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# THE ELIZABETHAN

VOL. XXV. No. 9

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### THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

### CHANGES AND PROBLEMS

It is now five years since the war ended and Westminster returned to its rightful home, and it is perhaps a suitable time to look back over that eventful period, reminiscing and recalling events and changes that have taken place. The last survivors of the Worcestershire era left a year and a half ago, and with them went the last link that the new Westminster had with the old. We at school tend to forget how our predecessors fared after the great upheaval of evacuation. However, as many readers of this article do not need reminding of the days before the war or of evacuation, and it would be impudent to do so, let us concentrate our attention on the past five

What are the changes that have been made since the war? The face of Westminster is very much different. School has risen like a Phoenix from the ashes, and once again is the centre of school life. But how far removed from the old School? It seems to be a new building with a new spirit, without the years of tradition behind it. College is the same. The former King's Scholar revisiting College must be surprised at the new and spacious building that is proudly displayed to-day. It has rooms like a hotel rather than a school house. Its character, again, is changed. The luxurious and otiose has supplanted the traditional and uncomfortable. Then the Little Cloister, which was so severely bombed, is being rebuilt in dark red brick; Yard has sand spread in the centre, where the Air-raid shelters were; Ashburnham is being retiled; the old Head Master's House is now the Under School.

The internal change is as noticeable as the outward. Our numbers have now been increased to three hundred and fifty, and there are several cases of overcrowding in houses. Grant's is a notable sufferer in this direction, and the day boy houses are the same. A new house has come into being since the war—or rather a pre-war house has been reinstated once more and renamed. Already it is one of the fullest houses in the School, and, amoeba-like, it looks like splitting up again. On the other hand College, in its new building, cannot raise its numbers beyond forty and so is

living without any sort of crowding at all. It is lucky for College that it was bombed, and rather unfortunate for the school. If Grant's or Rigaud's had had to be rebuilt, it would have been possible to fit any number of boys in, and all in ideal conditions. But College remains untouched.

The most remarkable difference between the new and the old is in school games. With the numbers at Bromyard down to about one hundred and twenty, it was impossible to preserve a high standard of games in those circumstances. Since our return the numbers and the facilities for every sport have been increased, and the results are encouraging. The days of impossible obstacles to sport, of reluctance, and of all the difficulties that have kept us back in the past, are finally gone. More attention is being paid to retrieving the school's position in the sporting world, but while we must be glad of this, it obviously must not sacrifice its other activities to a sole devotion to The balance has been athletic achievement. righted, and now games holds its true position in school life.

But where does all this lead to? The spirit of the school is, and has been, changing. Just as some buildings have been rebuilt and some left as they were, so in other spheres some things have been altered, and some also left as they were. Just as the outward atmosphere is changing, it is only reflection of the spirit of the time. During the war, the emphasis was on co-operation, and in the school then, small as it was, it was very effective. But now, in a larger and more unwieldly school, the emphasis is of necessity more on obedience than on co-operation. Westminster has always had the tradition of encouraging the individual, and the medium has to be found between this and a well-disciplined establishment. It is that medium which the school is in the process of finding. The old order is now disappearing. What is to come? That is one of the problems that the school has to face, and we can only hope that it will be dealt with as competently as the reconstruction committee have dealt with another one.

### WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

CANNES, CANONS AND INFLUENZA

THE Busby Library is nearly completed. The I ceiling is a replica of the original except that it includes, as a memorial to the Black Redstarts, which nested there during the war, a few of these birds in plaster. One of these can be clearly seen in the photograph opposite eating a pomegranate. In the near future we hope to publish a full account

of the reconstruction of the Library. The beginning of the term is never, even at the best of times, a particularly cheerful period. And the beginning of this term was some way from being "the best of times" for members of the Modern Languages VII. As announced in our last issue its members were expecting to go and taste of the pleasures of French school life at Cannes for six weeks from the beginning of February until half way through March. They therefore returned to Westminster full of keen excitement and eager anticipation. But on the first day of term the cruel news was broken to them that, owing to the incompetence of the French government manifested in its stubborn refusal to reply to Dr. Sanger's letters, the whole scheme was cancelled. It was indeed a crestfallen and disconsolate Modern Languages VII that trudged its way round the school for the next few days. The unhappy gentlemen have, however, cheered up somewhat now that it has been announced that there is a fair chance of the scheme materializing next term. Cannes in summer promises to be even more fascinating, delightful and diverting than Cannes in Lent.

Talking of "going to and fro in the earth" reminds us that Milton Academy, Massachusetts has once again offered to give hospitality to a Westminster boy next term-and to pay him the usual salary for being so gracious as to go. We understand that this year an American will be coming to Westminster in exchange, the first since E. L. Wildner left in 1948. B. R. Cuzner, Head of Busby's, has been selected to go to America as Westminster's representative.

We should like to welcome Dr. E. F. Carpenter, Westminster's new Canon. Dr. Carpenter, who is thirty-nine, is married and has two little boys. He is to live in one of the recently rebuilt houses in Little Cloister-Number 3, to be exact. An interesting problem is raised as to how his furniture will reach his house. From Stanmore to Victoria Street is of course easy, but what will happen when the pantechnicon has rumbled into Dean's Yard is anybody's guess. Will the "gentle giants" of Messrs. Pickford or some other firm choose the College Hall or the Little Dean's Yard route? There is, we should say, little in it. But whichever way they go their task is hardly an enviable one. Carrying grand pianos, wardrobes and dining-room tables that distance is no joke-

except for those who watch.

The school surrendered disgracefully early to the 'flu epidemic this term. Indeed it hardly put up a fight at all, for within a fortnight three masters, in addition to legions of boys, had mysteriously disappeared—although unfortunately not for ever. Had it not been for the new school sanatorium in Great College Street, Busby's and Rigaud's Matrons would have been in dire distress, for their sick-rooms were soon filled to overflowing. The new sanatorium which is perhaps the most attractive part of the whole school has been established by way of an experiment. The idea is that it shall be open only when it is required and that it shall have no permanent staff. When an epidemic breaks out, or measles or some other kindred disease rears its ugly head a frantic search is to be made for a crew to man the ship. On this occasion the school was very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Brazier, an ex-Matron of Grant's, who nobly stepped into the breach at very short notice. She has been responsible for the admirable equipping of the sanatorium with its three rooms and nine beds. The only thing lacking is a wireless. Anyone possessing such a spare article has a magnificent chance to be a public benefactor.

