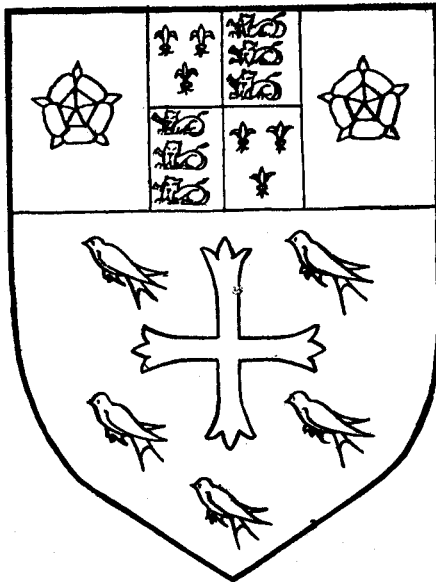


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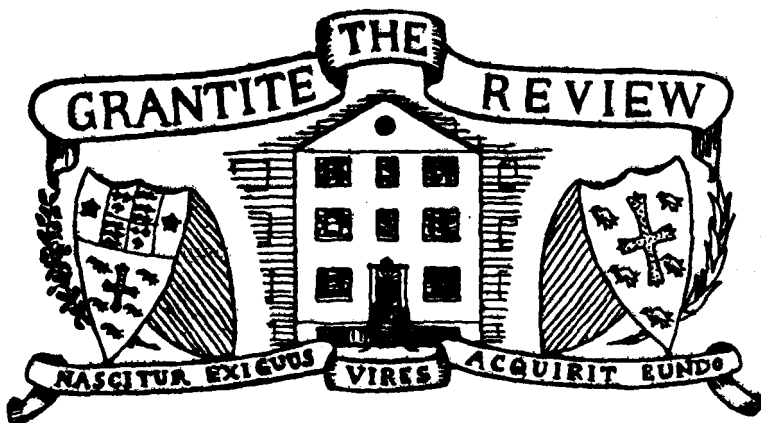
# THE GRANTITE REVIEW



PLAY TERM,  
1946.

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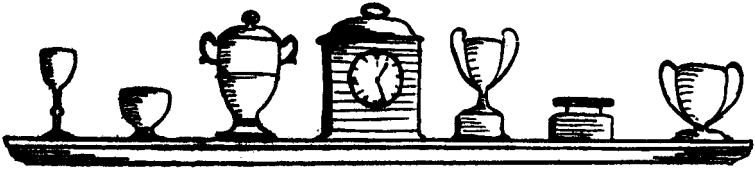
EDITORIAL.

Great Britain is a land renowned throughout the world for its pageantry and pomp ; and no land has preserved this national distinction as has Great Britain. Every Briton is by nature a lover of the bright, the splendid, and the regal, and when any ceremony of pageantry takes place, you may be sure that the citizens will do it full honour. Not least among the spectacles which brighten a gloomy world, even though it be but for a day, is the annual opening of Parliament by his Majesty the King. Before the war, it was rivalled in pageantry only by the Lord Mayor's Show : during the war, like everything else, it assumed a cloak of austerity and secrecy : but now, after six years of bombs, battle and black bread, the pomp and the ceremony have reappeared once more, still under the shadow of austerity, it is true, but under a shadow which will soon disappear, we hope, when the sun of peace has risen to its zenith.

Even though austerity was present and was felt, and the Press said that the Stern Gang had threatened to do the same, the procession was a sight to warm the heart, chilled by the dank of six years' war. The Irish State Coach drawn by the Windsor Greys, the squadron of Life Guards with their horses in perfect formation, although it was not long ago that their riders were driving tanks in the Desert, in Italy and in France ; the familiar, and yet somehow unfamiliar uniforms of the Gentlemen-at-Arms and of the Yeomen of the Guard getting in and out of their charabancs, all gave one the inexplicable thrill which one gets from beholding such sights. It was in fact, and this is said at the risk of becoming over-poetic and rhetorical, a reminder of our great traditions and a ray of light which pierced the surrounding gloom.

But pomp and pageantry cannot by themselves make a land. They come as a relief to sore eyes about four times a year ; but underneath it all lies the everyday life, dull for some, and colourful for others. To this we must turn our thoughts as well as to the revival of the splendour of old. The war has been over for eighteen months, and yet in home affairs Great Britain is still far from the hard ground which she is striving to reach away from the Slough of Despond in which she is at present floundering ; in international affairs, the world is more obviously divided than ever before ; the Sword of Damocles still hangs over our heads, now in the shape of the atom bomb : on the face of it, the outlook is none too bright.

