

THE ELIZABETHAN



DAT DEUS INCREMENTUM



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

College Dormitory—reconstructed after bomb damage
(re-opened on Tuesday, June 6th, 1950)

Architects:

Sir Hubert Worthington, A.R.A.
and A. L. N. Russell, F.R.I.B.A.

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REFLECTIONS

SCHOOL SINGING.

IF you asked most people in the school what they thought about the singing they would probably reply that it is quite good but not very important anyway. They might add that the one thing they hate is the House Choirs in the summer. It is because of this rather negative outlook that singing, particularly in morning Abbey, could be improved a very great deal.

Quite a lot has been done recently to try to improve the singing, and some improvement has been achieved. The hymn practice on Thursday morning is now a regular feature and is popular in that it prevents P.T. But by far the most successful venture was to begin singing the Psalms and canticles antiphonally. When this is done everyone rises to the occasion, and the results are most encouraging. But the singing of hymns leaves much to be desired. Those who are musical often sing the parts, whereas those who are not seem afraid to make a noise. It is of course, very difficult to sing if the person next to you is silent, and here we must also remember that the lantern is very hard to sing in as most of the sound disappears upwards.

However, if it is noise that one wants, one only has to listen to House Choirs to hear plenty. It has always been a hotly contested point whether this event is a good or bad idea, but it has its value in that the house is doing something in competition as a unit: it can also be maintained that it does everybody some good to learn a piece of music, although it is an undoubted fact that it ruins that piece of music for most people for the rest of their life.

If one could hear the combined effect of six house choirs there would be a considerable volume of sound. It seems a pity that this cannot happen every morning, as it would enhance the value of the service very much. Once everyone has forgotten his neighbour and is singing as well as he can himself, the singing will improve as much as it ought to.

THE "TRIFLER."

THE *Trifler* of last year was acclaimed by many as a literary triumph, and in one sense it certainly was. The articles were all of a very high standard; but when it is produced again this

summer, it will have to be very different. It will not be able to rely on the very large number of outside contributors, and the literary ability of the School will be put to the test.

It is therefore this issue that will decide whether the magazine is to become a regular feature, or whether it is merely to fade out rather feebly. There is certainly a great deal of ability in the School, but it is rather more doubtful whether it will be utilized. Articles do not grow on every tree, and in the case of house magazines there has always been an unwillingness to write.

The fate of the *Trifler*, therefore, depends very largely upon the individuals of the School. If those who can—and perhaps some of those who think they cannot—will write, the magazine will be a success; if not, it is doomed to failure.

THE SCOUTS.

THERE are only two reasons why the Scouts exist at all at Westminster. The first of these is that otherwise there could be no Scout camp, and the second is that there is Corps. Scouting has never been very successful at Public Schools for several reasons, one of the chief being that nobody has any time to spare: it is almost impossible to do very much in an hour and a half per week, and nobody has either the time or the energy to spend much time out of school. Then there are all the difficulties of being in central London, particularly because there is nowhere to light a fire.

But when we get to camp all these difficulties disappear. There is plenty of opportunity to go off walking, and to be thoroughly uncivilized for a fortnight. A point is made of going to a place of beauty and interest, with the result that even the boy who has never been out of a town has fine holidays in some remote spot of the British Isles.

Compared with camp the value of the Thursday afternoon activity is small. First Aid is, of course, very important, and some of the wide games which are arranged require a certain amount of ingenuity and initiative. It must be admitted however that the Scouts exist because of a rather unpleasant alternative that waits round the corner, a reason which certainly justifies its existence.

A WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

FROM FORMROOMS TO SEWERS.

RECONSTRUCTION continues at Westminster with speed and efficiency. In addition to the Busby Library, the formroom that was Mr. Willett's before the war is now all but completed. It is to be put, we learn, to more than one use, as it has been impossible up to now to hold a play up School at which any eminent personage can attend, as under the Lord Chamberlain's regulations there has to be more than one exit to the hall, in case of fire. Anyway, in addition to its solving problems of that sort, it will relieve the pressure on the other formrooms in the School. The formroom looks out over Canon Marriott's garden, past the tall buttresses of the Chapter House, beyond the statue of King George V, and towards the Houses of Parliament. The photograph shows a view of the formroom's window and beyond it the roof of School. We all await eagerly the announcement of who is to occupy the luxurious quarters. The Classical Seventh are secure in the knowledge that they have their formroom assured them, and will probably move in at the beginning of next term.

Westminster, as a rule, is a school of generally staid constitution. It is notably immune from 'crazes,' but there are a number of what might be called minor sports which fluctuate in their existence. Amongst these, and it is the one which is on the crest of a wave, is chess, a game that has a very varied history at Westminster, but now seems to have attracted a number of enthusiastic followers. One need hardly mention that it is among the systematic brains in the College that the game finds most fervent followers, although the Masters' common room, so it is rumoured, has been penetrated. We are reliably informed the Mr. Brown is the guiding light of the movement. He is at school for this term as a student master, and is ex-President of the Cambridge Chess Club. He is frequently seen playing games of chess in College. It is also believed that he is devoting his energies to assemble a Staff chess team to play the School. We can but wish him luck, at the same time reserving our chief encouragement for the School team.

The whole school underwent a period of severe mental strain when the inspectors came and investigated every possible nook and cranny that could be inspected. We were on our best behaviour, and we can but hope we created a favourable impression. The usual number of stories and legends have cropped up about their visit, some

true, some without any ground for truth at all, mostly about how so-and-so dropped a most frightful brick. However, we could tell those tales without end, but it would be cruel to spoil a subject that promises to be a subject for conversation and reminiscences for some while to come.

The Naval Section is an ever-growing concern. It has now occupied what used to be the Muniment room, and has turned it into the Naval Headquarters. The walls that once listened to the talk of learned Scholars now are audience to such words as 'shipshape', 'bo'sun', and 'galley'. However, it is generally recognized to be a sign of the marching times, and we cannot complain. Yet perhaps we do look a little gloomy. The conversion means that the old Naval Headquarters can now be reinstated as a Music Room. Thus both people are happy, the musicians and the sailors. We wish both success and prosperity in their new quarters.

O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolas !

