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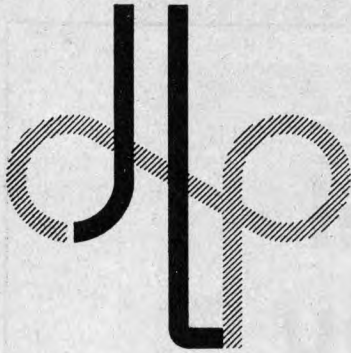
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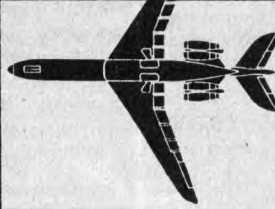
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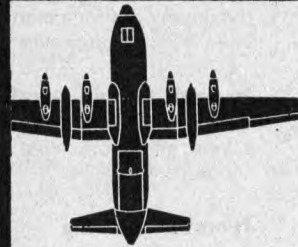
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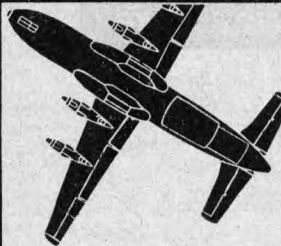
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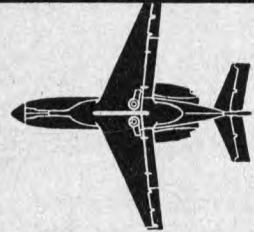
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The Elizabethan

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Editor: Adrian Ward-Jackson

God at Westminster

The College of St. Peter's Westminster, as the name implies, owes its existence to the abbey church with which it has traditionally had a close connection. To the Abbey, the School does indeed owe many of its peculiarities and privileges but these traditional links, because of their basis in the outdated ideals and rituals of Christianity, seem to many Westminsters otiose and out of touch with the twentieth century. These sentiments are at the root of the widespread feelings of apathy and positive hostility towards the daily service in Abbey.

Some have come to accept it merely as twenty minutes between sleep and work in which to wake up, some simply like to admire the architecture of one of the finest Gothic Churches in the country; some merely feel proud of their magnificent school chapel and detach it from any religious significance; some maintain that the building is more of a museum than a place of worship; the more industrious think the time could be better spent in working; professed atheists wonder why they should turn up at all; others (and these include Christians) feel that "pushing religion down people's throats" only leads to a reaction against it; only a very few Christians maintain that any meaningful communal worship is possible under the present conditions.

In this situation the school has made a compromise; for it has been found impossible to reject that part of the school's heritage from

which accrues a certain amount of its reputation and individuality yet it has also been recognized that there is little point in spoiling Christianity by presenting it in a way so dull that it is relieved of modern significance. Thus the authorities are as concerned as members of the school that "morning abbey" should not become a meaningless ritual and a poor imitation of the pomp and circumstance of Sunday Matins.

In the light of this kind of thinking attempts have lately been made to make the form of the service more generally acceptable. Of these innovations the most recent is the plan by which members of the school themselves conduct the morning service and by means of music or extracts from world literature or both, present a theme which has a present day relevance. But this form of service, designed no doubt to put Christianity on a more intellectual or philosophical basis, seems in its emphasis on the fundamental problems of human existence to be no more particularly related to Christianity than any other religion or philosophy which demands of its adherents a moral consciousness. Indeed there are critics who take the view that this form of service containing no specifically Christian ideals should not take place inside a church. There are also those who criticize this form of "audience participation" on the grounds that it leads both to individual ostentation and to competition in originality.

The attempt to present Christianity as a

personal religion is also visible behind the new arrangements for the services on Sundays which all Westminsterians in for the week-end are obliged to attend. However, attendance at the impersonal ceremonial of Sunday Matins in the Abbey is now compulsory only for the few Queen's Scholars whose presence is demanded by tradition; the alternative is to go to the Abbey's less ritualistic and more personal Evensong. There are also Sundays when the School holds its own Communion service in Henry VII's chapel and others when there is a private service held for the School in the chapel of Church House.

So in the Sunday services as well as the daily morning service variety seems to be the keynote; for that form of service has yet to be found that caters for the tastes of every Westminsterian in a congregation of which he is only a member by compulsion. He becomes sceptical when he has a religion forced on him, which finds its basis in the free will of man. Further, with attendance at Christian services compulsory, he begins to wonder if there is any uniqueness or meaningful core in a religion which seemingly for the sake of attracting his interest can admit to such a variety of interpretation.

The Computer Take-over

For the past two years Oxford candidates at Westminster have been among the guineapigs in the experiments of that university to discover whether the old style of entrance examination can be replaced by a test of academic aptitude. This form of examination, which tests the candidate's knowledge of his own language and his ability to think logically under the pressure of time has been in use for some time in the United States. It is doubtless intended to separate the candidate who has a mind with which he thinks, from the candidate possessed of a brain specially suited to assimilating the thoughts of others. This is a distinction which at present is hard to draw in examinations, which consist largely of the writing of essays. There is no doubt either, that if a real correlation can be found between the results of the present essay papers and those of the trial "aptitude test" papers, marking by computer will save a large number of "don-hours" per year.

However, the desire for the new method of examination is by no means one-sided. For it is thought that many schools would welcome such a change simply because of the amount of time devoted to "cramming", euphemistically called revision, for the present examination. Moreover, this attitude among the schools extends beyond the Oxford and Cambridge entrance examinations to "A" and "O" levels.

One can sympathize with a master who is restricted by a pre-established examination

syllabus. On the other hand one can also sympathize with pupils who because an "O" or "A" level is essential to their future will rebuke a master for straying from the syllabus. Westminster, however, so far from being an "O" or "A" level factory, has always prided itself on teaching people to think, and educating its pupils in what were called in past centuries the "liberal arts". Extra-curricular activity at Westminster must count as much as what takes place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in a normal working day.

Music, Drama and Art are what readily come to mind. These, of course, still flourish; but it is interesting to note that the university entrance examinations now being in the Play term, the Latin Play now takes place in the Election term. Furthermore the Play last term took place at the beginning of June, as a result of the "O" and "A" level exams being held earlier than usual in July. Then and even more so in the future, it was difficult to find classicists ready to give up their time and this is increasingly becoming a real threat to the existence of the Latin Play. The School Play, too, has conceded to exams and now takes place in the exam-free Lent term. The desire but not the time for drama is still there, as may be seen in the numerous but haphazardly produced house plays.

Music at Westminster has also witnessed a decline in participation which has been especially marked in the falling attendance of the Choral

Society—an institution which, it must be noted, caters more than any other for the undedicated musician. The Gilbert and Sullivan Society, for which members must sacrifice long hours of their time for rehearsals, seems to be dying a slow death, as do many other of the school's societies; The Political and Literary Society, The William Thomas Society, The John Sargeant Society and The Debating Society had held no meetings before the time of printing.

Journalism in the school has suffered similarly; as opposed to the plurality of magazines produced five or six years ago the only counterbalance now to the *Elizabethan* is Busby's twice-termly publication of the *Clarion*. The present case of art at Westminster would seem to epitomize the situation; last year a new storey was built on to part of Ashburnham House to contain a new Art School; this term there are no Westminsters in the VI form taking art as a specialist subject. This would appear to be largely due to a mistaken attitude, held even among some of the housemasters, that an "A" level in art is impracticable as a qualification; in fact this attitude is not only restricted to art, and far too many are concerned solely with examination and sports results, while belittling the importance of the "liberal arts".

Of course, the present feeling of apathy

throughout the school cannot be attributed directly to the pressure of external and national examinations, but their existence does appear to present to many a reason for devoting less time to the broadening of their outlook. It is significant that with the demise of the C.C.F., Friday afternoons are now taken up for the VI form with "Guilds" while everyone else must work in the normal way. The need has obviously been seen for interesting boys in non-academic activities, yet it is nevertheless felt that senior boys should concern themselves with what is essentially exam work.

If an "aptitude test" coupled with extensive oral examinations becomes the normal method of admission to universities, this will perhaps lead to people receiving a more general education. However, the chief defect of the "aptitude test" would seem to be that it in no way examines academic application, for it favours the candidate with a quick mind yet who may be lazy.

Both the present and the proposed form of examination have their defects, but it has at last been recognized, it would seem, that the time has come to put a stop to over-specialization in the academic rat-race. Perhaps one should bear in mind the possibility of a time when the passing of "aptitude tests" will be the sole aim of education.

Albert by S. Poliakoff

I don't know if he really is called Albert—perhaps not—but it is as good a name as any.

He lives in the Embankment Gardens a few steps from the House of Lords and Henry Moore's bronze teeth.

He's a large man with thick tangled hair, falling onto his shoulders in fine silver curls. His face looks mouldy, spattered with dirt, engrained in the sharp grey hairs that crowd his chin. His nose and lips seem swollen and purple. There is a large boil on his forehead that he rubs periodically until it shines or bleeds.

I found him the first time curled up on a bench amongst stacks of fresh crisp, autumn leaves. How we got talking I forget—perhaps he said something and I answered or perhaps it

was the other way round. "Do you come here often?" I asked, quite conscious that it sounded ridiculous. "Here and over there", he waved vaguely towards the Abbey. His voice is thick and musty, not cockney, not really anything. He had taken out a clay pipe—at least it was plastic—but white and was polishing it with care. He began to smoke it, but there was no tobacco and it made a curious whistling noise. After a bit he opened an old leather bag which was cramped up at one end of the bench, he produced some hard, blue, bread which he threw away. I asked him what he did most of the time—he didn't reply but after a pause asked me the same question.

"English, History and Economics" I replied

automatically, and then feeling stupid, qualified it with a bit about "the beautiful library", speaking fast and tailing off at the end when I realized he wasn't listening. He was shuffling again in his bag and out came a large colour photograph . . . of Val Doonican. It was streaked with rain marks, and the colour had faded so it looked bleached and hideous.

"Irish music, do you like Irish music?"