Yet we must not despair. Let us look to the past, to our great and noble traditions, to gain inspiration for the future. It is up to each one of us, young and old, and it is the former whom it concerns most, that we do our bit in helping to heal the sores and to set the broken bones of a world distracted for too long by total war.



HOUSE NOTES.

In Inner this term are :—J. A. Davidson, W. J. Frampton, M. G. Baron, F. R. H. Almond and R. A. Lapage.

The Head of House is also Captain of the School.

In Chiswicks this term are :—J. M. Chamney, D. L. Almond, R. E. Nagle, H. L. Murray, G. G. Skellington, D. J. Swan, P. C. Pearson and P. S. Michaelson.

The Head of Hall is J. R. B. Smith and the Hall Monitors are D. M. V. Blee, D. N. Croft (boarders) and E. M. Carr-Saunders (half-boarder).

There left us last term :—G. J. H. Williams, J. C. Barrington-Ward, D. C. F. Chaundy, I. M. Bowley and H. A. E. Tilney-Bassett (boarders) and D. Davison, A. G. Clare and D. L. G. Redhead (half-boarders). We wish them the best of luck.

We welcome this term :—E. J. Oygler, A. H. R. Martindale, L. E. Lowe, S. G. Croft, M. L. B. Pritchard and J. F. Wordsworth (boarders) and R. P. Harben, N. N. G. Maw and R. A. Miles (half-boarders).

W. J. Frampton is Captain of School Athletics.

R. A. Lapage is Captain of School Shooting.

F. R. H. Almond is Captain of School Gym.

J. A. Davidson is an Editor of the *Elizabethan*.

We won Cricket Juniors last term, beating King's Scholars in the finals by 7 wickets.

R. A. Lapage and C. W. R. Cox (B) won Senior Pairs last term.

Pinks were awarded to H. L. Murray and H. A. E. Tilney-Bassett, Pink and Whites to D. L. Almond and Thirds to F. R. H. Almond for Cricket.

We won the Gym Competition last term for the first time since 1910!

There are at the moment 38 boarders and 8 half-boarders in the House.

In Lit. Soc. this term we have read "Outward Bound," by Sutton Vane; "Rookery Nook" by Ben Travers; "Men in Shadow," by Mary Bell; "The Midshipmaid," by Ian Hay; "Dear Octopus," by Dodie Smith;

"The Man Who Changed His Name," by Edgar Wallace; "Bill of Divorcement," by Clemence Dane; and "Time and the Conways," by J. B. Priestley.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE HEAD MASTER.

During last holidays the Head Master was taken seriously ill and, after being in Westminster Hospital for several weeks, he is now convalescing at his country home. He has been greatly missed and we wish him a speedy recovery. During this term his place has been taken by Mr. D. C. Simpson, Master of the King's Scholars.

#### "THE GRANTITE REVIEW."

Next term there will appear the 200th Edition of the *Grantite Review*. Any articles or letters of interest for this special anniversary that Old Grantites care to submit would be much welcomed. We apologise for the small number this term, but we hope to produce an extra-large one next term.

#### COMMENDATIO BENEFACTORUM.

At 5.15 p.m. on Friday, November 15th, we celebrated Commem. in Abbey for the first time since 1937. To all but four members of the House, it was the first they had attended, and those four had only seen Commem. held in the rural church of Whitbourne, surrounded on all sides by green fields and hedges, in the pretty countryside of Herefordshire; what a difference between then and now! But one thing was the same, even though this time we were in the heart of London, 150 miles from Whitbourne; simplicity was the keynote throughout the service. Apart from the bright red robes of the Canons, the white surplices of the King's Scholars, and the pink carnations of the School Monitors, there was very little colour. Dress was lounge suit or uniform and this helped to create the atmosphere of simplicity and sincerity to which was added a slight feeling of mysticism by the sonorous Latin vowels: even the most irreligious person in the congregation could not but feel moved by the total effect.

After the opening responses and the two psalms, the Dean read the lesson (*Laudemus viros gloriosos*) which was followed by the Te Deum; Mr. Simpson (acting Head Master) then read the *Commendatio Benefactorum*, which includes those familiar names which we recite throughout the year as their special day comes round, and which finished with a monody on those Old Boys who gave their lives in either of the World Wars. There followed then the responses and the hymn, "*Gloriosi Salvatoris*," after which the Precentor sang the School prayers; then we all sang the hymn, "*Salvator mundi Domine*," the last verse of which was rendered with especial verve and vigour, in canon. The service was then concluded by the Blessing given by the Dean. It was a truly moving ceremony and one to be held in memory for a long time by all who were present.