Virgil's famous words would probably get a decisive denial from Covill, the groundsman up Fields, who is at the moment involved in a desperate struggle with the elements to make a good cricket field for next term. The Football season has now ended, the athletes are running round a slightly misshapen track, and Covill is frequently to be seen mowing or sowing or spiking with determination and a fixed defiance to the weather.

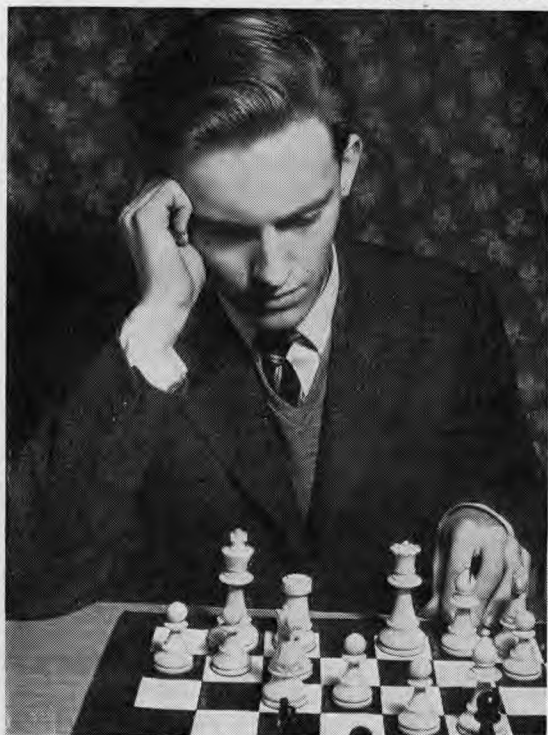
AT this time of year when we are accustomed to see news pictures of flooded roads and countryside we often forget that there is one part of England that is never flooded—London. Through the kindness of Mr. J. Rawlinson, Chief Engineer to the London County Council, a party of boys visited the Northern Outfall Works at Beckton, on the Essex marshes, to see something of what happens to the great volume of water which comes pouring eastwards when there is a thunderstorm in Westminster or a cloudburst at Hampstead or simply when a million persons pull their bath-plugs every morning. For two hours the party toured every part of the great works under expert guidance, being initiated into the mysteries of aeration and sludge-digestion, and they were also conducted round one of the 1,500 tons sludge-vessels which carry the sludge down the Thames estuary and dump it thirty miles out at sea in the Black Deep.



VIEW OF THE NEW FORMROOM
Photo : J. F. G. Frazer.



O FORTUNATOS



Q X B !

Photos : A. J. Levi.



ATHLETICS 1951

POLITICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY 1931—1951

THE Political and Literary Society has now reached its twentieth year of existence, and the time has come for some sort of retrospect. The Society was founded in September 1931, very largely by its first chairman, J. E. Bowle, then Master of the History VII. The *Elizabethan* of October that year comments on its foundation, and remarks that it 'fulfils a long-felt need'; at any rate there could be no doubt of the vigour of the new society—six meetings were held that Play Term. From the first it did not live up to its original title, and immediately spread beyond its original limit of politics and letters, and the variety of the titles of the talks which have been given in the past twenty years is astounding. Its popularity has never seemed to wane: only once, and that during the most difficult part of the war years, was there any serious break in the regular succession of talks. Even at Whitbourne speakers were cajoled into suffering the terrors of the war-time railway, though talks were, comparatively speaking, far fewer. However, since the war the Society has come into its own again, and meetings have been frequent and well attended.

The speakers who came in the first year set a tradition which has been maintained ever since—indeed the speakers and their talks are far the most important and interesting aspect of the society. The first speaker was Harold Nicolson on European Diplomacy, on October 5th, 1931. As the society laid emphasis on the informality of its proceedings, the speaker had not prepared his talk but discoursed without notes fluently and informatively—a circumstance which apparently caused some surprise. However, to me the most interesting talk of the year was that given by the Mahatma Gandhi on 'Indian Self-Government.' Provokingly enough, there is no record of it in the Society's ledger, and only the barest mention in the *Elizabethan*. The present writer, who had the honour—in extreme youth—to be blessed by the Mahatma, has an almost exaggeratedly oriental recollection of him, in which the landmarks are his far from occidental dress and the necessity to prepare a special toothbrush of crushed mimosa-wood fibre for his use, at five o'clock in the morning. How did he fit in with Ashburnham Library—if indeed his talk took place in the Library?

The first talk to be given a write-up—and it seems to have been well deserved—was that of

Mr. W. C. Sellar, author of "1066 and All That", on 'Nonsense'. Apparently he quoted freely, and some fragments are given: one began 'The Cormorant, or Common Shag, lays eggs into a paper bag', but alas, no more is recorded. This was in 1936, and the Society was keeping well abreast of the political situation.

In 1937 the then Leader of the Opposition, the Rt. Hon. C. R. Attlee, gave a talk on European Politics, which earned a rather slender write-up; but such record as remains gives the impression of a sensible if not brilliant talk. The Society also enjoyed—in very different ways—talks by Sir Philip Chetwode on Imperial Defence and Mr. W. H. Auden on Modern Poetry. The next year was one of the most eventful in the Society's history: the first talk was given by Lord Russell on 'The Scientific Outlook.' The talk sounds fascinating—it was described as 'the most interesting yet heard'—and one could only wish that we could hear it again. The next—which was so popular that tickets for it had to be issued—was that of Lord Baldwin on the state of England under the surface during the period in which he was in power. Partly informative, partly an *apologia pro vita sua*, it seems to have been equally impressive in a different way. The last speaker of the year was the First Secretary to the German Embassy, who—perhaps not unnaturally—said there would be no war.

The last meeting before the war was held to hear a talk by Professor Toynbee on 'Ancient History as a clue to modern problems', and it was the same speaker who gave the first talk after the war. Suitably enough, his talk was on 'The Shape of Things to Come'. Both talks were equally brilliant, and the last gave the Society a good start back in London. In recent years the Society has been at its peak. Few of those present will forget Robert Graves, who restricted himself to answering some specially chosen questions; or G. M. Trevelyan, speaking as an 'amateur' on the Anglo-Saxons; Arthur Waley's charming picture of the life of a Chinese poet; John Betjeman's inspired recitation of 'The Congo'; Sir Ernest Barker's shaggy Aristotle story; Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe's good sense on 'The Future of Europe'; Lord David Cecil's memorable discourse on Poetry. And yet all these speakers have come here since the war: may their successors be equally good.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT

BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM.