"Yes . . . well sometimes, I think . . . well I prefer it to Scottish anyway," I said, trying to remember what it sounded like. To my astonishment Albert burst into song, a loud earthy song, which he sung in a high, mellow voice. He went on for several minutes, while I smiled faintly and felt acutely embarrassed. He then stopped but only to invite me to join it. I didn't. Albert had become quite worked up, his face cracked into a smile and his eyes shone. He stood up and suddenly beat the wet bench with his small ugly hands, his thick hairy fingers becoming caked with bird's muck. I moved off, looking back once or twice to see him still dancing—it wasn't really dancing, a strange loping stride across the grass and round the bench. All the time he sang loudly.

I met Albert again a few weeks later. The same bench, the same leaves except now they were in heavy heaps, soggy and foul. He didn't recognize me and I had to begin again from scratch.

"I'm from Westminster." Albert grunted and moved, as if in his sleep.

"The School, WESTMINSTER . . ."

"Er, Westminster. Yes I know the bells—those bells." I felt surprised, but didn't know how to go on. I was determined to ask him one question this time, the only one that really interested me, how he had got into his present state. But Albert was talkative today, and we were soon chatting about the park. The side of his lower lip seems to have been torn and a piece of dried skin flaps loosely as he talks. It was distracting—he should bite it off.

He said it was better in summer "there are people then". He looked across at the limp stretch of grass spattered with pigeons and one solitary park attendant on patrol, staring at his big feet. Not much of a place.

He thought it dull now, dull and cold. He began talking about the other people in the gardens—I had noticed some of them myself and had given

them names. There is the poet who sits wistfully on the end bench by the steps and stares across at the river while entering jottings into a yellow address book. And then there's a fat little Pakistani who is always carrying a pale blue thermos in his hip pocket. He fills it from the splendid Victorian drinking fountain and then carefully crosses the path and pours it into the Thames. Albert told me of one young man who had come into the gardens late one evening, and going up to a tree he started tearing at the bark with his fingernails. He had gone on until he had ripped off all his nails and his fingers were quite mutilated, all gooey with blood at the tips. Albert described it differently in his curious wheezing voice with a sad expression on his ugly face. He added that the poor lad was of course quite mad.

Alice is mad too—she doesn't appear very often though. She sits in the middle of the grass surrounded by old newspapers which she systematically scrumples into balls of different sizes. If anybody comes close, she screams a string of obscenities in a hoarse, savage, voice. She has long, black hair and bare feet.

Albert is very religious, he believes in God and likes the Prime Minister. He goes and sits in the Abbey sometimes "when they'll let me". "Why, who stops you?" But he looked away and sucked at his pipe. Conversation with Albert is difficult—one is rather afraid, rather saddened, rather embarrassed. It is hard not to sound patronising and insincere—the pampered rich taking pity on the poor: A new toy which provides a few amusing moments on the way to the bus stop, going home.

In reality it is rather horrible.

That day Albert did something particularly unpleasant. He had got up (and I noticed for the first time his feet, they were bare, caked with dirt, the nails broken or blackened, and covered in blisters which oozed puss or blood as he scraped them along the ground). I was following him at a distance feeling very self-conscious in case somebody I knew saw me trailing after a filthy old tramp, when he stopped and picked something up—I saw it was a dead pigeon. He first squeezed it, and then as I came up, he was scratching the head. He pulled out both eyes and tore at the matted hair and then suddenly, with great force, he ripped out both legs. Rainwater dribbled out of its stomach and some

discoloured mess. Albert threw the mushy remains on to a bench and stuffed the dried up, twisted feet, into his bag. I didn't say anything—I should have, of course, asked him why he had done it—but I just didn't speak. And when I did—it was to ask him where he was going. He was going to St. James's Park for the night. "They close this place", he said. He dislikes St. James's Park—it is too big and noisy. We went a curious way, avoiding both the School and the Abbey. Dusk was falling and people were just going home. Nobody took any notice. For some reason I expected them to.

Sometimes on the corner of Barton Street there's a little man, almost bald, except for a few strands of grey hair. He has red eyes, which are glazed and look blind. He speaks in a thin squeak and coughs horribly. He sometimes asks me for a light. He shakes convulsively whenever he speaks. Perhaps he drinks meths—does Alice or Albert? Occasionally in the late evening, drunks came struggling down the road, arms outstretched, mouths open, but usually silent.

But this evening we met nobody like that. Albert strode ahead (usually tramps seem to move slowly) clutching his bag. When I drew level with him he began to talk about Valerie

who I gathered had worked at a fish shop somewhere. She had done something—I didn't get what. He spoke slowly, and stopped in the middle of sentences. At last we reached the sanctuary, having come up Victoria Street. We crossed over to the telephone boxes, people as usual were drinking very hot tea out of chipped cups and everything smelt of stale urine. Albert didn't buy anything but sat down on the pavement. I turned and asked him if he would like to see the School—he grunted and got up—but when we had crossed the road and were in Dean's Yard he suddenly bolted, hurrying off in his strange loping stride. I didn't follow him this time—I thought of the Freudian remarks that would be made if I was seen with him. I also remembered the pigeon.

It is a strange world, his world of old songs that come out all mixed up, and religion and half-remembered girl-friends, all thriving amongst the rot of last week's Sunday papers and pictures of Val Doonican. I remembered I had forgotten to ask the big question. "Something ought to be done", I commented aloud—but then what did it matter—anyway nothing could be done.

Albert by now was back by the telephones, sitting crumpled up against the plane tree.

I haven't seen him since.

University or No University

by Lord Byers (O.W.)

I do not know why the Editor should ask me to write an article designed to encourage or at least to give some hope to those who are not able to take up a university career, because I personally enjoyed my university time so much that I would wish everyone to have a similar opportunity. Nothing that I say, therefore, is intended to discourage those who have the chance of going to the university. Not only is the degree itself a useful qualification, and in the professions normally an essential one, but the three years of mixing with such a variety of people, all of whom have something to contribute, is a priceless experience.

However, let us assume that for some reason or just bad luck the university avenue is closed. I certainly do not think that this is a cause for depression or despair, for learning and broadening of experience is a process which should never stop throughout life, and the absence of suitable letters after one's name is not the end of the world by any means. Some of the brightest people I know and have known have never been to a university, although oddly enough some of them are now asked to lecture there on their experience, built up during a successful business career. If I were to give advice on this subject I would say first of all, immediately on

leaving school, find some way of travelling, even if you have to work to earn the money to get round Europe and the world. A year or so spent in this way should not be regarded as a waste of time. It is probably the finest mind-broadening experience one can have. If general travel is out then take on a job overseas to try and get a wider horizon.

The second essential in my view, if one is not going to the university, is to get a complete grasp of at least one foreign language, and by this I mean the ability not merely to speak fluently but to know the slang, to be able to converse intelligently on the telephone and eventually to be able to think in the second language. This is still a highly prized qualification not only in business, but in the world of science and technology where the exchange of information between different nationals is fundamental to successful comprehension of what is going on.

These are pretty obvious and simple recommendations but there is no doubt about it that they are of tremendous importance. If I were to

add a third piece of advice it would be that after having secured the language and the experience of travel, one should look around for a good company which has a modern system of training its junior recruits. If one could get into a training scheme of this sort it will inevitably lead to attendance at courses, business schools, management seminars and other means of keeping up to date and learning the new techniques which are constantly in demand. In fact, if this route is followed as far as industry and business are concerned the lack of a university degree will soon be forgotten, but I end as I began: if you can go to a university don't pass up the chance. If you can't go to a university, and you travel and grasp another language then you really have provided yourself with some of the essential tools. However, basic to all this, whether it be in academic, business or professional life, is the fact that the character, personality and judgement of the individual is what really matters in the long run, university or no university.

The Westminster Diary



Many Westminsters were amused to see all the recent publicity given to Marlborough, who have only now begun to accept a few girls within their rural confines, for as the Head Master pointed out in one evening newspaper, Westminster has been taking in girls for the past three years and their presence is no novelty here.

As well as the five girls and an unusually large amount of boys who are leaving for their various Universities and positions in the outside world, the Play term unfortunately sees the departure of many notable figures in Westminster life; Miss Holmes à Court leaves, having fed two generations of Westminsters, for a destina-

tion as yet unknown and she will be genuinely missed by many who penetrated the formidable façade; Miss Read has left after nine years as Rigaud's Matron and Mrs. Furlong has taken over; Mr. Shirley, the school messenger, has left after many years' service and will be especially missed by all his friends in the Common Room. Mr. Poulter, the School Accountant who has controlled everyone's purse strings for so many years leaves for the City; Mr. Darlington, the Yard Beadle, who will long be remembered by many Westminsters past and present, leaves after twenty-two years on the Abbey staff, and Mr. R. H. Fox of the Mathematics Department

is the only master to leave from the Common Room.

Meanwhile the new masters who have joined the Common Room this term include Mr. D. Brand (O.W.) (Mathematics), Mr. H. E. Green (Biology), Mr. A. T. Howarth (English), who has just finished helping Lord Montgomery on his "History of Warfare", and the new School Chaplain the Rev. D. A. Harding, who has come from King's, Canterbury.

During the Summer holidays the School was not left idle, for in August the Lambeth Conference took over the buildings and used many rooms as offices and conference-centres, while in September, Yard was filled with an enormous marquee for the exhibition of the International Congress of Surveyors, which was only just down in time for the beginning of term on September 17th.

At both occasions a small group of Scholars and Town Boys stayed behind during the holidays to help out and act as stewards. Similarly about 40 boys acted as stewards at The Bath Service in Westminster Abbey on October 17th. Other ceremonial occasions attended by Westminsters this term have also included the memorial service for H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent and The State opening of Parliament, which was watched as usual from outside the House of Lords and the School was represented inside the Chamber by the Head Master, the Praefectus and the Princeps Oppidanorum.

Great excitement and concern was caused to the Abbey and School Authorities by the big Vietnam demonstration on October 27th, which passed Westminster on its way down Victoria Street; especially as it had been rumoured that the School was one of the targets for violence and vandalism! All the Abbey staff were on duty and all the gates were closed; so the very peaceful and orderly demonstration came as a great anti-climax and everyone wondered why they had bothered to waste a Sunday for nothing.