A reception was then held up Ashburnham for the thousand or so people who attended. General opinion considered that it had a much more friendly and informal atmosphere than that which was held up School in pre-war days. This, of course, may have partly been due to the fact that the drink and the food exceeded that of before the war both in quality and quantity, but also it was because a few small rooms provide a much less frigid atmosphere than one large one. However that may be, the evening was enjoyed to the full by all who were present, and Old Westminsters, parents and boys went away happier and more cheerful than before.

## FOOTBALL.

This term it was decided to introduce League football. On a Thursday we have a Big Game and the League Games, and Saturday is set aside for School games. Each House can enter as many teams as it can provide, and anyone who is not wanted for a Big Game is allowed to play. The reason for this is that, unless the younger boys are keen, they will not improve, and it was thought that this was the best way to get the desired keenness. That it has been successful is, I believe, beyond doubt. Not only has it improved the general standard of play, but it has also made everyone much fitter.

Grant's has entered two teams, the only House to do so, as we have over 30 footballers. Our first team is, at the moment, unbeaten. Its record is: Played 6; Won 5; Lost 0; Drawn 1; Goals for=24; Goals against=9; Points 11. This makes us top of the League, King's Scholars and Ashburnham and Homeboarders being 3 points behind with 8 points. There are still four more matches to play. The scores were, in the first round:—*v.* King's Scholars, won 5—3; *v.* Busby's, won 4—3; *v.* Ashburnham and Homeboarders, drawn, 0—0; *v.* Rigaud's, won 3—1; *v.* Grant's "B" won 9—2. In the second round we have beaten King's Scholars by 3 goals to nil.

Grant's "A" team is composed mainly of those who played in Juniors on November 21st, when we lost to King's Scholars 1—0. Of these, Hornsby, Allan and Lee have all played in the Colts XI this year and form a steady background to the team, and Brown will be a reliable goalkeeper if he will realise that if he comes out of goal he must get the ball whatever happens. Among the new boys, Lowe, Martindale, Wordsworth and Pritchard stand out as promising juniors who should be useful in a year or two. There is room for plenty of improvement before we have a good team, especially in the forward line. The chief fault at the moment is the lack of punch in front of goal. The forwards are too apt to kick with their toes instead of the instep, which makes their shots inaccurate, or to try to tap the ball in, which gives the goalkeeper plenty of time to think. Many attacks come to nothing, just because someone tries to dribble through on his own, instead of passing; the forwards, in fact, have not grasped the idea of team play. The defence must remember to tackle quickly when the ball is near their goal and not to delay their tackle. At the moment they are also very inclined to forget that they should be marking at the throw-ins, free kicks and corners. When the tackle has been successful they should try and pass it to one of their own side and not just kick it up the field. However, I feel that all these faults are mainly those of inexperience.

Grant's "B" have unfortunately not won a match yet, but this is hardly surprising considering that they are playing against bigger and better players than themselves. But, whatever else may be lacking, there is no lack of spirit, which, I believe, is by far the most important virtue in the case of players like these; and they are not disheartened by their reverses. Among them Sandford and Milligan should do well. The team play is ragged and lacks thrust, especially in the forward line; the defence have had a thankless task and have played hard.

One thing I have noticed about both the teams is the number of right-footed players who have had to play on the left side of the field. This is unfortunate but necessary, as there are very few people who can kick properly with their left foot. This, apparently, is the case all over the School. Whether it is the same elsewhere or just a peculiarity of Westminster I am not in a position to say, but it is unfortunate for the players whom it affects.

It has been decided to hold Seniors next term so as not to interfere with the 1st XI training for the Charterhouse match. We will still have eight of

last year's team which won the shield. It seems to be a question of whether we can beat Busby's again this year.

Fields is now flat, but only a small patch in the middle, where the cricket pitch used to be, can be used, and then only for practice. It says a lot for the spirit of all footballers that, despite the difficulties of the first years back in London, with no pitch near the school, the general standard of football at Westminster has risen higher than all expectations, and has been maintained. We need have no fears for the future if this spirit remains as it is.

