

# THE ELIZABETHAN

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## LONDON—A HOUSE WARMING

Summer in Herefordshire is a victorious period, and the pinks and whites of the orchards, already in bloom as we returned, chimed in with our own mood, which was the mood of the nation. For some—few enough by now—the close of this term will bring a disappointment no less deeply felt for its having been thrust away in the face of the novel responsibilities of country life, when initiative has precedent over tradition and the security of the past yields to the chances of the future. The hopes which those fortunate enough to have snatched a term, a year at Westminster in London before removal to the country had entertained, of a triumphal return before a new generation came to take their place in the School, have been dashed for all but the smallest sprinkling of—will they be?—fortunates.

We visited the School in London again in April, after a School Service in Abbey. This, with our experiences in play-producing in College Hall and holiday matches up Fields, served to arouse a full appreciation of the solidarity of our ties with London and of the unstinting kindness of the friends who await us there, of our indebtedness to

the Dean and to the Abbey for the welcome we never fail to receive, and even of the significance of that outpost—or rather base-camp of school life—the Bursary.

London, in fact, at this present moment looms perhaps larger in our thoughts than any time since the third hasty evacuation of September, 1940, and the damage to the School buildings from the blitz in the following May. Within the School itself, too, it is increasingly pressed upon us that Buckenhill and Whitbourne, necessarily both centres of a twin existence, are but temporary homes, and that our loyalty is to a united Westminster. The buildings in London are opening once more: first Ashburnham is to be refitted and decorated as a meeting-place and *refectorium* for members of the American forces who have an interest in the precincts of Westminster, the Abbey and the School. In the second place, the plans for the re-introduction of the Under School are now complete, and by September accommodation will be ready up Grant's for the schooling and feeding of dayboys from London.

There shall be none to deny that the lesson of the past year has been that Westminster in Herefordshire and Westminster in London depend mutually upon each other for existence ; we are in the happy state of not only possessing, but fulfilling even now the task of living a tradition. As another issue of "THE ELIZABETHAN, Westminster in Herefordshire" circulates amongst past and present generations of the School it has the pleasant function of linking the past with the present, and the present with the future. And thus it is with a far from unwilling heart that the Editor lays down an annual pen to don his school smock and sally forth in quest of cherry-picking.

## THE SCHOOL

The wheel of season revolves, summer is with us again : the traditional summer interests flourish as ever, whilst some have gone and even more have risen in their place. Two forthcoming changes in the organisation of the School, however, are already beginning to cast their shadows, though not to have effect until the Play Term. It is with deep regret that we must bid what we hope to be only a temporary adieu to Mr. Willett, who is returning to London as Under Master, and to Mr. Earp and Mr. Young, who will be joining him on the staff there. Fortunately it is not yet time to render full account of all their outstanding services to the School, and the debt of gratitude which several successive generations of Westminsters owe to them. But first perhaps we should record the debt incurred during evacuation, when further responsibilities have inevitably fallen to their lot : Mr. Willett, who came first to the School as a boy in 1896 and returned as Classics Master in 1909, was O.C. of the O.T.C. during the years of the Great War, and afterwards House Master of Home Boarders and Grant's until 1934, took over the task of Domestic Bursar ; Mr. Earp, who has taught Science at Westminster since 1919, has helped in many other ways during evacuation, and even accompanied the Scouts to camp last summer ; and to the work of Mr. Young (himself an O.W.) further tributes in these pages also bear witness, for he has never failed to win the gratitude of those of Home Boarders, and then of Home Boarders and Ashburnham combined, who have had him as House Master at Lancing and Bromyard, of the J.T.C. under his command, and of all who have so greatly benefited from his untiring efforts to keep sports alive during evacuation.

In the second place, Fernie Bank is being closed down at the end of term and Buckenhill are already preparing to receive Grant's ; Busby's and Homeburnham, under Mr. Fisher, will be amalgamated to

share dayrooms, though each is to keep its own monitors and retain its identity for games. In the meantime Buckenhill held a fête for Bromyard during "Wings for Victory Week," at which the impressive total of £100 of savings stamps from the entry fees for sports and sideshows was distributed in prizes ; a revue entitled "The Sky's the Limit" was also given at the Falcon Ballroom, Bromyard.

At the Whitbourne end, vegetable culture has attained great heights this year—Rigaud's strawberries have been "fairly blushing with the prospects of a good crop," and the purchase of a new plot of ground along the road from the Rectory promises a substantial increase of produce. All houses are making good use of the summer months for outdoor playreading activities ; and Rigaud's and College continue to share the amenities of gym. on the lawn of the Court, College Gramophone Society, and Essay Society, though Fencing has come to a natural end. A report of Fernie's "At Home" on June 17th, which included an extremely good performance of "Laburnham Grove," appears elsewhere in this issue.

We also regret to have to announce that both Miss Mackillop, who has been Matron of Busby's since its foundation, and also Mrs. Baines, who has been Matron up Grant's for five years, are leaving us at the end of this term ; they will always be remembered by both past and present members of their respective houses. Miss MacRae, who was Matron of Grant's immediately before Mrs. Baines, is to return to become Matron for the whole of Buckenhill.

Finally we can see full patriotic justice being done as the rigid delineation between term and holiday, work and play declines into little more than a period of hectic packing, journeying and equally fevered unpacking at the many destinations to which the varied camps or courses of the summer call us—from Buckenhill to their farming camp with Mr. Fisher, from Grant's to the Murray-Rusts' farm at Stalbridge, Dorset, or with the Scout Troop to forestry in North Wales, to name but a few. When these are over individuals continue with work in widely differing spheres—factories, farms, J.T.C. and A.T.C. courses, even a Bio-Chemistry Laboratory. And in the autumn the majority of these—for we hope for scarcely the usual depletion in numbers : resident King's Scholars will again be up to thirty-nine—will be returning with an ever-increasing store of experience and musculinity which will manifest itself once again under the demands of house organisation during the winter and the responsibilities of a fresh year in the country.

## SCHOOL NOTES

A School Service was held in Abbey on Sunday, April 11th, and was followed by a tour round the School buildings, conducted by Mr. Carleton.