Though it is very much in the air and subject to permission from the Dean and Chapter, it is hoped that the College Hall kitchens will be completely modernized in 1970, during which time it is thought that meals will be served in a large marquee in Yard, until the kitchens are finished, probably by the Lent term 1971. Though it will obviously be a great inconvenience

to everyone it is quite rightly thought that about nine months hardship is a cheap price to pay for really good and varied meals, cooked in modern and hygienic kitchens; for as it is, the Kitchen Staff are doing an extremely good job in turning out what they do under the present conditions in the kitchens.

Now that the war-damage fund has finished, School has had its final touches added for quite a few years to come. All the heraldic shields are now in place and some trompe l'oeil paintings by Miss Peggy Gick have been inserted in the two blind-windows at the back of School.

After a term's rest from drama the stage up School went back into use for the Busby Play, which took place on December 4th, 5th and 6th. This year's choice was a conventional one, Mr. G. A. Shepherd and Mr. S. E. Murray produced that old favourite *Charlie's Aunt*, with sets and period costume, which gave the farce its full Edwardian flavour. The Lecture Room, always busy in the Play term, saw two productions. The first, *The Pothole*, a comedy written by two boys, took a satirical and none too kind a look at our educational system, poking fun at its many absurdities; this play was produced by Rigaud's, though many boys from other houses played leading roles in its success. The Liddell's Play was an extremely interesting and amusing revival of the musical "*Dick Whittington or Carl Schnapps Strikes again*", written by the present Headmaster and first performed in 1939 with a cast headed by Mr. D. S. Brock (present housemaster of Grants), with Anthony Wedgwood Benn in a minor role. Fortunately, the production managed to retain all the play's war-time atmosphere.

The end of term concert, which will include Haydn's Mass in Time of War, will take place at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th, and the Carol Service will as usual be held in St. Margarets at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, December 13th. Term ends on Saturday, December 14th and Lent Term 1969 begins on Tuesday, January 14th.



End of Term

by S. Darlington (Yard Beadle at Westminster Abbey)

On entering Dean's Yard on my first morning as Yard Beadle nearly 22 years ago, the first thing I ran into was a Westminster School boy kicking a top hat around. I commented about it and he said "Sir, this is the end of one tradition and in time we hope to throw out a lot more". I gave the hat a kick myself and he said "Good for you, sir"—this politeness is something that is instilled and handed down, either through the teaching or the tradition of the school and it is still the same today. Some people may call them maniacs, long-haired hooligans, but to me they are Westminster Boys and once a Westminster Boy always a Westminster Boy.

Of course they were often a headache to the Dean and Chapter, and especially to the Clerk of Works. I know Mr. Wilby, their own Clerk of Works, many times goes up the wall. I remember a time when a water supply pipe in front of Little Dean's Yard needed repair; Thomas and Alf dug a trench about three feet deep and about a yard long. Everything went well until one of the boys had an idea. When the Clerk of Works of the Abbey went to turn on the water, the boy poured a bucket of water into the hole and when he came back to see the result of the repair, Mr. Bishop told the plumber to take the new joint apart again and pack it. This was done and off they went again: out comes the boy with another bucket of water, but he must have had a pencil in his top pocket and it fell into the hole. When he came back the second time Mr. Bishop knew what was happening. His face was red and he stormed off to find the Head Master. Of course it was nearly the end of term; I used to make myself scarce for a few days then: you never knew what was going to happen.

In those days we had a bread delivery man who delivered with a small handcart which he pulled. He was the most cantankerous old cuss if you went near his van head, he would shout and carry on and pull faces. As soon as he started his deliveries a boy would come out and turn his cart around, the baker would walk round it stamping and shouting for about 10 minutes then off he would go again. As he was going

past Little Dean's Yard two boys would run out and hold his cart back, keeping the tailboard down. The old boy was marking time on his own ground, when the boys let go he sat down and the boys had vanished. We had to stop this as he refused to deliver.

On another occasion the end of term was only three days off, Mr. Wilby had grown eyes in his backside and Mr. Bishop had told his Abbey men to keep their eyes on the School boys: they, however, knew how to keep their secrets and never an inkling escaped to put the men on their guard. I knew there would be no smashing of lamp-posts or windows this term as Mr. Wilby had told me the fund for damages was stopped and any damage would have to be paid for by the parents. At one time there was never a whole pane of glass left in the Yard or School.

I arrived at eight o'clock on the morning of the day before end of term, looked around and laughed. And I couldn't stop. At that time there would be about 16 cars which belonged to residents. In the night the boys had opened them all and backed them onto the pavement in front of the Common Room, all down that side of the Yard nobody could get out of the school. There was a big Wolseley in the archway. No matter whose car it was it had been utilized to stop anybody getting in or out of School and to top it all there was a pair of pyjamas flying from the Abbey mast. The School strikes again! Even as I write I am laughing about this. Dean Don came out, looked up at the mast and remarked "Those must belong to a tall boy", laughed with me and went back into the Deanery before the uproar began. I looked for the Head Master but he could not be found.

Head Masters, Deans and Bishops, to me, come in a different category altogether; they are learned men whom I respect, the most important thing about them being that they haven't lost the common touch. Fundamentally the boys of the School are what the old boys would say—they are just young men with a difference. What is the difference? It is a difference caused by changing times in a changing world where boys, however, will still be boys.

Annual Report

The Chairman yesterday presented the Annual Report of the Acme Higher Education Processing Corporation, of Dean's Yard, London S.W.

He first announced that though increased overheads, notably in labour costs, lighting and heating, had necessitated price increases, there had been no drop in sales. The past year could therefore be considered successful.

Some anxiety had been expressed about the reliability of the product, particularly in its first three or four years of service. Some complaints had been received, he said, about the failure of the product, during this time, to justify the claims made on its behalf. There was, he said, a variable standard of labour on the production lines, unavoidable where the human element is involved in the manufacturing process. He further emphasized the intractable nature of the raw material, which made it possible, at this stage, for the firm to guarantee its products.

The failure of the product to operate efficiently on a grassy surface, however closely mown, was being investigated, as was a possible link with increasingly frequent brown discoloration at the extremities. While it was recognized that the modification of the product necessary for such conditions did not enhance its appearance, this was thought to be only a superficial disadvantage likely to offend only the vain, the fastidious and the aesthetic. The company itself was confident that the use of the product in a variety of conditions was beneficial, not only to the customer, but also to the product itself.

Some enquiries had been received about the loose fitting of optional extras particularly at junction points. Though not a specific aspect of policy, this was permitted, the Chairman stated, in the interests of flexibility, and did not impede the functioning of the product. Customers who objected were advised to tighten these fittings themselves, if they could.

A strange odour given by some products could in no way be attributed to unhygienic conditions on the production lines, but was caused by the functioning of an Oriental component at present beyond the company's control.

An aversion to routine servicing, particularly in the early part of the day, had been noted in many products. Though the Chairman said that this tendency demonstrated the versatility and initiative of the product, and thought that the company deserved commendation for producing a model independent of the fuel customarily injected at such times, he conceded that some products had shown a certain vulnerability in other ways, particularly a dependence on parallel but sub-standard fuels which induced highly temperamental performances, sometime helpless dependence on a substitute fuel which would, if unchecked, lead to the products ceasing to function, sometimes a temporary incapacity for operating. These tendencies were, in some cases, associated impulses to reject the system which authorized the manufacturer of the product in favouring one which would in all probability withdraw such authorization. These faults, including the rejection symptom, it has been discovered are mostly self-correcting, and should be regarded, as far as possible, as part of the running-in process.

A final query concerned the excess of decorative material on the upper part of the product. It was the company's policy to conceal working parts as far as possible, though in this vital area of the product some difficulty in understanding these parts had clearly resulted. Some customers, for example, were unable to tell whether the model delivered was Model M or Model W. The company believed that a brief investigation would easily resolve any ambiguity.

The Chairman wound up his report by pointing out that prevailing social and economic conditions had created an uncertain market, and that other firms were having difficulties. Under the circumstances, he thought that the Acme were doing as well as could be expected. He and his fellow directors were unanimously re-elected.

Views from Inside

Relics of the Past by John Douglas

"They may kick you out, but they never let you down." This was how Evelyn Waugh described the Public School system, and indeed his words illustrate one of its essential characteristics: social division. From their very nature, the Public Schools will always create a social élite, for they demand the payment of fees, and so restrict their entry almost entirely to the upper and middle classes. The image of the public schools has changed considerably during the past 10 or 15 years. The "old boy" network, which Waugh obviously envisaged, may no longer exist in its old form. However, the public schoolboy is forced to mix in a small social group, which it is difficult to break away from, for, like it or not, he is a product of the Public School system. Indeed the Public Schools "never let you down", for they have a lasting influence over their pupils. Seneca wrote: "we learn not in school, but in life". "Life" at the Public Schools is restricted almost entirely to the middle class, and pupils rarely have the chance of mixing with others from a different social background.

During the past 20 years there has been an attempt to break down social barriers in education. One wonders nowadays how much talent has been lost through lack of equal opportunity. It is because of this lack of equal opportunity that the emphasis in modern education has been placed on the comprehensive system. Comprehensive education gives those from working-class backgrounds, and in particular late developers, more equal opportunity. One can conclude that if in the future, society wishes to break down social barriers in education, then the Public School system has no place in that society, for it can only help to intensify social division.

Those who maintain that the Public School system should be upheld, flourish the word "freedom" in support of their opinion. If a man is not allowed to spend his money as he wishes, or if he is not allowed to use it to educate his offspring, then he has lost an essential

part of his freedom. However, this problem can be looked at in a different light. Someone of perhaps moderate ability, who has been sent to a Public School, will secure a good education and position. On the other hand someone of perhaps greater ability, from a working-class background, will not achieve such a good education or position, simply because he comes from a lower social order. He has been denied the right or freedom to develop and use his talents to their full potential simply because of his social position.