As has been stated earlier on in this article we were knocked out in the first round of Juniors by King's Scholars. It can be said for the start that the play was rather scrappy, though this was partly due to the state of the ground. Heavy rain had made the lower end extremely soggy, and a strong wind made passes inaccurate. Grant's won the toss and decided to play downhill. We were immediately on the attack and for most of this half the ball was in the College penalty area, but very weak finishing prevented us from building up a strong lead. Lowe and Martindale made some good runs up the wings, but these came to nothing. College occasionally cleared the ball up the field but our backs, Wordsworth and Pritchard, managed to break up these dashes and return the ball to our forwards. Some long-range shots by the halves were the only effective shots by our team. The first half ended with no score for either side. After the resumption of play, each side saw a good deal of the ball. College were making the sharper and stronger attacks, but good goalkeeping by Brown and strong clearing by Wordsworth kept them out. Grant's made several attacks up the field through our insides, Hornsby and Allan, but as usual weak finishing wasted the efforts. After twenty minutes of the second half College scored from a mêlée in front of goal. Both sides made strong attacks on the opposing goal. We made several strong runs up the field, but too much individualism again ruined our chances. During the last few minutes we put all we could into our attack, but a "sitter" was missed in the last minute, and we were unable to score. This left King's Scholars winners by one goal to nil. It was unfortunate that we had an "off" day in the way of shooting, for it can truthfully be said that we had the ball for about three quarters of the time. The truth is that College took one of the few chances they got, but we obstinately refused to take any. Next year our team will be practically the same :—

Team :—Brown ; Wordsworth, Pritchard ; Mackay, Lee, Blee ; Lowe L., Allan, Davies, Hornsby (captain), Martindale.

After the match, Juniors were awarded to D. M. V. Blee.

F.R.H.A.

## THE WATER.

After the excitement of Henley everyone settled down to training for House Fours for the School Regatta. Grant's entered five fours, one Senior, two Junior Senior and two Junior. This was done in order to allow everyone in the House to row and also so that we could call in a few useful oarsmen who were not Watermen. In addition to this every Grantite Waterman entered for the Sculling races. In spite of all our training we were not very successful in the final order of the Halahan Cup, coming fourth.

Our Senior four was greatly handicapped by the fact that all four oarsmen in it were only used to rowing bow-side.

For our first race we drew Busby's, who had had the misfortune of losing one of their oarsmen who was also a Pink, but in spite of that they produced a strong crew and beat us by four lengths. The two Junior-Senior fours met in the first round with Homeburnham. Grant's "A" won fairly easily. In the final we lost to Rigaud's.

Our two Junior fours also met one another in the first round and as might be expected Grant's "A" beat Grant's "B" easily. In the semi-final we lost to Busby's after a very good race.

Our sculling was poor, except for the Juniors, where there is promise of some good oars.

#### SENIOR FOURS.

Grant's *v.* Busby's.

Lost by four lengths.

The race was rowed from the Mile Post to the U.B.R. Stone. Grant's got a bad start but soon settled down to some good hard rowing. Busby's were then about half a length up. Just before Beverly Grant's "gave her ten" to try and make up the gap which had now stretched to over a length; unfortunately the ten did not produce the desired effect, for the rowing became rather scrappy. We settled down again and took her in from the Boat House; for the last part the crew got together again, but by this time Busby's were well ahead and won by four lengths.

Grant's Crew :—Bow D. C. F. Chaundy, W. J. Frampton, I. M. Bowley, stroke R. A. Lapage, cox H. Ward.

#### JUNIOR-SENIOR FOURS.

Final—Grant's *v.* Rigaud's.

Lost by four lengths.

Grant's Junior-Senior having defeated Homeburnham by two lengths, entered the finals against Rigaud's.

The race was rowed from the end of the Fence to the Stone.

Grant's got away well, beginning with five consecutive "tens." The stroke, however, tried to keep up this fast pace but the rest of the crew found it very hard to follow. Rigaud's, on the other hand, had settled down to steady rowing. They soon made up the gap and won by four lengths.

Grant's Crew :—Bow D. M. V. Blee, R. E. Nagle, J. R. B. Smith, stroke P. C. Pearson, cox L. Lipert.

#### JUNIOR FOURS.

Semi-Final—Grant's *v.* Busby's.

Lost by two and a half lengths.

This was for the first part an evenly contested race. The course was from Beverly to the Stone. Grant's settled down rapidly. Busby's, however, kept up to us and began drawing away by the Boat House. The stroke tried hard to keep us level with Busby's but his efforts could not prevent them from winning by two and a half lengths.

Grant's Crew :—Bow A. J. Allan, R. N. Mackay, D. N. Croft, stroke A. E. C. Bostock, cox H. Ward.

Seniors were awarded to I. M. Bowley, D. F. C. Chaundy and W. J. Frampton.

Juniors were awarded to the other two crews.

R. A. L.



## GYM.

The Inter-House Gym Competition, which is judged on the result of the individual events, was won easily this year by Grant's with King's Scholars runners up. The following are the positions of the Grantites who entered :—

*Seniors* :—Almond, F., 2nd ; Almond, D., 3rd ; Smith, 7th.