THIS term's concert programme included an entertaining variety of works by widely different composers. La Clemenza di Tito of Mozart, with its very Mozartian brilliance and light-heartedness, was followed by a diverting concertino of Tartini's for clarinet and strings, and a suite by Fauré which formed a complete contrast to it in its more adult approach to harmony. This development from innocence to subtlety was carried even further after the interval by a performance of Brahms' Requiem, one of the composer's earlier works, written at a time when he had not yet fettered his genius to the classical tradition. Without achieving any very marked dynamic colouring in either of the last two works, the orchestra was throughout the evening in control over the music, and produced a workman-like performance, which was nearly always well in tune; the flutes were perhaps the worst sinners in this respect.

Mozart's overture needed great precision in the placing and intonation of the notes in order to bring out its delicacy to the full. It received this attention, and the resulting performance was extremely pleasant, though it did not exercise the audience's full range of emotion; it left them in an expectant mood, which is the proper task of an overture. The concertino was again carefully handled. In the second movement the clarinetist suffered slightly from reed trouble, and was not always audible above an energetic string section, but this bad patch was soon forgotten under the influence of a reflective slow movement. The work was concluded triumphantly with a less difficult and more impressive fast movement, where C. C. P. Williams' technique showed up as favourably as had his intonation in the whole performance. Perhaps a work might have been chosen to give wider scope to the clarinet's tone range in the upper and lower registers. We had here too little opportunity to appreciate the instrument's very individual quality.

After this came Fauré's "Pelléas et Mélisande"; this has extremely complicated rhythms and key changes from the performer's point of view; but the effect it gives is calm and refreshing when it is played well in tune. One's only complaint was over rather faulty intonation among the flutes, especially in the last movement. But Fauré was allowed to speak for himself in spite of this, and the deep tragedy of Mélisande's death provided a well-chosen introduction to the last work on the programme—Brahms' Requiem.

The Requiem is not in fact a Requiem Mass, and for this reason aroused many contemporary accusations against the composer on the grounds of having profaned the religious character of the

Requiem. But although there may be no prayer for the dead included in the work, and though there may be other technical reasons for excluding it from the canon, it is so profoundly religious in sentiment and significance that there can be no objection to its performance on this occasion in Holy Week, and none in general to its acceptance as one of the standard Christian works. This performance brought out its devotional force very well. The choir sang with fervour throughout a long performance, and achieved a particularly impressive rendering of the more vigorous passages, such as the paean of victory over Death, where all of Brahms' triumph was expressed, more by sympathy with the composer's feeling than by an accurate production of the notes he wrote. This criticism is not intended to imply that there were many wrong notes sung, but only that in this passage there was a very slight lack of precision shown, and a consequent "muzziness" around the true pitch.

The *alla breve* effect of the conclusion of the movement was unfortunately missed, partly as a result of a tendency to hurry which was shown all through the work. Apart from this, and a certain hesitancy on the more difficult leads, there were few faults in the performance. Its merits were that the choir showed a real feeling for the music, and were always in time and well together.

The soloists, Joyce Gow (soprano), and the Hon. J. A. Davidson, O.W. (baritone), lent a touch of distinction to the evening. Miss Gow's tone was particularly rich and pleasing in her upper register, and with the choir, who sang their accompanying tune very well, she achieved a most moving performance of her solo "Ye now have sorrow". Mr. Davidson was hardly less impressive in his treatment of the highly dramatic passage "The trumpet shall sound". The baritone part was perhaps written a little high for the normal range of his voice, but he appeared to be untroubled by this, and brought the Requiem to a tremendous climax. After this, and the following fugue, the choir sang delicately and with feeling to end the evening on a note of quiet faith.

Mr. Foster had evidently done wonders with the very limited time that had this term been available for rehearsals. His reward, and our pleasure, was an evening of interesting and moving music, which few of those who heard it can have failed to enjoy. It must be obvious how much better it is that the choir and orchestra should continue to play works like these, for our entertainment, even at the expense of hiring professional assistance, than it would be to abandon Westminster's musical tradition and to play nothing but arrangements for clarinet and wind.

BUSBY'S AND RIGAUD'S

RIGAUD'S BY A BUSBITE

ASK any Busbite—not, please, a Busbyite—what he knows about Rigaud's, and all the chances are that he will mumble (Busbites always mumble) something about the hour at which Rigaudites rise in the morning. Every morning—the Sabbath excepted—at the barbaric hour of quarter past seven Rigaud's bell rings out true and clear and is fiendishly successful not only in shattering the slumbers of those for whom it is intended but also those of every Busbite from the Head of House down to the smallest fag. Why Rigaudites should take a quarter of an hour longer to dress than Busbites it is difficult to say.

Were Rigaud's ever to be put on the market it could be described as "a self-contained residence", for Rigaud's, unlike Busby's, possesses a feeding-place of its own for its inmates. The sight of rain or snow or sleet holds no horrors for Rigaudites as they raise themselves from their couches on a winter morning. They can never know the feeling of fury which shoot through Busbites on wet mornings when the price of a breakfast is a drenching from the elements.

The Estate Agent saddled with the task of trying to sell Rigaud's would probably draw attention to its "Yard"—although, of course, he would never employ that trade term. Rigaud's yard is not perhaps used to quite the same degree as is that of Grant's. Nevertheless all the usual games—yard cricket, yard football, yard fives and even yard badminton—are played on it. The possession of a yard may justifiably be regarded as a dubious advantage for a house. There is at least one Busbite who is profoundly thankful that there is no Busby's yard.