The Newsom Commission set out to find a solution to social division in the Public Schools. If one indisputable fact emerges from their first report, it is general dissatisfaction. However, to give the Commission some justification, from the very beginning it was faced with the problem of working out a solution which was at the same time financially practicable and the government would be prepared to accept.

The Commission rejected the outright integration of the Public Schools with the maintained system. One of their main conclusions was that by 1980 some 80,000 children will need boarding school places in England and Wales, and that 45,000 of these children should be given maintained places in independent schools. However, the question is, of course, where these pupils are likely to come from, as the habit of the boarding school is foreign to the working classes. One suspects that they will be largely middle-class children, though perhaps drawn from the clerical worker level rather than the professional middle classes. This means that instead of decreasing social divisions this change will increase them.

There is also a general assumption underlying the report, that the independent schools give a much better education than the maintained schools. This is certainly true for many independent schools which are members of the Head Masters Conference. However, it has been proved for the independent schools in general that once children from roughly the same

kinds of family background, and of similar measured ability are compared, those from the independent schools do no better than those from maintained schools. As a whole the independent schools are no more essential in our educational system than the maintained schools.

[Medical Research Council Unit for the Study of Environmental Factors in Mental and Physical Illness.]

The problem of the Public Schools still remains. The government is faced with the choice of leaving them in their present form or

of changing them according to the recommendations of the Newsom Commission, which as we have already said, seems most unsatisfactory. However, one thing is certain; that the situation where the rich man's son "was sent as usual to a Public School, where a little learning was painfully beaten into him, and from thence to the university where it was carefully taken out of him", has no place in the modern age. For the Public School system, and the social division it advocates, has no place in education of the future—it is indeed a relic of the past.

Irreplaceable—by Julian Aylmer

The socialist statistician draws up lists of social inequalities that he would like to see reformed in order that his idea of a "better" society might be approached. By pulling his red thinking-cap firmly down on his head, he comes to the conclusion that the public schools must be included on his lists, even though they are on one level an efficient method of applying an indirect tax, that falls exclusively on the richer sections of society. The public schools do indeed considerably ease the burden of paying for universal free education from the public sector; but our socialist statistician points out that they give an unfair educational advantage to those who attend them. He is also aware that they are bound up with the vague, but none the less obnoxious word "aristocracy".

On the purely educational question, it is surely true that many public schools are considerably better than the average state school. Though some of the lesser public schools are no doubt below the level of the average state school; but if the state schools are good, then in the long run the minority of bad public schools will be forced either to dissolve or to reform themselves. However, the attack on the public schools is concentrated less on the bad ones than on the good ones. It is the good public schools which give the real advantages that are to be derived from attending them. A fashionable way of attacking the public schools on educational grounds in the narrow sense, is to assert that not only do they give advantages to those who attend them, but by depriving the state

schools of valuable teachers they take away advantages from the state school attenders.

This argument has the great advantage that it cannot be proved. One of the great benefits of public school education is small classes. If all public school masters and mistresses were evenly spread over the population, they could not very significantly reduce the numbers in classes, as the public school pupils would still have to be taught. Some of the best public school masters would not teach in the state schools anyway, where the task is inevitably more gruelling and the opportunities for a really academically distinguished master perhaps less. The loss of public schools as both competitors for academic achievement and examples of different and often experimental approaches to education could hardly be counted a blessing to the state schools.

It is often argued that the mere fact of having been at a public school gives a person certain advantages over lesser mortals; but at some universities today the process almost works in reverse. It is probably today very rare for a person to be given the job simply because he went to a public school. On an insurance basis it might count to his credit that he went to a public school, just as it would certainly be to his discredit to be a long haired Indian immigrant of unknown past. The helping of a fellow ex-public schoolboy could often be defended in much the same spirit as E. M. Forster's remark "If I should have to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend, I hope I should have the guts to betray my country."

Patronage of one's friends and relations happens in all walks of life. Sometimes it is laudable. The late Mr. Papandreou's attitude to his sons' promotion is one of the less laudable examples. It is pointless to attack the public schools on these grounds.

Perhaps the most controversial topic with regard to the public schools is that of their composition. Head Masters are forced to indulge in a great show of masochistic contrition for the benefit of the proverbial man in the street, whenever this subject is raised. However, there is no reason to regret that England is educating an "upper class". No reason to imitate the heights of democratic fervour that induced once Imperial Austria to make it an offence to use one's hereditary aristocratic title. One can say this and still laugh approvingly at the action of Samuel de Rothschild in eventually occupying the whole of the Romischer Kaiser Hotel in Vienna, when Austrian law forbade Jews from owning their own houses.

The public schools have always been a short cut to the "upper classes" for any so aspiring. As the public schools are not seminaries for future Knights of Malta, this must not be discouraged. Attempts to deprive them of the

benefits of being classified as charities are peculiarly bloody-minded in that they must make the public schools more exclusively for the wealthy. But on the other hand ideas to bring in state school children on a large scale would completely alter the public schools. The latter would become bound to the state, which is all too prone to interfere in the conduct of individuals and institutions. The uniqueness of the public schools would disappear.

The public schools help to draw the "upper classes" together. Since those classes are the least likely to conform to the theory of the Postmaster General that people only tend to know the people in their immediate vicinity, this is a valid social function. To be at school is to be in a somewhat artificial world in any case. The public schools induce people to forget their class distinctions while at them, in a way that a day state school could never do. This produces a far better "upper class" than one solely distinguished by money. To attack this social class is to attack a contribution to civilization of abiding value. One might almost defend the public schools solely on the grounds of keeping the English language well spoken.

The Westminster School Morocco Expedition

Early in January, 1968 the Turkish Embassy gave verbal permission for the Westminster School South East Turkish Expedition to visit the Lake Van area of Anatolia. When written permission was requested in April on the advice of the Royal Geographical Society, the Turks hesitated, prevaricated and finally, though eight hours before the scheduled date of departure, refused permission—despite the combined efforts of Lord Rea through Lord Chalfont, and of the Head of the Central Department in the Foreign Office. Eleven months had been spent in preliminary planning, and within two days we had to adapt the plans to a new area in Morocco. This involved a different sea crossing,

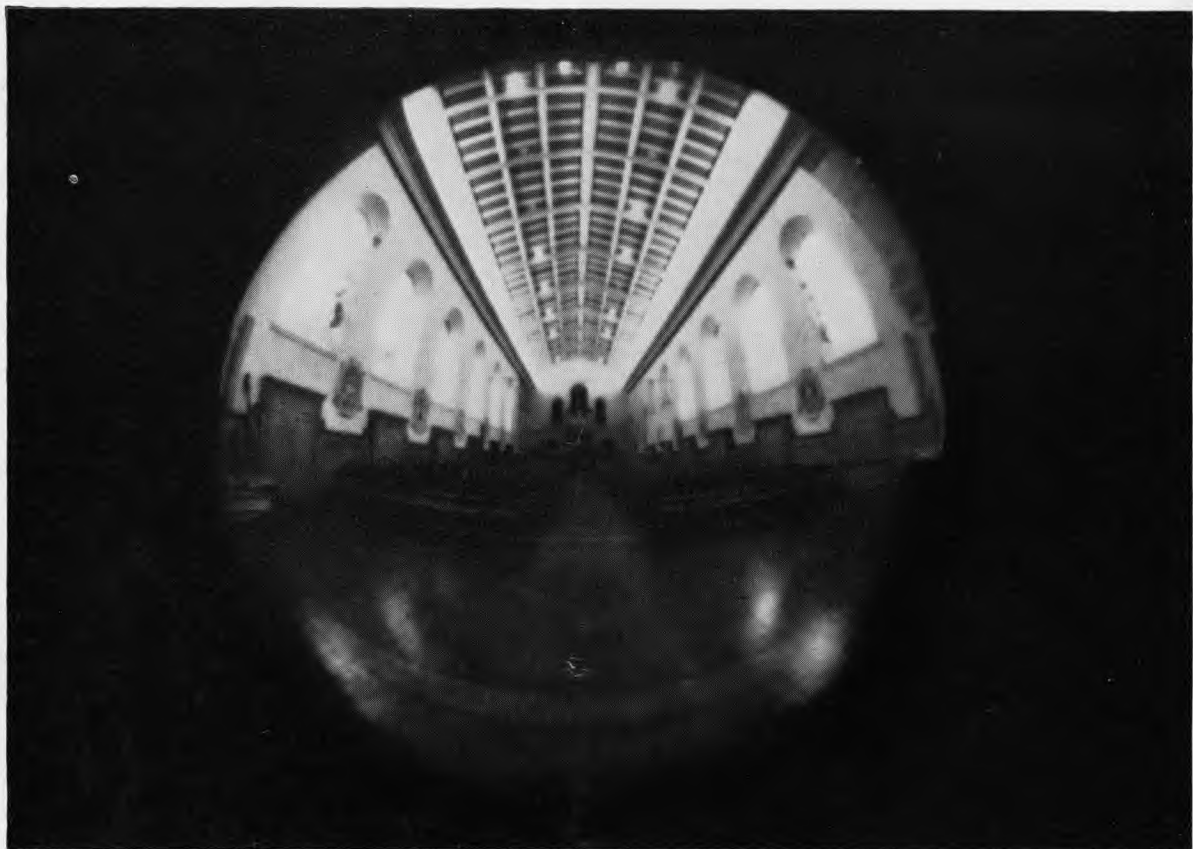
informing all the institutions and firms who had so generously donated to our funds, currency changes and many other changes. Only two days behind schedule—and with five minutes to spare at Southampton—the expedition left for Le Havre on July 18th.

The party consisted of 10 members: five Old Westminsters and four current members of the school under Major French. The object of the expedition was to carry out a survey of an area in the High Atlas and in addition a programme of meteorology was undertaken whilst a film, recordings and an economic geography survey were made.