*Juniors* :—Smith, 1st ; Almond, D., 2nd ; Hornsby, 4th ; Sandford, 5th ; Davies, 9th.

Almond, D. and Smith, considering they were both under 16, did well to enter for the Senior event also. Of these two, Almond, D. has the wider range of exercises, although he is not so tidy in doing them as Smith, who, on the other hand, cannot do so many. Hornsby and Sandford are promising but they both need to get down to concentrated practice on the exercises at which they are weak. Davies should realize that a little skill at one thing is not enough. At present he is inclined not to try anything that he does not like.

We will still have all of last year's gymnasts for the competitions next year, although Almond, D. and Smith will only be able to compete in the Senior events ; but we hope to repeat this year's success which was the first since 1910!

F. R. H. A.

## SCHOOLS' HEAD OF RIVER RACE.

The first Schools' Head of the River Race, did not see Putney at her best. It was a grey afternoon of rain and wind, and the tideway was not in the least calm. For this race, organised by Mr. Fisher, 14 eights had entered. There were two divisions, lightship and clinker ; the crews in the first division were St. Paul's "A," K.C.S. Wimbledon "A," Owen's "A," Bryanston "A," Westminster "A," Latymer "A," and U.C.S. "A" and "B." The Clinker division consisted of Owen's "B," Westminster "B" and "C," Latymer "B," Westminster "D" and St. Paul's "B."

The course was from Hammersmith Bridge to the U.B.R. Stone, Putney. All the crews rowed up to Hammersmith and formed up below the Bridge without turning round. At about 3.15, a whistle was blown, and sweaters were hurriedly discarded. Five minutes later Mr. Carleton waved a red flag (*Daily Worker*, please note), and the cry echoed down the river—"paddle on 2 and 4—back her down 7 and 5." The 14 eights turned with almost military precision, and soon, with their tense and expectant crews, began to drift rapidly towards the stake-boat moored at Hammersmith Bridge. By the time they reached the stake-boat, the crews were in position for a rowing start. In strict numerical order they came up to the starter, and at the cry, at least the bellow, "No.— . . . Go!" dug their oars in the water, drove with their legs, and amidst a flurry of spray, started off for Putney. But a mishap had occurred. Bryanston, having come from Dorset specially for the occasion, holed their eight on a submerged rock before the start and abandoned the race.

The weather now took a hand in it. The water was rough and choppy and even by the time they started the boats already were well-stocked with water. This situation, bad enough, was made worse by a strong wind, which even more caused old Father Thames to rise up and smite the assembled crews with dramatic and unfortunate results.

University College School "B" crew, the 8th to start, after having rowed 300 yards, were swamped, and her crew were rudely flung into the cold and very wet river, and had to be rescued by a police launch, which was luckily standing by. After that, misfortunes followed thick and fast. At the mile-post Owen's "A" were filled with water, but such was the determination of this crew that they emptied their boat, and rowed on to Putney, to finish ninth. At Beverly, Westminster "C" were swamped, and just at the beginning of the "hard," Westminster "B" were compelled to give up the race, and likewise K.C.S., Wimbledon. Thus the River Thames presented a sight rarely seen. Five eights whose crews were either in the water, or pulling their eight out of the water, all soaked to the skin. An uncommon occurrence, but quite a common sight by the time the surviving crews reached the University Stone.

The remaining eights, nine in number, including Owen's "A," feathering high because of the choppy state of the water, with water being flung everywhere, continued as best they could, rowing inside the buoys, to Putney Bridge. They were inspired no doubt to further and greater effort by the sight of their comrades and rivals strewn on the river banks. St. Paul's "A" became Head of the River, after rowing the course in 9.41. After them came U.C.S. "A," and Westminster "A" was 3rd with a time of 10.24. Fourth was Latymer "A," and the remaining Westminster crew, the first clinker crew, which started as No. 13, came in 5th in 11.45. They were followed by Latymer "B," St. Paul's "B" and Owen's "A" and "B" Out of a total of 14 crews, nine completed the course.

That was the first Schools' Head of the River Race, and in all it was a very thrilling and exciting race; a race which asked for and obtained a great deal from the crews taking part. It was both a good and bad beginning to this new venture, but it is certainly worth while repeating and being established as an annual event, but in the future, it would be better if fewer persons were immersed in river water, and fewer eights damaged.

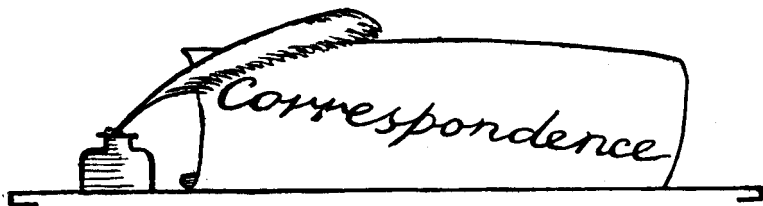
M. G. B.

