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It is with deep regret that *The Elizabethan* has to record the death of His Majesty King George VI early in the morning on Wednesday, 6th February, 1952.

On Thursday, 7th February, a telegram was sent to Her Majesty, expressing the respectful sympathy of "The Head Master, Masters, King's Scholars, and boys of the Royal Foundation of Westminster School".

The following gracious acknowledgment was received by telegram on 11th February from Buckingham Palace :—

"Will you please convey to the Masters, King's Scholars and boys of Westminster School my sincere thanks for their message of sympathy.

Elizabeth R."

Later a wreath of laurels and pink carnations from the whole School was sent to Windsor. It bore the following inscription :

*A last homage
To our beloved Sovereign
King George VI
From the Scholars who first acclaimed him
King
At his Coronation*

KING GEORGE VI AT WESTMINSTER

HIS FOUR VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

IT was not as King, nor even as Duke of York, that King George VI first visited the school. He was aged twenty-four when he came to Westminster to watch the Grease with King George V and Queen Mary, and a contemporary photograph shows him, a laughing boyish figure, standing beside the Prince of Wales as the winner was brought up to be presented to Their Majesties. Two years later he went up Fields to watch a football match between a team of public school boys and a team of boys from the Welsh coal-fields. The match was a benevolent effort to bring two worlds together, but little good was likely to be achieved by an isolated attempt of this kind, and Prince Albert's practical and sympathetic mind urged something further. The result was the famous Duke of York's Camp, where for fifteen years, up till the war, public school boys and boys from industry gathered each summer and formed friendships which cut across the boundaries of school and factory.

It was in 1937 that the school next came into official contact with King George, when the King's Scholars exercised their ancient claim to greet the Sovereign at his Coronation on behalf of the people of England, and no one who was in the Abbey on that summer morning is likely to forget the great shout of "*Vivat Rex Georgius!*" which rang out as the King entered the Abbey. Little more than six months later, on a clear frosty night in December, the King, accompanied by the Queen, visited the school to attend the Latin Play. It was a memorable scene as they were conducted across Little Dean's Yard by King's Scholars bearing flaming torches, and again as they arrived in College Dormitory when the Captain, in Prologue dress, appeared on the stage and the cry "*Vivat Rex Georgius!*" was heard for the second time that year in the Westminster precincts.

Four years were to pass before the King stood again within the walls of College, and no one in that brilliant company at the Play could have guessed the circumstances of his next visit. On May 11th, 1941, within a few hours of the devastating raid in which the Abbey, the House of

Commons and the school all suffered irreparable loss, the King and Queen came to inspect the damage, and standing amid the still smouldering ruins, talked to the Bursar and others of the fire-fighting garrison who had toiled gallantly but vainly to save the historic buildings in their charge.

The King was often present in the Abbey after the war. Usually he came to attend some important ceremony, and memory pictures him, a grave, dignified figure, in naval uniform or morning dress, being conducted to his seat in the Sanctuary. Once, however, on the Sunday after the victory parade in 1946, King George and most of the members of the Royal family attended Matins as ordinary members of the congregation, occupying the Deanery Pew and the stalls behind it. In May last year, the King came to the Abbey for the last time. It was for the installation of the Knights of the Bath, and, although his illness had plainly already begun, he took his full part in that long and splendid ceremony.

On many of these occasions members of the school were present and when, as sometimes happened, Maundy Thursday fell within the school term the King and Queen chatted informally after the service with the King's Scholars, who were drawn up in the Deanery Courtyard. Some of those to whom he spoke when he came last year must have felt something more than the ordinary ties of loyalty, for it was only a few months before, at the re-opening of College, that he had been examining their books, looking round their bedrooms and inspecting their personal treasures. The re-opening took place before the shadow of illness had fallen on him. He was in a happy, buoyant mood on that sunny June afternoon, and as the formal part of the proceedings melted into the informality of a garden party his spirits seemed to rise and the years seemed to fall away from him, so that looking at his laughing face and slim youthful figure, one could hardly believe that he had paid his first visit to the school more than thirty years before. It is thus that those of us who were privileged to be present will wish to remember him now that the pomp and glory of regality have turned to dust.

THE ROYAL VISITOR



1937

[Photo : The Times]



1950

[Photo : Barratts]

IN the days immediately following the death of His Majesty, the School was privileged to attend several state functions. A brief account of them is given below.

Sunday, 10th February. The whole School was present at Matins in the Abbey. A memorial sermon to His Late Majesty was preached by the Archbishop of York.

Monday, 11th February. Early in the afternoon the School assembled on the pavement by the railings of New Palace Yard, and awaited the arrival of the cortege.

Wednesday and Thursday, 13th and 14th February. During the course of these two days the whole school visited the Lying in State at Westminster Hall. The separate parties waited only a short time for admittance as the School was allowed to make use of the special facilities accorded to members of the Houses of Parliament and the medical profession.

Friday, 15th February. A contingent of the C.C.F. rose early to line the route of the funeral procession at Sussex Gardens. Others were sent to guard the place from which the School was later to watch. At half-past eight the rest of the School assembled in Yard, and moved off by houses. The place allotted, the corner of Parliament Square nearest to Westminster Bridge, was found to be a most advantageous one, commanding a view not only of the files of troops opposite the Palace of Westminster, but also of New Palace Yard, and nearly the full length of Whitehall. At half-past nine, to the tolling of Big Ben and the playing of Chopin's *Funeral March*, the procession moved off very slowly, and the School watched in silence till the last coach turned from sight towards Trafalgar Square.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the School assembled in Yard to keep the two minutes' silence. Later all members of the School attended the Memorial Service to His Late Majesty in the Abbey. Town Boys and masters occupied seats in the Nave. The Queen's Scholars had seats put for them in the Sacramentum.