Once again brushes and paint have been at work in the Library. This time the Classical and English Literature rooms have been the beneficiaries. It is with some pride that we announce that the History Side stood firm in face of all discomfort. Throughout the operation its members remained triumphantly entrenched in the glorious comfort of their arm-chairs. Nor did they allow the redecoration to come in any way between them and their mental food. The attractive fare provided by Messrs. Edward Hulton and Henry R. Luce was consumed as avidly as ever.

The main sufferers from the redecoration have been the Secretaries of the many school societies, for it has meant that there is only one roomand that the vast and spacious Drawing Room which has a tendency to make gatherings of two or three look rather foolish—available for society Ugly mutterings have been heard coming forth from the various Secretaries and one at least has been observed cursing a colleague with all the vigour and venom of Stevenson's Jennet Clouston. Fortunately there is a custodian of the Library in N. J. Barker who acts as umpire in all disputes and so far peace has been preserved.



REDSTARTS' RETURN

Photo : L. H. B.



THE DRUNKEN SAILOR

Photo : P. R. J Vickers



AN OLD OLD WET Photo: A. J. Levi

### THE SCHOOL CONCERT

THE concert, which took place on Friday, 15th December, contained a well balanced and varied programme. After the opening "Children's Overture" by Quilter, which was played well and vigorously by the orchestra, the choir sang three carols of a widely varying nature. "Make me joy now in this fest" was the most outstanding of these, and was sung with expression, although the choir lacked the final polish.

There followed the most notable work of the evening, Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor, of which the first movement was played. The soloist was A. H. R. Martindale (G.), who gave a very fine performance. It was a pity that the technique of the orchestra was not quite as good as that of the soloist, but as a whole the per-

formance must be rated very highly.

Before the interval a venture which has been tried before with some success was repeated. The traditional carol "I saw three ships" was sung and the audience was asked to sing some of the verses. At the end of the concert "The First Noel" was sung in the same manner, and this time with more vigour, but here too we must deplore the fact that British audiences seem to be so afraid of opening their mouths and making a really loud noise.

The first work after the interval was the "Sixth Chandos Anthem" by Handel, and here the choir did full justice to itself by a lively and spirited performance. This work, although little

known, has a triumphal character which is offset by the beauty of the quieter passages. The vigorous Bass Aria "That God is Great" was sung by the tenors and basses as a whole, and not by a soloist: this was very successful as the piece lends itself well to unison singing.

There followed the main work of the orchestra, Beethoven's First Symphony in C. This was a good performance, and, perhaps because it was easier, the orchestra was entirely free from that lack of cohesion which was perceptible in the Piano Concerto. The second movement, which can so easily become ragged, was played with precision and care. The work was well rounded off by lively playing of the rondo in which the last movement consists. The national anthem and school song were omitted from the programme as they were considered inappropriate after the final carol.

This concert certainly lived up to the high standard of previous performances. The high-light of the evening was undoubtedly the Piano Concerto. Many people felt that they would have liked more of it, and it would probably have been better to have included it in the second half of the programme instead of the first, as there was something of an anti-climax after it. The choir, in spite of doubts at the rehearsals, performed well as indeed did the orchestra: the result was a good concert.

### THE UNDER SCHOOL

FOOTBALL results during the Play term were most disappointing. This was partly due to the fact that in no single match were the team at full strength because of illness but more so because it lacked speed and determination to get to the ball first. There were some good individual performances, but uncertainty and hesitancy will not win matches. Perrett, the captain, is the only old Colour left from last year. He plays hard at centre half but is a better wing forward and will return to that position if a competent half can be found.

For the usual party at the end of term, Mr. Hamerton undertook the task—always a difficult one at a day school—of producing a short play with the two top forms. Illness added to his difficulties and M. J. Hall did very well to take on the part of the main character, Ebenezer Scuttleboom, whose treasure was the subject of the play, at very short notice. The performance up School came at the end of an afternoon of mixed activity—games, films, tea, carols—and thanks and congratulations are due to all concerned and

to Mr. Hamerton in particular for all the work put into producing a most entertaining and

enjoyable finale.

Mrs. Blanchard's decision to go to New Zealand was received with great regret. She had been on the staff since September, 1947. New boys to this school each year have had much to thank her for though few probably realized at the time all the careful thought and preparation given to their welfare. Mrs Blanchard is due to sail early in February and goes with the good wishes of the whole school.

Stofford, one of the monitors, was the only boy to leave at Christmas. Cood luck to him at Marlborough.

Miss D. M. Elliott has taken over Mrs. Blanchard's work and almost for the first time no changes were necessary in the time-table.

Two new dining tables have appeared in Hall. These like the first are the work of the school carpenter and very good work it is. There are still two more to come.

### THE DEBATING SOCIETY

THE OLD WESTMINSTERS' DEBATE

PRESUMABLY few of the sixty-six people who crowded into the Drawing Room of Ashburnham House for the Old Westminsters Debate on Monday, 11th December, expected anything much in the way of logical or rational discussion. They certainly had no right to, for the simple reason that the subject of the debate was the housing record of the Labour government. And of course it did not turn out to be a logical or a rational debate. There were all the usual cries of "shame", "rubbish" and "nonsense", all the traditional derisive laughter, all the familiar facial grimaces as one's opponents made particularly telling points. But this does not mean that the debate was a failure. Far from it; it was in fact a triumphant and resounding success from the moment when Mr. L. R. Carr, Conservative, M.P. for Mitcham, rose to his feet to the moment when the vote was taken resulting as it did in "a majority of ten against the government "-as they say in the newspapers. Never once did energy flag, never once did any challenging statement go by unquestioned, never once did a speaker sit down without having been heckled. In a word this debate had vigour and life; indeed it had more than this for it also had that elusive and much sought-after quality of entertainment value. As one diminutive non-member put it "I enjoyed that." So did we all.

### C.C.F.

On the 15th July, he took over command from Mr. Murray-Rust, as a captain, and in April, 1948, he became a major. He is the representative of ten London contingents at the contingent conferences with the Joint Cadet Executive of the A.C.F.