Constitutionally Busby's and Rigaud's are very similar. In both establishments the new boy progresses, with as much rapidity as he can muster, from Under and Hall respectively to the peace and tranquillity of a study. The studies are in both cases the base camp for the steep and treacherous climb towards authority. Each house boasts four or five monitors and it is by these upright and worthy gentlemen that discipline—a word sadly out of fashion in the modern public school—is maintained. The methods they employ are very much alike and both Monitorials pride themselves on being enlightened despotisms. In Rigaud's there is perhaps a slightly more marked emphasis on practical punishments. A P.T. defaulter, for example, may be sentenced to clean all the House's door-knobs for a week. In Busby's, on the other hand, where the athletic tradition so firmly established in the days at Buckenhill dies

hard, the same defaulter would find himself running round Green before or after breakfast.

Rigaud's possesses one distinction which Busby's cannot claim. That is the winning of the P.T. cup. This, again, is perhaps a somewhat dubious advantage for as the winning of this particular athletic trophy entails its winners' appearance in the Gym Competition during the Election Term it is commonly regarded as being the cause of more trouble than it is worth. Seriously, though, the fact that Rigaud's has won the P.T. cup and Busby's has not is an indication of the difference in attitude between the two houses. Rigaud's is pervaded by an atmosphere of earnestness and sincerity. Its members take an exceptionally serious-minded view of life—it is amusing, for example, that they should always refer to their housemaster as simply "the Housemaster" and rigidly spurn the use of any vulgar nick-name. Busby's on the other hand, represents the light-hearted view of life—the "go as you please", "happy go lucky" attitude. The present writer has never had very much use for compromises, and he does not wish to end this article on the usual platitudinous note by saying that there is something to be said for both views. He prefers to conclude by affirming that he would always choose the atmosphere of *joie de vivre* and individuality which prevails in Busby's, to that of faithful conscientiousness and community feeling which strikes him so forcibly every time he enters Rigaud's.

BUSBY'S BY A RIGAUDITE

SOME years ago Busby's was popularly regarded as a cement Utopia housing a powerful and vigorous team of athletic giants. These giants, so popular opinion had it, regularly paraded out from under the Busby tower to secure an astronomical number of cups and trophies and to demonstrate to the rest of the school the doubtful glories of sporting fanaticism.

That however was some years ago and to-day, although the cement Utopia remains, it is a different and perhaps slightly improved Busby's which we have with us. The rugged athleticism, the muscle men and the easily won title of "Westminster's most physical house" are for the most part things of the past. Busby's of the 1950s is inhabited instead by a band of suave gentlemen who speak in English shot through with their own slang, who erect a distressingly realistic bar on the stage up School and who are now, at long last, capable of seeing station days in their proper perspective.

Be that as it may the present Busbite has unfortunately fallen a victim of a disease which his athletic predecessor (his day filled with runnin', shootin' and rowin') never even had time to consider, let alone contract. Busbites, let us make no mistake, have become dangerously house proud. The very late arrival which Busby's made at Westminster and her consequent lack of tradition have resulted in a "defence mechanism" swinging into operation.

Busbites tend to be aggressively pleased with the modernity in which they work, sleep and have their being. The number of people behind those khaki walls incapable of waxing eloquent on the architectural weaknesses of Rigaud's could only just man a tub four. We, however, in Rigaud's are very happy as we are. In fact we would prefer to live in Rigaud's with all its architectural eccentricities, than in that veritable departmental store of five floors and a lift shaft which has sprung up, mushroom like, next door.

But although architecturally we may have our differences, in recent years Busby's and Rigaud's have drawn closer together and a more neighbourly atmosphere has prevailed. For many terms now our respective play reading societies have been in close, if not always harmonious, contact and on weekdays we are companions in discomfort under the Lantern. Although the Rigaudite entering Busby's may be greeted on arrival like a visitor from another planet Busby's soon warms to him.

Gone are the days of the jutting Busbite jaw and the monosyllabic conversation which outsiders were wont to encounter as they undertook the marathon climb up the notorious Busby's stairs.

In fact, when I lunched in Busby's not so long ago, I found a house enthusiastically talkative and suspiciously happy. If I had hoped to hear murmurs of revolt in the ranks and groans of disapproval echoing around Busby's Under as we sat down to lunch I was to be disappointed. As I munched my mince pie I noticed in a far corner the famous Under piano—that faithful and versatile instrument capable of producing, on a warm summer evening, the music of Charles Wesley at 9.5 and the music of Irving Berlin (with almost indecent haste) at 9.10.

Busby's, however, for all its luxurious studies, fortnightly Clarions, pianos, spacious dormitories, printing presses and jazz records, lacks one essential; Busby's has no house Yard. Whatever Busbites may tell us about a concrete Yard and horrible accidents, we in Rigaud's are firmly convinced that it takes a Yard to bring out the best in a house and it is in a Yard that the character is finally moulded. It seems strange that the planners of the Brave New World at No. 26 Great College Street should have failed to appreciate a Yard's importance and in so doing denied Busbites the opportunity of developing the Busbite character to the fullest extent.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

COMMUNISM OR A THIRD WORLD WAR?

IT is always disappointing, disconcerting and distressing when a motion intended to be humorous is taken seriously. That was what happened on Friday, February 9th, when the Society held one of its least successful debates within living memory. The motion was "That it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all", and from all sides it was approached with an unbecoming spirit of earnestness. On this occasion the Society seems to have been afflicted with one of its worst bouts of heavy moralizing; attempts at humour, and there were lamentably few of them, were greeted with a pained and shocked silence. As for some of the speakers, we longed, together with Sir Toby Belch, for "a stone-bow to hit them in the eye".