WARREN HASTINGS

H.R.H. The Princess Royal and the Earl of Harewood have presented to the school a portrait of Warren Hastings. The portrait, which is a replica of the portrait by A. W. Devis, was in the Harewood collection at Harewood House, Leeds, and shows Hastings seated, dressed in a brown coat and an elaborately flowered waistcoat, with his right hand resting on a table which is covered with books. Although the school has a good many relics of Warren Hastings it has not previously possessed a portrait in oils of him, and our thanks are due to Her Royal Highness and to Lord Harewood for their generous gift.

THE Confirmation Service this year was held in Abbey on Saturday, 15th March. It was taken by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Willesden, who is an Old Westminster. There were thirty-six candidates.

AT the end of the Play Term a performance was given by the Busby's Players of *Julius Caesar*. It was produced by Mr. Fisher. The excellent Elizabethan set was designed and constructed under the direction of K. M. Carmichael. Among many talented performances notable were those of S. H. Baynes as Brutus and R. A. C. Norrington as Cassius. The Editors of *The Elizabethan* regret that they have not space to review this interesting production.

A PERFORMANCE this term has also been given of Molière's *Le Malade Imaginaire*. It was played by the boys of Form V.a, under the direction of Dr. Sanger. In a delightful evening's entertainment the performance of J.-P. A. Gross as Argan was conspicuous.

THREE performances of Sheridan's *School for Scandal* were given up School on March 20th, 21st, and 22nd, under the direction of Mr. Lushington. A review will appear in our next issue.

THE GREAZE

THE Greaze was held in the traditional manner up School on Shrove Tuesday, February 26th. The winner was P. G. Jeeves. After it was over the Dean begged a play.

The ceremony was held in private this year owing to the death of the King.

THE POLITICAL and LITERARY SOCIETY

CHURCH AND STATE

IN a very brief and summary fashion the eight speakers who have addressed the Society this term may be divided into two categories—delegates of the Church and representatives of the State. Leading for the Church was undoubtedly the Archbishop of Canterbury; and it was a curiously unorthodox XI that he captained. First there was Mr. Peter Ustinov whose presence in the team may be explained by two of his plays—*The Tragedy Of Good Intentions*, bearing witness to his interest in the Church Universal, and *The Indifferent Shepherd*, showing that he is not insensitive to the problems of the Church Parochial. On second thoughts Mr. Ernest Raymond should perhaps have appeared higher up in the batting order than Mr. Ustinov as his inclusion in the XI is justified on two counts rather than on one; for as well as having written a legion of clerically-flavoured novels Mr. Raymond was many years ago a curate in Hampstead. It is perhaps not altogether easy to see what Mr. John Bowle, the Founder of the Society, has in common with the three speakers who have already been mentioned; and his case is indeed a rather different one from theirs. He is, in point of fact, included in the ecclesiastical ranks not so much for what he is, or for what he has written, but rather for what he said to the Society. In the course of a comprehensive survey of political thought our former Chairman gave a vigorous exposition of the influence which Christianity has wrought upon the world and strongly repudiated the suggestion, recently laid before the Society by an Oxford don, that religion has no place in a modern civilization.

The decision as to who was the principal advocate of the State is a somewhat difficult one to make; for it depends on whether a Cabinet Minister in office is regarded as being more influential and important than a former Prime Minister who is temporarily unemployed. So far as public interest is concerned, however, there can be no doubt at all as to which meeting prevailed over all others. Owing to a certain juxtaposition of circumstances—it is surely unnecessary to be more explicit—Mr. Attlee's visit on March 17th aroused greater anticipation and provoked keener comment than any School Society meeting since before the war. A full report of the Leader of the Opposition's address will appear in our next issue; it is sufficient to state here that even the most reactionary members of the Society were impressed, and perhaps even rendered slightly

uncomfortable, by Mr. Attlee's deep sense of social obligation.

Inevitably this meeting did tend rather to overshadow the visits both of the Minister of Education and of the President of the Board of Trade. Yet it would be unfortunate if these two meetings were forgotten for each in its way was extremely valuable. Possibly the most memorable thing about them was the striking contrast between the personalities of the two speakers. To Miss Horsbrugh politics was obviously an intensely serious business in which there was no room for the frivolously-minded; Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, on the other hand, gave the impression that politics were a huge joke, an excuse for the exercise of his robust laugh. It may well be that confronted, for once, with a youthful audience the President of the Board of Trade did allow his engaging manner to get the better of him and said things which he would immediately repudiate in any serious discussion. But for all that Mr. Thorneycroft's talk was certainly none the worse for being light-hearted; though it came nowhere near Miss Horsbrugh's as a solid piece of work it was some way in advance of hers as a piece of genuine entertainment.

Seven of our speakers have now been accounted for; the eighth presents something of a problem. He clearly cannot find a place among the ecclesiastical delegation, if only because museums are a humanistic invention and humanism is perhaps the most insidious enemy that religion possesses: yet Mr. Gibbs-Smith is not a politician. He is—let it be said softly—a civil servant, though a civil servant with a difference. At the end of the Play Term Mr. Ralph Edwards introduced us to the mysterious and enthralling world of museum curating. On January 29th Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, Secretary to the Advisory Council of the Victoria and Albert, reinforced our curiosity. He did this merely by revealing his personality to us. His talk had nothing to do with museums; it was concerned with photographers and their various vices and failings. Our speaker was such a master of his trade, and of its tricks, that for a few days after his visit we really did believe that all photographers who regarded their profession as an art were in fact "arty idiots".