During his five years of command, Mr. Rawes has had to face many difficulties. Perhaps the greatest of these has been over transport. He organized the first camp for ten years, at Pirbright, and the succeeding one at Crowborough. He also arranged visits to the Royal Marines at Chatham, and to the Life Guards at Windsor. Despite the shortage of ammunition, Mr. Rawes has arranged for as much Service-rifle shooting as possible.

For the first debate of the Lent Term, on Friday, 23rd January, the Society turned to a narrower sphere of politics—those of the school. The motion under discussion regretted "the insufficient emphasis on games at Westminster," and we enjoyed seeing the Captain of Football, Cricket and Fives opposing it. Very successful he was too—the motion being defeated by twenty-eight votes to seven. We feel, however, that some of the credit for this splendid result ought, in all fairness, to be given to those two staunch and doughty enemies of Philistinism, Mr. Alec Waugh and Mr. Ian Hay, whose writings were of inestimable service to the opposition.

On Tuesday, 6th February, five members of the Society, under the protecting wing of the Chairman, ventured out into the wilds of Hertfordshire to debate the Festival of Britain with Aldenham. The Secretary, loyally championing the cause of local enterprise, opposed the motion "That this house disapproves of the Festival of Britain," which was proposed by an Aldenhamian seconded by J. King-Farlow. After a very lively debate the motion was lost by thirty votes to seven. It is to be hoped that Mr. Morrison's heart has been warmed by this indication of the youth of the nation's confidence in his project.

### NOTICES

The Concert will be held up School on 20th March, at 7.45. The programme will include the German Requiem of Brahms, the overture La Tita di Clemenzo by Mozart, the suite Pelleas et Mélisande by Fauré, and a concertino for clarinet and string orchestra by Tartini, in which the soloist will be C. C. P. Williams.

Any Old Westm nsters requiring tickets should apply to the Concert Secretary, 3, Little Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1, before 10th March.

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The School play, Twelfth Night by W. Shakespeare, will be performed up School on 29th, 30th and 31st March, at 7.30. Old Westminsters who want tickets should apply to the Business Manager, 3, Little Dean's Yard, London, S.W.I, before 17th March.

The Jubilee Dinner of the Old Grantite Club will be held on Friday, 6th April, in College Hall, with the reception in Jerusalem Chamber (by kind permission of the Dean of Westminster and the Head Master). Old Grantites, who wish to obtain tickets should apply to the Hon Secretary, D. F. CUNLIFFE, BROOKWOOD CORNER, ASHTEAD, SURREY.

### GRANT'S AND COLLEGE

### COLLEGE BY A GRANTITE

I SHALL try to give some idea of the life in College, as compared with that on other boarding-houses, especially Grant's. To begin with, the social system is quite different. Up Grant's, the dayrooms are occupied according to seniority: boys start in Hall, and graduate through Buckenhill and Chiswicks to become house monitors in Inner. In College, however, the house is divided into three election-rooms, each of which contains a cross-section of the house. The usual arrangement is, one monitor, one senior, three fourth election, two third election, three second election and three juniors. This is the day arrangement, and naturally encourages a certain amount of familiarity between senior and junior. In the dormitories, and in Hall, however, the scholars are grouped in elections, and so will always be in contact with their contemporaries throughout their life in College.

A well-known feature of College is the common use of Christian names. It is customary for all the upper elections, that is, the third, fourth and fifth, to call each other by their Christian names and for the Master to call the monitors and seniors by their Christian names. A year or two ago, Christian names were unheard of up Grant's, and though recently they have become more popular, they are never used to the same extent as in College. There are no distinctions of seniority except by elections and even then the house is regarded as one unit rather than as five component elections. All scholars, for instance, are allowed to wear sports coats and shag ties in the evening, while this privilege is reserved for Inner and

Chiswicks up Grant's.

Life in election-rooms is designed to be conducive to work. Every scholar, except the juniors, has his own table and bookcase, where he can conveniently work at all times of the day. Silence in prep is probably more rigid than up Grant's, and each evening a time is reserved for work in election rooms when no talking is allowed. Such an occupat does not exist up Grant's, though it exists in some other houses in a more reduced form.

Though the life described so far might be accounted as "modern," yet there are many more primitive customs. A monitor, for instance, is able to shout for fags, a power abolished up Grant's some years ago. He does this by shouting "Elec." A senior calls "Answer Elec," and all the juniors in hearing must run to him.

Another well-known, and also rather primitive

College custom, is the number of calls. These, in fact, do serve some useful purpose, and are connected with the duties of Mon. Cam. Mon. Cam. (pronounced "Sham"), is the monitor on duty in College for the week. His duties are mainly, to take the call-over, put everybody to bed and report to the Master when all the lights are out. At call-over, all collegers except the monitors and seniors, line up in the passage. Mon. Cam. fetches the Master, and calls over the names as people go into Hall. This custom has been retained, rather to help the catering than to enforce regimentation. The monitors and seniors have already been called at "D-call." At 7.561 precisely, a junior calls out the monitors' and seniors' names, with a "Ready" after each. The call is repeated two or three times, to ensure that everybody has heard it. Other calls are: "Ready" at 9.5, "Hamilton's coming" at 1.5 (not Ham's 'ming), "Ready" at 2.10 on Mondays and Fridays and "Ready" at 8.45 for prayers.

Another College custom, to which there is no counterpart up Grant's, is the "case." This custom is now more or less outdated, and an explanation of its complicated procedure would be tedious. In drawing conclusions to this comparison, between two totally different institutions, one must be careful not to confuse the issue. I am a Grantite, and College seems to me to lead an unenviable existence. However, I suppose there is something to be said for their arrangement, or is

there?

### GRANT'S BY A KING'S SCHOLAR

THE average King's Scholar (if such a creature exists), although he finds the thought of being in any other house but his own repulsive, would probably find himself more at home up Grant's than anywhere else. This is surprising in some ways, for while College has the most comfortable accommodation in the school, Grant's has quite easily the worst. Probably the most noticeable feature is the all-prevading lack of space.

One only has to enter Hall, where the junior part of the house exists, to see this most clearly. For this day-room, holding about half the house, is reminiscent of a tin of sardines to anyone who is not well acquainted with it. Buckenhill, the new study, is almost as crowded, and although there is rather more space in Chiswicks and Inner, there is nothing like the room that we have in College where spacious Election Rooms contain about twelve people apiece.