The journey (in two Land-Rovers) which took

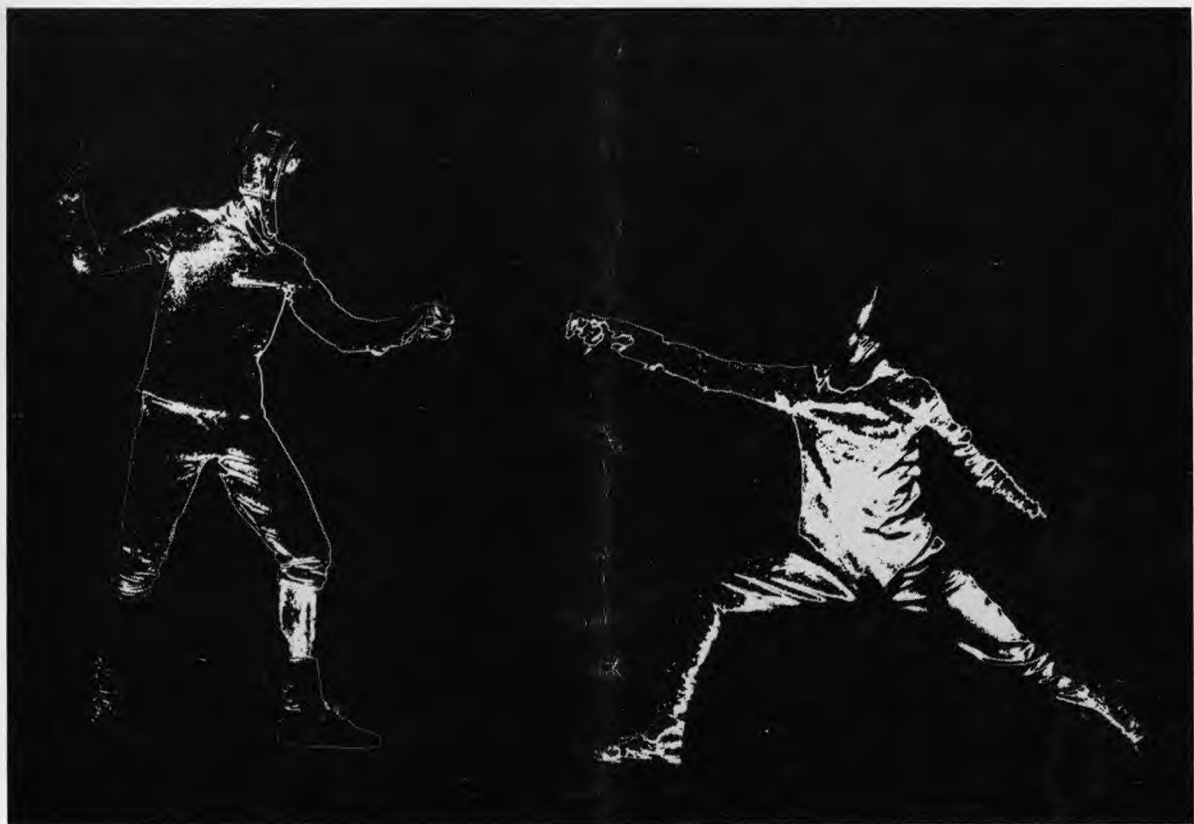


St. George finishing the eclipse: by permission of Associated Newspapers



Top *School:* by G. Tendulkar

Bottom *Rooflines:* by G. Tendulkar



Top *Fencing Match:* by R. Madge

Bottom *Demo - 68:* by R. Madge



Left *The Morocco Expedition: by A. Russell* Right *The New Paintings Up-School: by permission of D. C. Thomson Ltd.*
Bottom *The Morocco Expedition: by A. Russell*

us through France and Spain to Algeciras, thence across the Straits of Gibraltar to Ceuta, was comparatively uneventful, and it was not until we went south in the Moroccan interior along roads of decreasing quality that the whole venture took on the proportions and appearance of an expedition. Our first, and potentially greatest set-back occurred some 200 miles south of Rabat, the capital, when the leading vehicle unavoidably struck an Arab who was crossing the road. Although the police seemed more concerned with the details of the accident than with the condition of the injured man, he was eventually taken to hospital, whilst we explained the circumstances and made statements in the police station.

The tarmac roads soon finished, giving way to a mud track with an erratic surface. Now, more than ever, the Land-Rovers proved themselves to be invaluable. Dramatically the track left the plain and wound its way into the hills. Another day's driving found us in the valley of Ait Bougemez, at the head of which stands Tabant, a small village of red clay houses. We were lucky enough to arrive on the eve of the weekly "Souk" or market day. This market, which takes place on Sundays, consisted of several rows of hastily erected tents, set in terraces on the side of the hill. Each tent houses its own sales floor and merchant. Some were avidly shouting their wares to passers-by, whilst others seemed quite unconcerned with the problems of salesmanship. The attractions ranged from a faith-healer to a most aggressive-looking barber.

For the final leg of the journey—from the valley up into the mountains towards Mgoun (a 4,000 metre peak)—we were dependent on mules. It was the leader of the muleteers who first brought this to our notice, and promptly offered his services. Six miles further down the valley we erected a temporary camp, and sorted out the provisions and equipment we were going to need for the next three weeks. This was loaded with great expertise on to six mules. After a walk of four or five hours we found a suitable site for our permanent base camp at about 10,000 feet. Perhaps its main disadvantage—as we were to realize after a while—was its accessibility to the inhabitants of the valley. Inevitably we were something of a novelty and received innumerable visits. Some came just to

stand and stare, some for Elastoplast, sweets and empty tins, and some for all these things.

After a day settling in and pitching tents to cope with the frequent gusty winds which blew up clouds of dust during daylight hours, the survey and meteorological programme began. Soon some members were proficient with the theodolite, two climbed the peaks to put out marker flags whilst the rest had to be content with the more prosaic job of holding marker poles and measuring with tapes. Once the survey had been completed we were free to explore the area more fully, and by the end almost all members of the party had climbed Mgoun, enjoying the hospitality of a shepherd who lived below it. Other expeditions were made to different areas, one being famous for the lack of water through one long and tiring day.

The 21st Birthday of Peter Maguire and the 17th of Peter Boussard fell on the same day, and this day—August 12th—was one to be remembered. A banqueting table was set up by means of camp beds laid across a base of boulders. Speeches were given, toasts proposed, and two bottles of whisky—carefully guarded for the purpose since Le Havre—consumed.

Our leaving the valley coincided with the visit of the Minister of Public Works. In his honour a massive and ornate marquee had been put up, which we were told required 300 mules for its transport. After the banquet, entertainments were provided in the form of music and dance. For sophisticated European ears, the enjoyment lay in its strangeness rather than in its perfection and complexity—for perfect or complex it certainly wasn't. But as a spectacle it was immensely colourful and fraught with evasive symbolism!

Having given presents of our equipment to the leader of the muleteers and to the "Chef du Poste", who had looked after our Land-Rovers and spare provisions for three weeks, we shook 500 different hands and drove out of the valley. After a night in Marrakesh and one in Casablanca the party left Morocco for home. A week, 2,000 miles and one broken spring later, the two Land-Rovers rounded the corner into Dean's Yard.

William Hickey at Westminster

by D. G. Munir

The pseudonym of the *Daily Express* gossip columnist was originally borne by an eighteenth century Westminster boy, who from the age of thirteen was only too familiar with the gayer side of London life in all its forms.

William Hickey, who was born in St. Albans Street, Pall Mall, on June 30th, 1749, died in lodgings at Camden Town, apparently intestate, in 1830. Having lived "an adventurous and busy life" abroad, mainly as a lawyer in Calcutta, he returned to England in 1809 and retired to "comparatively absolute idleness" in Beaconsfield, where he decided to write his memoirs to while away the time. These run to four weighty volumes and make excellent reading. His youthful recklessness and excesses could have ruined him, but he "made good", though luckily he never became completely a dull and too perfect a citizen.

He was born the eighth child of a prosperous London lawyer, with a country house at Twickenham. The young William was a high spirited boy, and by the age of five had earned the nickname of "Pickle". He recalls that at the age of seven he was sitting on the knee of his godfather, Colonel Mathews, "after dinner, having just swallowed a bumper of claret which he had given me", when with a deep sigh he said that he wished he was a man.

"Aye", observed the Colonel, "and pray why so, William?" To which William quickly replied:

"That I might drink two bottles of wine every day." This remark amused all those present, who predicted that he would undoubtedly be "a very jolly fellow".

At the age of eight, with two older brothers, who were taken from Harrow, where they had been for two years, in January 1757, William Hickey was sent to Westminster. His brothers "having made some proficiency in Latin were stationed in the upper second, whilst I took my seat in what was denominated "The Idle Class", that is, at the very bottom of the school, where

all those who had not received some previous instruction in Latin are placed. I however soon got out of that disgraceful and ignorant form, passed with rapidity and *eclat* the under and upper petty (*still the name of the bottom forms at the Under School*) and entered into the upper first." His form master took a "strong and rooted" dislike to him, "and let no occasion pass of what at Westminster is termed 'showing me up', that is conducting me to the Doctor to procure me a flogging. . . . The culprit thus 'shewn up' is never heard in the way of defence, the charge, as exhibited by the Usher, is conclusive and the posterior of the unhappy delinquent undergoes a castigation. . . . The disgust at the harsh treatment I met with produced an indifference as to all the school exercises. I falsely argued, that as I was to be flogged, it had better be for some offence than without cause; instead therefore of preparing my Theme, Verses, or construing Virgil, I loitered away my time in Tothill Fields and St. James's Park, or if I could muster cash, hired a boat to cruise about Chelsea reach".

One of the most severe floggings Hickey received was for going on several consecutive days "to gratify an idle curiosity in staring at a house in Leicester fields, where a murder had been committed". The murderer was executed in the Haymarket, at the corner of Panton Street, being later cut down and hung in chains on Hounslow heath. Hickey relates, "The gibbet being in the course of my morning rides from Twickenham, I about two years afterwards passing under it, like an inconsiderate foolish boy, struck the remains of the skeleton and actually knocked off the toes from one of the feet".

By 1761 Hickey had reached the upper fourth though he "never worked more than barely" to enable himself "to pass through the daily examination, which was in fact a mere ceremony, the master seldom observing whether the book was open or shut".