It is invidious to have to single out one meeting as being the most noteworthy of the term when there is in fact very little to choose between it and the others. On this occasion we are confronted with no such difficulty. The Archbishop

of Canterbury's discourse on Church and State was undoubtedly the most impressive achievement that the Society has witnessed for many years. His principal thesis, laid before us with masterly clarity, was that Disestablishment should not be accepted, or indeed demanded, until all else had failed. Something, however, must obviously be done to remedy the present impossible situation—how impossible it was, could be illustrated by the Revised Prayer Book crisis of 1927-8. What was needed today was a thorough-going readjustment of the relations between Church and State so that the Church might possess every reasonable liberty. In particular the Church wished for satisfaction on four points. First, it wanted up-to-date Canon Law—it was engaged on the task of revising the Canons of 1603 at the moment. Secondly, it required a final Court of Appeal to be constituted which would be compatible with the dignity of a spiritual society, existing for spiritual ends and responsible to God alone. Thirdly, it wanted to be safeguarded

against any abuse of crown patronage, which up till now had worked exceedingly well. And finally, it desired to have some machinery set up for the ordering of its worship—the term “Lawful Authority” in particular was clamouring for definition. There seemed to be no reason to believe that these demands might not in time be met; when, or if, they were, the whole question of the relationship between Church and State would enter on a happier period.

To prophesy what will be remembered and what will not is a perilous proceeding. Yet it seems as certain as anything can be, that when Mr. Ustinov's ebullience, Mr. Thorneycroft's joviality, Miss Horsbrugh's earnestness and Mr. Attlee's sincerity have all been forgotten, there will still remain a strong and vivid recollection of the meeting on March 12th. And it is impossible to know whether we will remember that meeting more for the speaker's ability or for his delightfully warm and human personality.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

IT is always a puzzling task to sum up in so short a space a term's activities of a school society. At the present this task is made larger by the fact that Westminster is witnessing a “golden age” of the societies, in which three separate essay societies, a political and literary society of unprecedented popularity, a debating society and many others all participate. The societies have in fact come to dominate more than any other form of activity the social life of the school; and though it seems probable that some of this activity is unhealthy and bound to provoke an apathetic reaction in the long run, nevertheless the present “boom” is the real focus of interest of a large number of people in the school.

In the midst of this ferment the Debating Society is at present a modest figure, though perhaps a firmer and steadier one than some of its nascent or inflated contemporaries. Meetings are regular rather than frequent, attendances sufficient rather than abundant, the standard of speaking competent rather than distinguished. Yet the society has held a steady course. No debate has been without its interest, and on the whole the established speakers of the year have improved from meeting to meeting. The first motion to be debated this term was “that if everybody minded his own business the world would go round a deal faster than it does”. What should have been a lightly sustained contest for the gayer wit of the society was spoiled by arguments which reminded

less of the rapier than of the club. “That bad laws are the worst form of tyranny” was even less sympathetically dealt with; whereas before the society had been unable to achieve any delicacy of touch, it now showed itself incapable of any kind of serious thought. The result was heavy frivolity which only a most distinguished and appealing speech from the President attempted to redeem. But in the third debate of the term, when J. I. Hyam proposed his pet motion “that this house ought to believe in fairies” the society had a really enjoyable debate. Mr. Norrington spoke with great wit and charm, and yet he overshadowed the similar qualities of Mr. Beale's speech only because his delivery was more dramatic and distinct. Mr. Yeatman and Mr. Speaight warmed the hearts of the President and the Secretary with maiden speeches which promised a bright future.

Meanwhile the Society has won a modest renown in alien territories, when members visited Queen's College, Harley Street, and later Eton. At Queen's College Mr. Ware and Mr. Wordsworth spoke admirably, with a fluency as great as their conviction, one against, one for the motion “that routine is the grave of the soul”. The ladies confined themselves rather unfortunately to the written word, casting a formal and subdued atmosphere upon the debate, which was never really dispelled. The generous entertainment which followed was, however, one of the brightest

social occasions in the annals of the society. At Eton, once more, the debating contingent was provided with excellent refreshments by the kindness of Mr. Gladstone, the Eton chairman. The debate which followed was on the motion "that every profession is a conspiracy against the laity". This spark from the Shavian anvil set alight many imaginations, and the Westminster returned home from what was altogether a most enjoyable evening.

Such have been the achievements of the society this term. If there is one criticism that can be applied more generally than any other, it is that there are too few regular, confident speakers, and too many dumb members who appear time after time at the meetings, without ever rising to their feet. But on the whole the society may look back upon a year's debating in which interest has generally been sustained, and the art of speaking steadily cultivated.

THE WATER

SCHOOLS' HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE

FOR two or three days before March 8th there had been persistent rain, and so it must have been with some considerable relief that the organizers and prospective onlookers saw the sun come out well in time for the race. Westminster's seven crews were hurried down to Putney in coaches. There boats were already setting out for their allotted waiting positions somewhere above St. Paul's Boathouse, and both the hard and the road were filling rapidly with spectators, coaches and reporters from leading newspapers.