Space also limits the washing facilities in Grant's; whereas College has half a basin (or one tap) per

person and one seventh of a bath, Grant's has only one bathroom. There has been no census as to whether facilities or lack of them makes people wash more or less, but I am told that they manage very well by staggering the hours of washing. Nor must we forget the stone showerbaths at the back of the house, relics of a past age, which are apparently not so uncomfortable as

they look.

The result of the crowded condition of the dayrooms is that the back yard is very popular. At
all times of the day yard games can be seen, and
indeed heard: the clamour which arises from
these rather primitive games is all the more
noticeable, because College is a very quiet place,
perhaps unnaturally so. There are many advantages
in this, for it allows anyone who wishes to work or
read quietly to do so, whereas this is practically
impossible in Grant's unless a hasty escape from
the house is made. The one exception to this is
prep., although conditions in Grant's are again
less comfortable; the formroom in Ashburnham
where the most junior Grantites do their prep. is
affectionately known as the "Ice Box".

These are a few of the differences on the physical side. But the passage of a boy through each of the houses differs in many respects. To begin with, a junior is kept more in his place in Grant's, and although the first week of a new King's Scholar is probably more terrifying, he is very soon accepted as an integral part of the house: in Grant's, however, the first step forward is to be made a hall monitor, and the next to escape from Hall. These Hall monitors have no equivalent in College, where it is impossible to have any authority except in the fifth year. Seniority in Grant's is largely a personal matter, while in

College the system is so rigid that seniority is thought of in terms of Elections.

A very revealing feature of any house is the amount and type of punishments that are set. In this respect both houses try to be "modern," and to set punishments only as a last resort. The punishments in College usually consist of something to learn such as the well worn sonnet, or an essay on a subject which fits the crime; in Grant's, however, they are more manual. A junior might become an Inner fag for a few days, and for somebody past that the favourite punishment seems to be chopping wood. A beating is most unusual, and even then it is never performed by monitors: we may be thankful that the barbarous days when a beating was the result of the most trifling offences have gone, probably never to return.

What then is the conclusion? Grant's is far less comfortable than College, and on the whole less free. The various groups of boys, such as Hall, Chiswicks or Inner, have less to do with each other, and in College all parts of the house have to live together because of the Election Room system. We may see this particularly clearly in the procedure before meals. In Grant's, when the bell sounds, Hall have to take their places at once; they are then told to stop talking, after which Chiswicks and Inner enter in state, and in strict order of seniority. Such an arrangement could not exist in College. But if this survey seems to be largely pro-College, as indeed it should be, let the Grantite take heart from the fact that out of those who expressed an opinion half of College said that they would prefer to be up Grant's if they could not be in College.

### FENCING

THE first team brought last term to a triumphant I conclusion with their victory over Imperial College, the match with the O.WW. being postponed. The team used to the full the valuable experience and confidence which they had gained during the term, and the result of the match was most encouraging, although Lee was not fencing in his usual form. We had a marked superiority over our opponents in foil technique, and consequently, won this weapon by 7 victories to 2, M. Miller winning all his fights. In Epée Imperial College's wider experience told against us, and after some narrowly lost fights they took the Epée by 6 wins to 3. Four Sabre wins were needed for us to win the match, and though the contest was fairly evenly balanced, the result was in our favour by 5 wins to 4, thus making the final score 15-12.

The second team, after a long series of cancelled and postponed matches fought their only match last term against St. Paul's School, which they narrowly won by 9 fights to 8. Outside the field of the school and club matches, a team was entered for the President's Cup on 3rd February. The school's performance in this competition was most disappointing, and the members of the team did not do themselves justice scoring only one win in Epée, and the same in Sabre. J. L. Lee, who was asked to fight Epée for the Bertrand Fencing Club "B" team, won 3 fights in the first round pool of six, and his team was promoted to the second round.

### WESTMINSTER IN 1851

### THE GREAT EXHIBITION AND LIDDELL

To-DAY being the 1st of May, '51, with rather unusual civility Liddell gave general permission for the fellows to go to see the procession and opening of the Great Exhibition; and such fellows who wished to go home were

allowed to stay till the Evg.".

It is difficult for the present generation to recapture the atmosphere of the school and its surroundings when those words in the Town Boy Ledger were written. This term's new boy up Grant's who looks out from his dormitory window across the roofs of Ashburnham to the Abbey sees substantially the same view as his predecessor of a century ago. But in 1851, the Sub-Dean, Lord John Thynne, who had officiated at Queen Victoria's Coronation, lived in Ashburnham House, and the wall with its little classical gatehouse, dividing his garden from Little Dean's Yard, was a barrier beyond which no boy or master was likely to penetrate. School, where the whole school was still taught, was already lit by spidery gas-jets, but otherwise preserved its eighteenthcentury aspect. The King's Scholars still slept The Challenge in the great open Dormitory. was an oral contest lasting three months. Instead of Sir Gilbert Scott's Gothic skyscraper at the entrance to Dean's Yard there stood a row of eighteenth-century houses containing part of the medieval Gatehouse. Beyond, to the north, was the world of Elegance; Whitehall, as yet hardly the seat of government, the Park, and a ribbon of Nash's stucco reaching from Carlton House Terrace to Regent's Park. To the west Victoria Street had been opened earlier in the year, driving a furrow through the congested squalor of medieval and Tudor Westminster.

To the south, with the exception of College Street and Barton Street which were middle-class genteel, the squalor remained, and for another forty years no boy was to venture up Fields by the direct route. Towards the east the new Palace of Westminster was rising from the ashes of the fire of 1834. It had not yet been formally opened by the Queen nor had the Victoria Tower yet risen to dominate the view from the entrance to Yard, but Big Ben was half built, and the Abbey clock, which since the destruction of the Clock Tower of the old Palace had lorded it erratically over the surrounding district, was soon to be eclipsed by the mighty chime which to-day rings

round the world.

If you want a picture of what Westminster was like in the eighteen fifties you must go to-day to southern Europe where poverty and misery still jostle elegance and luxury in cheeky proximity, where you turn the corner of a Renaissance palace and find yourself in a slum. But for the strong Italian sunlight substitute the fog and smokeladen atmosphere of Victorian London. It is true that for thirty years gas lighting had done something to mitigate the gloom, but in Westminster the company often neglected to reinstate the roadways after laying the pipes, and foul-smelling vapours were allowed to escape from the works along the open channels of the streets, so that one July Sunday in 1849 many of the congregation assembled in St. John's and St. Margaret's churches had to leave before the conclusion of the services.