R. S. Faber (Praefectus) and J. R. B. Hodges (Head of Grant's) left last term on six-month courses to Oxford; J. C. Pite (BB.) has been appointed Captain of the School, D. C. Feasey Captain of College, and D. I. Gregg Head of Grant's.

At a meeting of the Games Committee, D. A. Trebucq was appointed Captain of Football and W. W. S. Breem to be Secretary. C. G. Dumper, K.S., has been made Assistant Editor of *THE ELIZABETHAN*.

An Art Competition is being held on June 29th, and the entries will be judged by Mr. A. T. Shaw, of Worcester Royal Grammar School. There is also to be a subsidiary individual competition on the subject of the School's evacuation.

C. K. Smith, K.S., has been awarded an organ scholarship to Caius', Cambridge, and a Leverhulme scholarship to the Royal College of Music.

C. G. Dumper, K.S., has won a Hampshire County Exhibition to Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

The Vincent Prize for English Literature has been awarded to D. M. Peattie and the Stebbing to M. S. Graham-Dixon.

The *College Street Clarion* celebrated its fifth birthday by publishing a list compiled of the names of all Busbites past and present.

The Rector of Whitbourne, the Rev. W. H. C. Stainer, retired on June 30th, to take a cottage in Somerset. We were very sorry to see him go, for his kindness and readiness to help us at Whitbourne have always been invaluable, but he takes our best wishes with him.

There was no School Pancake Grease on Shrove Tuesday, but F. J. Somerset (RR.) was the winner in a Grease held between College and Rigaud's on the lawn of Whitbourne Court.

### THE ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

There will be an informal supper on Thursday, July 29th, at the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, to meet the Head Master and Mrs. Christie, House Masters and their wives.

Details can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, at 222, Strand, W.C.2.

### THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in Jerusalem Chamber (by kind permission of the Dean) on Friday, July 30th, at 5 p.m.

The Editors apologise for the omission of an acknowledgment in the last issue of *THE ELIZABETHAN* to the Hon. Secretary of the Entertainments Committee for the kind loan of the block printed on the front page.

**Contributions for the December number of "The Elizabethan" should reach the Editors at Whitbourne Court, Worcester, not later than November 1st.**

## A LONDON LETTER

Lent Term, 1943, had virtually two endings. In Herefordshire term ended on April 6th, but for the next five days there was a period in London—half term and half holiday—during which Dean's Yard came to life again and Westminster seemed momentarily suspended between the pre-war and the post-war worlds. The atmosphere was reminiscent of the last days of the Play Term in normal times. The play was Shakespeare this time, not Terence, but College (with Rigaud's) were performing it, and at one time or another nearly every King's Scholar was to be seen in Yard. There was the usual sprinkling of Masters and Town Boys, the usual sight of School workmen carrying planks and stage properties about the place, and the Bursary hummed with a more than usual animation.

The events of the "Westminster Week"—some of which are recorded in detail elsewhere—began with the *matinée* performance of King Henry IV, Part 2, in College Hall, on April 8th. On April 9th the Head Master was at home to parents in College Hall, and on the following day there was the Westminster Tea at the Hyde Park Hotel. On Sunday, April 11th, for the first time since the beginning of the war, the School was present officially at Morning Service in Abbey. Masters and boys occupied their accustomed places in the choir-stalls and in the King's Scholars' seats; the lessons were read by the Master of the King's Scholars and the Head Master; and the School Prayer and prayers for the Collegiate Church of Westminster were recited. The sermon was preached by Canon Fox who, in words which were echoed by many, referred to our hopes and prayers for a speedy and safe return.

After the service a number of boys and parents assembled in the Head Master's drawing-room, where they were received by the Rev. Max Petitpierre (O.W.), who is in charge of the section of Toc H which now occupies part of the Head Master's house. They were afterwards conducted round the school buildings.

## SCOTT'S NOTEBOOKS

(Concluded)

Below are printed further extracts from the private notebooks kept by Dr. Scott during his head mastership, which have been generously presented to the School by his niece, Miss Scott, of Pembroke Lodge, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

One of the early entries is a reminder that the London of the 1850's, with its as yet unreformed sanitation, was not the healthy place it is to-day. "We had several cases of Chickenpox in the Spring of 1859, and in May of Typhoid Fever, apparently due to the failure of the water from the Kensington Spring, which allowed the drains to become dry, and at times very offensive. Downie, at Mr. Marshall's, was in great danger for some time, and H. M. Marshall in College was also ill with it: two servants in my house, one at Mr. Marshall's, one at Canon Bentinck's. Mr. Marshall's servant died: she had been taking castor oil and other medicines in large quantities without consulting anyone."

At that date the Thames Embankment, with its great main sewer which carries London's drainage eastwards to Barking Creek, had not yet been built, and the sewage of the City was allowed to flow unrestricted into the river. "The Thames became abominably offensive about the middle of June," wrote Scott in 1858. "The nuisance was most felt at night, and at high water *more* than at low. The health of the School did not appear to suffer. Water leave was suspended for a few days." "The Thames again very offensive in 1859. We several times smelt it in the house, which had never happened the year before." It was a nuisance which must have grown worse very rapidly, for as late as 1846 the School had been bathing in the river off Millbank. It luckily lasted only a few years, but it is paradoxical that the Embankment, which put an end to it and made the Thames once more a fit river to row on, also put an end to rowing at Westminster. The increased flow of the tides, together with the fast moving traffic, gradually forced the School boats off the river. "There was no Eight oar on the river in 1867," wrote Scott. "Two or three four-oars went off usually each day from Clasper's Raft, near the Lambeth Bridge; but the annoyance from steamers, etc., was so great that the boys had no enjoyment of their boating, and once or twice there was serious danger of an upset. No accident, however, happened. The cricket was much improved by the decay of the water interest in the School."

The previous year's cricket season, however, had been marred by an unfortunate incident. "A challenge to a cricket match was sent by the

captain of the Shrewsbury eleven, in the end of March, and was answered in a foolish and impertinent letter by Oliver, the captain of our eleven, refusing to play on the ground that Shrewsbury was not one of the 'Public Schools.' This, after the Royal Commission, was too absurd, and the Shrewsbury captain, Phillips, wrote a sharp reply, and sent the two letters to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. They were noticed afterwards in other papers, and the whole affair was vexatious."