This sixth Schools' Head of the River Race was marked by a record entry of 53 crews of which, besides those from Westminster, six were from St. Paul's, three from Eton, two each from Winchester, Bryanston and St. Edward's; and one from King's School, Canterbury. When it is remembered that this race, first organized by Westminster in 1946, was rowed in that year by no more than 14 crews, some idea may be gained of the speed with which it has become a major event in school rowing. There was also a noticeable increase in the number of boats entering the Colts Division, instituted last year as a third division exclusively for crews whose members are under sixteen years of age.

The course from boathouse to boathouse, is about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length, and can be divided into three reaches. The longest of these is the middle one, from Harrods to Ranelagh, and it was here that in spite of a strong headwind there was reasonably good water. At the start, however, conditions were much better, and with the help of efficient marshalling and an elaborate system of maroons, flags and stake-boats everything went smoothly. A very good standard of rowing was shown

on the whole, especially amongst the first few crews, and in spite of the headwind in Crabtree reach fast times were recorded. The results showed Bryanston 'A' the winners of the best-boat division with a time of 7.52; Emmanuel, who were faster than several best-boats, top of the clinker division; and St. Paul's Colts victorious over Westminster, the previous year's winners, in the Colts division.

This year was in many ways disappointing for Westminster; for more than one crew had shown quite considerable promise. The 1st VIII, which had been subject to slight changes through illness, kept its place and would perhaps have gone up if it had been able to show a little more racing form. The 2nd VIII, too, another potentially capable crew, was unable to achieve sufficient pace: the headwind proved an insuperable obstacle to it, and it dropped several places. With the performance of the 3rd VIII, however, Westminster's position improved. A steady row, followed by a hard final spurt kept it its place amongst a number of heavier crews. Colts 'A' lost the cup to St. Paul's Colts, who overtook them but managed to keep their place. The 4th VIII did well to remain 14th, and the 5th VIII and Colts 'B' found themselves together at 20th place.

Once again, however, Mr. Fisher's industry was responsible for an enjoyable and eminently well-organized afternoon. Not only was the administration in connection with the race itself of the highest order; but with the help of Mrs. Brock at the tea-table and many other assistants elsewhere he made it an occasion to be remembered as pleasantly by the spectators as for those who actually took part.

FOOTBALL

A RATHER DISAPPOINTING SEASON

THE 1st XI, with a very full fixture list of over twenty matches, can hardly be said to have enjoyed a very successful season, but there is no doubt that once the team became settled—unfortunately this was not until the beginning of the Lent Term—they immediately started to show more promise, played better together, and achieved some quite satisfying results.

In judging the standard of a school team, we ought really to consider only the matches which it has played against other schools, for it is with a view to these matches in particular that the team is coached and trained. In school matches this year our results were a little disappointing. We started with a pleasing win against Aldenham, but next week unexpectedly went down 2-0 to Lancing on our own ground. The forward line was the main weakness throughout both terms, and it was a long time before the attack was seen to be co-operating satisfactorily. The position of centre-forward, which, if adequately filled, might have transformed the team into something much better, was not decided until after most of the school matches were over; Gray, who eventually won his place in the 1st XI as the leader of the attack, is still young, but, although at present a trifle clumsy, should be very useful in days to come.

Hornsby had a good season and set an excellent example, being the pivot of many fine movements; his combination with Davies on the left wing was frequently dangerous to our opponents. The shooting of all the forwards was potentially good, but in far too many matches they wasted their chances by dribbling too far, or hesitating for a second too long, which often makes all the difference between victory and defeat. Crook, at right-half, has an astonishingly fine shot on occasions and we remember especially his efforts against Winchester and Eton; though somewhat off his form in the earlier half of the season, he improved immensely towards the end. Jeeves played steadily throughout the season and his best game was against Victoria College, Jersey, when he coped most adequately with an elusive and fast-moving centre-forward. Griffiths was the best "find" of the year; originally a goalkeeper, he filled the vacancy at right-half with some distinction. Though the full-backs were frequently being changed, and

substituted for—in fact Morley-Jacob must have played in very nearly every position on the field, always with the same untiring enthusiasm—nevertheless they began to combine and cover well in the last few games.

The 2nd XI had a poor season on paper, for they only won two matches. However, they usually managed to give the 1st XI a good game, even beating them on one or two occasions. They did well to beat Aldenham and draw with Highgate. It was useful to have a pink playing in goal; Henry usually played soundly, while T. J. Davies filled that position in the 1st XI with amazing agility and determination.

The Colts never looked a very good team, but played well in the Play Term and were unlucky not to draw with Charterhouse. Blume should become a useful left-wing when he is a little faster. Their first match of the year, which resulted in a 16-1 win, helped their goal average considerably.

The Junior Colts contained one or two promising individuals, and some were moved up into the Colts club during the Lent Term, which left the team much weakened. However, they played better against Eton and won a close game.

As usual we could rely on the under fourteen club to obtain some good scores and they did not disappoint us. Like the Junior Colts they were apt to slacken off during the Lent Term.

On the whole we may say that this has been a tolerable if not an outstanding season. Next year if the 1st XI can find its feet at an earlier date we may be justified in expecting to avenge the defeats we have suffered at the hands of Charterhouse and Lancing.

RESULTS OF SCHOOL MATCHES

The results of school matches played since the last issue of *The Elizabethan* have been as follows:

- 1st XI v. Elizabeth College, Guernsey. Lost 2-4.
- „ v. Victoria College, Jersey. Lost 2-4.
- „ v. Winchester. Drawn 1-1.
- „ v. Eton. Won 3-1.