To the stench of the streets was added the stench from the river, as yet unembanked, into which the drains of the metropolis poured their daily "The waters of the Thames," wrote The Lancet, "are swollen with the feculence of the myriads of living beings that dwell upon the banks and with the waste of every manufacture that is too foul for utilization," and a Times leading article of 1858 speaks of the intense heat which had driven Members of Parliament from those portions of their buildings which overlooked the river; "a few Members indeed ventured into the library, but they were instantaneously driven to retreat, each man with a handkerchief to his While the living were doing their best to make Westminster uninhabitable, the dead also contributed their share. A report of a few years earlier on the St. John's burial ground (where Westminster Hospital now stands) states "that the part of the ground alloted for the poor is buried all over four or five deep; that 5,126 graves had been dug in 10 years; that five or six coffins are placed in every grave where eight feet in depth can be obtained, and many of the bodies are less than two feet from the surface." The ground was closed (against strong parish opposition) in 1853.

So much for the surroundings of Westminster. Now for the school itself. Why anyone sent his boy to Westminster in the year of the Great Exhibition is a mystery. And yet they did. The numbers of the school were 137—double what they had been 10 years earlier, and that they had not suffered a catastrophic decline was due to the energy of Dr. Liddell, the first non-Westminster Head Master for 250 years, who had arrived in 1846 with a mandate for reform. That handsome,

slightly contemptuous face which still looks down from the walls of School may well have grown a shade more contemptuous as he saw the reception given to his heroic efforts at modernization.

Let the Town Boy Ledger again speak: " Among the many changes which are now taking place I must mention one which has occasioned no small sensation. It has been decided that every Whitsuntide the whole school is to be examined by the examiners of Oxford and Cambridge. This year being that of the Great Exhibition has doubtless been selected to allow us to make some trifling addition to the many exhibitions which will probably take place." Some of these early exam papers survive, and even in so impersonal a subject as mathematics reflect their epoch. "If a servant receives £3½ for 20 weeks' service, how many weeks ought he to remain in his place for twelve guineas?" "The Times has a circulation of 12,500 daily; what is the sum realized in the month of February at 5d. a copy? Also in 132 million of feet how many miles?" Who would now look in a mathematics paper for the finer shades of social distinction? And yet: "If a gentleman be taxed £37 os. 10d. at 7d. in the £, what is his rental?" "If a person give 5 guineas for his lodging for the month of July at 20d. a night, what sum will be returned to him?" The distinction is not accidental. Other questions show that those who paid 20d. a night for lodgings, laid "railroads", or dug trenches (working 10 hours a day), did not aspire above the rank of "person" in the 1850's.

In 1851 Westminster football still retained a good many features of the Rugby game. Running with the ball and fist-punching, which had been allowed when Francis Markham arrived up Grant's, were stopped in that year, but handling the ball was still allowed to the extent that you might catch it, run two or three paces, and take a half-volley kick (not a punt). At this date each school had its distinctive rules, and as late as 1863 a letter in The Times, signed "Etoniensis" draws attention to the disadvantages involved: "The Etonians have now for two years played against the Westminsters in Vincent Square; the game is a kind of compromise between the two, more closely resembling the Westminster game The display is therefore below than ours. mediocrity-neither of the sides can practise any of their favourite dodges without infringing the rules of the other".

It was no part of Liddell's plan to reform school games—the age in which schoolmasters took an interest in games was still in the distant future—and he had indeed enough to do elsewhere. "Even Liddell begins at last to despair," wrote the Rev. B. F. James, assistant usher up Rigaud's,

in 1850; "he sees there is no fever or cholera to put it down to now, but for some reason or other the school won't draw . . . Perhaps our best chance would be the fall of Rugby or Marlborough." "I must begin to look about me," he adds in another letter, "and yet I should wish much to see the prosperity which must one day reach Westminster when all the houses are thrown down between the New Houses of Parliament and the school—grand streets built in all directions—the school itself no doubt decorated and brought into unison with the Abbey and the New Buildings. Then we shall emerge from our present smoke and obscurity and become the most conspicuous school in the metropolis."

It was a bold prophecy when it was made, but he lived to see it come true. And after all life had its compensations, even at Westminster in 1850, especially after he had succeeded Rigaud in his

house mastership.

Rigaud had handed over "a most unruly set of senior boys", but "I have now been here upwards of a month and there has not been a row or disturbance of any kind-not a particle of mischief committed and every boy as submissive and gentlemanly as can be desired". His house was sufficiently under control for him to indulge in social activities. "I have ventured", he writes, "on a small dinner-party to-day to drink confusion to the Pope". The date was 5th November in the year of the restoration of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, the "papal agression" which had set all England talking and The Times And there was still the Great thundering. Exhibition to look forward to. James must have visited it, although his surviving letters do not say so; but on 21st October, 1851, he writes: "London has quite changed its appearance within the last 10 days since the closing of the Exhibition. The suddenness with which the troubled crossing at Apsley House grew quiet and every one of the ten thousand omnibi dropped the 'Exhibition' was marvellous". The letter is too long to quote in full, but a note of thankfulness seems to run through it that the festivities are over. Perhaps by next October we shall share his feelings.

### **NEW SCHOOL OFFICERS**

School Monitors:
H. R. L. Samwell.
P. S. Houston.
A. J. Levi.
M. Miller.
Captain of Football.
Head of Rigaud's.
Head of Ashburnham.
Head of Wrens.
C. C. P. Will

Captain of Lawn Tennis.
Captain of Boxing
Captain of Shooting.
Secretary of Pol. and Lit. Soc.
Editor of The Elizabethan

C. C. P. Williams.
A. J. Levi.
G. A. D. Saward.
J. F. G. Pigott.
N. J. Barker.
E. J. W. Oyler.

### FOOTBALL

LENT TERM MATCHES

AST term we welcomed the Old Carthusians up LFields on December 9th. The team was without Houston and Makower, our two backs, and Peroni and Carmichael filled their places. There was a noticeable relaxation from the tension of the Charterhouse match the week before. Once more a fatal defensive mistake cost us a goal in the first twenty minutes. It was soon made up, however, when Martindale scored from a swift movement down the right wing. With the score at I-I, the team changed round and started off confidently. The wing-halves were bringing the wingers into the game, and constructive passes were flowing from the insides. But the School were unable to score, and their defence was unsure down the right wing. It was from this direction that the Old Carthusians' second goal came. Only then could the School score, the agent being Morley-Jacob from a pass by Higgins. Thereafter, the School pressed hard, but could not score again.