Whether as a result of the incident or not, the cricketers evidently felt the need to bolster up their prestige. "In June, 1869, on the application chiefly of Mr. Jones, the following rule was made and given to the Head Town Boy: 'That all Town Boys in any Eleven or Twenty-two at Cricket shall be allowed to wear their proper caps, instead of hats, on the way to and from Fields: but that no caps shall be worn in Dean's Yard, except on special grounds of health.'" This entry was symptomatic of the change which was coming over the public schools. The old informality was passing. As early as 1858 "a pattern of caps for football" had been fixed upon. "This did not take root," wrote Scott, "but the eleven adopted blue caps for themselves." From such small beginnings arose the elaborate system of public school colours, which in our own day has foundered on the rock of clothes rationing.

In 1861 occurs the first mention of the athletic sports. "The boys had races and other games in Vincent Square, October 18th, 1861, and October 22nd to 23rd, 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 inclement weather." In 1871 the amenities of Fields were improved by the planting of "four or five clumps of plane trees . . . at or near the four corners of Vincent Square, so arranged that should a row of trees all round be thought advantageous hereafter, those now planted may be in unison." "At the same time," Scott adds, "I had made known to the Governors that the idea of filling up the area of Vincent Square to the level of the surrounding road had been suggested to me as the only means likely to do away with the mists which in any chill weather hang so heavily over the ground." The work was begun in January, 1872, and was still going on in the summer of 1873. "About a quarter of the old ground was retained intact, and used for practice and matches during the season: two games also went on upon the raised portion of the ground to the west, which was in very fair order."

For those who have seen Fields in its war-time state this extract has a topical flavour. Still more topical, at all events for those who have been at Lancing and Bromyard, is the following: "January 19th, 1881, was the day of return of the boys; but the violent snowstorm and the intense cold of the 18th had frozen the water in the pipes up School, so that the circulation could not be maintained: and the supply pipe feeding the boiler was also found to be almost choked from internal corrosion. It was, therefore, hopeless to warm the great school-room, and with the Dean's permission the meeting of the School was postponed to the Tuesday evening following—January 25th. A few boys had arrived from long distances and for those, morning School was held each day in the Library. Two young boys named Pryce, one in College and one at Mr. Jones' House, arrived by a belated train at Euston Square, and had to leave their luggage at the station, no cabs being available, and walked the whole way to Westminster, carrying a small portmanteau between them. They could make no one hear, at near midnight, at either Mr. Sloman's or Mr. Jones' House, but were taken in, fed and lodged for the night, at Mr. Turle's, who heard them outside."

J. D. C.

## ASHBURNHAM HOUSE (I)

For architectural eminence and historical association Ashburnham House ranks, I suppose, as the most important house in the City of Westminster. It is presumably also the most distinguished house in the possession of any Public School, and every student of English Renaissance architecture knows its grand staircase.

So far as we know it started as a small house for the Prior—hall, kitchen, parlour, chapel and two bedrooms. This was probably built somewhere about 1380, in that wonderful time when, having been left a fortune by Cardinal Langham, the Abbey for once was comfortably rich. At last it became possible to continue the building of the Nave, where the low Norman of the Confessor's church, butting against the towering mass of Henry III's work, with its boarded end, must have looked strangely incongruous, like the donkey which the Arab yokes with a camel to draw his plough. And a long, new range of houses, stores and administrative offices stretched southwards down to the Abbot's Bridge (south-west corner of Dean's Yard), where the "Mill Ditch" stream, after flowing past the Eldcurtell osier-bed and island, and passing south of the granary, stables and cartsheds, skirted the Precinct Wall, which still bounds College Street, to join the river by the wharf and the Abbot's house, with College Hall (1372) and Jerusalem (1376).

We hear of many notable people who lived in the house from the time of Elizabeth onwards; but it is particularly interesting, I think, to remember those who, before this, had it as their official home, and among them four of the later Abbots who were successively promoted from the post of Prior. There was Milling, who as Abbot gave sanctuary to Queen Elizabeth Woodville and her baby son, Edward V, born under his roof. He vigorously and successfully stimulated the flagging pace of the building operations. Estney, his successor and Caxton's landlord, did the same, to such an extent that Fascet, who came next, had to find something like £10,000 (of our own money) out of his own purse to pay off the Abbey's debts. And then John Islip, the friend of Henry VII, nearly the last of the Abbots and one of the greatest of them all.

After the Dissolution we find in residence "Dean Benson," none other than Abbot Boston, last of his line, the creature of Thomas Cromwell, who had put him in to play a Quisling role in preparing the way for the Great Surrender of 1540.

At this time Westminster became a City and the Abbey its Cathedral. For about ten years it had a Bishop, and he naturally got the Abbot's House, while the Prior's House became the Deanery.

The first time we hear of it as a private house is towards the end of Elizabeth's reign. Sir John Fortescue, Chancellor of the Exchequer to James I, rebuilt it in 1596. Fortunately, he preserved and incorporated in his new house one wall of the old Prior's House. It may still have been an external wall, but it now forms the spine of the present ground floor. In it there are several cusped windows, as well as the archway of the back door, with iron staples still in place, and a semi-circular stair-recess, now a cupboard.

It was, no doubt, Sir John Fortescue who put in the large stone fireplace in the centre room (Under): its carved detail is now thickly coated with green paint, and, inappropriate as this is, it is probable that, if it were stripped off, the stonework below would be found to be in very poor condition. But the fireplace is important for—with, perhaps the stone paving of the forecourt—it seems to be the only relic of Elizabethan times which is left to us.

Sir John sounds the sort of person who, when he built himself a house, would make a pretty good job of it, but for some reason at present, I think, unexplained, his house was only allowed to stand for about half a century. Then, somewhere about the time of the Civil War, the back wall of the Prior's House, still miraculously preserved, cusped windows and all, was incorporated in a larger and more magnificent house, apparently designed by Inigo Jones, and carried out by his pupil and follower John Webb.

In a later issue space may perhaps be found for considering this house, which, though considerably altered, is the Ashburnham House we know to-day, and also its subsequent history and vicissitudes.

It is not unlikely that by that time it may have undergone one of the most surprising changes in its status and function.

