

# THE ELIZABETHAN



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## WESTMINSTER AND POETRY

THE survey of Westminster reading that appeared in the last number of *The Elizabethan* revealed that less than forty per cent of present day Westminsters ever read poetry for pleasure. Since then there has appeared the *Trifler*, with only eight reasonably competent and original pieces of verse contributed by boys in the School. This year the Gumbleton English Verse Prize has not been awarded, even the best entry, part of which will be found on another page of this issue, not being considered worthy of more than a second prize.

Such evidence as this has led to a widely-held, and in some quarters, loudly expressed belief that the Westminster poetic tradition is dead. Where today, is asked, is there a Ben Jonson, a Cowper, or a Southey? Certainly not at Westminster. And yet, would you expect them to be? Westminster can claim more Poets Laureate than any other school, but they were probably not at the school for more than a total of fifteen years, while they were Poets Laureate for more than seventy. It has been very seldom in the School's history that more than one great poet has been at Westminster at a time. And Westminster still has its literary alumni—young poets like Michael Hamburger, as well as its novelists, playwrights and scholars.

These considerations make it hardly surprising that there is nobody at Westminster today for whom poetic fame can at all confidently be predicted. The vain efforts of Southey to get a poem printed in the *Trifler* are well known, and although Cowley's "Poetical Blossoms" were published while he was at Westminster, they were mainly written before he came into contact with the Westminster tradition, and received no startling recognition until he left. The value of the Westminster atmosphere is not to be found in the individual encouragement of young poets as poets, but rather in the development of a taste for the sound of words and constant practice in writing verse in school.

In the seventeenth century these elements undoubtedly existed. It is true that Cowper claimed that not one in fifty of those who passed through Westminster or Eton ever learned to speak or write their mother tongue with fluency and elegance. But Dryden, who was born and died

exactly a century earlier than Cowper, remembered in a note to his translation of the third satire of Persius in his collected works that he had written it as a Thursday night exercise for Dr. Busby, and for long after Cowper's time, every boy at Westminster continually read and translated Latin and Greek verse.

Today, of course, the situation is very different. Half the boys who enter the School never read a word of Greek, and there is no time in the senior forms for more than a very slight introduction to the pleasures of Latin verse. The classical has been abandoned for the English literary tradition. And here the practice in reading, learning, and writing poetry is being maintained.

Why is it, then, that Westminster has produced no living poet with a nation-wide reputation? Why did we produce so few in the nineteenth century, except for hymn-writers? Partly, perhaps, because fewer boys are sent to Westminster nowadays from homes that already possess proud and long-standing literary traditions. The aristocratic gentleman who used to send his son to Westminster encouraged him to write elegies and satires whenever the occasion presented itself. Several of the eleven Westminsters who figure in Dr. Johnson's collection of the "Lives of Fifty-two Poets" were sons not of country gentlemen but of grocers and tradesmen who would be even more eager than those they imitated for their sons to do the right thing. Today, although many Westminsters have eminent literary parents, many more have parents who frankly do not care how much poetry their sons write.

There is another and more important reason for the present dearth of Old Westminster poets. The fact that most eminent poets writing in English today are either Americans, Irishmen or Welshmen is not a coincidence. The classical tradition that is still expressed in the English and modern European verse that we read at school is no longer producing a satisfactory framework or idiom for English poetry. Not only at Westminster, but in England as a whole, the need is of a new poetical language to replace that which Westminster played such an important part in evolving. We may yet prove ourselves to be the pioneers in finding this language also.

## THE ROYAL VISIT

SINCE the School returned home after the war we have seen it redecorated and clad in its best appearance for several occasions: for two Commems., for the Royal Wedding, and for countless concerts, plays, and other events. But on the whole, since we do not have our Fourth of June or our Speech Day, we are unaccustomed to being looked at, and the machinery for turning the school from a working and perhaps slightly soiled mechanism into a carefully groomed show-piece had to be planned and created for the first time.

Of course, the work behind the scenes, on which depends at least half the success of any event, had begun six months before, when a small and energetic committee set to work on the organization of the ceremony and the invitations. At the beginning of the Election Term the King's Scholars moved into their new building, but even the excitement of this soon faded, and within a fortnight they felt they had been there all their lives. By now, also, the normal activities of the term occupied the attention of the majority of the school, and it was only the unusual quantity of scaffolding and fresh paint that reminded them of what was to come.

The beginning of serious preparations ten days before the event coincided with a fierce heatwave, and for a short while energy struggled with heat in an unequal contest of wills. With traditional Westminster adaptability we allowed the heat to win—and held our rehearsals in the comparative cool of the evening. College, who had to bear the brunt of the ceremonial, were well drilled in their movements, even to the extent of rehearsing suitable polite conversation, while the School as a whole practised moving in and out of the Abbey in the quickest possible manner, and were shown the procedure in College Garden.

On the morning of June 6th, the only factor that had to be left to chance—the weather—excelled itself. The run-through of the entire proceedings in the morning was carried out in heat that would have decimated a C.C.F. parade, but was met with cheerful optimism. At lunch appetites were small and conversation restricted, but the only fear was that the King's Scholars, encased in tail coats and gowns, would melt with their collars.

Inside the Abbey the seating was arranged much as it had been for the Royal Wedding: the Nave Altar had been removed and the School sat facing inwards on either side of the Nave. An efficient team of ushers from the School had shown fifteen hundred guests to their seats in the Lanterns, Transepts and Nave, and the Abbey was filled



CUTTING THE TAPE

*The Times Photograph*

to capacity. At 3 o'clock precisely the Dean and members of the Foundation went forward from the West door to greet the King and Queen, and perhaps the most memorable moment of the day was when Their Majesties first appeared in the doorway and paused while the Head Master and Under Master were presented. The procession then moved down the Nave to the Choir, where the King and Queen occupied the Dean's and Sub-Dean's stalls respectively, while the King's Scholars took their usual places.

The service began with a fanfare played by trumpeters concealed in the organ loft, followed by the National Anthem. The Jubilate was preceded by the Lord's Prayer and sentences. The Lesson followed, read by the First College Monitor with a clarity and dignity which many mature ecclesiastics might envy. Then the Old 124th, a fortunate choice, as it turned out to be a favourite psalm of the King's, with which we very nearly obeyed Mr. Foster's injunction to "take the roof off the Abbey." The service concluded with the School Prayer, and finally the Hymn "Now thank we all our God," with a startling entry of the trumpets in the last verse,





The laughter which had greeted the King's hint that his Latin had grown rusty and that the Captain's had perhaps been refurbished for the occasion turned to cheers at his final sentence. Then, as the cheering died away, His Majesty took the silver scissors offered him on a cushion by the Second Monitor in College, cut the pink tape stretched across the doorway, and followed by the Queen, the Head Master and the Under Master, entered the building.

In a cool lofty room on the ground floor, Sir Henry Holloway, the contractor, and his staff, together with two of the School Maintenance Staff, were presented, and the Royal Party then made their way to the foot of the main staircase, where Mrs. Hilary, Matron in College, and Mrs. L. H. Burd were presented. Meanwhile the King's Scholars had taken up their positions in the Election Rooms and dormitories, and the tour of the building began. Their Majesties inspected everything with great thoroughness, expressing admiration of the colour schemes and furnishings, and pausing to talk to individual boys, and to the College domestic staff, who were assembled in one of the changing-rooms.