The 1st XI started the Lent Term with a record of five won, five lost and two drawn. Lancing Old Boys were our first opponents, on 3rd February, and they won by four goals to three. The team was once again a depleted one, without Higgins or Morley-Jacob, and with Peroni playing at right back. At half-time the score had moved to two all, after Martindale had just beaten the goalkeeper with a low shot. It was possible at that stage for us to win, but when the Lancing Old Boys scored another goal, and after that another from a simple mistake by Henry, the School goalkeeper, the life went out of our play. Crook scored a consolation goal to finish up with, but the ball would after that never go in. The result, 4-3, might have been a draw, and it was quite a good game against a heavier side.

A week later the 1st XI were again beaten by the odd goal. This time it was the Old Aldenhamians, who brought along a strong team, which was nearly the same as their Arthur Dunn Cup side. The game started disastrously. The Old Aldenhamians got well into their stride and scored two goals. After these two setbacks the defence settled down, and the school succeeded in getting the ball more in midfield. The rest of the first half consisted in both sides playing hard football, with neither side getting the advantage. After half-time the school pressed harder. Williams scored an individual goal, after bursting through the Old Aldenhamian defence. The school continued the assault of their opponents' goal, but did everything but score. Their goalkeeper defended magnificently, but even then ten seconds from time Williams hit a moving ball and it looked as though it had beaten the goalkeeper—only to pass six inches outside the post.

### 1st XI v. WINCHESTER

After these two unlucky club games, the School spent a very enjoyable day at Winchester, the only disappointment being that the match was lost 4-1. Once more it was defensive mistakes which cost us the game. In the first few minutes Henry was obstructed by a member of the defence and failed to gather a simple corner, and soon after the defence put another through our own goal. From then on the School were struggling. defence was switched, Wordsworth moving to centre-half and Lowe to centre-forward, but still the School were kicking rather aimlessly. A narrow pitch constricted the movements of the wingers, who were used to having plenty of room. The insides were both out of form, and if Houston and Williams had not covered the ground they did, Westminster might have been several goals down at half-time. Winchester, with a bigger and a heavier side, were usually beating the School to the ball, but they were unable to score again before half-time.

In the first twenty minutes after half-time Westminster settled down to play good football, and the reward was soon forthcoming. Davies shot at goal, their goalkeeper parried, and Lowe was on the spot to put it into the net. Then the game became tense. Westminster had several chances to make up their deficit, but accepted none of them. Then came a tragedy, albeit in comic form. Henry punted out, but hit one of their forwards; the ball rebounded into the goal. Then the snap went out of the school play, and not long before time Winchester scored again.

This was a game of disappointments, mistakes, and missed chances. Westminster might have won, but they failed to produce the necessary concentration.

The 2nd XI this term has won two matches. The first, against Mercers ended with the score 8–1 in our favour. A team was played strengthened by two Pinks, and the result was very satisfactory. In the next match against the Lancing Old Boys, the team was once again not a true 2nd XI, as it had one or two Colts and a Junior Colt playing. This game was won by one goal to nil.

The Colts won their match against Brentwood on 27th January. This term three Junior Colts have been promoted to the Colts, and they we in this side. The Junior Colts have played two matches, one against Mercers, which they won 7-3, and one against Ridgeways, which they lost 2-3. They have both times been without their full team, and their record is as good as last term's.

### WESTMINSTER SCHOOL BOYS' CLUB

The Club Committee is most grateful to all Old Westminsters and their friends who have helped by Covenants and Donations to give the new Club a good start.

The Club has already opened its doors and over 20 members have been enrolled. The boys have done some excellent work in making certain rooms available for immediate Club use, pending the carrying out of war damage and other repair work as soon as funds permit.

Further help is urgently needed to complete this work and to meet normal running expenses.

Will Old Westminsters and their friends who have not yet subscribed do their best to help?

Subscriptions and donations should be sent to the Joint Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Plummer, A.C.A., 55/61, Moorgate, London, E.C.2, from whom Deeds of Covenant and Bankers' Order Forms may be obtained.

The Club would also greatly appreciate gifts of Sports Equipment, including Table Tennis and Boxing Equipment, Cricket gear, Gym Shoes and Shorts, Football Boots, Tennis Rackets and Balls, and of Towels, Cupboards, Small Tables, Armchairs, Clocks, Radio Equipment and Gramophone Records, which should be sent to the Club Leader, Mr. E. Chamberlain, at the Club, Banstead Street, S.E.15.



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SIRS,

It would indeed be sad if Westminster were reduced to copying other schools in all things, but I don't think that it should be so narrow-minded as to reject improvements coming from the example of other schools purely

on that score.

It is, I believe, the custom at Eton for boys to choose their own pieces for what is the equivalent of our Orations. Would it not be possible to give this system a trial in our own Senior Competition? Not only would it relieve the boredom for the school, who at present have to listen to the same piece recited four or five times over, but, more important, the competitors would presumably have more sympathy with their own choice and a higher standard ought to be the result. The present orations, in trying to please everybody, are inclined to please nobody.

Yours, etc., "ORATOR".

Sirs,
Your reference in the November Elizabethan to the passing of Richard Norman Rowsell Blaker recalls Blaker recalls memories of a period when Westminster had rather a singular run of cricketers and footballers who gained blues and other athletic honours. Blaker's time was from 1893 to 1898, and, although in 1894 he had not yet gained his pinks, the cricket XI contained C. W. Fisher (who occasionally played goal at football), who was in the XI from 1894 to 1896, and was thus in the team which Blaker joined in 1896. Fisher was in the Oxford Cricket XI of 1900 and later played for Sussex. He was a don at Christ Church and, joining the Navy in World War I, was killed at the Battle of Jutland. R. E. More was in the cricket XI from 1894 to 1899 and in the Oxford XI in 1900/01. He also played back for the school at Football. Later he played cricket for

L. J. Moon played both cricket and football for the school and was contemporary (though slightly senior) with Blaker. Moon was in the Cambridge cricket XI in 1898, 1899 and 1900 and in the Cambridge Association Football XI in the same three years. He was killed in World War I.