A. L. N. RUSSELL.

## WESTMINSTER'S CONTRIBUTION TO ENGLISH LETTERS

In 450 words?—you can't do it, Mr. Editor. Why, the names alone of writers claiming mention would come to almost that number. In any lines of literature you like to take you find Westminster everywhere—and most often at the top. Take poetry. In 1619 King James made the first Poet Laureate appointed by "Letters Patent," and "rare Ben Jonson" thus inaugurated that line of Laureates which contains so oddly names no one has ever heard of with a few of the very greatest of our annals, reaching a noble climax in the last hundred years in Wordsworth, Tennyson, Robert Bridges, and John Masefield. Before a century had passed two other Westminsters had had the post; one Nicholas Rowe, in his day a "best seller," of whom the only echo that survives is the phrase "a gay Lothario"—from a character in one of his once popular plays; the other, one whose name holds its own with the greatest, John Dryden. Between Dryden and Southey there comes a series of forgotten, or almost forgotten, names; it may be claimed that in the first two centuries of the existence of that title the most eminent among some dozen holders were Westminsters. Take another test—Johnson's once widely read *Lives of the Poets*, written to order of a bookseller, who, and not Johnson, is responsible for the choice; the poets are all of the seventeenth and first half of the eighteenth century, and half of them are hardly even names to-day, but of the fifty-two poets twelve are Westminsters, and these include those who count most—Cowley, Halifax, Dryden, Rowe, and Prior; of the rest six are Etonians, five Wykehamists.

These two illustrations represent, I think, quite fairly the importance of Westminster's contribution to English letters in the two centuries preceding the publication of the *Lives* in 1781.

One more test, and here Westminster supremacy is overwhelming—sacred poetry and, in particular, hymns. In the wider sphere Milton, a Pauline, is admittedly the king; but in the hymns Westminster among the Public Schools has it all its own way. The tradition comes down from George Herbert through Charles Wesley and the gentle Cowper to Percy Dearmer, his son Geoffrey, and Gabriel Gillett (*It is finished*, a very noble hymn, too little used) in our own day. Nor must we forget that one of the partners, "Tate and Brady," who put out the *New Version* of the Psalms, which replaced the *Old Version* of Sternhold and Hopkins in 1696, and for more than a century and a half, till the issue of the *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1864, gave English churchmen all the hymns they might sing. Nicholas Brady was an old King's Scholar and Captain in 1673. Of the 703 hymns in the most recent (and by far the best) of our hymnbooks, *Songs of Praise*, Westminster's

share is sixty-eight, almost one-tenth of the whole. Dryden, Toplady (*Rock of Ages*), Joseph Anstice (the "friend who influenced Gladstone most" at Christ Church), Bishop Cotton (the great Head Master who rescued Marlborough from the chaos of its unhappy start), and the present Bishop of Chichester, each contributes one; Wesley's contribution is twenty-one. In a list of the *Hundred Best Hymns*, picked by the readers of a popular religious paper some years ago, fifteen were by Westminster, and these included the first and the third.

My space is all but spent. How can I do justice to the far larger number of prose writers? Take first the historians, whom Westminster, having daily access—in happier days!—to the Abbey with its wealth of associations and the Houses of Parliament, more than any other school should breed; and has, in fact, bred them richly, from the Head Master of Elizabeth's day, William Camden, with his *Britannia*, and Hakluyt, with his *Voyages and Discoveries of the English*, "the prose epic of the English Nation"; who, in the nineteenth century had worthy successors in James Anthony Froude, the Devon parson's son, who told of the great deeds of his brother Devonians, of Elizabeth's time, Drake and Hawkins, Raleigh and Gilbert; and in Clements Markham, grandson of the Head Master (and Archbishop's) son William, who was Warren Hastings' personal secretary, and spake so brave and true a word at the trial in Westminster Hall: "I am convinced, my Lords, Mr. Hastings is the most virtuous man of the age in which he lives"; and in this century is one still going strong in defence of his country, despite his three score and sixteen years, Lieutenant-Commander Warrington Smyth, R.N.V.R., whose verses *Morning Watch* (which appeared in *The Times*) speak in the true spirit of the Elizabethan adventurers. Froude's *Oceana*, the most talked-of book of its day (1886), was in the Westminster tradition of empire building, of which Hakluyt recorded the beginnings. Another name calls for mention here, not so well known as it should be; though not strictly a historian, Edward Gibbon Wakefield did, by his writing, help greatly to consolidate that empire of which Froude a little later by his *Oceana* made Englishmen aware. His *Report on British North America* gave Lord Durham the facts on which to base the framework of his constitution which brought peace and harmony to Canada, in face of its deep cleavage of race, and made the French colonists, among the most loyal of that empire's sons, setting the model which two generations later inspired the even more striking Union of South Africa.

(To be concluded)

LIONEL JAMES.

## FOOTBALL

It is late in the year to be writing anything about football and I am not going to give any detailed accounts. Reports have been published earlier.

Let me rather briefly say what was attempted during the season. The First XI played a number of matches during Play Term, leading up to the series played during the holidays in London. This was an achievement, the chief credit for which must go to Naylor, secretary and goalkeeper. In each of the games a representative, if not a full team, was able to turn out. Even after the fixtures had been settled, there remained any amount of work for the officials in seeing that there were eleven men on the right ground at the right time. It was work well worth doing, and it was good to have football at Vincent Square again, although Vincent Square was not at its best.

Of individual players, Hodges, the captain, at full back, could always be relied upon to play a good game. He saved many an awkward situation by his resolute tackling. Naylor was usually safe and at times easily lived up to the high standard of past Westminster keepers. Trebuq was always good and sometimes brilliant at half-back. He never seemed to tire however much he had to do, and his positional play was always a source of trouble to his opponents. The forwards seemed to lack the necessary thrust to make full use of good defensive play.

The Second XI and Colts XI both had matches during the season, but it was not easy to find opponents for them. This was unfortunate as some quite promising material was found amongst the Colts in a series of games held in the Lent Term.

House matches, both Seniors and Juniors, were played and produced some exciting if not always brilliant football. Replays, even after extra time, were not uncommon.

Our thanks are due to Colonel Lutley for once again allowing us to use his land for football. Most house matches, big games and Colts games were played at Brockhampton, all of which would have been much more difficult to arrange for but for this ground.