After fully three-quarters of an hour they returned to College garden, which now presented a less formal and more animated appearance than

ever. In front of the two huge marquees on the south side stood small tea-tables with brightly-coloured umbrellas; away in a corner the Grenadier Guards dispensed appropriate background music; and on everything the sun continued to pour down, so that morning coats were surreptitiously unbuttoned, and even the most lightly-clad were glad to seek the shade.

The Royal tea-tent was on the far side of the Garden, and in it Their Majesties sat down to tea with the College Monitors and the Heads of Houses, the King presided over one table; the Queen over another; while at a third the Dean dispensed hospitality to the Royal Suite. For those who were fortunate enough to be present there is no doubt that this was the culmination of the afternoon's proceedings. Both the King and Queen were in high spirits, and (if the phrase can be used with propriety) the party went with a swing, so that when the King looked at his watch and said it was time to go, at least one of those at his table had to resist an impulse to say, "Oh, don't go yet." But perhaps the most moving part of the ceremonies was yet to come. Walking in informal procession through the line of bowing and curtsying guests Their Majesties passed out of the Garden into Little Dean's Yard. There, on either side of the pathway, the whole School was lined up to say good-bye. In complete silence they walked halfway across Yard, and then the voice of Prin. Opp. rang out: "Three cheers for Their Majesties the King and Queen." At the same moment the Abbey bells began to peel, and amid the crash of bells and cheer upon cheer from the School, Their Majesties passed under the archway and entered their car to drive back to the Palace.

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## GYM

ON Friday, July 14th, the Gym display was held in College Garden. The standard on the horizontal and parallel bars was fairly good, but showed some bad timing that was due to lack of rehearsal. The horse exercises were better, though there were some accidents. R. T. Robinson attained such velocity in a swallow dive that he shot through the clutching arms of the catchers and nose-dived into the earth. D. S. Walker had an unfortunate position at the end of a long row

of prostrate gymnasts over which other boys had to dive. The pyramids were not very successful, but the crash pyramid at the end was excellently done. There were two intervals during the display, in the first of which Ashburnham gave a display of P.T.; and in the second some senior boys gave an instructive and enjoyable display of unarmed self-defence. The general standard of the afternoon's entertainment was satisfactory but not brilliant.

## A WESTMINSTER AL VISIT

THE last issue of *The Elizabethan*, it will be remembered, contained the results of a poll conducted amongst a cross-section of the School. There have been several quite varied and amusing consequences of this which some have probably noticed already. A few days after the issue appeared, half a column in the *Daily Telegraph* was given over to what has become known as the Walker Report. The *Telegraph* made the interesting observation that most of the classics of English literature which were popular had recently been filmed, e.g. Dickens and Shakespeare. No doubt "Treasure Island" is now being read by many in the School. Mr. Prag, the Librarian, reports that an Old Westminster writer of crime stories has presented the library with a copy of his latest novel, and there is no doubt that it has been this aspect of the poll that has attracted the most attention. Perhaps it has not been without its influence on the book trade, but although it seems that we would welcome further crime stories, we would warn publishers and authors alike that not even a Westminster would read a story of murder and/or robbery at school after the manner of a "Murder at St. Egbert's."

The active as opposed to the passive side of the Westminster mind has been represented by the revival this term of the *Trifler*, a magazine devoted to literary or notable Westminsters and Old Westminsters. Perhaps what impresses most about this first issue is the production difficulties that must have been overcome. Certainly the Editor and his staff have done a fine job well here, for as one turns over the pages, there is no lack of matter, advertising, or good layout. So far as execution goes, the *Trifler* leaves little to be desired. Perhaps, however, it does fall down somewhat in its conception. The need for a literary magazine has long and rightly been felt in the School; as has been pointed out, *The Elizabethan* has not the space to become a regular literary magazine, and the various house magazines operate on a somewhat lower level. Yet when one looks into the *Trifler* there seems to be little that is literary or creative seeking expression. Interesting reading though it is, it cannot be said to be largely, let alone entirely, the product of contemporary Westminster, as were its predecessors in the last century. We also would have wished that it had promised to reappear at some more or less definite date, because much of its value will be lost if it turns out to be a flash in the pan and no more. It will need a great effort to get the stream of contemporary Westminster talent flowing freely



streets, has always taken some sort of interest in the soil. Our flowers in spring and in summer brighten Yard and the garden behind Ashburnham immensely and are enjoyed and commented upon by many a visitor. However, the average Westminster has never got quite so near the soil as he did a few Thursdays ago. It has been discovered that a dangerous aggressor, the yarrow weed, had invaded the sunny land of Fields. A few forced labour battalions of cricketers were routed. Then the C.C.F. was mobilized and to the gentle sound of feet in gym shoes the Corps moved in. The battle raged the whole afternoon, but despite rain and root, the victory went to Westminster. For a while the danger from weeds is lessened, but it will still need many years of care before Fields becomes a first-class ground again.

As part of the National Health Service, the School has been offered free chest X-ray examinations for all those over 15. Medically, there can be no doubt that this is a very sensible and wise step; academically, of course, it means a little less work.

A short account of the gym display occurs elsewhere in this issue. The most novel and, therefore, the most interesting part was the all-too-short exhibition of unarmed combat. Four heroes grappled with the dastardly attacks of the thugs, armed with coshes and surprise. Right beat might as the bad men bit the mat time and time again. Whether it was intentional or not we do not know, but it was clear to the majority of the School that the exhibition was directed by the announcer to the masters present rather than to the boys, who were seated on the opposite side of the display. Perhaps a new form of discipline is to be expected shortly.

On the opposite page there is a photograph of this year's Editors of *The Elizabethan*, minus one who is at the present doing his military service. We need not explain that the pose and the ornaments are not typical of the activities of *The Elizabethan*. In the future it will no longer be necessary for the Editors to appear in public, as a small room at the bottom of No. 3 is being fitted out to accommodate them and their equipment.



BACK TO BABEL



THE EDITORS, 1950



RECONSTRUCTION



SNAP—CRACKLE—POP

*Photos : A. J. Levi*



# THE GUMBLETON

WE take pleasure in printing below the first part of the poem adjudged best of entries submitted for the Gumbleton English Verse Prize this year. The subject set was "any English village you know."

## EAST DEAN

### SONG OF THE FIRST GUIDE

A valley stretches up from the Irish sea ;  
Pursued by houses, shaking them off, and free  
Breaks into pasture, woodland, downland,  
Tenantless farms and the clustered poppies.

Cornfields and ploughland checker on every hill :  
Perhaps old Cronos fell from his heights but still  
Plays draughts with Titans on this patchwork,  
Dreaming of quoits up on blue Olympus.

The valley merges into an ancient farm,  
Stronghold of Saxons when the enforced alarm  
Of England at her sister Denmark  
Sowed her first navy in nearby Cuckmere.

The squire now lives here found, as a squire  
should be,  
A friend and leader, waiting for destiny  
To call his years to life immortal,  
Leaving his bones in the peaceful churchyard.

The valley wanders out of the farm and then  
Breaks into pasture, woodland, and fields again.  
But here a road winds through the centre,  
Splitting the slopes with its pebbly tarmac.

Pursue the roadway curling beside the sheep,  
Beside the horses watching their colts asleep ;  
A picture changed through many ages,  
Only by wire and its prickly sentries.

Soon comes a greener field where the yokels air  
Their latest gossip while they affect to stare  
Contentedly at lazy cricket,  
Played in the village for generations.

The guide must leave you, here is a promised land  
Of milk and honey, where pretty houses stand  
Among the downs and fields and woodland,  
Under the shade of the church and steeple.