#### PORTRAIT IN OILS.

The casual observer, whose sole interest in rowing is confined to the beer on Boat Race night and the hats at Henley, may well be excused for calling it "that nice clean sport." If he wants a shock he should come to Putney on any Saturday and see our crews going out. He will find that their clothes instead of being that brilliant white seen in the papers and on the News Reels, are a greyish black. This discolouring is due to a mixture of mud, Thames waters, Best elastic Copal Varnish and Grease. So permanent is this colour that all the combined resources of modern laundrycraft (including bleaching powder and petrol) cannot remove it. But it is about the Grease that I would speak particularly.

The Grease is in theory confined to the buttons and rowlocks, and to the slide. The first thing that the young oarsman learns is the dreadful truth that Grease, like Paraffin and Methylated Spirit, oozes. From the buttons it spreads to the hands and thence, at the end of each stroke, to the vest, leaving that patch of dirt peculiar to those who draw up to their chests. From the slide it creeps up the shorts until it meets at your waist its brother from the little tin kept at the boathouse. It is only when you have your shower that you discover that your shins and face are covered with that same grey film. With a sigh of relief you reach for the shower handle: it has just been greased!

R. E. N.



## CORRESPONDENCE OF 1834.

The original of the following letter was discovered in a family muniment chest by Lady Davson, a sister of Lt.-Col. H. M. Davson (O.G.), who sent it to us. The writer was her grandfather and was at Westminster from 1833 to 1840.

It is clearly of great interest and we are most grateful for being given the opportunity of publishing it.

GRANT'S,

*21st October, 1834.*

MY DEAR MAMA,

I now set down to address you, I want to write a long letter as I have nothing particular to do this evening. First of all I shall tell you all about the fire, what a dreadful catastrophe. It will be an everlasting misfortune and I am sure it will never go from my mind as long as I live. On Thursday evening as we were, as we call it, at Lisck, that is at tea, Farrar came running into our room telling us that there was a great fire quite close, you may conceive my fright. I immediately ran into Farrar's room and looked out of the window, where such a sight was open to view as I never shall forget, the whole of Abingdon Street close to us appeared to me to be in a blaze but I soon heard that it was the House of Lords that was on fire. Then I began to be in a fright about the Abbey, but as the wind was in a contrary direction I was quiet about that. Poor Henry was crying all the evening he was in such a fright lest the fire should come to us, but the boys were very kind to him, Osborn said, that if we were obliged to go away, he should go with him, and Hurst tried to persuade him that the wind was contrary, so towards bedtime he began to get a little quiet. When we first saw it we could see the lead melting from the roofs, afterwards we heard an immense crash of the roof of someplace falling in, I was looking at the fire all the evening till I went to bed and then I could not sleep there was such a noise in College Street. Henry slept soundly and Maule too, I was out of bed every half hour I was in such a fright all the time that I couldn't get to sleep at all, at least, at three o'clock in the morning I got to sleep but awoke again at six. When I got up all the boys in this house went to see the ruins, but Henry and I stayed at home.

They all came home in such a mess I never saw such a dirty sight in all my life, but when they had all come in I went, but did not get into a mess. The people were up to their knees in water all night. I went again yesterday and got leave of a policeman to go and see the ruins, which I did, and still they were all smoking and the men were pumping water on it. It is one of the most awful fires that ever has taken place, it is a much worse fire than that of York Minster so people who saw the fire of that Cathedral say. Friday the crowd that came to see it was immense and as most of the people came through Dean's Yard many of the people led by curiosity came into