In conclusion I should like to congratulate Hodges and Naylor—and, indeed, all footballers—on their tremendous keenness throughout the season. This went a long way towards overcoming the evacuation conditions, and is all the more creditable when it is realised that coaching was practically non-existent and official support and interest very much less than it used to be. Representatives, both from the War Office and Air Ministry, have stressed the importance they attach to the continuation of school games as far as it is possible on normal lines. A great many interests

have to be taken into consideration under present-day conditions, but there is no doubt that football was very much alive at Westminster during the past season.

M. F. Y.

## RESULTS 1943

### "A" ELEVEN

Westminster v. Leominster Grammar School . . . Lost 4—2

### 2nd ELEVEN

Westminster v. Bromyard Grammar School . . . Won 9—1

### COLTS

Westminster v. Bromyard Grammar School . . . Won 5—1

Seniors were won by Grant's who beat Busby's (4—0).

Juniors were won by King's Scholars against Rigaud's (9—1).

Lamprobaties were won by King's Scholars (4—3).

## CRICKET

It is, indeed, unfortunate that this, our third season down here, should still find us unable to provide cricket station for more than a very limited number of boys. However, we are again able, thanks to the kindness of the Worcester County Cricket Club, to use the County Ground for our home matches and for practice games, which, owing to transport difficulties, are too few and far between. Nevertheless, we have a net at each of the two centres which a good number of boys find both valuable and enjoyable.

Of the two First XI matches already played, this absence of adequate team practice, which also tends towards a lack of self-confidence in individual members, showed itself in both batting and bowling. Apart from a steady and valuable innings by Sherrard against *H.M.S. Duke*, and a delightful 50 not out by Law in the game against Lancing, none of our batsmen have really stayed in long enough to master the bowling.

With regard to our own bowling, Gerrish and Allison, our opening pair, have not as yet been able to keep a steady length, though both show plenty of promise, and the former with a faster pace than in the past two seasons should be very effective. Bruckmann and Denniston have both been successful, but are inclined to be too erratic. However, when they have developed more confidence they should do well in our forthcoming fixtures.

F. A. G. R.

The following Colours have been awarded:

Pinks.—C. A. Barnes and R. W. E. Law.

Half-Pinks.—A. F. Sherrard and W. J. Gerrish.

Thirds.—R. A. Denniston, D. Parker and K. J. Bruckmann.

WESTMINSTER v. H.M.S. DUKE

Played on the Worcester County Ground, Thursday, 20th May  
Result—Lost by four wickets

H.M.S. DUKE		WESTMINSTER	
P/O Hooper, c. Law, b. Denniston .. .. .	28	Law, c. Holland, b. Booth .. .. .	6
S/Lt. Vaughan, b. Gerrish .. .. .	0	Sherrard, b. Cound .. .. .	38
S/Lt. Booth, c. Parker, b. Denniston .. .. .	29	Barnes, b. Booth .. .. .	2
Rev. Holland, b. Bruckmann .. .. .	0	Rider, c. Cook, b. M-Jones .. .. .	4
L/S. Cound, c. Gerrish, b. Denniston .. .. .	12	Parker, lbw., b. Cound .. .. .	4
P/O. Orchard, c. Denniston, b. Bruckmann	1	Denniston, lbw., b. Cound .. .. .	6
Cdr. Hill (not out) .. .. .	15	Breem, b. Cound .. .. .	0
S/Lt. Beckett, b. Denniston .. .. .	14	Bruckmann, st. Holland, b. Beckett	6
P/O. Lonsdale .. .. .	1	Furber, st. Holland, b. Cound .. .. .	1
S/Lr. M-Jones, b. Breem .. .. .	4	Allison, run out .. .. .	0
S/Lt. Cook, b. Gerrish .. .. .	3	Gerrish (not out) .. .. .	1
Extras .. .. .	6	Extras .. .. .	13
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>113</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>81</b>

  

BOWLING		BOWLING	
Gerrish .. .. .	2 for 23	Beckett .. .. .	1 for 23
Allison .. .. .	0 for 9	Booth .. .. .	2 for 14
Denniston .. .. .	4 for 48	Cook .. .. .	0 for 6
Bruckmann .. .. .	3 for 20	M-Jones .. .. .	1 for 10
Breem .. .. .	1 for 7	Cound .. .. .	5 for 9

WESTMINSTER v. LANCING

Played at Ludlow, Tuesday, 1st June  
Result—Drawn

LANCING		WESTMINSTER	
Ford, b. Allison .. .. .	16	Law (not out) .. .. .	50
Thunder, b. Gerrish .. .. .	1	Sherrard, c. Mercer, b. Hall .. .. .	1
Watkins, c. and b. Bruckmann .. .. .	60	Rider, b. Mercer .. .. .	7
Wallis, lbw., b. Gerrish .. .. .	0	Barnes, c. Ford, b. Hazell .. .. .	1
Hazell, c. and b. Bruckmann .. .. .	33	Parker, b. Clark .. .. .	15
Clark (not out) .. .. .	24	Denniston, c. Hazell, b. Clark .. .. .	1
Whitehead (not out) .. .. .	20	Bruckmann, c. Whitehead, b. Clark	3
Mercer	} (Did not bat)	Low (run out) .. .. .	2
Quin		Furber (not out) .. .. .	0
Rhodes		Allison	} (Did not bat)
Hall		Gerrish	
Extras .. .. .	9	Extras .. .. .	7
<b>TOTAL (for 7 wkts. dec.)</b> .. .. .	<b>163</b>	<b>TOTAL (for 6 wkts.)</b> .. .. .	<b>87</b>

  

BOWLING		BOWLING	
Gerrish .. .. .	2 for 47	Mercer .. .. .	1 for 18
Allison .. .. .	1 for 42	Hall .. .. .	1 for 14
Denniston .. .. .	0 for 30	Hazell .. .. .	1 for 29
Bruckmann .. .. .	2 for 33	Thunder .. .. .	0 for 6
		Quin .. .. .	0 for 3
		Clark .. .. .	3 for 10

ATHLETICS

There has been a substantial increase in the programme of athletics this year, the main difference being the re-introduction of the standards competition. The gain will be to give more people the chance to compete ; for there appears to be plenty of talent in the School, but it is hard to develop it and still more difficult to give it an opportunity for showing itself when developed.