J. KING-FARLOW.

# THE MUSIC COMPETITIONS

THE Music Competitions share with the terminal concerts the distinction of being the main musical events in the Westminster year. It always seems a pity, therefore, that the school, or those members of it who are interested, are able to hear little more than the House Choirs, musically the least interesting part of the programme. The difficulty of the reviewer's task is thereby also increased.

We were pleased to welcome Mr. W. Greenhouse Allt, President of the Trinity College of Music, as adjudicator this year. In the morning programme C. C. P. Williams's performance of the First Movement of Hindemith's Clarinet Sonata and the playing of Kingdon and Martindale in the Senior Piano Solo are said to have been outstanding. If these were the best, the performances in the Unbroken Voice Solo were certainly the worst. All boys who sing treble in the Choral Society should consider entering for this, but they should seek some guidance on their choice of song and the way to learn and practise it.

The afternoon started with four madrigals, in all of which the singing reached a good standard. But it was obvious to everyone that only Busby's performance of "How Merrily we Live," by Michael East, deserved high praise ; in balance and finish it far excelled the others and gave one a sense of the delightfulness of good madrigal singing.

In the House Choirs competition the decision was not so easy. The set song was Vaughan Williams's "Linden Lea," and the general impression gained was of plain rather than subtle or polished singing. This was made noticeable by the generally better singing of the more boisterous third verse, and the deficiency was made clear at the end of the afternoon when Mr. Allt took the whole school, not without many stops and gentle reprimands, through the first and third verses. This was a new experience and a welcome one.

Eventually Grant's were adjudged first for combining a sound performance of the set piece with a stirring rendering of Dyson's "The Seekers." The afternoon ended with five pieces of Chamber Music, and Miller, Plummer and Martindale were awarded the prize for their playing of the Slow Movement of Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto.



# CRICKET

THE 1ST ELEVEN played the M.C.C. up Fields on May 23rd, starting at 11.30. The School batted first, and the innings was notable for two big partnerships of 98 by R. K. Pitamber and A. C. Hornsby, and 104 by C. C. P. Williams and D. G. Higgins. But the need for quick runs was pressing. In this quest five wickets fell without further ado, and the innings was declared closed at 231 for 9.

The M.C.C. went in to bat with the obvious intention of making the runs—and they did. On a wicket that was without difficulty they knocked the School's uncertain bowling to the furthestmost parts of the field. C. C. Lockett scored 48, K. Hinge 61, and A. H. Thomas 56, and the M.C.C. won by 4 wickets with about five minutes to spare.

After a win at Finsbury we welcomed Radley at Vincent Square on May 30th. The School batted first, but after the first wicket fell at 19 the innings never looked like getting going. Hornsby made a stubborn 26, Higgins was foolishly run out, Williams played two beautiful shots through the covers, and then lofted a simple catch to mid-off. Half the side were out for 106, but worse was to come. The tail enders seemed quite oblivious of their responsibilities and were dismissed for a song. The School had been dismissed for 126 on a perfect wicket.

It is peculiar to the present side that they rely on a large score behind them to bowl and field well, and on this occasion, when good fielding was vital, the fielding was lifeless. Radley duly made the runs with 5 wickets to spare, and the School XI accepted it philosophically and almost without a fight. Radley must have the credit for taking advantage of the position and rubbing in the victory by a clear margin.

We went to Charterhouse on June 17th. Once again the School batted first, and as against Radley the batting failed on a good wicket. After losing three quick wickets, Williams and Hornsby put on 50 together, but just when they were on top of the bowling, Hornsby was out three balls from lunch. Soon after lunch Williams was quite unnecessarily run out. Thereafter, Charterhouse were well on top, and although R. T. Robinson did what he could to stem the stream of falling wickets, the School were dismissed for 120.

To bowl against a total of 120 at Charterhouse is difficult, and it proved too much. K. J. M. Kemp took five wickets of which three were caught by Hornsby at the wicket, and J. H. Kendall took the other one. M. C. Donne, the Charterhouse opening bat, was lucky in the slips, and if all the chances had been accepted, Charterhouse might

still have been out for 100. The fielding was good after tea, with Pitamber, Williams and Robinson outstanding in the covers. One can only surmise what would have happened had the School made more runs because there was a definite air of aggression when they were in the field. It was, alas, too late.

The Lancing match, played on June 20th, began after lunch and went on until 8 o'clock. Westminster batted first on a hard wicket, and although some of A. P. F. Alexander's outswingers looked dangerous, Pitamber and C. J. H. Davies had a second wicket stand of 88. Pitamber, it is true, was given two lives, but his nimble play sent the score merrily along. Williams and Davies easily maintained the rate of scoring, adding 65, when Williams cut a ball straight into slip's hands. Throughout the innings Davies had been playing confidently and on the last ball before tea he completed a splendid and chanceless century. After tea the School went for the runs and declared at 225 for 7.

The Lancing opening pair made little effort to force the pace and when they had taken an hour to make 43 it seemed that the match was to fade out into a certain draw. After Williams had broken the partnership wickets fell thick and fast. At a quarter to eight Lancing had seven wickets down for 70. Although K. J. M. Kemp took one more wicket in his final spell, Lancing just managed to stave off defeat. For this they must thank A. G. Cochrane, who was the sheet anchor of the team.

With memories of their heavy defeat last year the Butterflies brought down a strong side on July 1st. On a batsman's wicket they found our bowling very easy, and their rate of scoring got quite out of hand after lunch. G. W. S. Lubbock and C. J. Sage had a free-scoring partnership in the morning, but it was K. J. Gardiner who took advantage of the tired bowlers and fielders in scoring a century in only 69 minutes. One felt that it was only the misfortune of being run out that deprived Lubbock of a century as well. W. E. Gerrish declared at 297 for 5.

In its early stages the School's innings followed the pattern of several during this and last season, the loss of three quick wickets. On this occasion Williams and Higgins pulled the game round with a fourth wicket stand of 124. They both batted well, Williams scoring the faster of the two, having the advantage in physique, whilst Higgins scored off the bad balls and stopped the remainder. It seemed certain that Williams would get his second century of the season when he pulled a ball from T. Bligh, the Butterflies' best bowler on to his

wicket when he was 97. The danger was now past and with Higgins 48\* the School eventually made 181 for 7.

Only the excitement of the game made up for the miserable conditions in which the O.W.W. match was played on July 15th. The O.W.W. batted first and owed much to F. E. Pagan, who made a patient 61. He and K. J. Gardiner had a third wicket partnership, but after lunch the game swung sharply in the School's favour. A. Campbell-Johnson was 31\* when the O.W.W. declared at 166 for 10. Higgins' accurate bowling was rewarded by two wickets and Kemp and Davies rattled through the tail. The declaration robbed Kemp of a chance of a hat-trick.

The School should have had over two hours batting, but rain forced a break of some five minutes. As it was we lost three wickets for 26 and a win seemed most improbable. Williams and Higgins again came to the rescue with a stand of 84. After tea, taken rather late, Williams transformed the game by hitting seven fours in rapid succession before being out for 63. It was then 6 o'clock and 55 runs were needed for a win. Robinson made a quick 17 with some good drives and Higgins helped equally in hurrying the score along at over two runs a minute. Both were out, but C. F. Kingdon was able to make the winning hit with three minutes to spare. P. J. H. Donn was the outstanding O.W.W. bowler, taking 5 for 61.

