to resume my neglected education in the arts, has been deeply gratifying—it has been like a new moon in the darkness of war.

The School's exile, now happily ending, has thus made possible, not only this spreading of the love of its buildings across the seas, but also the deepening of that love in places where it already existed. This was no small service

to those who had the unexpected chance to receive it. We are grateful.

Yours, etc.,

E. J. RENDLE.

## O.W.W. HOSPITALITY

20th June, 1945

To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN  
Sirs,

Westminster is most generously served by her old boys in the way of helping O.W.W. to keep in touch with one another; the more I meet old boys of other Schools the more I realise that. But there is one small part of this work which I should like to bring to your notice and that is the very warm welcome extended to any O.W. attending the Sunday morning service in Abbey and the equally generous hospitality given one up Grants afterwards. As one O.W. who has enjoyed both, may I say thank you to Mr. Carleton and Mr. and Mrs. Young.

Yours etc.,

O.W. GUNNER IN INDIA.

## OLD WESTMINSTERS

### CRICKET

For the first time since 1939 the School will play the Old Westminsters. The match will take place on Saturday, August 4th, on the Esher Ground, and the Games Secretary, W. E. Gerrish, will be glad to hear from any Old Westminsters who would like to play. Telephone number: Esher 293.

### THE ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

There will be an informal dinner on Friday, 5th October.

Mr. Harold McKenna, the Bow Street magistrate, has been elected Chairman of Berkshire Quarter Sessions.

Mr. G. F. Pitt-Lewis, M.C., has been elected a member of the Council of the Law Society.

The Rev. C. T. H. Dams has been appointed Rector of St. Mary Magdalene, Lincoln.

The Rev. J. F. Ford has been inducted to the incumbency of Seahwaite, near Penrith.

The Rev. J. R. H. Thorold has been appointed an assistant master at Eton.

The Royal Meteorological Society's Buchan Prize for 1945 has been awarded to Mr. E. L. Hawke.

The following Old Westminsters were candidates for Parliament in the General Election:

*Conservative.*—Group Captain the Hon. Maxwell Aitken, D.S.O., D.F.C. (Holborn).

*Liberal.*—Oswald Lewis (Colchester); The Rt. Hon. O. Lyttleton (Aldershot); Sir Philip Magnus (Ludlow); R. F. Harrod (Huddersfield); Captain J. R. Colclough (North Kensington); Major P. J. G. Wright (North East Bethnal Green).

*Liberal National.*—Mr. N. A. Beechman (St. Ives)

*Labour.*—T. C. Skeffington-Lodge (Bedford); Captain F. E. Noel-Baker (Brentford); Major J. H. Freeman (Watford).

The following names of Old Westminsters appear in the Birthday Honours List:

Hon. R. D. Denman, M.P.—Baronet.

Mr. Justice A. G. R. Henderson, Knight.

V. M. Barrington-Ward—C.B.E.

Wing Commander W. B. Frampton, R.A.F.V.R.—O.B.E.

### SERVICE AWARDS

Major G. B. Aris, R.A.—M.C.

Major R. G. Bare, Middlesex Regiment—Croix de Guerre.

Wing Commander J. G. Benson, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R.—D.S.O.

Major A. C. Bird, Royal Ulster Rifles—M.C.

Colonel B. Stewart Horner, Home Guard—O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Knox, Royal Signals—O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. I. Lang, 10th Baluch Regiment—O.B.E.

Major C. A. A. Robertson, Scots Guards—M.B.E.

Major R. C. S. Stanley, C.M.G.—O.B.E.

Squadron Leader D. B. Story, R.A.F.V.R.—M.B.E.

Lieutenant E. F. Wyke-Smith, R.E.—M.C.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

The following casualties have been published since our last issue:

#### KILLED IN ACTION

Captain John Alderson, M.C., Seaforth Highlanders.

Major A. C. Bird, M.C., Royal Ulster Rifles.  
 Lieutenant P. Casper, R.M.  
 Lieutenant D. F. Currier, U.S.N.R.  
 Sergeant P. Long-Hartley, R.A.F.  
 Lieutenant H. M. P. Thomas, The Buffs.