For the last ten years athletics have run without a hitch under the able guidance of Mr. Young ; and now at the end of this term athletics, like all other School activities in which Mr. Young has had a hand, suffers a great loss in his departure to London, where we hope to see him again up Fields, accompanied by his usual success.



HOUSE RELAY COMPETITION

110yds. × 3 :	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Open .. ..	BB.	GG.	K.SS.	HH.
Under 16 ..	K.SS.	BB.	HH.	RR.
Under 14½ ..	BB.	K.SS.	GG.	HH.
220yds. × 3 :				
Open .. ..	BB.	K.SS.	HH.	GG.
Under 16 ..	BB.	K.SS.	GG.	HH.
Under 14½ ..	K.SS.	HH.	BB.	GG.
440yds. × 3 :				
Open .. ..	GG.	BB.	K.SS.	HH.
Under 16 ..	K.SS.	HH.	GG.	RR.
Under 14½ ..	BB.	GG.	K.SS.	HH.
880yds. × 3 :				
Open .. ..	GG.	BB.	HH.	RR.

Results: 1st, BB.; 2nd, K.SS.; 3rd, GG.

Discus × 3 :	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	ft.	in.
Open .. ..	RR.	BB.	GG.	K.SS.	282	0
Under 16 ..	K.SS.	BB.	RR.	HH.	238	1

Weight × 3 :						
Open .. ..	RR.	K.SS.	BB.	GG.	94	4
High Jump × 3 :						
Open .. ..	BB.	GG.	HH.	RR.	14	5½
Under 16 ..	K.SS.	GG.	HH.	BB.	13	0½
Under 14½ ..	BB.	K.SS.	HH.	GG.	12	6½

Long Jump × 3 :						
Open .. ..	BB.	K.SS.	GG.	RR.	54	3½
Under 16 ..	BB.	K.SS.	RR.	GG.	45	7
Under 14½ ..	BB.	HH.	K.SS.	RR.	41	0½

Results of Field Events: 1st, BB.; 2nd, K.SS.; 3rd, RR.

Long Distance Relay:	HH.	K.SS.	GG.	BB.	mins.	sec.
					44	15

Total Results: 1st, BB.; 2nd, K.SS.; 3rd, GG.

Long Distance Races:				
Open .. ..	BB.	HH.	GG.	K.SS.
Under 16 ..	K.SS.	HH.	GG.	

STANDARDS

(by average results)

Results	GG.	K.SS.	RR.	BB.	AHH.	H.BB.
Jumps ..	.88	1.24	.77	1.6		1.37
Throws ..	.36	.70	.77	.93		.25
Sprints ..	5.64	7.61	4.29	5.97		6.45
Bonuses ..	.48	1.12	.35	1.35		.63
Total ..	7.68	10.97	6.19	10.53		8.54

1st, K.SS.; 2nd, BB.; 3rd, AHH., H.BB.

The standards competition, last held at Lancing, has been reintroduced this term to enlarge the inter-house sports competition. The actual standards have had to be altered to fit in with war-time conditions.

H. C. G.

TENNIS

The percentage of the School playing lawn tennis as a station is now higher than ever before, and as in previous years we are using courts kindly lent by our neighbours. Our greatest difficulty has been the provision of tennis balls, as the official School stocks are very low, but the problem was solved by the sacrifice of some players who either gave their own balls to the School for renovation or brought balls back for others to play with.

It is now almost three years since the last School tennis match was played, but it is hoped that there will be one or two fixtures against the few tennis-playing schools near us. It may also be possible to arrange matches at the beginning of the summer holidays. Lack of experience is unfortunately the great fault of the VI, although half of it would probably have played for the School had there been fixtures last year. Reed, Young and Cannon have all improved since then, and Trebucq and Denniston are still young and very promising.

L. G. H.

HOME GUARD

BUCKENHILL DETACHMENT. As seems to have become the custom of the Home Guard, we have again been renamed and now exist under the title of No. 11a Platoon—or Lemonade Platoon as we are more colloquially known. For this reorganisation we have been allowed an extra Corporal and three Lance Corporals.

Our two main events this term have been the Third Anniversary of the Home Guard, on Sunday, May 19th, and an all-night parade on June 5th-6th. On the first, as well as joining the parade and march-past in Bromyard, which we were honoured to lead, we gave a demonstration of a platoon in attack to the rest of the Battalion, in which our E/Y rifle was used for the first time. Until then we had been unable to get any dummy bombs, and the demonstration afforded a good opportunity for practice. In addition to our demonstration, all the Home Guard weapons were fired for the benefit of the civilian spectators.

The second took the form of a defence practice. Our defences were manned from 23.00 hours on Saturday night until 06.00 hours on Sunday morning, during which time we were attacked by B and D Companies. It was the first large-scale night exercise in which the Battalion has taken part.

Our training last term consisted of small-scale exercises with the cadets as enemy, the object of which was to accustom us to working in all parts of the country around Bromyard. This term, under the new regulations, we are being less energetic, and normally only parade on Sundays. On these we

have attacked another platoon's defences, shot on the Saltmarshe range again, and practised for the demonstration.

Although we have not seen him on parade much, recently, because of his post as Company Sub-Artillery Officer, we shall miss Mr. Young very much next term. But for his energetic lead during the first eighteen months at Bromyard, our platoon would not have reached its present standard of keenness and efficiency.

J. C. P.

**WHITBOURNE.** Towards the end of last term it was decided to form a Company Intelligence Section, since the necessity of some system of intelligence had become increasingly clear in all our tactical exercises. The Westminster detachment at

Whitbourne was chosen to take on this work, and we began our new training this term. The choice of Westminsters seems a good one, as, for work of this kind, termly variations in our strength do not greatly affect the organisation. Moreover, the training which we receive in the J.T.C., A.T.C., or Scouts has proved most valuable. Recently we had a special exercise to test our ability in obtaining and sending back accurate information. The exercise taught us a great deal about organisation and the best methods of transmitting messages. We are shortly to take part in an all-night attack on Bromyard, though we have not yet been told whether we shall be operating in our new role; if we do, the exercise should bring out many points about the special conditions of night work.

D. I. G.

### J. T. C.

**TRAINING.** With the House Squad Competition in view and the loan, through the kindness of Captain Bull, our liaison officer, of a Bren gun, further changes in the training programme were necessary this term. The main difference is that the three training periods each week have been increased to four of a shorter duration.