The other results during the season were :—

H.A.C. Finsbury, 152 for 4 decl. Westminster, 153 for 4. Pitamber 67, Williams 46\*; Westminster, 217 for 5 decl. Williams 105\*, Davies 34, Higgins 32. XL Club, 133 for 5; Westminster, 157 for 8 decl. Metropolitan Police XI, 107 for 1; Westminster 187 for 5 decl. Davies 79, Williams 52. Wimbledon, 153 for 4. Kendall 3 for 16; Lords and Commons, 131 for 7 decl. Davies 4 for 30. Westminster, 135 for 3. Williams 55\*, Higgins 26.\*

This year the 1st XI played 13 matches of which 3 were won, 4 were lost and 6 were drawn.

Bowling this year on a succession of good wickets, the School bowlers had to work for their wickets rather than rely on the vicissitudes of the pitch, as last year. Kendall's spinners came in useful on more than one occasion, and although he did not often take many wickets in a single match, he repeatedly broke stands; his average was 18.57 and he took 14 wickets. Kemp bowled by far the most of the bowlers, but he rarely found his best form and had a disappointing season after his 50 wickets last year. He did, however, take 23 wickets at a cost of 23.35 each. Davies opened with Kemp for the last four

matches. When he acquires better control he will be a very dangerous bowler as he swings the ball both ways and every few overs produces a really good ball. He had an average of 23.11. Higgins' control of length was the best in the side and for this reason he was a most useful bowler to have available. Bowling with a low action he did little with the ball, but had the merit of keeping the batsman playing and often lured him into a false stroke. Williams was not afraid to experiment with his spinners and as a result often proved erratic and expensive. S. L. C. Tester did not take many wickets, but will benefit by the experience gained this year.

Williams had an outstanding season as a batsman. His aggregate of 690 runs in 13 innings speaks for itself and an average of 86.65 is an exceptional performance for a boy who has another season at the School. After the staff match he never failed to make 30. Batting at No. 5 he either batted the side out of a difficult position or made a brisk 50 as the occasion demanded. His technique was excellent, his main enemy casualness. His best shots were off and cover drives, square cuts and hooks. He rarely let a loose ball go unpunished and this was perhaps the secret of his fast scoring.

Davies came into his own at Lancing when he made 102, but he followed this up with 79 against Wimbledon. He batted with increasing confidence every match and fully deserved his average of 34.88. Higgins, another young member of the side, averaged 27.7. He is as yet small and a slowish scorer, but this did not matter. Early in the season he was unlucky in being run out three times, but he finished well. Pitamber struck the ball hard and was at his best when forcing the pace. He got himself out with a wild shot more often than he was genuinely beaten. His average of 21.54 shows that he was a more than useful No. 3 batsman. Of the remainder of the team Hornsby, A. P. M. Woodward, Kemp and C. F. Kingdon were capable of making a few runs. Robinson had a disappointing season, never recovering from a bad start. Robinson had the satisfaction of captaining a side which could make a good score. He used his bowlers intelligently, and a welcome spirit of aggression was achieved. It was a pity that the side should find its best form when the season was almost over. Had the bowling been as good as the batting the 1950 side would have been very good judged certainly by post-war standards. The team was never really soundly beaten and more than held its own on most occasions. The fielding varied greatly from match to match and from individual to individual. Most of the catches were held, and Williams, Pitamber, Robinson and Higgins were



the pick of the fielders. Hornsby made a very adequate wicket-keeper at short notice. Prospects for next year look promising, as the five Pinks who are remaining all had successful seasons this year.

**T**HE COLTS' CLUB was handicapped by the small numbers of cricketers between 15 and 16 years old at the beginning of the season, and as the season has progressed more and more under 15 cricketers have found their way into the Colts' side, which has meant that the team has been young compared with its opponents but promises a strong Colts' side next year. Renshaw and Tester, the only surviving Colts from last year, have not played regularly, the former through illness and the latter because of his selection for the 1st XI.

Even so, a moderately successful season has been achieved; defeats by Highgate, Aldenham, K.C.S., and Harrow being offset by victories over Whitgift, Latymer Upper and U.C.S. and very creditable draws with Mercers and Lancing.

Lorimer-Thomas, though under 15, has developed into a sensible captain, a reliable wicket-keeper, and a sound bat, and has had a variety of bowling at his command, ranging from the steady left-arm medium of Blume to the beguiling leg-breaks of D. M. Jones who has never been afraid to toss the ball well up and has been largely responsible for the later victories following on his return to the side after an absence caused by a damaged finger. Tester's experience in the 1st XI has produced some steady bowling since his return to the side, and T. R. Noble had one very successful match in which he took eight wickets for some three runs a-piece.

The fielding has steadily improved; Hillyard setting a good example at mid-off, and Morley-Jacob being constantly alert wherever he was fielding. Garcia, too (whose bowling has been a model of steadiness) was always ready to convert a chance into a catch. Henry's ground fielding has generally been safe, but his returns have too often called for acrobatics on the part of the wicket-keeper.

There has always been promise about the batting, notably Tourlamain, who has played some attractive innings as No. 1, and Kirkby, who has shown the right temperament for an opening batsman, but a lack of concentration in scoring runs, which has led to several lengthy, tedious and unproductive innings—not the foundation for

winning matches. The material is there for a highly successful season next year if the present members of the side will learn to treat half-volleys as they deserve, to run intelligently between the wickets and give nothing away in the field.

On May 27th the 2nd XI played Latymer Upper away. Batting first, Westminster quickly lost 4 wickets for 18; however, P. S. Houston, with a brisk 31, A. P. M. Woodward (21), and F. D. Hornsby (20), helped to raise the total to 96 for 9, when Woodward declared. Latymer Upper had made 54 for 3 when rain stopped play. Against a strong Highgate team, on June 17th, Westminster lost by 66 runs. Highgate, batting first, declared at 143 for 6; our bowling was steady, but seldom dangerous (Houston 5 for 37). After a careful 18 by M. L. B. Pritchard and 20 by Hornsby, the team collapsed, and a good defensive 18 by J. Wordsworth was unable to stem the tide. Our last wicket fell at 77.

The 2nd XI, reinforced by two Pinks, beat Chigwell by 6 wickets on June 24th. Chigwell won the toss and chose to bat. After a good start, they failed against some excellent bowling by J. H. Kendall (5 for 17) and C. F. Kingdon (3 for 15), and were all out for 72. After tea, Westminster rapidly lost 4 wickets for 21, but with D. S. Cammell (39 not out) and Hornsby (23 not out) the score reached 78 without further loss. On July 8th the team played U.C.S. away. On a fast pitch the U.C.S. batsmen were never happy against I. L. Hunt, who bowled well to take 8 for 34, three of them catches by Wordsworth behind the wicket. However, the U.C.S. total of 82 looked satisfactory enough when Westminster lost 8 wickets for under 50, but A. D. Service batted determinedly for 22, and the last pair, A. H. R. Martindale (11 not out) and Hunt, stayed in to secure a draw, the final score being 78 for 9.

The Under 15 team had a fairly successful season; three wins and two losses. There are keen and promising players in the side, and several of them have gained useful experience by playing regularly for the Colts. F. D. Lorimer-Thomas has been an enthusiastic and thoughtful captain, and shows great promise as a wicket-keeper. D. M. Jones's leg-breaks have made him the most dangerous and successful bowler, while of the batsmen J. W. Tourlamain has possibilities.

The match results of the Under 14 Club have been disappointing, our only victory being against the Under School, while we have lost to Mercer's, the Choir School, and Ridgeways, and played an unfavourable draw with Highgate. The main fault has been a lack of decision in all departments of the game.