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Since the last issue of *The Elizabethan* the following University awards have been made

Westminster Election to Exhibitions at Trinity College, Cambridge :—

J. B. Hay, Q.S. (History) with Open Minor Scholarship.

R. J. Watts-Tobin, Q.S. (Science) with Open Minor Scholarship.

E. K. V. Redfern, Q.S. (Mathematics).

OPEN AWARDS

T. M. Robinson, Q.S. (History) Demyship at Magdalen College, Oxford.

A. H. Hyde, Q.S. (Science) Scholarship at St. John's College, Oxford.

A. R. M. Freeman, Q.S., Nuffield Medical Scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford.



BRINGSTY RELAY

ON the fine afternoon of March 14th the Bringsty Relay was run on Wimbledon Common. At first Busby's took the lead, while Grant's and the Queen's Scholars competed for second place. The fine running of C. J. H. Davies, however, put Grant's in front, and C. R. Hayes who was their last runner increased their lead to about 300 yards. This was the fifth consecutive occasion on which Grant's have won this race. Busby's came in second. On the last lap, I. L. Hunt Q.S. was strongly challenged by D. G. Crook of Rigaud's for third place, but running hard he managed to increase his lead. Wren's came fifth, and Ashburnham, who recovered well from an unfortunate start, came last.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April 30th. Election Term begins.

May 3rd. Westminster Tennis v. O.W.W., up Fields.

„ 13th. Boyde Neale Concert, up School.

„ 17th. 1st XI v. Stowe, up Fields.

„ 22nd. 1st VIII v. City of London, at Putney.

„ 24th. Westminster Tennis v. R.M.A. Sandhurst, up Fields.

„ 27th. 1st XI v. Radley, up Fields.

„ 28th. 1st VIII v. Tiffin's, at Putney.

„ 30th.-31st. 1st XI v. Sherborne, at Sherborne.

June 4th. 1st VIII v. St. Paul's, at Putney. Music Competitions, up School.

„ 6th. C.C.F. Inspection. *Exeat* begins.

„ 9th. *Exeat* ends.

„ 11th. Authors v. Publishers match, up Fields.

„ 12th. 1st XI v. M.C.C., up Fields.

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THE ESSAY SOCIETY

THE School Essay Society has been gradually and unobtrusively revived during the last term from the state of inert insignificance into which it had previously sunk. This decline was due to various causes: the over-enthusiastic activities of past secretaries, who pushed it to extremes which it could not be expected to maintain; the more seductive claims of rival institutions like the Debating Society and the Political and Literary Society; and a mysterious and widespread reluctance to write essays which seems to have been a principal symptom of Westminster's post-war *malaise*. A letter in this issue bears witness to the readiness which evacuated Westminster showed in this respect; the return from the country seems to have brought with it a reaction from spontaneous literary activity. For membership of the Essay Society holds out few of the allurements that other societies can offer. One has not the chance, as in the Debating Society, of ridiculing one's friends (and enemies) in an atmosphere of carefree *badinage*; nor has one the privilege, as in the Political and Literary Society, of sitting back while supremely distinguished people reveal the nature of the particular worlds of which they have become the masters. On the contrary, the effort has to come from the members, while the tenor of the proceedings has to be one of earnestness, even of gravity. And yet there are few people who do not enjoy reading their own essays to others who are more or less obliged to listen, and there are some, even, who feel that this enjoyment is worth the trouble of writing the essay. It is upon some such foundation as this that the popular appeal of the Essay Society is based.

Three meetings have so far been held during this revival. As was perhaps fitting, the Secretary, I. L. Hunt, showed that he was prepared to perform some slight task himself in opening the proceedings. He held forth at some length on a subject that had obviously been for some time a thorn in the consciousness of the assembled members, and also of the essayist—"Modern Existentialist Philosophies." The Secretary fully realized that, as far as this subject was concerned, he was merely one ignorant person seeking to enlighten others, but by adopting a somewhat original technique, answering questions rather than reading from script, and by keeping closely to that excellent, if enigmatic guide, "Existentialist Philosophies" by Emmanuel Mounier, he contrived to present in an illuminating way the main

characteristics of this contemporary trend in European philosophy. The meeting was, as inaugural meetings go, a success, for a keen interest and concentration was displayed by the Society as a whole.

The next occasion on which the Society met, was to hear J. W. Madge, on a subject even more abstruse, "Zen Buddhism." The essay was, as an exposition, clear and well-balanced, though a nervous quickness of reading made it at times a little difficult to follow. The thesis was challenging; Zen Buddhism is essentially a practical doctrine, and one which brings those who realize its aims a complete harmony with nature and existence. That this bold synopsis held the interest of its hearers was shown by the many and incredulous questions which were afterwards asked. The meeting was concluded by the reading of the entries for the Gumbleton English Verse Prize, an occasion which is always interesting, and which has become traditional in the Society. Mr. Wordsworth, Mr. Davies, and Mr. Hyam all awoke admiration in the hearts of their listeners, and the Society owes them its gratitude.

Finally the Society was privileged to hear Mr. Wordsworth and Mr. Hyam once more, but this time in the guise of humorists—Mr. Wordsworth as a satirist, Mr. Hyam as a teller of fables. The former read a brief, witty, enjoyable piece on "G. A. Henty—perhaps the greatest of Old Westminsterers," which drew smiles, cynical yet amused, from its audience. This was, however, no preparation for Mr. Hyam's composition, which revealed itself as an essay in creating mass hysteria. "Letzen Smugra" certainly sounded obscure by his name alone; but in Mr. Hyam's description he sounded incredible. To make a success of such an enterprise as reading a fictitious account of the life of a spurious Mongolian superman, is difficult, and it was felt by some people that Mr. Hyam's effort was not as convincing or as amusing as it might have been. But that the Society was for a considerable time in paroxysms is indubitable, and the meeting was, in a bizarre way, something of a success.