**INSPECTION.** We were very glad to welcome Colonel S. J. Worsley, D.S.O., M.C., the Inspector of Training Corps, again this year. His visit came early in the term, and after his inspection of the Contingent a normal training parade was carried out. Although no official report has yet been received, the Inspector expressed satisfaction with what he saw and, in addressing the Contingent at the conclusion of the parade, urged all present to learn all they could and to make the most of their opportunities.

**CERTIFICATE "A."** There were no failures in the Part I examination held in March. Part II follows in July.

**POST CERTIFICATE.** Although the signal training was rather interrupted last term, the prospects of a full programme for the summer are at the moment good. In addition, all post certificate cadets are receiving some Bren gun instruction.

**COURSES.** Signalling and Physical Training Courses were attended by cadets at the beginning of the holidays. All received good reports and the Contingent is gaining through their attendance.

**DEMONSTRATIONS.** A chance remark during the holidays resulted in the arranging of a Royal Artillery demonstration by Captain M. F. Dowding, O.W. We are most grateful for all the trouble he took in bringing this about. A troop under the command of Captain Campbell arrived at Buckenhill during the afternoon of Thursday, June 3rd. The men were billeted in the schoolrooms, brought

and cooked their own food and very soon made themselves comfortable. The four 25-pounders were parked in the drive. On the Friday morning, while the Contingent carried out the normal training, preparations were made for the demonstration in the afternoon. This was of a very high standard and was most interesting and instructive. We first saw, or tried to see, the guns in a camouflaged position, and later were shown the guns coming into action under normal conditions, a "crash" action and anti-tank action. Captain Campbell kept us well informed on what was happening, explaining the meaning of the orders given and the actions taken. The guns were ranged on Whitbourne but as only blanks were fired, all was well! We were then allowed to examine the guns and watch the gun drill at close quarters; many questions were asked and answered before the troop returned to Buckenhill.

The weather unfortunately cancelled a programme of competitions arranged for the evening, but some .22 shooting on the thirty yard range was possible, after which some of the Welsh members of the troop entertained us for a short time.

Our thanks are due to all who helped to make this visit possible. It was most successful and much appreciated by all those who were present.

A further demonstration on quite different lines, early in July is, at the time of writing, in the air. Plans are incomplete and no details can be given.

"WINGS FOR VICTORY." The Bromyard week begins on June 5th and a special parade has been ordered for that afternoon. At the invitation of the local committee, the Contingent will march through Bromyard with the other Services, this being the first of a number of plans for the week.

M. F. Y.

## A.T.C.

In the second week of March a visit was paid to an R.A.F. station in Gloucester, where some excellent flights were given us. We also had interesting and instructive talks on bombs and other subjects. This term the Flight has been to another station near Hereford; it is hoped to arrange a visit to a glider station soon.

During the Easter holidays half-a-dozen cadets went to Cranwell for eight-day courses on Ground Defence and Navigation. The latter have been a great help on the afternoon parades by showing us on which parts of the subject most stress should be laid. More instruction is being given by N.C.O.'s, too, with great success—as may be gathered from Flight-Lieutenant McAdam's visit to us in Bromyard. Although he is the A.T.C. training officer from Midland Command he left us without a single criticism.

Together with the J.T.C., the A.T.C. attended a demonstration of 25-pounder field-guns given by a troop of the Royal Artillery. An account of this is given in the article on the J.T.C. The next day the Flight took part in the "Wings for Victory" procession through Bromyard, although our C.O. was unfortunately unable to go on parade.

J. G. D. P.

## THE SCOUTS

We were very sorry to lose Faber at the end of last term; he had served the Troop well for a long time, and his example will be missed. The new P.L. is Law and the new second is Feasey.

A field day, held last term, was spent by the Troop in cycling to, and climbing, Clee Hill, returning through Ludlow. The rest walked to Woodbury Hill. This term a field day of an even more exacting nature was held on June 4th. Half the Troop cycled seventy miles to Broadway, Tewkesbury and Malvern; the walking party walked to the Malverns and back, about twenty-two miles, including the climb.

Week-end camps have been begun and two successful ones have been held already. The first group cycled to the Black Mountains and climbed Pen-y-Gader-Fawr. The second group of ten walked from Whitbourne and Buckenhill to Kyre. Two more expeditions, to the Forest of Dean and Radnor, will be held later this term.

The field activities of the Troop have recently become more strenuous; a change, I am sure, for the better. A forestry camp will be held for the first three weeks of the holidays in Wales; Mr. Snelling will accompany the Troop.

D. M. P.

## POLITICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY

On March 14th, Mr. Geoffrey Faber addressed the Society on "Rhetoric in the Modern World." The speaker began by examining the tradition of rhetoric in Greece and Rome. Aristotle had contrasted rhetoric, the art of mental defence, with the art of physical defence—the first was more important because the mental faculties of Man were his most precious possession and distinguished him from the animal. Mr. Faber explained that the rhetorical tradition of Rome was derived from Greece, and that rhetoric held a place in both Athenian and Roman education, being a test of mental agility as opposed to one of mere knowledge; a man might look all right on paper but one must hear him speak in order to find out what he was really worth.

The speaker then turned to the attitude towards rhetoric which prevails in England to-day. It was, perhaps, the habitual English laziness in speech which was responsible for the present relapse in rhetoric; or perhaps Englishmen were of the same opinion as Colonel Blimp, who remarked, "By Gad, Sir, that fellow Shakespeare was right. What we want is more talking and less thinking." But this could hardly be the case, for the English had made

the strong, silent man their ideal. Mr. Churchill's rhetoric remained unique as that of the born speaker. His rhetoric had roots in the tradition of Burke and Pitt (whereas Hitler's had not), and it was this background of the declamatory tradition which held us. Like Demosthenes, Mr. Churchill had trouble with elocution and articulation, but he had turned this to his own advantage.

Broadcasting, the speaker said, had solved the problem of a limited audience, but not that of listening. The problem of rhetoric, in fact, lay more in training the listener than in training the orator, and in view of the enormous propaganda power of the wireless the chance of pulling the world together might largely depend on the ability of the public to listen to oratory.