In 1762, when he was 13, he experienced his first real bout of drinking and his propensity

for the frequenting of public places of entertainment increased monthly", and he became "if possible more idle and inattentive" of his school duties than ever, and at the end of 1763 he was "removed from Westminster School, most deservedly in high disgrace".

Hickey's description of the Coronation of George III in September 1761, while he was still at Westminster, deserves recounting. The Hickey family reached the Abbey at seven in the morning, after leaving Pall Mall at midnight, and entered their box "without further impediment", Doctor Markham, the Head Master, having given them tickets to allow them to use a private staircase. They found a "hot and comfortable" breakfast ready. His father, for 50 guineas, had "engaged one of the Nunnerys, situated at the head of the great columns that support the roof, and command an admirable view of the whole interior of the building. Upon this occasion they were divided off by wooden partitions, each having a separate entrance with lock and key to the door, with ease each holding a dozen persons. Provisions, consisting of cold fowls, ham, tongues, different meat pies, wines and liquors of various sorts were sent in to the apartment the day before, and two servants were allowed to attend".

Exactly at one the procession entered the Abbey and after Their Majesties were crowned, the Archbishop of Canterbury "mounted the pulpit to deliver the Sermon. As thousands were out of possibility of hearing a single syllable, they took the opportunity to eat their meal when the general clattering of knives, forks, plates and glasses that ensued produced a most ridiculous effect, and a universal burst of laughter followed".

A public Dinner then took place in Westminster Hall which William Hickey watched; including "the ceremony of the Champion and every particular, and I was at a loss to decide which I thought the most magnificent, the Abbey scene, or that of the Hall. About 10 at night the whole was over, and I got home as fast as the crowd would permit, highly delighted at all I had seen, but excessively fatigued, not having had any sleep the preceding night, and having been so actively employed the entire day".

Throughout his 40 years in Calcutta, Hickey regularly attended Westminster dinners, given

by himself and others, sometimes two or three in one month. When he first arrived, Warren Hastings, the Governor-General, an Old Westminster, gave an annual dinner to all his school fellows, of whom there were no less than 26, including General Fraser and Mr. Justice Impey (Sir Elijah). His household and the rest of the family "who had not been brought up at that school were obliged either to dine out or in a private room upon every Westminster meeting". They drank toasts to Alma Mater, All the Boys and the Memory of Queen Elizabeth I before The King, the Queen and the Royal Family and all the Ushers, in that order; then they sang songs and talked.

After one such occasion it was unanimously decided to send a gold cup to Doctor Vincent, "then head master of the school, as a mark of respect and attachment". A Latin inscription to fit the occasion was composed by the members of the party and the cup duly sent to the Doctor by hand of an Old Westminster returning to England. No acknowledgment of the gift was ever received and 18 months later "a young lad recently from the school arrived in Bengal and told us that the Doctor was delighted at receiving such a token of remembrance from his former scholars until upon perusing the inscription he found a false concord, at which he was excessively hurt and offended, observing he never could receive as a compliment bad grammar from those professing to express their gratitude for the education they had received under him as their head master". He nevertheless kept the cup, which is known as the Madras cup.

Hickey was very proud of having been at Westminster and always greeted very warmly the many Old Westminsters who came out to India, some of whom became his intimate friends.

The School Coin Collection

The school coin collection was begun in 1873 when the British Museum offered the school some of its duplicate coins. Soon afterwards Sir David Dundas (O.W.) presented some ancient Greek coins and these two collections provide the basis of the school collection. During the following years several gifts and purchases added to the collection and by 1931 there was a sizeable collection. For 19 years the collection was forgotten about until 1950 when the catalogue was discovered and this led to Mr. Wilby revealing that most of the coins were in the Naval Section Room (beside the gate to College Garden). The most valuable and interesting coins however, which had been housed in the Library, were found to be missing and have not been recovered since. To make up for this loss Mr. P. Waterfield (O.W.) presented the school with an important collection of English coins from Henry VIII onwards.

The collection was recently valued by Sotheby's at £12,000 and the major part of the collection is the English and colonial section—about a thousand coins—the most notable of which are several coins minted at towns held by the King during the Civil War, some Mary I and Philip of Spain coins, several Saxon and mediaeval coins and coins minted for the English colonies. One of the coins in the collection has a special interest for the school, a Trade Token of 1796 bearing the image of a Westminster scholar. Unfortunately, the collection of ancient coins—about seven hundred—has been sadly depleted by the theft from the library. The school should be grateful to Hugh Pagan, Nicolas Rhodes, Stephen Mark and more recently George Low, all Old Westminsters, who have devoted much time to the organizing and cataloguing of the collection.

Westminster Improvements

by the Head Master

A number of alterations and improvements to school buildings and properties have taken place during the last ten years.

The first, and greatest, was the reconstruction of School, which was begun in the autumn of 1957 and was not completed until two years later. During this time Latin Prayers and beginning- and end-of-term assemblies, Orations, and prize-giving were held in St. Margaret's Church.

Almost concurrently the new Science Laboratories were being built on the site of the old Fives Courts. The work started in December, 1957, and was finished in September, 1958. In March, 1959 they were formally opened by Lord Adrian.

In 1958 Green, which still presented a forlorn aspect after the devastation of the war (when air-raid shelters, a static water tank and a car

park had been constructed on it) was tidied up. Squads of boys picked up the stones and brickbats—a George II penny and George III sixpence were found just below the surface—and the whole area was re-sown. At the same time the low posts and chains were put in place of the former dilapidated paling.

The planting of trees round Grove Park was begun in the autumn of 1957 and continued in subsequent years, under the direction of Mr. C. H. Fisher. Some 400 trees have been planted.

During 1959-61 the appearance of Ashburnham Garden was much improved. The old Carpenter's Shop and the derelict lavatories behind it were removed, and new Fives Courts (completed in May, 1961) were built on the site. The rifle-range was removed to the roof of College, a stone staircase providing access to the north end of School was built, and paving and flowerbeds

were laid out. The Carpenter's Shop was transferred to its present quarters in College Street (which had been the Music School) and music practice rooms were constructed in a barrel-vaulted room beneath the John Sargeant Room and the Busby Library.

In 1963 the appearance of Little Dean's Yard was also improved by substituting paving stones for the unsightly asphalt with which the northern part had been covered since the 1890s.

In 1964 two new day-rooms were added to Busby's and the Under was improved by the addition of a gallery. In May, 1965, the top floor of No. 19 Dean's Yard was incorporated into Liddell's and during 1965-8 major alterations were effected in Rigaud's, Busby's and College by the conversion of dormitories into bed-studies.

In May, 1966, the extensive repairs to Ashburnham House which had become necessary were at last completed. The work took nearly two years, during which the floor of the Drawing Room was taken up and the massive beams (which had become entirely rotten) were replaced by steel girders; the panelling was taken down and replaced and a new floor of polished oak planks was laid down. In the Scott Library and the room at the bottom of the Grand Staircase the floor was renewed. The paint in the Reference Room was stripped, revealing pleasant oak panelling. Very delicate repairs were made to the Grand Staircase; the cupola, having sagged about five inches, was replaced in its original position, and a steel girder inserted in the wood beam on the east side.

In the autumn of 1967 another floor was added to Turle's House, providing three new form rooms and a fine new Art Room. At the same time (through the generosity of a parent) the appearance of the Lecture Room was transformed. The windows were lowered, a balcony constructed, and the room was fitted up to serve both as a miniature theatre and a form room for the English VII.

Other alterations and improvements can only be briefly listed.

- 1960 Purcell Organ (formerly in the Abbey) erected up School.
- The Phoenix on the tower of School.
- Murals in the lobby leading to School.
- Chandelier (the gift of Mrs. A. Don).

1962 Fire escape staircase on West side of Ashburnham House. Clock over entrance to Little Dean's Yard (the gift of Mr. A. Prag).

1963 Busby Dining Room and servery constructed in Ashburnham House.

1964 Modern Languages Room (Hinks bequest).

1965 Pinks Room in Pavilion renovated (the gift of Mr. F. E. Pagan (O.W.)).

1966 New small chandeliers in Ashburnham Dining Room. Common Room extended by incorporation of former Bursar's secretary's room; new lavatories etc. (The gift of the Westminster School Society.)

Boat-house balcony re-built.

Sick rooms provided in every house.

New surgery.

1967 Music practice room in Hilary Wing of Liddell's

Automatic blinds to windows of School.

School Gateway cleaned.

1968 New flag-pole, surmounted by a crown (the gift of a parent).

Music School: windows lowered and room renovated.

Iron staircase from east side of Ashburnham House to gateway of College Garden. Armorial bearings up School and in the Lobby, begun in 1960, completed, with space for more arms.

Mural up School, in the blind windows adjacent to Turle's House.

At a rough estimate the cost of these works has been some £255,000, of which £70,000 was paid by the War Damage Commission and £30,000 by the Industrial Fund. In addition property in College Street, Barton Street and Cowley Street has been acquired (on long lease) by the School and the Westminster School Society.

Sports Report

The **Football** team has had a promising start this season, though some of the results have been rather unpredictable. We have lost heavily to the Old Bradfieldians, Repton and Lancing and have beaten the Metropolitan Police, Winchester and Victoria College. The rest of the games could have been won but for various reasons were not. The score against Forest was 2-2 at half-time but a rather unlucky second half let us down and we lost 4-2. Hodgson-Hess, our goalkeeper, was badly hurt in the opening minutes at Ardingly and so we went down once again 4-2. This injury did in fact put him out of the Lancing game. In our game with Elizabeth College we led 2-0 till 10 minutes before the end, when we were unfortunately held to a draw after a disputed goal and a penalty scored at the second attempt. Against St. Edmunds, Canterbury we were dominating even more than against Elizabeth College; but were only leading 1-0, and once again two goals were scored against us in the last ten minutes—an unnecessary but unlucky defeat.