Such have been the Societies activities to date; they have at least proved that there are people in the School who can write essays and enjoy listening to them. Many more essays have been promised; some may yet be written; and it may reasonably be hoped that the society will enjoy a thriving future.

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CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

If there is a tendency in the school to imagine that life in evacuation "must of necessity have been a monotonous life", it seems to me a very sad reflection on the present state of mind of the school. It presupposes, for instance, that it must be dull to create one's own interests and entertainments, instead of having them made for one, and that life in the country must necessarily be monotonous in a way that town life is not.

I should like to put in a much more definite negative to this suggestion than either of your previous correspondents. Life in the country, though sometimes difficult, was never monotonous. For one thing the continuous improvisation at Whitbourne or Buckenhill—we had to make everything for ourselves, from form rooms and kitchen gardens, to music and literary criticisms—prevented any suggestion of dullness.

It is true that societies like the Political and Literary Society suffered on account of the lack of outside speakers, but on the other hand, societies which depended on the work of members of the school, such as the Essay Society, were the occasion of an interest and of original work of a quality that I do not remember in Westminster after the war. And the musical activities during those years flourished as they have not been able to do since.

Furthermore, I wonder whether the orderly life in Dean's Yard provides the variety of experience which the country offered us. Who now at school folk dances weekly with the village guide mistress? Who now gets up at four o'clock in June to watch the sun rise, or, in the words of a much loved figure of those years "pursues the cult of the Muses in a disused stable?"

No one could deny that the school suffered materially during the war, but I for one certainly would deny that it suffered any spiritual loss. It is true that there was a fall in athletic and academic standards, but what we lost in technique we made up for in enthusiasm and enjoyment. War time experience, materially devastating as it was, was for the school itself spiritually invigorating, sifting what was valuable in its traditions from what was not; for those who like myself rejoiced in improvisation and a life out of doors, gave thanks for the lack of organized games, and were glad to make their own musical and literary activities, the years at Whitbourne and Buckenhill were great years.

Yours sincerely,

A. M. ALLCHIN (K.S. 1943-48).

Christ Church, Oxford.

SIRS,

A letter, dated March 5th, 1919, has recently come to light, in which a small boy at that time in the Fourth Form describes to his mother his impressions of the Pancake Greaze the day before. In view of the recent Greaze, the following relevant extracts may be of interest—the more so as the occasion was presumably the first visit to the School of our late King (as Prince Albert).

"... Yesterday the King came to see the Pancake Greaze (sic). The Queen, Prince of Wales, Prince Albert and several people in waiting also came. We formed a guard of honour, but by the King's most gracious

request, the Inspection was held up School. Then the greazers formed up. Cobbold had been elected from the Fourth. John Angel then appeared with the pancake. It was only about the size of a dinner-plate, and was in a small frying-pan. He took aim, and tossed it miles over the bar, as if he were bowling a cricket-ball. There was a most terrific greeze. It looked like a gigantic sea-anemone, with legs waving to and fro like tentacles. Little Moonan got it (the pancake), but Munro grabbed a little piece out of it. Half the fellows were greazing on Munro and half on Little Moonan. Munro's arm was bust, though this is denied by Murphy and a few others. Then Jimmy ordered them to cease fire, and one by one they picked themselves up. The Masters were then presented to the King, then the four School Monitors, then the Captains of Footer, Cricket, Racquets and Water. Then Little Moonan was presented, with the pancake. We then cheered the King, Queen and Prince of Wales. Then the King went to Jimmy's house, and looked over it. When he came out, we cheered him, and I got a very good view of everybody, especially Prince Albert. Then we ran after the carriages, cheering as we went . . ."

Perhaps the above will evoke memories from others who were present at the most memorable Greaze in the School's history! It may be noted that "Jimmy" was a Fourth-Former's irreverent title for his great Head Master, Dr. James Gow. Also, that "Little" Moonan was so styled not on account of his small stature (though he was in fact by far the youngest participant in that Greaze), but because he was the younger of two brothers at that time in College.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD S. CHALK.

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WESTMINSTER SKI-ING COURSE

For the third year in succession Dr. Sanger took a party from school to Wengen in the Bernese Oberland. The snow conditions were poor for the first few days and the slopes showed patches of grass and rocks with ice in between. Conditions improved with intermittent snowfalls sufficient to provide a good surface which was soon scraped off on the popular runs. However, good snow arrived in time to give some excellent ski-ing.

The party was divided into beginners and those who had ski-ed the previous year. The beginners started on the nursery slopes under a Swiss instructor. Putting the skis on the wrong feet, sliding out of control, kicking the man ahead, sitting down suddenly, being unable to get up when down—these are some of their early trials. Suffice it to say that they soon graduated to the higher slopes and, gaining confidence, were able to put up a creditable performance in their combined slalom and downhill race at the end of the course. This was won by A. P. H. Goodier with T. J. G. Francis second and E. Raw third. Considerable promise was also shown by R. T. Fowler-Farkas and J. R. Maybank.

The more experienced group were able to carry out a varied programme. Packet lunches were taken on most

days and they were eaten basking in the sun on the summit of the Lauberhorn, on the terrace at Kleine Scheidegg, at the Männlichen, or in the overheated station restaurant at Grindelwald. The various Grindelwald runs with their good snow, length and novelty are worth repeating but the most exhilarating, difficult, and rewarding time was that spent on the Lauberhorn itself, whether on the ski-lift going up or on the actual runs down. D. M. Renshaw showed the greatest promise although B. R. Green and T. E. V. Pearce were very nearly up to his standard. Renshaw completed the Standard Course in under eight minutes in slow snow conditions—a good time for one of his experience.