## THE WATER

THERE has been much fine racing this term, and if perhaps Westminster has not had so successful a season as last year, the races have been no less keenly contested and the spirit of the Boat Club remains as good as ever. Racing conditions this term have been generally favourable and perhaps weather and tide have damaged less outings than usual.

The First VIII began the term with its composition fixed and everyone well again, and despite minor illnesses and accidents that occurred during the season, the crew had straightaway a sense of unity. The first event was the Vesta Dashes, which was taken as a joy-burst rather than as a race demanding much preparation. Westminster did an indifferent start off the stakeboat and Chelsea Polytechnic slipped us. Although we came up a little after we settled down, they beat us to the finish by half a length in one minute nineteen seconds.

The race against Tiffin's was the first league race. Very little rowing had yet been done and the crew had not yet begun to work at a rowing rate. Consequently the VIII took her off at only 28, as against Tiffin's 36. This continued over the whole course till the crew which rowed beat the crew who paddled hard by 3 lengths in 7.49. By the time of the St. Paul's race this had been remedied, but we had stroke away with one of his poisoned arms. Off the start we went up a few feet, but in an instant St. Paul's settled down, applied pressure, and went steadily past us and disappeared beyond our bows. Westminster kept racing their boat but could make no impression on a very fine crew, which won by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lengths in 7.15, and which later won the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. Against Latymer Upper School the crew did better. A few feet down on the start, they took the lead with a ten at Harrod's. Yet once clear they never properly settled down. They increased their lead with each spurt, but never drew right away with every stroke. Westminster won by 2 lengths in 7.40.

Then came Marlow, which we faced with confidence. We had drawn Magdalene College, Cambridge, and Kingston "B," and for the first twenty seconds the crews raced level. Then Magdalene, specializing in a fast start, went up about a length, while Kingston fell astern even more rapidly. Westminster rowed at a high rate, but probably were not working their blades with the utmost efficiency, so that after Bisham the crew were tired and the stroke dropped. Magdalene increased their lead, and although Westminster put up the stroke past the Enclosure, they won by 4 lengths in 4.21.

The next week was spent at Putney competing with the revised Higher Certificate timetable and summer heat. During four evening outings on smooth water considerable progress was made in the crew's paddling. Then, on July 1st, for the first time since the war, the crew went down to stay at Henley. Major Howell had kindly made the arrangements and a number of Old Westminsters and friends had generously offered to put us up, but all meals except breakfast were taken together in a hotel. The change from the tideway into the atmosphere and conditions of Henley did the crew a great deal of good. The boat ran well between strokes as the crew gathered itself together for a powerful beginning. Starts improved, finishes were drawn out, and the good water and the presence of other oarsmen brought out the best in the crew.

We had drawn Radley in our heat of the Princess Elizabeth Cup. The race was on the Thursday and the conditions were good, with a moderate head wind, as both crews got on to their stakeboats, with Westminster on the Berks station and Radley on the Bucks. Off the start Westminster struck 38 and held Radley, who had started with four tens in succession, to half a length. Rowing at a slightly higher rate, Westminster were less than a length down at Fawley (3.34), where Radley went away on a powerful spurt. Thereafter, Westminster faltered and a hitherto fine effort died away somewhat. However, the rate never dropped below 34, and over the last hundred yards we took her home strongly, but this made no difference to Radley, who won by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lengths in 7.30. It was a hard, determined row, which training in and out of the boat had a lot to do with. It was a very enjoyable and exciting Henley but a better crew won.

*Crew:* R. P. Harben (bow), 11 st. 10 lbs.; 2, J. W. G. Leigh-Clare, 11 st. 1 lb.; 3, J. F. G. Pigott, 11 st. 0 lb.; 4, T. M. P. Bendixson, 12 st. 2 lbs.; 5, S. P. O. Jassinger, 12 st. 5 lbs.; 6, S. J. Barrett, 11 st. 9 lbs.; 7, J. Eker, 11 st. 3 lbs.; H. Ward (stroke), 10 st. 0 lb.; E. S. Chesser (cox), 7 st. 13 lbs.

The Second VIII this year had the distinction of being one of the lightest on record. Averaging about 10 stone, they realized their only hope was to strike high, and they raced with much vigour and skill. In their league they came second, winning two out of three races. Against K.C.S. and Owen's they won easily. They lost by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lengths to U.C.S. in a closely-fought race, while against St. Paul's 2, a fixture arranged outside the Leagues this year, they lost a fine race by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lengths. It seemed largely a question of comparative weights for racing ability and rowing technique was certainly not lacking. At Marlow



they drew the Winchester and St. Edward's second boats. On the start stroke side washed out and Westminster lost the initial advantage of their station. At the first bend the three crews were level, but by Bisham Winchester gained a length on St. Edward's and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lengths on us. A hard twenty nearly put us on terms with St. Edward's, but the crew tired and Winchester finished one length up on St. Edward's, who were a length ahead of Westminster.

*Crew* : E. K. V. Redfern (bow), 9 st. 9 lbs. ; 2, D. Secker Walker, 9 st. 2 lbs. ; 3, G. C. Ross, 9 st. 13 lbs. ; 4, K. G. Smith, 9 st. 10 lbs. ; 5, R. K. Roscoe, 10 st. 6 lbs. ; 6, G. L. Grant, 10 st. 4 lbs. ; 7, M. D. Birt, 10 st. 7 lbs. ; J. W. L. Croft (stroke), 10 st. 0 lb. ; N. J. Barton (cox), 6 st. 10 lbs.

The Third VIII won one out of its five league races. It beat Owen's 2 easily, but lost to St. Paul's by three-quarters of a length, to Harrow County 1 by 2 lengths, to U.C.S. 3 by 2 feet, and to Tiffin's 2 by 3 lengths. It was a lightish crew without a lot of dash and most of the races were rowed at a low and steady rate, with perhaps too long a poise over the stretcher. Nevertheless, they came very near to their greatest rivals, St. Paul's and U.C.S., in two races that were hard fought the whole way.

*Crew* : R. B. Kirk (bow) ; 2, J. P. E. B. Milton ; 3, R. G. F. Jekyll ; 4, J. Porteous ; 5, G. Barton ; 6, R. N. Edwards ; 7, L. J. H. E. Hayek ; K. H. Hodgson (stroke) ; E. A. Farmer (cox).

The Fourth VIII won two out of its four races. It won by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lengths against K.C.S. 2 and by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  against Latymer Upper 3, but lost by one length to U.C.S. 4 and by two lengths to St. Paul's 4. Their rowing showed them at their best,

for it was then that they applied their considerable strength most consistently.

*Crew* : C. P. Smith (bow) ; 2, C. A. Gane ; 3, G. G. F. Wordsworth ; 4, M. J. Green ; 5, N. R. M. Petrie ; 6, R. D. E. Pope ; 7, S. G. Croft ; D. J. Chanter (stroke) ; M. G. Kullmann (cox).

The Fifth VIII could boast of no great stylistic merit but a great deal of enthusiasm and a lot of hard work enabled them to do something towards maintaining the winning tradition that the Boat Club is beginning to associate with the Fifth VIII. In a race they never relaxed pressure and won against bigger and heavier crews. They beat Emanuel 2 by 3 lengths, Harrow County 2 by one length, but lost to St. Paul's by 2 lengths and to U.C.S. by one-third of a length.

The Sixth VIII suffered from many changes during the season, and never had a real chance to settle down together. They won against Owen's 3 by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lengths, but lost to Tiffin's 3 by 2 lengths and to Chiswick County 2 easily.