Hodgson-Hess is a more than competent goalkeeper, a worthy successor to the legendary Pike. Drew is a skilful centre-half (also a reliable penalty taker) and Mieville and Curtis have been playing well as our wing-halves. Davies is a dangerous, speedy winger and Attenborough has formed the mid-field link for the team.

The 2nd XI deserve a mention when talking about this season's football. It has been the best side at this level for many years. So far they have only lost one school match and have played with a lot of skill and tremendous spirit.

The **Fencing** club has been quite active this term despite the pressure of exams and there have been fencing events most weekends. In the matches before the Exeat we beat the City of London School and Forest School (the Public School champions). More team members are gaining experience by fencing at national competitions. The school Foil Championship was held in the earlier part of the term, and

J. E. Deanfield (the Captain) and J. B. Williamson (the Secretary) came first and second respectively. T. N. A. Sebastian won the Petitpierre prize as the other two had already won prizes this year. A new cup, the Imregi cup, named after Professor Imregi, one of the school fencing coaches, has been presented to P. A. Halban (O.W.) for the winner of the school's Sabre Championship.

The success of Old Westminsters in Fencing has been well maintained by Old Busbite, N. Halsted, who got to the 2nd round of the Individual Epée contest in the 1968 Olympic Games and did well in the team event.

Squash, for the first time ever has this term been in a position to launch a series of Junior matches. As the policy is one of concentrating exclusively on building up strength with younger boys who have several years at the school in which to get better and gain match experience, all the matches this term were with an under-16 team. A voluntary station on Saturday afternoons has also been started this term with great success; during it some of the better players are coached or play each other. There are many good young players, especially N. R. Walton, and the prospects for Squash are brighter than ever.

Rowing this year has had one of its best-ever seasons. The 1st four has won three open events and two closed events at regattas, three pennants in Head of the River Races, and has represented England in the Home Counties International Match on Lake Blessington, Eire. At Henley the crew did not put up a very good performance, being beaten in the first round by First and Third Trinity B.C. Cambridge, a fairly strong crew. In the national youth trials to decide the team to represent Great Britain in the Youth International Regatta in Amsterdam, Westminster were beaten by a small amount in the Final, after leading most of the way. Shrewsbury who won the event, came third in Amsterdam out of about 10 crews. Various Sculling Trophies were also won.

The Colts Crew this year, although they did not actually win any regatta, did very well against strong opposition and eventually proved them-

selves to be the third fastest Colts crew in the country.

All the other crews did well in their leagues.

The school regatta, held this term, owing to the dates of Henley and the G.C.E. exams being too close to the end of the Election term, was a success, the Halaham Trophy being awarded to Rigauds. Trials have now started to produce good crews for this season and we hope that the coming season will be as good as, or even better than, the last.

The **Fives** team has not been outstandingly successful this term—possibly due to the small size of the station. P. W. K. Rundell and D. B. Mumford show signs of promise and we hope that next year the team will be stronger.

This term for **Judo** has been the first when the juniors have been strong enough to take part in matches by themselves. On October 24th they played Aldenham and lost by one contest. The number of coloured belts has been steadily rising and it is quite possible that with the high standard of Judo, a boy entering in his first term has a good chance of reaching the highest grades by the times he leaves.

Support for the **Grove Park** activities is on the whole rather half-hearted in spite of the wide selection of games—Football, Rugby, Shinty and Cross-country running. One match was played by the Football team against the school 2nd XI which they lost 6-3. At school, one day a week, it is possible to play Fives, Basketball, Tennis and Judo. G. J. O. Dunstan's enthusiasm has been particularly noted.

Horticulture at Westminster is thriving. Yields of everything are much up on last year, and potatoes did especially well. The rose garden was, as ever, a riot of colour, and the crabapple harvest was good. Matches are being arranged.

The **Swimming Club** has this term seen only a small number of people but in spite of this the 1968 season was the best for four years. The most notable member of the Swimming Club has been John Skelton who has won both Senior and Junior events. Other consistently good players have been Andrew Hawkins (the Captain), Terry Coen and Eric Gavin in the Senior events and Peter Foster and N. Margerisson in the Colts events. The greatest achievement of the season was our victory over the Old Westminsters still led by the invincible Doxat.

School Appointments

School Monitors

M. W. Jarvis, Captain of the School, Captain of the Queen's Scholars.

R. B. Macrory, Princeps Oppidanorum, Head of Liddell's.

J. D. Hopkin, Head of Wren's.

P. D. P. Anginer, Head of Rigaud's.

M. J. Attenborough, Head of Busby's

S. M. B. S. Bowden, Head of Ashburnham.

N. H. A. Curtis.

J. H. D. Carey, Head of Grant's.

J. E. Deanfield.

R. P. Tucker.

A. A. Ward-Jackson, Editor of the *Elizabethan*
P. J. L. Collenette, has been appointed Editor of the *Elizabethan* for next term.

S. Poliakoff, has been appointed Deputy-Editor of the *Elizabethan* for next term.

M. J. Crane, Head of Music.

The Games Committee has made the following appointments:

Head of the Water, **J. D. Hopkin**.

Captain of Football, **M. J. Attenborough**.

Captain of Fencing, **J. E. Deanfield**.

Captain of Lawn Tennis, **P. T. Grossman**.

Captain of Fives, **S. M. B. S. Bowden**.

Captain of Squash Racquets, **R. H. Madge**.

Captain of Swimming, **A. R. G. Hawkins**.

The Elizabethan Club

The following new members have been elected:			
G	1963-68	ABRAHAMS, MICHAEL JOHN , 48, Campden Hill Square, W.8.	B 1964-68 FREEMAN, DAVID MICHAEL PETER The Old Vicarage, 129, Arthur Road, S.W.19.
A	1963-68	ADELMANN, FREDERICK GUSTAF BIRGER 1, Peek Crescent, Wimbledon Common, S.W.19.	L 1964-68 HUSTON, WALTER ANTHONY 31, Maida Avenue, W.2.
L	1963-68	BYERS, THE HON. CHARLES WILLIAM Hunters Hill, Blindley Heath, Nr. Lingfield, Surrey.	G 1964-68 LASCELLES THE VISCOUNT 2, Orme Square, W.2.
R	1964-68	CLARKE, JAMES PETER Chart Court, Little Chart, Ashford, Kent.	W 1964-68 NEUBERGER, ANTHONY JOHN 22, West Heath Avenue, N.W.11.
B	1963-68	COX, JEREMY DAVID Park Spinney, The Chase, Stanmore, Middlesex.	W 1963-68 NEUBERGER, JAMES MAX 22, West Heath Avenue, N.W.11.
C	1963-68	CRAWSHAW, JOHN 31, Turle Road, S.W.16.	A 1963-68 NOSS, RICHARD LEWIS Greenacre, 49, Sherwood Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
R	1964-68	CUNYINGHAME, ARTHUR JAMES AUGUSTUS 15, Madeline Road, S.E.20.	A 1965-68 O'BRIEN, BRIAN EDWARD NICHOLAS Clare Place, Goose Rye Road, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey.
R	1966-68	DALLY, MARK 13, Devonshire Place, W.1.	B 1963-68 PAGE, JOHN WILSON 66, Iverna Court, W.8.
W	1964-68	DAWSON, NICHOLAS MOWBRAY 8, Foxes Dale, Blackheath, S.E.3.	C 1964-68 PORTERFIELD, WILLIAM JAMES Hylmarty Cottage, Marsh Lane, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
L	1966-68	FIELDS, ROBERT SHANNON 56, Hanover Gate Mansions, Park Road, Regent's Park, N.W.1.	C 1963-68 RAWES, JONATHAN PAUL St. Edmund's School, Canterbury.

- G 1963-68 **SANGUINETTI, CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTIN**
Forest House, Hindhead, Surrey.
- G 1964-68 **SHINNIE, NICHOLAS PHILIP ANDREW**
Cavendish, Sudbury, Suffolk.
- W 1964-68 **SMITH, FRASER DREW**
170, Ebury Street, S.W.1.
- A 1963-68 **TAYLOR, HOWARD JOHN LOIRSTON**
Flat 3, 25, Exeter Road, N.W.2.
- B 1964-68 **VAN DE WEYER, ROBERT WILLIAM BATES**
88, Frognaal, Hampstead, N.W.3.
- W 1963-68 **WILLIAMS, MICHAEL INNES**
9, Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, N.W.3.

Old Westminsters

John Freeman (1928-33 Busby's) has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of America.

Mr. K. M. Macmorran Q.C. (G. 1897-1902) has resigned the office of Chancellor of the diocese of Guildford which he had held since its formation in 1927.

Mr. Peter Ustinov (B. & Ash. 1934-7) has been installed as Rector of Dundee University.

Sir Roy Harrod (Ash. (K.S.) 1913-18) has had the honorary degree of D.Lit. conferred on him by Warwick University.

M. A. Oppenheimer (1960-64 Busby's) has been awarded an Exhibition by The Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple.

Engagement

WARDEL—McDONALD—The engagement is announced between the Revd. Frederick R. M. Wardel (R. 1949-53), son of H. K. Wardel and Margaret Ruth, elder daughter of R. McDonald of Plympton, S. Australia.

Marriages

BROWN : WALLACE—On Sept. 7th, 1968, Peter G. M. Brown (Q.S. 1958), to Lesley, younger daughter of W. Wallace, C.M.G., of Capel, Surrey.

MYRING : BATTEN—On July 13th, 1968, David Reece Myring (Q.S. 1955-60) son of C. W. Myring (O.W.) to Jeanette Dorothy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Batten.

SIMPSON : WARE—On Aug. 3rd, 1968, Robert James Simpson (G. 1958) younger son of the late D. C. Simpson (O.W.) sometime Master of the Q.S.S., to Helen Frances, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Ware of Shipham, Somerset.

SUMNER : ROBERTS—On Sept. 6th, 1968, in Freeport, Bahama, Ian N. F. Sumner (R. 1956-61), son of R. F. Sumner of Crowhurst, Sussex, to Anne Georgina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Roberts of Woking.