Little Dean's Yard. Just before school an order came round from the head of the town boys that all the boys were to assemble in Little Dean's Yard with Hockeys, that is the stick with which we play the game of hockey, in order to turn the quantity of people out. Just at that moment it struck ten and Williamson coming to go into school we all made a fight to make way for him, he grined as he was going through the crowd of boys and men, in contempt I suppose of our not having turned them out after having as we should fight, but as it was we all ran up into school with our sticks under our arms, and as we did not take any books into school we did no lessons from ten till twelve as the school doors were locked for fear of the crowd coming up school, in fact I believe that some of the people did come up school during nine and ten, whilst we were at breakfast. At length all the people went away and at twelve they had got out of Little Dean's Yard and were assembled to the number of 300 and upwards in Great Dean's Yard where the King's scholars were playing at hockey and football. Saville, a King's scholar, kicked the football over the railings of the green in which we play and as it fell among the crowd he got over to get it, but they would not give it him, therefore what with town and King's scholars there were all collected together and tried to get the football, in which business the people threw stones, one hit a boy named Dickinson on the back of the neck, but another I am sorry to say hit Saville a blow on the temple, he was stunned and carried into College on the shoulders of other King's scholars and had leeches put on directly. I believe he is doing well, the stone did not make his head bleed which I was told was worse than if it had made it bleed. One of the people was stabbed in the arm by somebody or other, it isn't known who. I am happy to say that Hurst told me last night that I might go to Gray, but that I should be considered rather scampish if I did, but I do not care for that. I shall continue to go to him. I am very glad of it, because it would be a great sacrifice to lose such a good help as Gray is. It will be a piece of good news to Papa, therefore I shall exert myself to the utmost of my power and shall learn as much as ever I possibly can before Christmas, then I shall be able to enjoy my Christmas Holidays with much more satisfaction than if I had not. Dear Papa I forgot that coffee was not included when I asked for tea; Maule has got half a pound of Souchong at — shillings per pound, a pound of coffee, and some brown sugar, he does not drink white with his tea. Therefore we may have I suppose the same quantity for each. Dear Mama, pray do send me the receipt for a cough as I am afraid that I have got a tendency to a cough, with directions for use. A sum—as tea is 6d. per lb. what will 20lb. come to? £20. Pray give out best love to all at home, pray write to me soon telling me about my pigeons, my honey and in fact a nice letter. My stock of news is at length exhausted. I must tell you about what we saw at the play another time, for now I have no room.

I remain, your devoted son, Clayton.

*To the Editor of the "Grantite Review."*

OXFORD.

October, 1946.

Sir,

Enough has been said of the weather in Oxford at this time of the year for all but the purposefully ignorant to know that spiritual warmth must be extracted from something. Your correspondent extracts his from two cheerful features of this year. One is that, cold and wet as it is, it is at least warmer and dryer than the summer; the other, that Oxford is again full of

faces, mostly old faces, but faces we are cheered to see again. And, what is much to us, and more to them, civilian faces.

Westminster has the reputation of producing a vast assortment of Individuals, all different, and all a little peculiar in their way. Of the Old Grantites up at the moment, one can go further and say that each in his own way is a Genius. Who could deny this to Mr. Borrodaile or Mr. Hodges? The Married Undergraduate is becoming less of a phenomenon to be spoken of in hushed whispers, but, though painful to the diehards, we are left gasping with admiration and envy. Mr. Davison, however, restores the balance by being a perfect bachelor. The same cannot be said of Mr. Bradley, who cultivates a genius for pin-up girls; in fact, the overcrowding of the walls has forced him to incorporate Maureen O'Hara into his lampshade.

Mr. Croft has displayed little fresh genius lately, but relies on a season ticket for dirty corduroy trousers and fervent, though unfulfilled, intentions of having his hair cut to-morrow. Mr. Dickey is remarkable for being happy *and* writing poetry; the significance of this is immense, as anyone with any acquaintance of poets knows. Mr. David Chaundy came up with his genius prefabricated by an obliging father and brother.

Mr. Dick Jones has had the fortitude to reappear this term in the guise of R. D. Kirkham-Jones, Esq. His activities in the field of sport have so far been restricted to being a model for a painting of a Sporting Youth, executed by the Other Mr. Croft (*Not* Mr. A. J. Croft, nor any relation of Messrs. D. N. Croft or S. G. Croft who still adorn Grant's). Mr. Kenneth Thomson is remarkable for the wide range of his interests. One can only quote a selection: growing bulbs and stunted shrubs on his balcony, studying the doctrine of reincarnation and attending political tea-parties.

Well, one cannot go on indefinitely and will spare Mr. Grumitt and Mr. P. Davidson any analysis of their claims to genius. Present Grantites who intend coming to the Better University will be astonished to find how readily genius thrives—but report of that will not be the lot of

YOUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

*To the Editor of the "Grantite Review."*

1st Bn. The Royal Garhwal Rifles,

26 Ind. Div.,

Sumatra, A.L.F.N.E.I.

*November 9th, 1946.*

Dear Sir,

It was with some astonishment that I opened yesterday's *Singapore Times*, to come across a prominent article entitled "Fags Again?"

It begins, "The head of one of the six houses of Westminster School has reported to his housemaster that he cannot maintain good order and discipline unless the fagging system is restored." It goes on to state, "The younger boys of the house concerned, who will become fags if the experiment is abandoned, say that they are the envy of boys in the other houses, and they will ask that the system should not be brought back."