Blaker himself, who had been in both school elevens and captained both in 1898, was in the Cambridge Cricket XI in 1900/01, and in the Cambridge Association XI from 1899 to 1901. He did not, of course, captain Oxford, as the misprint in the Elizabethan suggests. Moon later played cricket for Middlesex and Blaker for Kent.

Slightly senior to Blaker at school was H. O. C. Beasley who played football for the school in 1895/96 and for Cambridge in 1897/98. F. Young, who was also in the Football XI in Blaker's years, played for Cambridge in 1901 and 1902, and S. S. Harris, in some ways the most famous footballer of all, played for the school just after Blaker left, though he was actually his school contemporary, and for Cambridge later. He captained Cambridge and won his Amateur International cap.

Yours faithfully, R. F. C. O'BRIEN.

In the current number of The Elizabethan is a list of Old Westminster actors, from which one important name is missing, Mr. Frederick Ranalow, the son of Westminster's much loved Music Master for forty-five years, the late Mr. Joseph Ranalow.

The writer of the article is probably too young to have seen, in the 1920's, Fred Ranalow's wonderful performance as Captain MacHeath in *The Beggars Opera*, a part which he played for three and a half years, with only a very occasional holiday. His last performance on the London stage was, I think, about five years ago as Father Christmas in The Land of the Christmas

This tribute is surely due to a great artist. Yours sincerely,

H. D. CLIVE.

### **OLD WESTMINSTERS**

Sir John Monro Troutbeck has been appointed his Majesty's Ambassador at Baghdad.

Mr. R. C. S. Stanley, Chief Secretary to the Northern Rhodesia Government, is the leader of his territory's delegation to the London conference on closer association between the Rhodesias and Nyasaland.

Sir Percival Waterfield has retired from the post of First Civil Service Commissioner.

In the New Year's Honours List Mr. R. N. Heaton was made C.B., Mr. K. McGregor, C.M.G., and Mr. C. E. Wool Lewis, O.B.E.

The Hon. A. Wedgwood Benn has been elected Member of Parliament for South-East Bristol.

Mr. F. M. Bennett has been adopted as prospective Conservative candidate for Reading North.

Mr. F. E. H. Bennett has been appointed Secretary General of the Liberal International.

Mr. A. Campbell Johnson has announced that owing to pressure of work he is unable to stand as prospective Liberal candidate for Salisbury.

Mr. John Gielgud is returning from America to act

in the Festival production of The Winter's Tale, which

will be produced by Mr. Peter Brook. Captain D. R. F. Cambell, D.S.C., R.N., has been appointed Deputy Chief Naval Representative for Air, Ministry of Supply.

Surgeon-Commander H. M. Willoughby, R.N.V.R.,

has been promoted to Surgeon-Captain.

Lieutenant P. R. Thomas, R.M., is serving with the Royal Marine Commandos in Korea.

Mr. D. F. Pears has been elected to an Official Fellowship and Tutorship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.
The Reverend A. T. P. Harrison was ordained priest,

Mr. A. N. B. Towse and Mr. C. J. Lees-Smith deacon, at the Advent Ordinations.
Mr. R. M. Robbins has been appointed Secretary to

the London Transport Executive.

Dr. P. M. Turquet was a member of the London Fencing Club team, and Mr. E. B. Christie a member of Bertrand's in the final of the Men's Foil Team Championship.

Major K. W. Johnson has been awarded the Territorial

Efficiency Decoration.

### **OBITUARY**

ARTHUR RUSSELL BAKER, who died on January 15th in his 76th year was at Westminster from 1888 to 1893. He became in 1901 the founder and honorary director of the Boys' Home in Rectory Grove, Clapham.

The Reverend MALCOLM GEORGE DUNLOP was at Westminster in 1885 and left to go to school in Bruges. He entered the London and Westminster Bank in 1889 and subsequently became manager of the Hampstead branch. He was for many years gentleman-in-waiting to Cardinal Bourne and founded the Cardinal's Own troop of Boy Scouts. At the age of 61 he became a priest in the Roman Church, and was chaplain to the convent at Wickham, where he died on December 26th in his 79th year.

HAROLD WATSON FAILES was the younger son of the Reverend Watson Failes, who was for thirty years mathematics master at the School and housemaster of Ashburnham and Rigaud's. He entered Westminster in

1894 and left in 1898.

LAWRENCE HALLETT, son of the late Sir Frederic Hallett, was a member of a family which have been Westminsters since his great-grandfather entered the School in 1790. He himself was admitted in 1904. In the first world war he held a commission in the Manchester Regiment but was invalided home in 1917. He married in 1935 Monica Felicity, daughter of the Reverend J. W.

BERNARD HAMILTON HOWLETT, son of B. F. Howlett, entered the School in 1924. He took his degree at London and practised as a solicitor. He is survived by

Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT ARCHER LLOYD, who died recently at the age of 72, had a distinguished career in the Indian Medical Service. He was at Westminster from 1892 to 1895, and after studying medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital entered the Indian Army in 1902. He became medical officer of the 21st Puniabis and served on the North West frontier. From 1915 to 1918 he saw service in France, at Amara, and in Mesopotamia, was twice mentioned in Dispatches and was awarded the D.S.O. In 1920 he married Ivy, youngest daughter of Mr. R. B. Clayton of East Boldre.

ALGERNON RIVERS WOODBRIDGE was born in 1870 and admitted in 1884. In 1894 he was admitted a solicitor and he practised in Uxbridge. He married in 1908 Agnes, daughter of J. M. Fountain.

FRANCIS MICHAEL YGLESIAS, who died last December, was admitted to the school in 1881, and became a Queen's Scholar in 1882. After leaving Trinity College, Cambridge, he was ordained and finally became Rector of Langton until he retired in 1933.

#### BIRTHS

BAKER CRESSWELL-On January 2nd 1951 at Budleigh Salterton to the wife of Captain T. H. Baker Cresswell, R.M., a daughter.

BATTEN-On December 31st 1950 in London to Mary,

wife of Dr. Henry Batten, a daughter.