### DIED OF WOUNDS

Captain J. A. Titcomb, U.S. Marines.

### DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Corporal D. S. T. Instone, Intelligence Corps.  
 Sergeant V. R. W. Southworth, R.A.F.V.R.

### MISSING

Flight Lieutenant R. G. Beutell, R.A.F.  
 Pilot Officer G. D. Evers, R.A.F.

### WOUNDED

Lieutenant E. Atkins, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.  
 Major R. G. Bare, Middlesex Regiment.  
 Captain E. R. Bindloss, Rifle Brigade.  
 Major D. F. Cunliffe, M.C., Rifle Brigade.  
 Lieutenant J. A. Gillott, R.A.  
 Major C. A. Harvey, H.L.I.  
 Major H. A. A. Howell, M.B.E., R.A.P.C.  
 Major J. P. Lonnon, R.E.  
 Lieutenant V. J. H. Nichols, Parachute Regiment.  
 Lieutenant R. E. Plummer, R.A.  
 Major R. Wakeford, V.C., Hants Regiment.  
 Lieutenant R. O. Wrigley, Welsh Guards.

### BIRTHS

BENNETT.—On March 11th, 1945, at Abingdon, to Enid, wife of Robin Bennett, a son.  
 BROADIE-GRIFFITH.—On March 15th, 1945, at Maidenhead, to Stella, wife of Flying Officer Raymond Broadie-Griffith, a son.  
 CALVERT.—On July 20th, 1944, at Edinburgh, to Paddy, wife of Paul J. Calvert, a son.  
 COOPER.—On March 27th, 1945, at Stockton-on-Tees, to Angela, wife of Kenneth H. L. Cooper, a son.  
 DANIEL.—On March 28th, 1945, at Oxford, to Sarah, wife of Dr. Peter M. Daniel, a daughter.  
 EVANS.—On December 27th, 1944, at Bradford, to Mary, wife of Dr. Gordon Lavery Evans, a daughter.  
 GARDINER.—On March 13th, 1945, at Heronsgate, to Jane, wife of G. C. I. Gardiner, a son.  
 KIDNER.—On May 26th, 1945, at Hull, to Beryl, wife of Captain R. W. Kidner, R.A., a son.  
 MAY.—On May 28th, 1945, at Londonderry, to Betty Evelyn, wife of John Seaburne May, a son.  
 MUNT.—On April 2nd, 1945, to Barbara, wife of Major H. R. Munt, R.A., a son.  
 RADCLIFFE.—On June 10th, 1945, at Gerrards Cross, to Elaine, wife of Flight Lieutenant C. K. J. Radcliffe, M.E.F., a daughter.

SHEARMAN.—On March 6th, 1945, at Wakefield, to Rachel, wife of Captain Philip Montague Shearman, R.A.S.C., a daughter.

WAGSTAFF.—On May 15th, 1945, at Northampton, to Jane, wife of Lieutenant S. L. Wagstaff, R.N.V.R., a son.

WOOLRYCH.—On April 18th, 1945, at Fulmer Chase, to Muriel, wife of Captain Austin Woolrych, R.T.R., a daughter.

### MARRIAGES

AILESBUURY-LINDSAY.—On February 21st, 1945, the Marquess of Ailesbury, D.S.O., to Mabel Irene, daughter of the late John Samuel Lindsay, of Wrexham.

BALIOL SCOTT-FOSTER.—On February 24th, 1945, at St. Michael's, Highworth, Ursel Baliol Scott to Dorothy, elder daughter of Mrs. Foster and the late Rev. F. Barham Foster of Market Weston, Suffolk.

BARNETT-SMITH-LOUISSON.—On January 20th, 1945, at the church of St. Mary Magdalene, East Sheen, Louis Reginald Barnett-Smith to Esmée Ellen, elder daughter of Mrs. Louisson and the late J. A. Louisson of Christchurch, New Zealand.

CORRIE-TURNER.—On March 15th, 1945, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Major J. A. G. Corrie, M.C., to Barbara Turner.