The party was able to watch the Twenty-second International Lauberhorn races. The Slalom, Downhill Race, and Giant Slalom provided a preview of some of the Olympic hopes of three continents. As well as this there were exhibitions of ski-jumping, skating, ice-hockey, and curling. Lugeing also provided a popular evening pastime.

A rough Channel all too quickly re-introduced the party to an English winter that they had been privileged to leave for fourteen days of mountain air.



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OLD WESTMINSTERS

Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland's *Coinage in Roman Imperial Policy*, 31 B.C.-A.D.68 has been published by Methuen.

Professor J. R. Squire has been appointed one of the Scientific Advisers for Civil Defence, Midland Region.

Mr. Reginald Hackforth, F.B.A., has retired from the Laurence Professorship of Ancient Philosophy at Cambridge on reaching the age limit.

Mr. K. J. S. Brookman represented Cambridge against Oxford in the Discus and Javelin in the Freshmen's match.

Mr. Peter Ustinov's play *The Moment of Truth* has been produced at the Adelphi Theatre.

The Reverend J. D. F. Anido has returned from the diocese of Quebec and accepted the rectory of Harbledown, Kent.

Mr. T. J. Lee-Warner was ordained deacon and the Reverend C. J. Lees-Smith priest at the Advent Ordination at Durham.

Mr. R. E. Plummer, Mr. D. A. Trehearne, and Mr. W. R. van Straubenzee have passed the Law Society's Final Examination.

Mr. R. B. Orange has been appointed registrar of Willesden county court.

Capt. M. Richmond, O.B.E., D.S.O., R.N., has been promoted Rear-Admiral, and Capt. T. H. Baker-Cresswell, Major.

In the New Year Honours List Mr. J. P. Bowen received a knighthood, Mr. J. S. H. Shattock was made C.M.G., and Mr. R. A. Frost, O.B.E.

The new Master of Marlborough is Mr. T. R. Garnett, who was an assistant master at Westminster shortly before the last war.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Mr. D. C. Watherston Chief Secretary, Federation of Malaya.

Mr. W. A. Holmes-Walker has been appointed Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry at Queen's University, Belfast.

Mr. P. J. S. Bevan has been elected a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple.

Mr. R. C. S. Hooper has joined the London Press Exchange associate company in South Africa as art director.

Mr. S. E. Watrous has been appointed Broadcasting Specialist at the Colonial Office.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Seton Anderson has been appointed Principal of the Railway Executive Staff Training Schools, Darlington.

Mr. M. F. L. Haymes has been appointed Agent of the Orchard Road branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank at Singapore.

BIRTHS

ALLCHIN—On February 1st 1952 at Bangalore, South India, to Bridget, wife of F. R. Allchin, a daughter.

ALMOND—On December 31st 1951 at St. Albans to Anne, wife of Basil Almond, a daughter.

ARGYLE—On February 17th 1952 at Kirk Langley, Derbyshire, to Ann, wife of M. V. Argyle, a daughter.

BOSANQUET—On December 22nd 1951 at Oxford to Mary, wife of Peter Bosanquet, a son.

BURTON—On January 27th 1952 in London to Joyce, wife of A. L. Burton, a daughter.

BYERS—On January 25th in London to Joan, wife of Frank Byers, a daughter.

GARDINER—On March 26th 1951 to Bridget, wife of Peter Gardiner, a daughter.

GRUNDY—On January 26th 1952 to Muriel, wife of Christopher Grundy, a daughter.

KINCHIN-SMITH—On January 27th 1952 at Bromley, Kent, to Rachel, wife of M. Kinchin-Smith, a son.

LANDER—On February 6th 1952 in Edinburgh to Charmian, wife of J. H. Lander, a daughter.

MAGNUS—On December 9th 1951 in London to Rosemary, wife of Hilary Magnus, a daughter.

NICHOLAS—On January 11th 1952 in Rome to Marie-Antoinette, wife of T. B. Nicholas, a son.

NORDON—On January 9th 1952 at St. Albans to Jean, wife of Brian Nordon, a son.

NORDON—On January 30th 1952 at St. Albans to Nesta, wife of Keith Nordon, a son.

O'BRIEN—On February 4th 1952 at Beckenham to Joy, wife of C. M. O'Brien, a son.

REMINGTON-HOBBS—On December 19th in London to Susan, wife of Lt.-Col. E. Remington-Hobbs, D.S.O., O.B.E., a daughter.

RICHMOND-WATSON—On November 11th 1951 in London to Jean, wife of R. N. Richmond-Watson, twin sons.

SALVI—On December 8th 1951 at Bournemouth, to Josephine, wife of Dr. Anthony Salvi, a daughter.

STEDHAM—On November 27th 1951 to Margaret, wife of Michael Stedham, a son.

STEPHENSON—On February 14th 1952 at Woking to Moira, wife of A. F. Stephenson, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

DUKE : LEE—On February 9th 1952 at Woodchester, Glos., J. S. Duke to Hilary Marmont Lee.

LEVEAUX : POWELL—On December 8th 1951 at St. Barnabas, Kensington, Michael Leveaux to Eve, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Powell.

LOFTHOUSE : ROWAN—On December 22nd 1951 at Plymouth, H. T. Lofthouse to Ailsa Kennedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Towan of Plymouth.