The School also entered scullers for the Vesta Dashes and for the Metropolitan Amateur Regatta. In the junior-senior event in the former, J. M. Gray lost in his round, while in the junior H. Ward won his first race but was beaten in the final by a heavier opponent. In the Metropolitan Ward beat an Old Westminster, R. V. Taylor, in his first heat in the Junior Sculls, but in the final on the same day, the long course and tide and wind proved too much against someone two stone heavier. He led most of the way, but the greater strength of his opponent cost him the race by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lengths.

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## SWIMMING

THIS term saw a newcomer to the group of possible full-time stations. About thirty boys under the supervision of Dr. Garten, have been going to the Great Smith Street and Marshall Street Baths, where they spend their time either swimming races or just swimming. They have been divided into non-swimmers or "Tadpoles," and swimmers of three grades of proficiency—"Frogs," "Trouts," and "Whales." The instructor at the baths gives coaching to those who want it, and inter-house relays and other races are frequent. In the final races, Rigaud's came first in the relay, followed closely by Ashburnham, while A. B. Donn won the individual events and D. G. Crook came second. Next year it is hoped that some matches can be arranged and our standard better estimated.

## BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL has also become a full-time station this term. Mr. Keeley is in charge and there are two games of eight-a-side, lasting fifteen minutes each way, every station day. This shortness of time is compensated for by the vigour and violence with which the game is played. The players' knowledge of the rules is as yet rudimentary, and minor injuries are common. Two portable baskets have been erected in Green and are used by enthusiasts after school. Both swimming and basketball are still in the experimental stage at the moment, but both, happily, are flourishing.

*N.B.*—Basketball, "an American game in which two parties of players contest with each other to toss an inflated ball into opposite elevated goals resembling baskets," must not be confused with Netball, "a game in which a ball is thrown into a large pocket net attached to a high pole."

## FENCING

As the Public Schools' Championships come in the middle of the Easter holiday the Election term tends to be more the beginning of the new season than the end of the old. No First Team matches were held this term, but a fair amount of competition fighting was done by individuals. P. C. Petrie and M. Miller entered for the Junior Epée Championship; the former just failed to qualify for the final, and the latter was eliminated in the first round. A school team, consisting entirely of those who will still be here next term, entered for the Savage Shield Epée Competition; although they did not survive the first round, they achieved a good result of 5—8 against Bertrand's F.C. An enjoyable match was also held in which the School defeated the Masters, 15—12.

Apart from these events we combined teams for two matches with our neighbours and traditional rivals St. Paul's. The first was a five-a-side Epée match against the Cambridge team due to meet Oxford the next week; after an initial lead of 6—2 we dropped back to lose 7—15. The second was a three-weapon match against a combined team from Oxford and Cambridge, held in the open air at the Hurlingham Club on

Sunday, July 9th, in front of an alarmingly large audience. The match was closely fought to the end. In the Foil the schools won 5—4, O. Reynolds, of St. Paul's, scoring three wins and Petrie two; in the Epée the result was reversed, Reynolds winning two fights and Miller and T. G. Phemister one each; in the Sabre, however, we had no parries for the fast flèche attacks of our opponents and lost 2—5, Petrie winning two fights and two being left unfinished.

Meanwhile, the Second Team have had four well-fought matches, the results of which give a promising indication of next year's strength. Two of them, against Eton and Dulwich, were decisively won; another against Winchester was drawn, and the fourth lost to St. Paul's by 12—15. There are several promising fencers in this team who should give strong support to next year's Captain, in particular J. L. Lee, whose style and sense of timing only require wider experience to make him a good all-round fencer, and E. A. Bower, who has achieved good results in Epée. Our prospects for next year will depend, as always, on the amount of practice and club fencing done by the team, but it has every chance of being a highly successful season.

## TENNIS

THE 1950 season has been only moderately successful; out of twelve fixtures the VI have won four and lost eight. This year the School joined the Public Schools L.T.A.; a team of four, G. R. Smith, P. Makower, A. J. Levi and N. B. R. C. Peroni has entered for the Youll Cup at Wimbledon in the first week of the holidays and will play against Downside in the first round.

Up Fields on May 23rd, the School just beat the Masters, 5—4. The standard of play was not high and we were lucky to gain the victory. The next fixture was a new one, against Haileybury and I.S.C., away, where the team was entertained handsomely and returned with a 4—5 defeat after an enjoyable and close match. Our next two opponents, Lancing and Dulwich, both had very useful teams and we were beaten 2—6 and 2—7. However, the standard of play was much improved, and the pairs seemed to be combining with more effect. The promise of these matches was fulfilled in our next fixture, Haberdasher Aske's Hampstead School, a late match beginning at 4 p.m. We beat them 2—1, and probably became too confident, for against the Public Schools Old Boys L.T.A., against little opposition, we went to pieces and lost 0—8, a very disappointing result. The lack of the tenacity so necessary in tennis was most noticeable.

Against Salesian College on June 20th, another late match, we improved, and all pairs won in straight sets and put a much-needed victory on the fixture card. Against Aldenham (away) the team played well as a whole. T. J. Davies replaced B. R. Green in the third pair, and with J. Kay-Mouat, made a fairly successful third pair. The second pair won two out of their three matches, but the first pair lost all three and the match went 3—5.

On July 11th, against Mill Hill, the School lost 4—5 in a close and exciting match. The second pair played well to win two out of three, and the third pair, weakened by Kay-Mouat's absence, won one match. The first pair lost badly to the Mill Hill first pair, beat their third pair, and although having a good chance of victory against their second pair, unfortunately threw it away.

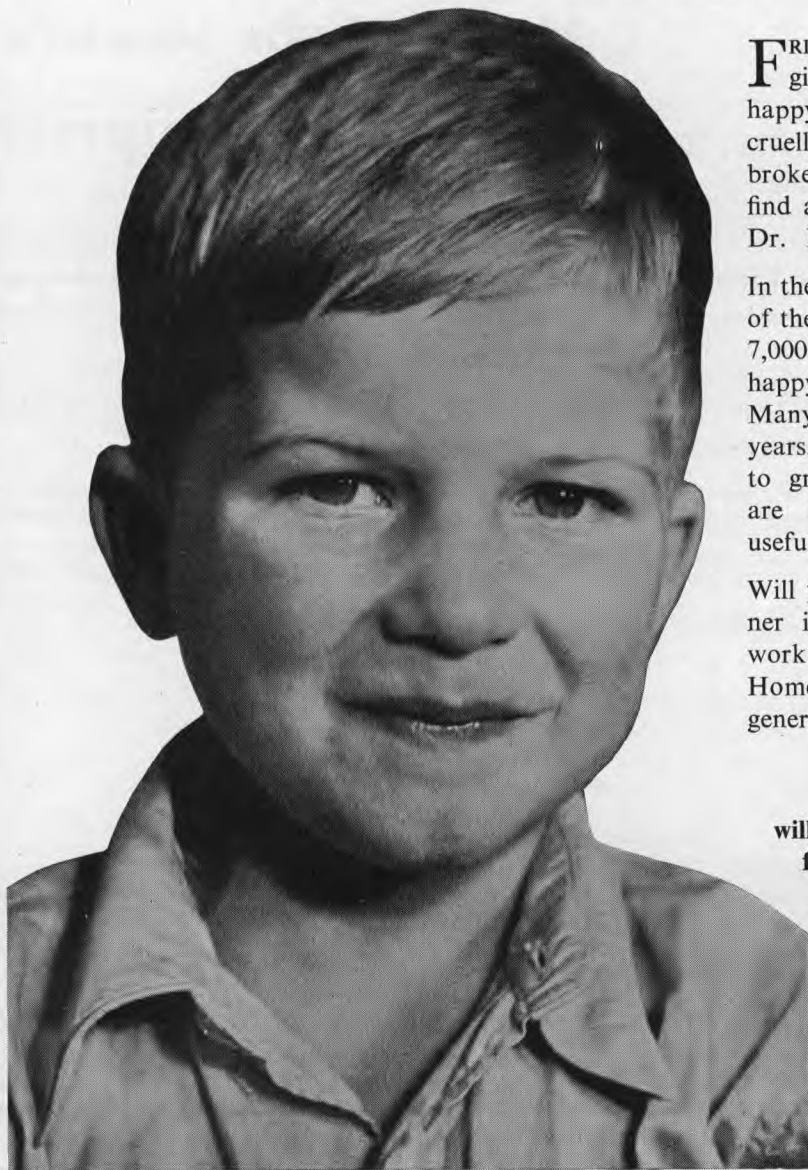
The last match of the season, against Stowe, on July 15th, was most enjoyable, even though the result does not look very good. The team lost 0—7, two matches being rained out. A new combination was tried on this occasion, Smith and Peroni as first pair, Makower and Levi as second. This seemed more successful than the original pairs, and should yield good results at Wimbledon.