CRAIES-PARSONS.—On May 5th, 1945, at St. Barnabas, Addison Road, Constantine Craies to Hester Rosamund, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Parsons.

EVANS-HOWARTH.—On December 22nd, 1944, at Westminster Abbey, Captain Darrell M. Evans, R.A.M.C., to Edwina Betty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Howarth, of Maidstone.

FARMAR-CARLISLE.—On March 21st, 1945, at St. James'. Spanish Place, Captain Julian Farmar, R.A., to Daphne, only daughter of Mr. W. J. Carlisle.

HEARD-BENDALL.—On April 26th, 1945, at St. Philip's Church, Earls Court, James Heard to Katherine E. Bendall.

JESSEL-DRUITT.—On June 2nd, 1945, in London, Captain P. A. Jessel, R.F., to Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of Dr. and Mrs. D. C. Druitt, of Petworth.

MORTIMORE-COODE.—On March 5th, 1945, at Holy Trinity, Brompton, Alaric Charles Mortimer (Lieutenant R.N.V.R.), to Pamela, younger daughter of the late Charles Penrose and Mrs. Coode.

RAYNER-RAYMOND-DAVIS.—On May 14th, 1945, at St. Saviour's, Walton Street, Eric George Ewart Rayner to Katherine Anne, widow of Flight Lieutenant C. Raymond Davis, D.F.C., and daughter of the late Sir John A. Hope, Bart., and of the Hon. Lady Hope.

**SUTTON-CROSS.**—On March 17th, 1945, at St. Mark's, South Audley Street, Captain Anthony Bertram de Somerie Sutton and Felicity Leslie, only daughter of Major and Mrs. J. L. Cross.

**TANNER-CURZON.**—On June 9th, 1945, in Westminster Abbey, Lawrence E. Tanner, M.V.O., to Joan Doreen, eldest daughter of the Honble Assheton Nathaniel Curzon and of the late Mrs. Curzon.

**TAYLOR-LATHAM.**—On April 19th, 1945, at All Saints, Ealing Common, Flight Officer Aubrey Francis Taylor, to Sylvia Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Caversham, of Reading.

**WALLIS-WOOLARD.**—On March 20th, 1945, at St. Stephens, South Kensington, Lieutenant Neville Wallace, R.I.A.S.C., to Margaret Rosemary, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Y. Woolard.

**YORKE-HEASMAN.**—On April 30th, 1945, at The King's Chapel of the Savoy, Philip Yorke, to Elsie May, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Heasman, of Brighton.

## OBITUARY

We regret to record the deaths of the following Old Westminsters:

**JOHN ALDERSON** was the only son of J. H. Alderson (O.W.), and was admitted to the School as a King's Scholar in 1928, and played both football and cricket for Westminster. After leaving he was employed with a firm of Lloyd's brokers. In the war he took a commission in the Seaforth Highlanders, and was awarded the Military Cross. He was married and is survived by his wife and infant daughter. At the time of his death he was attached to the Special Service Troops. He was 29.

**ALAN CURTIS BIRD**, son and brother of Old Westminsters, was at the School from 1924 to 1928. In November, 1939, he was gazetted to a commission in the Royal Ulster Rifles, in which he attained the rank of Major, and was awarded the Military Cross. He was killed in action in Germany in April of this year at the age of 35.

**HUBERT CARPENTER BRISTOWE** was born in 1864, and was admitted in 1873. He had five brothers at the School. In 1881 he became a student at St. Thomas's Hospital, taking his M.D. in 1890. He took a practice at Wrington, Somerset, and during the last war was a member of the Bristol Medical War Committee. He married Mary, daughter of Lewis Karslake.

**PETER CASPER** came to Westminster in January, 1937. He took a commission in the Royal

Marines, and served with the Commandos. He was killed in Germany in April at the age of 21.

**HENRY HERBERT CURTEIS** was the eldest son of Canon Curteis, of Lichfield, and came to Westminster from Rugby School in 1887. After taking his degree at Hertford College, Oxford, he was engaged in educational work in various parts of the world. He resided chiefly in France, and died at Cannes on September 2nd, 1944, in his 82nd year.