LOW : HILARY—On December 20th 1951 in Westminster Abbey, Lieutenant R. C. Low, R.H.A., to Sheila Mary, daughter of the late Mr. R. J. Hilary and of Mrs. Hilary of Great College Street, Westminster.

PLUMMER : LISTON—On February 9th 1952 at St. James', Spanish Place, R. E. Plummer to Susan Seward, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R. P. Liston of Wadhurst.

GARTEN : LEONARD-SMITH—On Saturday, 8th March 1952 at St. John's Wood Chapel, Dr. H. F. Garten to Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Smith, of St. John's Wood.

OBITUARY

We record with great regret the deaths of the following Old Westminsterers :

MORRIS ANTHONY VERMONT ALLEN, who died on January 15th at the age of 76, entered the school in 1890 and left in 1894. He was the son of a civil engineer, and he was at one time Warden of Mines in Selangor. He was married.

JOHN ALEXANDER LANGFORD CAMPBELL was born in 1867 and was at Westminster from 1882 to 1883. He was a student at Westminster Hospital, and he took his M.R.C.S. in 1892. He became M.D. of Brussels in the following year. He was Surgeon Commander in the R.N. from 1908 till his retirement in 1921 with the rank of Captain. He married in 1916, and received the O.B.E. after the First World War.

REGINALD WINGFIELD CASTLE was born in 1874 and admitted to Westminster in 1887. He left to go to the R.M.A., Woolwich, and received a commission in the Royal Artillery. He served on the western front throughout the First World War, and he was four times mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the D.S.O. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and was made C.M.G. in 1919. He retired in 1922.

ARTHUR MONTAGU COLVILLE was the second of four brothers that were at the school in the nineties. He went on to Woolwich and received a commission in the R.A. in 1896. In the First World War he served in East Africa and Palestine, was mentioned in despatches and received the D.S.O. He married in 1914, and had a son at the school.

EDGAR MICHAEL SEYMOUR TAYLOR was admitted in 1911 and left in 1914 to go to Trinity, Cambridge. In the following year he received a commission in the Territorial Army, and served with the 3rd West Riding Brigade, R.F.A., on the Western Front. He was awarded the M.C. in 1918. He transferred to the Regular Army, held the Certificate of the Gunnery Staff Course, and was serving as a Major at the outbreak of the Second World War. He married in 1921.

The following are the texts of two telegrams sent by the Queen and the Queen Mother in reply to messages of condolence from the President of the Elizabethan Club

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

13th February, 1952.

DEAR SIR,

I am commanded by the Queen to express to you and to all those on whose behalf you wrote her sincere thanks for your kind message of sympathy in her great loss.

Her Majesty greatly appreciates their thought of her and her family at this time.

Yours truly,

Signed : MARTIN CHARTERIS.

THE PRESIDENT,

The Elizabethan Club.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

21st February, 1952.

DEAR SIR,

I am commanded by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, to thank you and all those for whom you speak for your most kind message.

The thoughts and sympathy which surround her have greatly strengthened Her Majesty.

Yours faithfully,

Signed : PATRICIA HAMBLEDON,

Lady-in-Waiting.

E. R. B. GRAHAM, Esq.

The Elizabethan Club.

GAMES

FOOTBALL

The Annual General meeting will be held at 6.15 p.m. on Monday, April 7th 1952 at the school, by kind permission of the Head Master.

Results: 1st Round Arthur Dunn Cup, lost to the Old Wykehamists, 1-5.

Other matches : v. Lancing Old Boys Won 4-0.
v. Old Malvernians Lost 1-2.
v. Old Bradfieldians Won 7-1.
v. Old Carthusians Lost 2-0.

FIVES

The Club has nearly completed the third season of its revival since the war.

A large fixture list was arranged, though in a number of fixtures where it was hoped to play three pairs only two could be arranged owing to the lack of playing members. More Old Westminsterers are asked to come forward next season to give the game a trial.

Again two pairs were entered for the Kinnaird Cup, but unfortunately they were dismissed in the first round.

The following fixtures have been played :

Lancing College	Lost.
Old Carthusians	Won.
Jesters	Drawn.
Old Reptonians	Lost.
Westminster School	Won.
Old Citizens	Lost.
A Wellington College Team	Drawn.
Highgate School	Lost.
Masters	Drawn.
Jesters	Drawn.
Old Carthusians	Won.
Old Citizens	Lost.
Old Cholmeleians	Lost.
Charterhouse	Lost.

GOLF

The following meetings have been arranged for 1952.

Spring Meeting, Wednesday, May 7th : Addington Golf Club.

Summer Meeting, Saturday and Sunday, July 12th and 13th : Frinton Golf Club.

Autumn Meeting, Sunday, September 28th : Walton Heath Golf Club.

Any Old Westminsterers interested in golf who would like to receive particulars of these meetings and who are not already members of the Golfing Society are asked to communicate with the Hon. Sec., A. C. Grover, Manella, The Drive, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey.

SQUASH

The O.W.W. lost to the Old Cranleighans in the 1st round of the Londonderry Cup, the score being 1-4. In the other matches played the Club have won 5 and lost 6.

THE SCHOOL GOLF

There will be a meeting of the Golfing Society at the end of next holidays, at Moor Park, on April 28th. In the morning the Pitamber Cup will be competed for, and in the afternoon there will be a match against the O.W.W.'s. In the past eight matches, four have been won by the school, three by the O.W.W.'s, with one match halved. All golfers are welcomed at these meetings which are great fun and very good golfing experience.

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