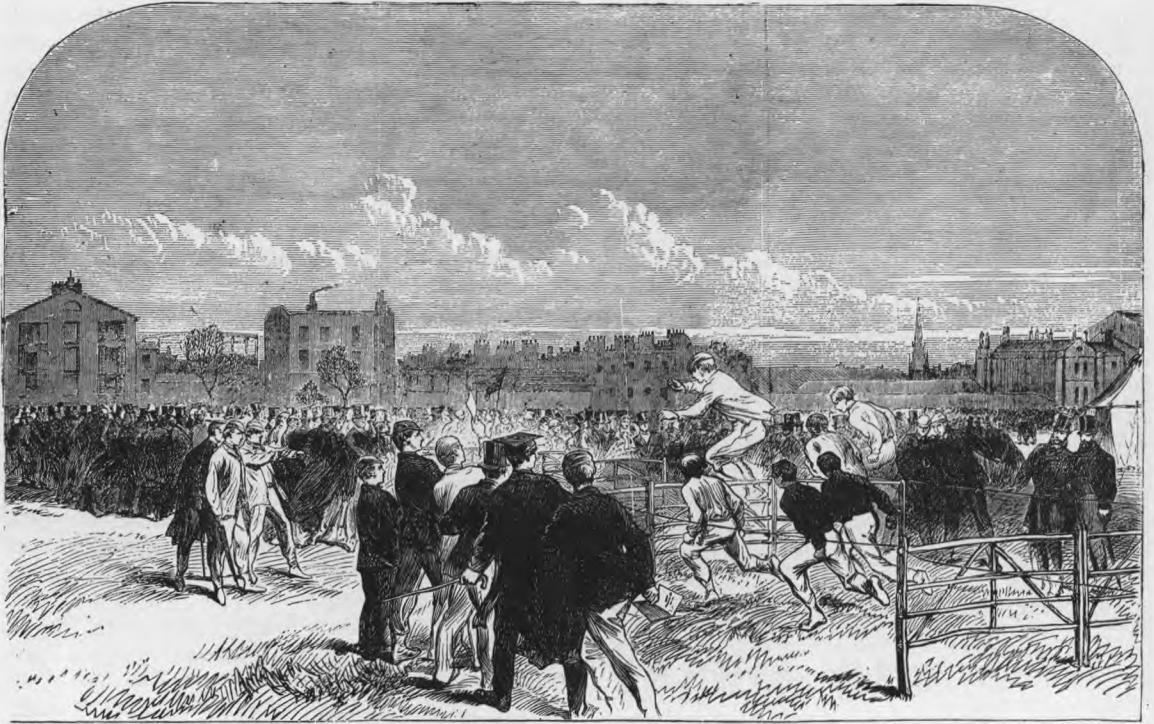
This singularly unfortunate debate was followed, much to the Secretary's relief and delight, by one which was an epitome of all that a school debate should be. The motion under discussion was "That this house would rather see the world overrun by Communism than plunged into the third world war"—a statement which, it may be

remembered, caused no small flutter in Methodist circles six months or so ago. In the end "God, King and Country" triumphed, as it always has done and always will, by 24 votes to 15 with 5 abstentions.

Last term the St. Paul's Union visited Westminster. On Wednesday March 7th the rôles of guest and host were reversed and eighteen members of the Society found themselves debating the motion "That this house will try anything once" in the somewhat gloomy atmosphere of the St. Paul's Library. It would be pleasant to say that the debate was an enjoyable one but unfortunately it would also be untrue. The cliché and the classical quotation were very much in evidence and this perhaps explains in some measure the somnolence of the vast majority of the audience. In spite of all this, however, we were grateful for the opportunity of seeing St. Paul's and also for the privilege of listening to the Demosthenic oratory of M.C. Swift, their ex-President. The house finally decided by 18 votes to 15 that "Safety First" was not such a bad slogan after all.

ATHLETICS 90 YEARS AGO

EARLY DAYS AT VINCENT SQUARE



IT has often been urged that Westminster should hold its Athletic Sports in the summer. It is insane, say the reformers, to stand shivering in a March wind while the high jump creeps up by half-inches, or to huddle for warmth round the long jump, or to run squelchily across country in a foggy drizzle (as at the Bringsty Relay a fortnight ago). A little intelligent rearrangement of the cricket season, of Henley Regatta and of the General Certificate of Education would enable the Sports to be held on a perfect afternoon in June or July, and spectators could enjoy the fun in deck-chair comfort.

The complicated time-table of the school year perhaps now makes this change impossible, but it is surprising that when the Athletic Sports were started ninety years ago this year the summer was not chosen. The first Sports were held in the autumn. The Head Master, Dr. Scott, noted in his journal: "The Boys had Races and other

Games in Vincent Square Oct. 18 1861 and Oct. 22.23 1862. The first year there was a great mob upon the ground but in 1862, by hiring Policemen, perfect order was kept, and everything went off fairly well, in spite of ungenial weather." There is a note of qualified enthusiasm about this extract, but after all, it was the boys that mattered, not the spectators. In 1863 *The Times* reported that: "Despite the unfavourable state of the weather, the various amusements were gone through with much spirit" and in the following year the "grand contest", picture above, consisting of a half-mile race with eight hurdles to leap at the finish, was said to have been a great success. Yes, it is certainly too late to make a change now. Spectators at the school sports have shivered for ninety years and this year's weather at the Bringsty Relay and the Long Distance Race is not likely to soften the hearts of the authorities.

FENCING

WITH one exception, the first team's matches this term have so far been very closely contested. Oxford University provided a strong Assassins side, which we were lucky to beat. After losing the Foil 2-7, what hope there had been of winning seemed lost, until our turn for success came in the Epée. This we won by 7 fights to 1, M. Miller being undefeated, and obtained a lead which the result of the Sabre confirmed, as we won this weapon 6-3, and the match 15-11. This is the first time that the School have beaten the Assassins since the war. After beating Whitgift without difficulty in a match through which J. L. Lee came undefeated in all three weapons, we had two matches which went to the last fight. We lost to the London Fencing Club 13-14, after fighting rather poorly, (Dr. P. M. Turquet (O.W.) kindly presided over this match) but beat a Royal Navy team by the same margin a week later, being set to win 7-2 at Sabre in order to win the match. A. Plummer had fought well in Foil, and is now gaining confidence and vigour against more experienced opponents, besides being particularly consistent against schoolboys. In the last of the team's fixtures, we had an even closer victory over the Nautical College at Pangbourne. Having won the Foil 5-4, with a comfortable margin of hits in our favour, we lost the Sabre 4-5, after a closer contest. We emerged from the scramble round

the score sheets with 3 hits to our credit, as no Epée was fought. To date, therefore, our record stands at 9 victories against 2 defeats, with only Winchester and St. Pauls' left on the fixture list.