Diamond Wedding

ASTBURY : von SCHOENBERG—On Aug. 18th, 1908, Arthur R. Astbury (Ash. 1905-07), to Friede Hildegarde von Schoenberg.

Birth

HERRMANN—On March 10th, 1968, to the wife of Luke John Herrmann (B. 1945-50), a son.

Deaths

AIRY—On Aug. 21st, 1968, Ronald William Airy (H.B. 1924-29), aged 57.

BARNES—On June 17th, 1968, Robert Stanley Barnes (H.B. 1891-93), aged 89.

BARTLETT—On June 17th, 1968, Eric Oscar Bartlett (H.B. 1895-1901), eldest surviving son of the late Sir Herbert Bartlett, Bart., aged 87.

BIRCHALL—On Aug. 1st, 1968, Sir Walter Raymond Birchall, K.C.B., K.B.E. (K.S. 1901-6), aged 80.

BROWN—On Aug. 1st, 1968, John Stephen Brown (G. 1926-31), Head Master of Bexhill-on-Sea County Grammar School, aged 56.

CHAMPNESS—On Aug. 5th, 1968, Kenneth Edward Champness (H.B. 1909-13), son of the late R. H. Champness, M.V.O., aged 71.

CLARK—On Sept. 10th, 1968, John P. B. Clark (H.B. 1921-23), aged 64.

HAWORTH-BOOTH—On Aug. 15th, 1968, Wing-Commander Robin Howard Haworth-Booth, D.F.C., R.A.F. (retd.), aged 68.

HANSEN—On Aug. 28th, 1968, Eric Norman Hansen (R. 1918-23), aged 64.

HEARD—On Oct. 9th, 1968, William Eric Heard (G. 1923-28), aged 59.

ISAACS—On Aug. 22nd, 1968, Alan Henry Isaacs (R. 1914-18), aged 67.

McCAUSLAND—On June 22nd, 1968, Hugh Vereker McCausland (Ash. 1916-18), aged 65.

OLDFIELD—On Aug. 7th, 1968, Reginald Cecil Oldfield (A. 1907-08), aged 79.

PALMER—On Aug. 11th, 1968, Horace Stanley Palmer (Ash. 1919-22), aged 64.

RUTHERGLEN—On May 23rd, 1968, David Henry Rutherglen (H.B. 1894-96), aged 88.

SHEARMAN—On July 10th, 1968, Brigadier C. E. G. Shearman, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (G. 1903-06), aged 79.

USHER—On June 13th, 1968, at Mombasa, Cyril George Usher, M.C. (K.S. 1905-09), aged 76.

VAUGHAN—On May 26th, 1968, Edward Anthony Williams Vaughan (G. Sept.-Dec., 1909), aged 72.

VOSPER—On Oct. 28th, 1968, Edgar Vosper (R. 1918-23), aged 70.

VOYSEY—On Oct. 9th, 1968, Richard Alan Ellison Voysey (K.S. 1903-07), aged 79.

WHEELER—On Aug. 1st, 1968, in Auckland, N.Z., Lt.-Col. Edmund George Wheeler, O.B.E., M.C., late the Royal Hampshire Regt. (G. 1904-05), aged 79.

YOUNG—On Oct. 31st, 1968, Murray Ferguson Young (R. 1919-24), aged 63.

(A notice will be appearing in the next issue.)

Obituary

Sir Raymond Birchall, K.C.B., K.B.E., was a son of the Revd. John Birchall, and was in College 1901-06. From Westminster he went as an open exhibitor to Trinity College, Cambridge. He took first class honours in the Mathematical Tripos and was a wrangler in 1910. In 1911 he entered the Post Office, and rose to be Director-General 1946-49.

Mr. Justice Palmer was a son of Stanley Palmer. After leaving Westminster he went to St. John's College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1927. He was a Judge of the High Court, Eastern Nigeria (1956-63), frequently acting as Chief Justice.

Brigadier Charles Edward Gowran Shearman, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., was a son of the late Ernest Shearman (O.W.) and was up Grant's from 1903 to 1906. From the R.M.A. Woolwich he entered the Army in which he had a distinguished career. He commanded the 1st Bn. The Beds. and Herts. Regt. 1932-37. He was three times mentioned in Despatches and, in addition to his other decorations was a member of the Legion of Honour.

Lt. Col. Edmund George Wheeler, O.B.E., M.C. was gazetted to the R. Hampshire Regt. from Sandhurst in 1909. With the West African Frontier Force he saw service in Togoland, Cameroons, British, German, and Portuguese East Africa and in N. Rhodesia. He was wounded and mentioned in Despatches. After he retired he became a school master in N. Zealand.

Proposed dinner of O.W. Masters, Civic Wardens, Past Masters and other officers of the City Livery Companies

As the result of the notice which appeared in the March issue, Mr. E. A. Davis is pleased to report that he received 16 replies favouring the idea. The

dinner which would be held in Ashburnham House will probably take place in April or May of next year.

In the meantime it is hoped that any O.W.s who may not have seen the previous notice and would like to attend the function will write to Mr. Davis at "Little Hurst", Newlands Avenue, Radlett, Herts.

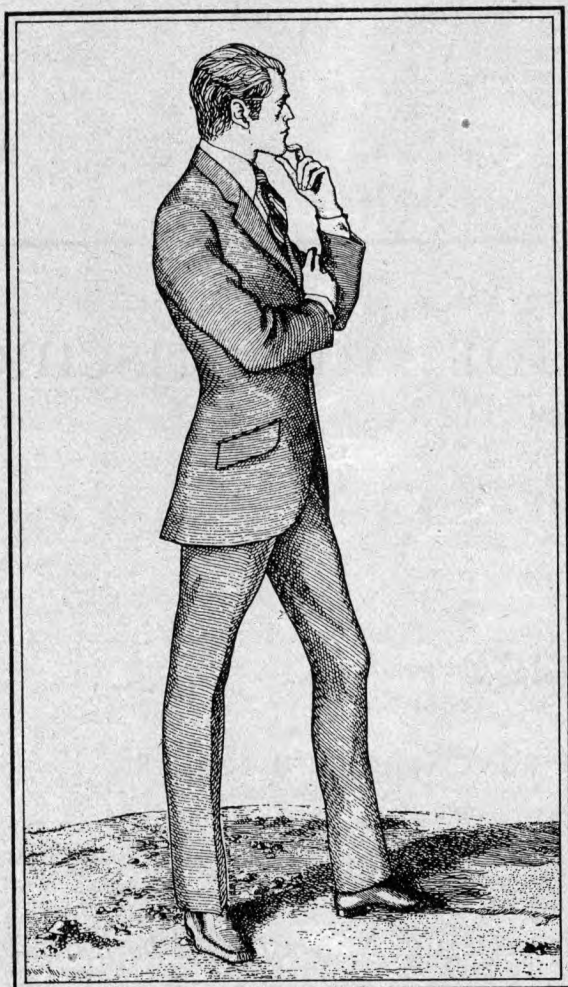
Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the Club, by courtesy of Mr. Michael Tenison, was held at the Army & Navy Club on Tuesday, October 15th, 1968, and attended by over 100 members and guests. The retiring President of the Club, Col. B. S. Horner, O.B.E., presided and the guests included the Head Master and the Dean of Westminster.

Mr. W. R. van Straubenzee, M.P., M.B.E., in felicitous terms, proposed "Floreat" and recalled his early years at Westminster during which he was in the Form of the Head Master. The Head Master, who was warmly welcomed, replied in equally happy vein. Mr. N. P. Andrews, who was warmly acclaimed following his election as the Club's new President at the Annual General Meeting earlier in the evening, proposed the health of the retiring President and thanked him for his great services both to the School and Club, and Colonel Horner replied.

The Dinner was also attended by the following members and guests:

J. H. T. Barley, B. C. Berkinshaw-Smith, N. Bevan, A. J. Bonar, N. C. H. Brind, D. S. Brock, M. D. Brough, C. M. Cahn, D. M. M. Carey, Dr. R. H. G. Charles, H. Chisholm, H. K. S. Clark, M. Clayton, D. G. Coaten, J. Cogan, E. Craven, J. A. G. Dauber, B. E. G. Davies, R. R. Davies, T. J. Davies, A. G. de Montmorency, T. D. Edwards, Col. G. G. Feasey, G. H. Freeman, S. J. Freeman, E. R. D. French, W. E. E. Gerrish, W. J. Gerrish, K. G. Gilbertson, G. E. P. Green, M. J. Green, A. C. Grover, R. W. P. Hare, P. M. Herbert, G. Holliday, P. M. Hookins, J. J. Hooper, A. C. Hornsby, M. V. S. Hunter, H. C. E. Johnson, A. Joseph, H. O. Joseph, H. C. Keeley, A. S. H. Kemp, K. J. M. Kemp, K. C. Keymer, H. J. M. Lindsay, D. R. Lorimer-Thomas, F. D. Lorimer-Thomas, W. F. Lutyens, Group Capt. W. M. Lyons, Dr. N. A. Mackintosh, F. J. A. Mangeot, E. D. J. Mathews, Dr. A. W. C. Mellor, G. A. Mitcheson, S. Murray, C. M. O'Brien, J. Ormiston, Major R. C. Orpen, F. E. Pagen, J. C. B. Palmer, N. B. R. C. Peroni, I. S. Petherick, B. E. Petitpierre, R. Plummer, Sir V. Raikes, E. Raw, P. N. Ray, Lord Rea, G. E. Read, F. A. G. Rider, Col. Sir Thomas Roberts, Bt., M. J. W. Rogers, M. I. Ross, D. E. Ryland, G. U. Salvi, P. A. Sandwell, G. W. Scott, C. W. Shearly-Sanders, G. Shepherd, G. G. Skellington, W. A. Slark, G. C. Sutton, E. G. B. Taylor, V. T. M. R. Tenison, Dr. P. A. Tyser, Dr. S. Vatcher, H. Ward, P. B. Williamson, J. M. Wilson, L. A. Wilson, Dr. P. C. F. Wingate, G. C. Wintle, J. T. Woodgate, A. P. M. Woodward and P. G. Wormell.



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