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# THE COMBINED CADET FORCE

THE fact that there has been no mention of the Combined Cadet Force in *The Elizabethan* for three months does not mean that the School has gone over entirely to khaki shorts and pseudo-Setsons. The Corps, as it is still affectionately termed, although it has long since lost any right to that title in the eyes of the War Office, still occupies the bodies and, from time to time, the minds of three-quarters of the School on Thursday afternoons.

Structurally there have been several changes since last summer's camp. Where previously there were but two Warrant Officers there are now four and these exalted personages carry silver-headed canes. Deeming these to be insufficient as tokens of their high office they claimed the privilege of wearing leather gloves—a privilege that was jealously observed until the June sun urged pride to give way to comfort. The recruits have expanded from one platoon into a full company with Lieut. Brock as Company Commander, a post which he holds in addition to being O.C. Signals. The Signal Platoon itself, though earning mention in the "Westminster Notebook," is also a new addition since Pirbright. Open to cadets who have passed Cert. "A," Pt. II, this platoon spends Thursday afternoons in dismantling, reconstructing, and even using wireless sets of varying sizes. The efficiency of these sets and the proficiency of the signallers in using them was amply indicated by the crowds that collected

around them on the Thursdays of the 2nd Test match and Wimbledon week.

A field-day in Richmond Park was unfortunately rained off during the Play Term, but in the Spring a grim struggle to protect the nut harvest from the Li-Lo guerillas was waged by the Westminster Regulars. The battle was notable for a fine assault by the Regulars on an enemy position which turned out to be the Signallers signalling. The exercise showed that cadets were familiar with the theory of section attack and defence, but that the infrequency of practical experience led to mistakes and a consequent loss of confidence. To give an indication of what is required of N.C.O.s in an exercise Capt. Lushington and Lieut. Wigram commanded the Northland and Southland Forces respectively in an engagement on Headley Heath during June. The weather made energetic movement uncomfortable but the exercise provided valuable experience in attack and defence on a larger scale than usual.

A second field-day was held on July 13th. Seventy cadets spent an enjoyable afternoon on the ranges at Rainham, whilst the rest defended, or in the guise of Volski attacked, an imaginary airfield in Richmond Park. The annual inspection was carried out this year by Brigadier Lambert from the War Office, and was notable for a good turnout and a total lack of fainting casualties. Brigadier Lambert gave an indication of the advantages of the War Certificate to National Service men and expressed his satisfaction at the work of the School C.C.F.

## OLD WESTMINSTERS

Dr. G. K. A. Bell has completed 21 years as Bishop of Chichester.

The Rev. G. A. Ellison, Vicar of St. Mark's, North End, Portsmouth, has been made an honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral and has been appointed Bishop of Willesden.

Mr. J. A. F. Northcott has been ordained to a curacy at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland was this year's President of the Royal Numismatic Society.

The Rev. P. M. Bartlett, Vicar of St. Saviour's, Poplar, has been appointed to the Prebendal Stall of Holborn in St. Paul's Cathedral, vacated by the resignation of the Rev. H. W. Hinde.

Col. Sir Thomas L. H. Roberts, Bt. (late R.A.) was appointed Honorary Colonel of the 499 (M.) H.A.A. Rgt., R.A. (London Welsh), T.A., w.e.f. June 6th, 1949.

The Rev. John Ford has been appointed by the Bishop of Carlisle to the living of Wigton, Carlisle, Cumberland.

Mr. S. L. H. Clarke has been elected Captain of the Cambridge University Fencing Club.

Mr. F. D. Bateson has been elected Hon. Secretary of the Oxford University Fencing Club.

## BIRTHS

BRADBURY—On June 6th 1950 at West Bridgford to Margaret, wife of the Hon. Paul Bradbury, a son.

BUDGETT—On May 16th 1950 at Bristol, to Patricia, wife of H. A. Budgett, a son.

HAVERS—On June 16th 1950 in London, to Carol, wife of Michael Havers, a son.

HOWE BROWNE—On May 22nd 1950 in London, to Sheila, wife of M. Howe Browne, a son.

KEEL—On June 4th 1950 to Pauline, wife of F. C. Keel, a daughter.

KNOWLES—On July 1st 1950 at Worcester, to Joan Mary (née Shearman), wife of Dr. M. Knowles, a daughter.

PHILBY—On May 20th 1950 in Washington, D.C., to Aileen, wife of H. A. R. Philby, a son.

RIDLEY-THOMPSON—On May 16th 1950 in London, to Jacqueline, wife of A. Ridley-Thompson, a son.

SHAW SCOTT—On May 18th 1950 in London, to Eileen, wife of J. G. Shaw Scott, a son.

SOMERS-COCKS—On April 18th 1950 to Peggy, wife of J. S. Somers-Cocks, a daughter.

TWEDDLE—On June 6th 1950 at Leatherhead, to Pamela, wife of A. R. S. Tweddle, a son.

## MARRIAGES

CURLENDER : LIMB—On June 12th 1950 in Elsay, Illinois, Robert Curlender to Marilyn Ruth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Limb of Houston, Texas.

HEWITT-JONES : LAWSON—On July 24th 1950 at Friends House, Euston Road, Anthony Hewitt-Jones to Anita, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Lawson of Arnside, Westmorland.

WAINWRIGHT : TREPLIN—On May 20th 1950 at Hamburg, L. E. W. W. Wainwright to Helga Louise, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Treplin of Hadermarschen, Schleswig Holstein.

## OBITUARY

MONTAGUE ROBERT BETHUNE, who died on May 15th at the age of 85, was admitted as a Queen's Scholar in 1879. He was elected to Trinity and was ordained in 1893. His first curacy was at Twyford, and he later became Vicar of Woodham and of Lymington. He married in 1904, Dorothea, daughter of the Rev. W. J. Mellish.

ALEXANDER GEORGE CORY was born in 1873 and was at Westminster from 1885 to 1890. He lived at St. Mawes, Cornwall.

DONALD VERNON FLETCHER was admitted to the School in 1913. In the First World War he held a commission in the West Yorkshire Regiment, and served in France and on the Rhine. He took up farming in Yorkshire, and later lived at Ashford. He was twice married and is survived by four children.