Results :

- Feb. 17th 1st Team beat Oxford University Assassins 15-11; Foil 2-7, Epée 7-1, Sabre 6-3.
- Feb. 24th 1st team beat Whitgift School 18-8; Foil 7-2, Epée 4-4, Sabre 7-2.
- Feb. 24th 2nd team came third in Triangular with Haileybury and I.S.C. and Tonbridge School; Foil 8-10, Sabre 6-12.
- March 3rd 1st team lost to London Fencing Club 13-14; Foil 4-5, Epée 3-6, Sabre 6-3.
- March 10th 1st team beat a Royal Navy team 14-13; Foil 4-5, Epée 3-6, Sabre 7-2.
- March 13th 1st team beat Pangbourne Nautical College on hits; Foil 5-4, Sabre 4-5.
- March 13th 2nd team lost to Eton College 12-14; Foil 5-4, Epée 3-5, Sabre 4-5.
- March 13th Colts lost to Pangbourne 1-8.

A. Plummer is the Foil Champion for the season, and M. Miller the Champion at both Epée and Sabre. Lamprobaties were won by Town Boys, but King's Scholars are the holders of the House Foil and Epée-Sabre cups, and of the Seniors cup.

ATHLETICS

THE BRINGSTY RELAY.

THE Bringsty Relay was run on Wimbledon Common on Saturday, March 10th, in bad conditions. There had been a lot of rain and parts of the track were inches deep in mud. There were five teams, Wren's alone being unable to compete. Grant's maintained their fine record in the event by winning again, and it was fitting that the fastest lap of the race was run by the Grant's captain, C. R. Hayes, whose time, 4 minutes 57.4 seconds, was a very fine performance. Rigaud's were second and Busby's third.

The long distance races were run at Putney on Tuesday, March 13th. Again the course was wet, but this did not prevent a good race. In the Open event, run over three miles, Hayes was the winner, with King-Farlow of Rigaud's second. Rigaud's, however, retain the team trophy with a better

average. In the junior event M. P. Gasper, of Ashburnham, won the race, while Grant's won the team trophy.

The main interest in Athletics this term is centred in the match at Eastbourne, which has been revived after a lapse of several years. It is being contested in both Open and Under 16 events. Due to the recent bad weather, which has played havoc with training facilities, many potential competitors have not had any practice at all. If conditions allow, the standard of performance in the Finals should be rather higher than last year, but even if this is so, there will still be room for further improvement, as our clash with Eastbourne will doubtless show. Mrs. Hilary has kindly agreed to give away the prizes on the Finals day, which will be Tuesday, March 27th.

FOOTBALL

1ST XI vs. ETON

FOLLOWING a disappointing run of defeats, the 1st XI finally settled down in time for the Eton match, which was played at Vincent Square on March 3rd under very poor weather conditions. The School won 3-0. The team was without Martindale and Morley-Jacob, their places being taken by Hillyard and Crook respectively.

It became clear early in the first half that Westminster were the stronger team. We were getting much the better of mid-field play and were, for the majority of the time, in the Eton half. The forwards kept pressing hard and on many occasions had bad luck not to score. After about twenty-five minutes' play Crook put in an extremely good shot to give Westminster the lead. Eton, meanwhile, never looked really dangerous in front of goal, although at times there would be a break-through, which would collapse through lack of support.

During the first half the sky had been getting steadily darker, and it had started to rain heavily. Within a short time the pitch turned into a mud patch and it soon became so dark as to make it difficult to see the ball at all. In spite of the conditions, Westminster continued to dominate the game, and soon Hornsby put in a good shot to make us two up. Houston relieved the tension for a while by breaking a window in one of the surrounding houses with a slightly erratic clearance and received a cheer from the touch-line. Soon after, Westminster were awarded a free kick about twenty yards inside the Eton half; Williams took it and lobbed the ball to Higgins who headed it in. After this the standard of play deteriorated. Westminster's victory was due to an opportunist forward line and a sound defence.

The last match of the season against the Old Westminsters was another disappointing game. The result—a draw 2-2—is no indication of the standard of play. Morley-Jacob and Martindale were back in the team but Peroni was unable to play through injury, Wordsworth taking his place at right-back. The defence never really settled down and was particularly shaky in the first half, and if Williams had not covered as much ground as he did, the O.WW would have scored on several occasions. The School's first goal came from a good movement down the left wing, Davies actually scoring it. Soon after, however, the O.WW equalized after some bad positional play in the defence. The School retaliated and again took the lead, Morley-Jacob scoring from a centre from the right wing. Thus at half time the score was 2-1 in the School's favour.

In the second half the defence settled down. The play became slightly more orthodox and there was less erratic kicking to be seen. However, we still had not struck our best form and play looked scrappy. The game continued uneventfully until, towards the end of the second half, the O.WW equalized. After a slight tussle on the O.WW right wing the ball was crossed to an unmarked left wing, who calmly kicked it into the goal. The score remained thus until the final whistle.

This disappointing match finished a disappointing term's football.

On March 3rd the Colts played Eton Colts at Vincent Square. This match was lost 6-0. The Colts were overwhelmed by superior weight and ability. This was especially the case in the first half, when Eton scored four of their goals. In the second half we managed to hold them slightly better, but could not retrieve our position.

It is now the end of the season, and time to reflect upon the football played during the last two terms. In the 1st XI, and in fact right through the footballing world, we are much indebted to Mr. Lowcock's invaluable instruction and training, and also to Jack Shreeve, the emissary of Charlton Athletic, who has added many professional touches to our game. The season itself has been one of ups and downs. In the Play Term the XI preserved their remarkable record of alternate wins and losses, and finished up symmetrically with two draws. In the Lent Term it was neither so symmetrical nor so successful, and only succeeded in winning one out of five matches. This must be put down to a great extent to injuries, which this term have been particularly tiresome. Morley-Jacob has only been able to play one game this term, and it meant some reshuffling to find the right combination.

In the younger sides there were several players of promise, mostly in the Junior Colts, which was probably our most reliable team. The Colts lacked cohesion and fight, though at times their movements showed real constructive sense. The Under 14's were another good side, coached by Mr. Kilvington.

Taken all in all, the season definitely showed progress. The younger players will, when they are heavier and stronger, prove very useful to the school in the future. A notable feature, disregarding the football elite for the moment, has been the League, expertly organized by Monkhouse, which Wren's won by a clear margin. We congratulate the authorities on the way in which they have handled the footballers who have not taken part in any school teams, and are confident of such expert administration in the future.