The longer one is separated by time or distance from School, inevitably the less do one's thoughts return to it and the days one spent there. But such reminders as yesterday's do not fail to evoke many memories, and for my part I especially remember my first year at Westminster during which time I was a fag myself.

Personal reminiscences are seldom as interesting to others as many of their writers would suppose; nevertheless I ask you to bear with me for a short space.

The deepest impression that remains with me of that year in London (the last the School spent before evacuation), is of an ever-present consciousness that I was a member of the School. I think this was partly due to School dress and customs, but above all it was brought about by the atmosphere of dignity and age imparted at every turn by the overshadowing dominance of Abbey and the School buildings.

So complete, in my case, was this sense of being part of an institution, which carried on unaffected by the outside world, that I felt an incredible degree of security in the School. Latin Prayers were held up School twice a week, "making a two" before morning Abbey was an unbroken routine, buses took one to Grove Park or Putney on half holidays, and all the time Big Ben chimed away the hours of 1939, during which occurred, utterly unheeded by me, the world events which so ominously heralded what was to follow. Nor, I am certain, was I the only one who was so blissfully ignorant of reality.

It seems absurd in retrospect that one's outlook could have been so narrowly confined, and it is obvious enough that such a state of complacency was far from being good. Yet the fact remains that I regard that year as the richest and one of the happiest I have spent. The reason lies, I believe, in the fact that I was made to realise that I was a member of an institution greater and nobler than myself. And the inculcation of that spirit is, I contend, a worthwhile attribute of any School (or House).

All the above may seem scarcely relevant to fagging, the subject which prompted me to write this letter. It is my opinion, however, that fagging is of value as a means of attaining that relationship with the School or House. Especially is this so nowadays, when the School's influence upon the individual is inevitably weakened by the abandoning of School Dress (which for other reasons I heartily support), the destruction of School and other treasured buildings, or above all by the much greater awareness of outside events, due to the war and the present unsettled state of the world.

Assuredly fagging does not profit the Monitor (except, of course, materially!) and may, if it is abused even be harmful. But for the boys who are "the envy of the other Houses" I would say that it is a first and vital step in teaching them to profit by the rich and unique benefits which Westminster offers and which all too often are not taken advantage of to the full.

There is scarcely anything sadder than the contemplation of "what I *might* have done" and "how it could have been." And such regrets of chances missed and opportunities unprofited by are less present in my memory of that first year at Westminster than any other of my life.

Yours sincerely,

IAN GREGG.

[Correspondence on the above subject is now closed.—EDITOR.]

## OLD GRANTITES.

News has been received of the following O.G.s :—

A. W. C. HARDY got married in Singapore and is now home, stationed at Netheravon and continuing in the R.A.F. When embarking he saw W. J. REED being put back to the next ship owing to overcrowding, but the latter is expected back on leave now at any time.

R. J. M. BARON, after a series of false starts, due to ships' engines breaking down and suchlike, is supposedly on his way to the Far East as a Met. officer, R.A.F.

F. G. OVERBURY is still at Farnborough on R.A.F. research work but has been accepted to go up to Lincoln College, Oxford, next October.

M. V. ARGYLE has just returned from abroad and has twice come to Abbey on a Sunday evening.

F. W. E. FURSDON is back from W. Africa and is stationed at the R.E. depot, Newark.

B. G. ALMOND switched from Russian at Cambridge to Discipline at Cardington ; whence to Newmarket en route for somewhere else.

A. H. WILLIAMS is still in Greece, engaging successfully in occupations of the Turf as backer and as jockey—at any rate one of his mounts being a mule!

G. J. H. WILLIAMS has completed his primary training in the Army and has been posted to the R.A.C. at Catterick.

J. C. BARRINGTON-WARD also, having been sent for primary training to a district in N. Ireland, where his family was already known, has now been posted to the R.A. at Larkhill : he came to see us in transit complete with rifle.

T. W. BROWN spent a few days on demobilisation from the Navy as a temporary master here before resuming this career in a permanent post.

D. M. EADY has returned on demobilisation to Trinity, Cambridge, and J. R. B. HODGES, D. DAVISON and R. O. I. BORRODAILE have done the same at Christ Church, Oxford.

## NOTICES.

All correspondence to the Editor should be addressed to 2, Little Dean's Yard, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Hon. Secretary of the Old Grantite Club and the *Grantite Review* is A. Garrard, and any enquiries should be sent to him at the Duchy of Lancaster Estate Office, Dunsop Bridge, Nr. Clitheroe, Lancs.

The Editor is responsible for the distribution of the *Grantite Review* and any change of address should be sent to him as well as to the Hon. Secretary.