ROBERT DUNDAS WHIGHAM was born in 1873 and entered Westminster in 1888. He stayed for little more than a year, and transferred to Bradfield, but in 1890 he took up farming in Canada. In 1900 he took a commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers, later transferring to the K.O.S.B., and saw many years' service in West Africa and afterwards in France. He was twice wounded in the First World War and also received a mention in despatches. In 1916 he was awarded the D.S.O. and retired from the Army with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. He married Dorothy Margaret, daughter of R. F. Meredith of Cloyne, Cork.

HERBERT CHRISTOPHER WITHERBY, who died June 17th 1950, aged 79, was at Westminster from 1885 to 1889. He was a member of the staff of the London Life Association for over forty years and later served for fourteen years on the Wandsworth Borough Council and was chairman of several committees. He married in 1902 Dorothy, daughter of the Revd. Thomas Grabham, Rector of Irthlingborough, Northants.

## THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

THE Annual Club Dinner will be held on Friday, September 29th, at the Church House Restaurant, Dean's Yard, S.W.1., at 8 p.m., preceded by cocktails in Ashburnham House at 7.15 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting will take place up School on Thursday, October 5th, at 6 p.m.

Details of the dinner arrangements and the agenda for the meeting will be issued in due course.

### THE ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of those interested in the Committee's activities will be held on Thursday, October 5th.

There will be no Westminster Ball this year.

## THE WAR MEMORIAL

A complete list of Subscribers to the War Memorial Fund, together with the Accounts for the year ended April 5th, 1950, and a report by the Committee, will be published in the autumn.

The President of the Elizabethan Club entertained some forty Old Westminsters for dinner at Hotel Rubens on May 16th, 1950, to meet the Head Master.

## THE GAMES COMMITTEE

The O.W.W. F.C. Committee for the season 1950-1 consists of the following:—

<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	..	W. W. S. Bream
<i>Asst. Hon. Secretary</i>	..	H. C. Gayer
<i>Treasurer</i>	..	A. Punched
<i>Captain 1st XI</i>	..	P. G. Whipp
<i>Vice-Captain 1st XI</i>	..	B. D. Naylor
<i>Captain "A" XI</i>	..	A. Winchester
<i>Vice-Captain "A" XI</i>	..	C. A. Barker

## THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL BOYS' CLUB

IT may be of interest to past and present Westminsters to give a short report of what progress has been made to date. It is hoped that by August the contract for purchase of the site and buildings at Nunhead Grove, Peckham, from Cheltenham, will have been completed. Licences are being obtained to put in hand repairs and rebuilding necessitated by War Damage and by Requisitioning. Grants in aid have been obtained, but the Club will be forced to use all its Reserve Funds, so carefully accumulated by Sir Arthur Knapp, in addition.

When completed the buildings will include a Chapel, a Recreation Room with a stage, a Handicrafts Room, a Quiet Room, Changing Rooms, and other accommodation. It is reached from Westminster by a No. 12 bus, and it is hoped that some part of it may be in use by the end of the year, and that 1951 will see its formal opening in its completed form.

There will be a General Meeting of all those interested, when an Appeal for further funds will be launched, at the School in October, 1950. Notices will be sent to all those known to be interested, but anyone not receiving a notice should enquire the date and time from the Honorary Secretary, Westminster School Boys' Club, 17 Dean's Yard, S.W.1. Further details of the Club's activities can also be supplied on request to anyone interested, or to anyone who may be unable to attend the meeting.

## FIVES

THE Club finished their Season on April 20th, having played every Wednesday. During this period they had an average of six players. This is of course, not yet enough, and it is hoped that some of the Boys on leaving will join the Club, even if they are not able to play for the first eighteen months owing to National Service. They can be assured that if they have stated they wish to play Fives, they will always be welcome at the courts.

The Club played 9 matches; unfortunately they were not able to claim any of them as victories, though in a number of the matches it was a very close fight, and by the end of the Season it was obvious the standard of Fives was on the upgrade.

The next Season commences on September 20th, when more matches are being arranged both Home and Away.

If any Old Westminster would like to receive details of the Club's activities, would they please contact the Hon. Secretary at 1 Brown Eaves, Victoria Road, Weybridge, Surrey.



**S**IRS, On reading the article entitled "Modern Westminster Slang" in the June issue of *The Elizabethan*, I was profoundly shocked that the traditional Westminster language is being allowed to fall into disuse. We all know that there are some expressions which, as the writer of the article points out, are only of a transitory nature and cannot be preserved. I well remember my father telling me of a curious phrase which was in common use in his time in the early 70's—"Not in these boots"—and I wonder if any O.W. remembers it. There are, however, those traditional words which must never be allowed to die: examples of these are "Station," "Greaze," "Sci," "Up" and "Down."

It is my fondest hope that my two sons, now aged five and three, shall go to Westminster as Grantites, and I have for some time past been coaching them in the correct use of Westminster language. It is indeed pleasant to hear them "ticking each other off" (does this phrase still survive at Westminster?) for breaches of table manners in the words. "That may be done up Rigaud's, but it is not done up Grant's."

I earnestly appeal to all O.W.W. who are contemplating sending their sons to Westminster to start instructing them in the correct use of Westminster language at a very early age, so that when they come to the School they will be able to play their full part in maintaining the ancient tradition.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES H. ARNOLD.

**S**IRS,

The reference to "Marbles" in the article "Minor Sports" in your number of April, 1950, has revived an ancient memory, and perhaps the following trivial "historical note" may be of some interest.

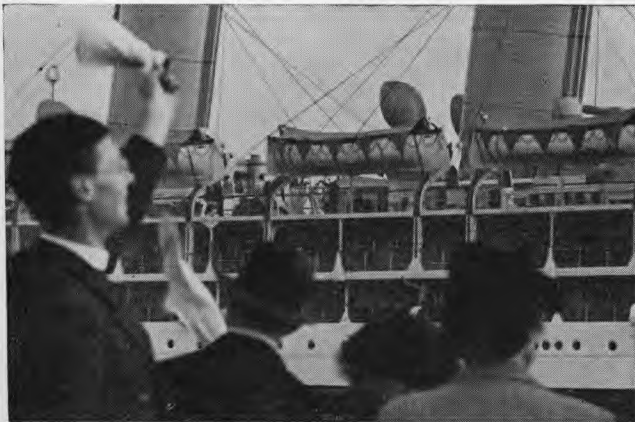
In April, 1914, two small boys from the country (my younger brother and myself) were being introduced by their father to the wonders of Westminster Abbey. . . As we passed along the Cloisters, we paused for a moment to watch a workman perched at the top of a ladder, effecting a "spring clean" on the bust of some eighteenth-century worthy. (I later identified this, in my Westminster days as that of Edward Tufnell, Architect). Seeing us gazing up, the workman called out, "I've found a marble up here; if either of you two would care to have it," and straightaway pitched the marble down. My brother (more alert than I) pounced on it, but in later years it came into my possession.

Some time later, my father surmised (and I personally have little doubt, correctly) that this must have been a genuine Westminster marble of olden days (*vide* the well-known picture, "Marbles in Cloisters"), which had lodged behind Mr. Edward Tufnell's ear for perhaps the best part of a century. On inspection, it proved to be no ordinary marble (glass or stone), but made of *real marble*—whitish in colour, and with a distinct reddish vein.

Unluckily, the marble has since been mislaid. My recollection, however, is that it is carefully preserved somewhere. If it ever comes to light, it will certainly be presented to my old School, the original home of the "Minor Sport" of Marbles (in Cloisters).

Yours, etc.,

RICHARD S. CHALK,  
RR. and K.S. 1918-24.



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