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THE WATER

THE day of the race was bitterly cold, and the water, though low, was disturbed by a very unpleasant wind which blew against the tide. The results were bitter too; of the seven Westminster eights entered, only two had cause to congratulate themselves, and the first two eights were full of self-reproach.

Though only five crews competed for the new Colts' Cup, Westminster 'E' crew certainly put up a fine performance by winning it in 8 mins. 30 secs., 7 seconds faster than St. Pauls' 'E', the runners up. After the race the crew was promoted en bloc to the fourth eight, and they should have some interesting racing next summer in the same League as St. Pauls' 'C', who won the clinker division in the magnificent time of 8 mins. 1 sec. and Latymer Upper 'C', who were the second fastest clinker boat in 8 mins. 8 secs.

Third in the clinker division was our own third eight, who had a good row and went up twelve places in 8 mins. 11 secs. 'D', 'F', and 'G' crews maintained their positions without going up or down more than a few places; though 'F' crew might have returned a faster time if they had not eased too soon.

But though our five clinker crews between them went up twenty-one places, our two shell eights

dropped sixteen. This was unexpected, for in spite of illness which almost completely disorganized the second crew, both boats had been in good form before the race; and not only the crew but also the critics were astounded at the failure of the first boat.

1st VIII. G. Ross, R. N. Edwards, J. B. Milton, G. L. Grant, T. M. P. Bendixson, R. P. Harben, J. F. G. Pigott, J. W. L. Croft, N. J. Barton. Started 4th, finished 13th. Time 7 mins. 57 secs.

Crew.	Start No.	Finish No.	Time.
2nd VIII	14	21	8.10
3rd VIII	34	22	8.11
4th VIII	37	37	8.49
5th VIII	38	30	8.30
6th VIII	39	40	8.59
7th VIII	45	43	10.06

The Open Tideway Head of the River Race was rowed on March 17th, starting at 2.0 p.m. The first boat starting 35th, and the second (a new entry) 195th. Bad water during the week after the Schools Head did little to restore our shattered confidence, and illness forced us to row substitutes at '5' and '6' in the first boat until three days before the race. The 1st VIII finished in the 74th place.

SHOOTING

THE Lent term is always a busy term for the Shooting Club, and this term has proved no exception. The 1st VIII had a number of postal matches as well as a shoulder to shoulder match with Winchester and Guildford. The VIII began to practise as soon as possible, hampered by the activities of the builders, for their first match on March 9th. This was a postal match against Sherborne which was won 603-601. On the following Tuesday there was the triangular match with Winchester and Guildford at Winchester. The range was longer than ours but very well equipped and the VIII should have done better than they did; Westminster came second to Winchester, Guildford were third; the scores were 605-561-552. The team now settled down to train for Country Life, shooting two more postal matches in the meantime; the first against Repton was won 609-602 and the second against Harrow was lost 611-623.

FIVES

THIS term we have played several matches, including two school matches, with only moderate results. Right at the beginning of term we were beaten by an O.W. team by 2 matches to 1, and not long after that a makeshift pair were beaten by a strong Jesters team. Our first school match was against Highgate, who beat us by three matches to nil. Their team was very good, and was superior to us in every department of the game. We learnt with dismay that they had 200 fives players in the school, and could have put out a dozen pairs if necessary. The second pair match was the best one, Highgate winning by 3 games to 2 after a very good game. On March 10th we went down to Lancing, and just failed to bring back victory by 2 matches to one. The first pair had a moderately easy victory the second pair won one game, but were unable to keep that up, and the third pair were disappointing. Our consolation was that the Colts won 3-0.

OLD WESTMINSTERS

Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland has been awarded the Archer M. Huntington Medal of the American Numismatic Society.

Raj. K. Pitamber has been awarded his Blue by the Oxford University Golf Club.

Mr. O. Kerensky has been elected Treasurer of the Oxford Union.

The Times dramatic critic described Mr. Glen Byam Shaw's production of King Henry V as the Old Vic's most successful production so far this season.

HUSSEIN ALA.

Hussein Ala, who was at Westminster from 1898 to 1900, has been made Prime Minister of Persia. After leaving school he became secretary to the Persian legation in London in 1903, and was called to the bar in 1906. He held his first post in the Persian cabinet in 1919, and since then has been the Persian minister in Washington.

BIRTHS

BARKER—On February 18th 1951 at Bromley to Pamela, wife of C. A. H. Barker, a daughter.

BURROWES—On February 15th 1951 at Carshalton to Ruth, wife of Dr. Desmond Burrowes, a son.

GAINSBOROUGH—On February 3rd 1951 at Barham Court, Exton, to Mary, wife of the Earl of Gainsborough, a daughter.

KNOWLES—On February 3rd 1951 at Watnall to Joan Elizabeth, wife of Squadron Leader G. C. Knowles, a daughter.

MARSHALL—On January 17th 1951 at Redhill to Vera, wife of A. R. Marshall, a daughter.

PAGE WOOD—On February 6th 1951 in London to Hazel, wife of J. H. Page Wood, a son.

ROGERS—On February 5th 1951 at Wilmslow to Margaret, wife of M. A. T. Rogers, a daughter.

WILLIAMSON—On February 13th 1951 at Wimbledon to Diana, wife of P. B. Williamson, a son.

OBITUARY

ALAN BORRADAILE JOHNSON, who died on February 16th at the age of 59, was admitted to the School in 1905. In 1911 he received a commission in the Border Regiment. He fought at the battle of Ypres, in which he was severely wounded, and was invalided home in 1914, but later served with the North Russia Relief Force. He joined the Territorials and eventually commanded a battalion of the Border Regiment with the rank of Brevet Colonel, and in the last war he was employed with the Royal Artillery. By profession a stockbroker, he became in 1924 a member of the Cumberland County Council, and last year was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Cumberland. He married in 1918 Victoria Mary Constance, elder daughter of T. B. Ecroyd of Armathwaite.