BAUGHAN—On December 13th 1950 at Oxford to Jacqueline, wife of Professor E.C. Baughan, a daughter. BEYTS—On December 9th 1950 in New York to Joan, wife of Major A. G. A. Beyts, a son.

BINNEY—On January 16th 1951 at Shrewsbury to Heather, wife of A. L. Binney, a daughter.

BROOKES-On January 22nd 1951 at Cambridge to Laura, wife of A. Brookes, a son.

CLARK—On December 9th 1950 at Lewes to Audrey Beryl, wife of A. J. M. Clark, A.M.I.C.E., a son. cocks—On January 2nd 1951 at New Mexico to Penny, wife of Wing Commander A Cocks, a son.

GERRISH-On December 12th 1950 at Weybridge to Ann,

wife of W. J. Gerrish, a son.

HADFIELD—On November 24th 1950 in London to Eileen, wife of Dr. G. Hadfield, a daughter.

HAMPTON-SMITH-On December 22nd Shrewsbury to Vivienne, wife of the Reverend D. C. Hampton-Smith, a son and a daughter.

KEMP—On November 27th 1950 at Johore Bahru to Alison, wife of A. S. H. Kemp, a daughter.

KIRBYSHIRE—On December 24th 1950 at Isleworth to Joy, wife of J. A. Kirbyshire, a daughter. LE-HARDY—On December 24th 1950 at Carshalton to

June, wife of Squadron Leader A. Le-Hardy, a son. PECK—On December 24th 1950 at Catterick Camp to Jackie, wife of Captain O. J. Peck, a son.

REID DICK-On January 17th 1951 in London to Barbara, wife of J. Reid Dick, a son. SAMUEL-On January 1st 1951 in London to Sheila, wife

of D. E. Samuel, a son.

SHINNIE—On January 5th 1951 at Birmingham to Margaret, wife of P. L. Shinnie, a son.

TASKER-On December 13th 1950 at Tangier to Juliet, wife of I. M. Tasker, a son.

WALKER-BRASH-On December 20th 1950 in London to Jacqueline, wife of R. M. T. Walker-Brash, a daughter

#### MARRIAGES

ANDREWS: KNUDSEN—On November 19th 1950 at Frederikssund, Denmark, J. D. B. Andrews to Eva Knudsen of Copenhagen.

BROWN: ALDERSON-On November 23rd 1950 J. S. Brown to Diana Mary, widow of John Alderson, M.C., and second daughter of the late Right Honourable

Leslie Burgin.

DOWNES: FIRKINS-On December 2nd 1950 at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Michael Downes to Pamela Jane, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Firkins of Kensington.

GAYER: REACH—On January 6th 1951 at Worcester

Park, H. C. Gayer to Pamela June Reach.

REMINGTON-HOBBS: HARRISON PROCTOR—On December 7th 1950 at the King's Chapel of the Savoy, Lieutenant-Colonel E. Remington-Hobbs to Susan, widow of Lieutenant-Commander H. Harrison Proctor of Manchester, Massachusetts.

STROTHER-STEWART: BARRON-On December 30th 1950 at St. Mary Abbot's, Major C. Strother-Stewart to Marjorie Jean, widow of Captain J. R. B. Barron, R.E.

YOUNG : CHRISTIE—On December 2nd Greenwich, R. W. Young to Caroline Mary Christie

#### FOOTBALL

In the first round of the Arthur Dunn Cup played at Vincent Square on 16th December, 1950, against Old Ardinians, the result was a draw, 1—1, H. C. Gayer scored for Old Westminsters.

The 1951 Easter Tour with Lancing Old Boys will be held at Ludlow. Matches have been arranged against: Hay St. Mary's F.C., R.A.F. Hereford, A Malvern XI, Ludlow Town. Members wishing to attend should contact the Hon. Secretary.

SOUASH

Since the last publication, the following matches have been played. The Old Bradfieldians and the Metropolitian Police who were defeated, and Latymer, Old Marlburians and Kensington Close to whom we lost. The matches against the Old Tonbridgians and Lansdowne were cancelled owing to influenza.

Besides these, we have played a very strong Old Rugbeian side in the Londonderry Cup who defeated us 5-0. There remain to be played six further fixtures.

The Club is still in need of enthusiastic young Old Westminsters who are keen to play in these matches. Would they please contact E. S. Jessel, 7, Nepean Street, Roehampton, S.W.15.

#### FIVES

The Club has now completed the first half of their second season since the war. They are still playing on the School courts every Wednesday for a practice game, though the playing strength is not sufficient, and for matches they are having to rely on the same people. It is hoped more younger Old Westminsters will at least come along and give the game a trial on a Wednesday evening between 6.30 and 9.0, gloves and balls will be provided.

This Season a full fixture list has been arranged, and the Club has played ten matches with the following

results:

Old Cholmelians	Lost
Old Carthusians	Won
Old Reptonians	Lost
Lancing College	Won
Old Citizens	Lost
The Masters	Lost
A Wellington College Team	Won
Old Aldenhamians	Lost
The School	Won
Old Carthusians	Lost
71	

This year we have again entered two pairs for the Kinnaird Cup, C. M. O'Brien and R. O. I. Borradaile have drawn a bye in the first round; and R. Plummer and F. B. Hooper won their first round 3-2.

### SHOOTING

There has been some response by Old Westminsters interested in .303 shooting and it is proposed to meet at Bisley in early April. Newcomers are welcome. All those interested should contact S. C. H. Davis, 4, Waldens Park, Hursell, Woking.

### J. T. CHRISTIE PRESENTATION FUND

As a result of the General Committee's appeal the sum of £150 has been received from more than three hundred Old Westminsters.

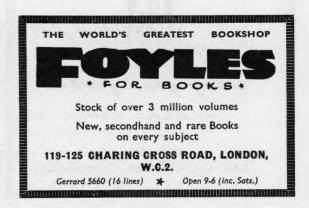
Part of this fund has been spent in the purchase of a silver cigarette box, which bears the following inscrip-

tion :

JOHANNI TRAILL CHRISTIE
VEL AMICO VEL ARCHIDIDASCALO
REGIAE SCHOLAE WESTMONASTERIENSI
PER ANNOS MCMXXXVII—MCMXLIX
SI QUIS ALIUS DEVOTISSIMO

SODALITAS ELIZABETHANA

The balance of the fund is being handed over to Mr.
Christie.



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