**FRANK STUART FLEURET** was born in 1885, and entered the School in 1899, where he had a distinguished athletic career, being in the football XI for two seasons, and the cricket XI for three. He matriculated at Trinity College Cambridge, and became a solicitor in 1912. In the last war he held a commission in the East Kent Regiment, and served in India and Mesopotamia. In 1916 he married Katherine Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel C. E. Morgan. He always maintained a keen interest in Westminster, and was appointed solicitor to the School.

**ARTHUR HODGSON**, who died recently at the age of 78 was admitted to the School in 1881, and left after five terms. In 1888 he became a member of the London Stock Exchange, from which he retired in 1937. At the date of his death he was living at Rochester.

**DAVID SIMON THEODORE INSTONE**, the younger of two brothers at Westminster, was admitted in 1933 and left in 1937. He joined the ranks of the Intelligence Corps and was promoted Corporal. He died on active service in Italy in March last at the age of 23.

**PAUL LONG-HARTLEY** entered the School in 1937, and was up Busby's for a short time. He afterwards joined the R.A.F. and became Flight-Sergeant. He was in the Pathfinder Force, when he was reported missing in operations over France in 1944, and his death at the age of 20 must now be presumed.

**ROGER FRANCIS MARKHAM**, who died suddenly on March 4th, aged 78, was at Westminster from 1880 to 1884, and went up to Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1889 he was ordained to a curacy at Whittington, and later became Rector of Aughton, Lancs. He married Alice, daughter of Arthur Birley, of Bournemouth.

**VINCENT REGINALD WOODBURN SOUTHWORTH** entered Westminster in 1939. While at School he was producer of one of the House plays, and when he left in 1942 he was at the Gainsborough Film Studios until he was of age to join the R.A.F. He took part in the raids on Berchtesgaden and on the Skoda Works, and lost his life as the result of a flying accident on May 17th.

HILARY MICHAEL PETER THOMAS, son of Bert Thomas, O.B.E., the artist, was killed on a commando raid from Malta to Tunis, for which he had volunteered, in January, 1943. He was admitted to Westminster in 1930 and afterwards became a designer and illustrator. He received a commission in The Buffs, and at the time of his death was within a few days of his 26th birthday.

JOHN ABBOT TITCOMB, Captain in the U.S. Marines, died on March 1st of wounds received in Luzon. He entered the School in 1925 and in 1929 went on to Dartmouth College, U.S.A. Here, and subsequently at Yale and in Yugo-Slavia, he studied mining engineering and geology, and entered the employ of the Newmont Mining Corporation of New York

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Buck Patt.

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## FLOREAT

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### THE ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

#### SUMMARY OF CASH ACCOUNT—YEAR 1944.

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank 1st January, 1944	..	62 7 3	By Expenses of Tea—13th January, 1944	..	17 11 0
„ Receipts of Tea—13th January, 1944	..	15 10 0	„ Expenses of Tea—29th April, 1944	..	22 19 9
„ Receipts of Tea—29th April, 1944	..	27 17 6	„ Expenses of Tea—16th September, 1944	..	18 15 0
„ Receipts of Tea—16th September, 1944	..	13 8 0	„ Printing and Stationery	..	59 5 9
„ Donations	..	235 16 8	„ Postage and General Expenses	..	34 8 11
		56 15 6	„ Donation to Guards Chapel—Restoration Fund	..	3 3 0
			„ Balance at Bank, 31st December, 1944	..	92 18 8
			(To cover Publication Expenses of Lists and Memoranda in course of preparation.)		
		£354 19 5			£354 19 5

JOHN POYSER, *Hon. Treasurer.*  
E. B. B. GRAHAM, *Hon. Secretary.*

4 and 5, Norfolk Street,  
Strand, London, W.C.2.

29th May, 1945.

Examined and approved,  
A. CLIFFORD FEASEY,  
*Chartered Accountant.*  
Presented at Committee Meeting and passed,  
H. M. DAVSON, *Lieut.-Col.,*  
*Chairman.*

5th June, 1945.