PERCY WALTER GLADSTONE KANN was born in 1894, and was at Westminster from 1907 to 1913. He went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge, but on the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined the Royal Fusiliers, and in the following year obtained a commission in the East Kent Regiment. In 1940 he again joined his regiment, but was transferred to the R.A.S.C. in 1941, and was promoted Captain. He married first, Florence Broadhurst of Queensland, and second, Lilian, daughter of A. E. Dumont.

OSWALD RICHARD ROBINSON, son of Sir John Robinson, editor of *The Daily News*, died recently at the age of 84. He entered the School in 1880 and went on to Trinity College, Cambridge. He was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in 1896.

FRANK YOUNG, who died on January 18th, was admitted as a Queen's Scholar in 1894. He went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, and was awarded his blue for Association Football. After leaving Cambridge he took up engineering and then went to India on business. After twenty years service there, in which he saw active service on the North West frontier, he came home, after travelling through the Far East, Japan, and South America. He served on a Ministry of Health Committee during the war.

THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB.

Mr. Robin Harrison has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club. Mr. Harrison is a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and was a master at the School for nearly seven years.

The General Committee has gladly consented to the proposed amalgamation of the Westminster School War Memorial with the Westminster School Society.

In view of the decision to hold the Westminster Dinner in May, the General Committee has decided that there shall be no Annual Dinner of the Club this year. Consideration is being given to the holding of an informal sherry party in Ashburnham House in the autumn and any suggestions from members will be welcome.

OLD WESTMINSTERS FOOTBALL CLUB.

The Club Supper was held on February 24th at "The Feathers", Bouverie Street. About 25 members and guests of the Club attended.

Results of the second half of the season:—

O.W.W. v Old Aldenhamians.	0-4 lost.
O.W.W. v Old Bradfieldians.	1-4 lost.
O.W.W. v Highgate School.	1-0 won.
O.W.W. v London Hospital.	5-1 won.
O.W.W. v Old Carthusians.	3-8 lost.
O.W.W. v Westminster School.	2-2 drawn.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 2nd April, 1951, at the School.

OLD WESTMINSTERS GOLFING SOCIETY.

The O.W.W. were represented by the following team in a Quadrangular match at Hunstanton G. C. against Marlborough, Repton and Uppingham on March 3/4.
E. W. M. G. Spencer, S. H. T. Barley, A. C. Grover, I. Petherick, D. H. Reid, F. J. A. Mangeot.

The results were:—Old Reptonians G. S. 6½ pts. Old Uppinghamian G. S. 6pts. Old Westminster G. S. 5½ pts. Old Marlburian G. S. 0 pts.

The Society has been drawn to play the winners of Old Eastbournians and Old Stortfordians in the 2nd round of the Halford-Hewitt Tournament on Friday, April 13 at Royal St. George's G. C. Sandwich.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- May 2nd. Term begins.
 8th. Tennis v. Salesian College.
 12th. Tennis v. Queenswood.
 15th. Tennis v. Haberdashers' Askes.
 19th. 1st XI v. Buccaneers.
 Tennis v. Aldenham.
 Fencing v. St. Paul's.
 24th. Vesta Dashes.
 26th. 1st XI v. Eton Ramblers.
 Tennis v. Haileybury.
 29th. 1st XI v. Radley.
 June 1st and 2nd. 1st XI v. Sherbourne.
 2nd. Tennis : Clanville Cup 1st Round.
 6th, 7th, 8th. Challenge.
 9th. 1st XI v. Forty Club.
 Tennis v. Lancing.
 12th. 1st XI v. M.C.C.
 13th. 1st VIII v. St. Paul's.
 Authors v. Publishers. (Vincent Square).
 14th. C.C.F. Inspection.
 15th. Exeat.
 19th. Entrance Exam.
 Tennis v. Mill Hill.
 22nd and 23rd. Marlowe Regatta.
 23rd. 1st XI v. Lancing.
 30th. 1st XI v. Wimbledon.

CORRESPONDENCE

SIRS,
 I should like to trespass on the courtesy of your columns to express my thanks for the assistance given by Mr. C. H. Taylor and Mr. R. L. Lowcock in the preparation of a book we shall be publishing next June. This book, *Public Schools Cricket 1901-50*, will be the first standard reference book on public school cricket and will contain the cricket history of the seventeen public schools that have played the largest part in inter-school cricket during the last fifty years.

Mr. Taylor's article, supported by Mr. Lowcock's admirably assembled lists of teams, assures that Westminster is well represented.

I am, Sirs,

Yours truly,

MAX PARRISH.

THE ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE.

The Westminster Dinner, which is to be organized by the Committee on a pre-war scale, will be held on Friday, May 25th, at the Dorchester Hotel.

DRESS Evening Dress and decorations.

Dinner jackets may be worn.

Guests may be invited.

Music will be provided by the Band of His Majesty's Coldstream Guards (by kind permission of Colonel E. R. Hill, D.S.O., Commanding Coldstream Guards).

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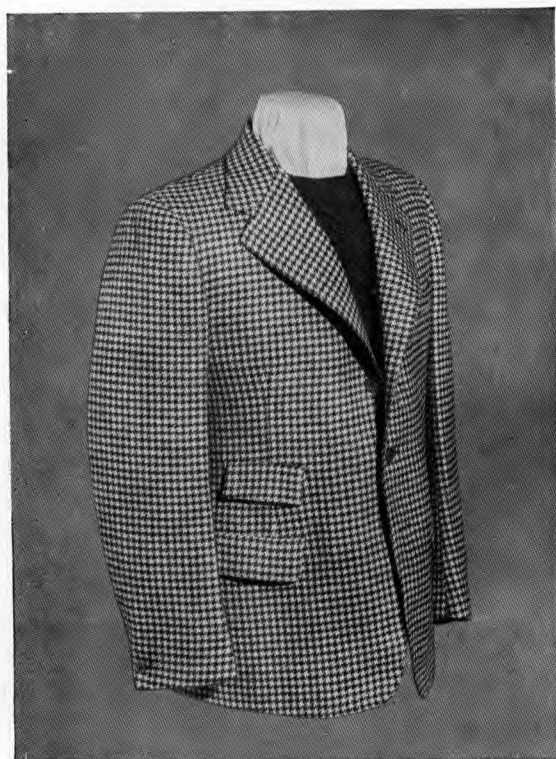


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