In conclusion, Mr. Faber pointed out that the survival of a democratic Constitution required a renaissance in the art of rhetoric, by means of education and training in rhetoric as such; for speech was the only instrument except violence by which men can influence men, and the rhetorical method was that which made the best of every point of view and left the decision to the listener.

C. G. D.

## FERNIE BANK

Grant's are giving up Fernie at the end of this term to join Busby's and Homeburnham at Buckenhill. On June 17th the School, Masters and boys, and also some of Fernie's neighbours were invited to a presentation of J. B. Priestley's "Laburnham Grove" and to an open-air tea following the show. Afterwards, Fernie was thrown open to visitors to wander where they liked, and thus the rest of the School formally took its leave of what has been Grant's home nearly three years. Our thanks are due to the combined efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Murray-Rust and the Clerk of the Weather for a delightful afternoon, and to the caste of "Laburnham Grove" for an excellent and entertaining performance.

## ESSAY SOCIETY

The Society hopes to meet once a week during this term, and so far the weather has enabled meetings to take place on the lawn at Whitbourne Court. The following essays have been read recently :

On February 14th, M. G. Scott read an essay on "The Battle of Jutland." The various complicated moves of the battle were explained in astounding detail with the necessary help of diagrams and a blackboard. The battle fell naturally, it appeared, into three phases ; the first was won by the German Fleet, and the second and third by the British. The final result, the essayist thought, was a clear victory for the British.

On February 28th, R. W. E. Law read an essay on "The Jews in Germany." He showed how the Jews, always an object of animosity on account of their great racial cohesion, had originally been persecuted by the Nazis for political ends, and then how this persecution had developed into a movement to isolate Jewry in all spheres of life, social, moral and economic.

On March 28th, D. M. Peattie read an essay on "Science and the Modern World." The essayist's theme was a plea for the simultaneous development of science and philosophy, and he traced historically the relations between science and mathematics, the consequences of the idealist speculations of Newton and Locke, and the degeneration of the nineteenth century's experimentalism into an unenlightened materialist philosophy. D. C. Feasey was elected President of the Society in place of R. S. Faber, who was leaving, and J. A. Robinson to the office of Secretary.

On May 16th, R. A. Denniston read an essay on "Thomas Hardy." The Society was given a clear picture of Hardy's pessimistic and atheistic character, evident in the novels and, later, in the poems. Hardy was essentially English and a great novelist, though he had first attained that reputation amongst readers who did not really understand him.

On May 30th, Mr. Snelling read an essay on "Best Sellers." First the essayist defined his title to include only books written with the intention of becoming best sellers. In pleasing and vigorous terms the best seller, which pandered to an idle mob of readers, was condemned, and convincing reasons were given for the tendency to obscurity in the good writers to-day.

On June 6th, the President, D. C. Feasey, read an essay entitled "Lupus in Fabula." The essayist gave a picture of the Freudian construction of the mind, and of the development of moral instincts in the primitive mentality. Unfortunately the Society was not well informed enough on the subject fully to appreciate the essay.

J. A. R.

## MUSIC

Activities this term have been numerous : by the end of term two concerts will have been given, the first to children at the Samuel Southall School, Worcester, on June 23rd, and the second, a public concert, on July 24th, at the Christopher Whitehead School. The former will consist of short items, but the latter will include performances of the first group of Holst's "Rig Veda" hymns for chorus and orchestra, Parry's cantata "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," and Mozart's concerto for two pianos and orchestra, with C. K. Smith and D. A. Hewitt Jones as soloists. A series of concerts has been inaugurated in Worcester, of which one was given by the City of Birmingham Orchestra, with Mr. Foster as conductor. Beethoven's Emperor Concerto was performed with Irene Kohler as soloist, and the main orchestral work was Manuel de Falla's ballet suite "El Amor Brujo" in its entirety.

The music competitions this year are to be held on July 3rd ; it is hoped that the adjudicators will be Sir Hugh Allen and Mr. Michael Mullinar. A folk-dancing class has been started at Whitbourne, at present attended by a few members of College and Rigaud's. Sword-dancing is being also taught, and we look forward to a sufficiently large Westminster attendance to raise a complete team for this.

C. K. S.

## DVORAK'S STABAT MATER

A performance of Dvorak's Stabat Mater was given by the Westminster School and Whitbourne Choral Society and Orchestra and Worcester Singers and Players on Saturday, March 20th, in the Hall of the Christopher Whitehead School, in St. John's, Worcester. The soloists were Mary MacDougall, Anne Wood, Ronald Bristol, and Victor Harding, and the conductor was Arnold Foster.

This was, of course, not the first time that the Stabat Mater had been given in Worcester, although it cannot have been heard there for many years; it is unaccountably neglected these days. I suppose very few people alive to-day remember that great occasion, on September 11th, 1884, when Worcester Cathedral was celebrating the eight-hundredth anniversary of its foundation, and invited Dvorak to conduct his Stabat Mater at its Musical Festival. He is said to have been a very bad conductor, but such was the charm and simplicity of his personality that he seems to have captured all hearts. In fact, he became a lion of fashionable society at musical festivals all over the country, and continued to enjoy an immense personal success as long as he was able to visit England. For a long time, however, the name of Dvorak meant, to the average music lover, little more than "Songs My Mother Taught Me," "The New World Symphony," and the gay and colourful "Slavonic Dances," and it is only in recent years that his finest music has come to be properly appreciated. Most people now, of course, rank him with the greatest composers.

It is perhaps in his instrumental music that Dvorak reveals himself at his fullest stature, but no appreciation of his work would be complete without considering his vocal music, his Biblical songs, Gipsy songs, one or two Operas, and especially his church music. The Stabat Mater, the earliest of his mature works, is thus one of the best examples of a very important side of his music; it is deeply religious, as Arnold Foster reminded us at the beginning of this performance, and also a very sincere personal expression of his own feelings, and, moreover, it is genuinely Slavonic in character; the direct influence of Czech folk songs is not so obvious as in the Slavonic dances, for example, but the spirit and feelings of the Slavs can be felt in the wistful charm of the melodies and in the colourful harmony and orchestration. Not all the pages are of the same high standard—in his more restrained and contemplative moods the inspiration is sometimes inclined to flag, but the work "grows upon one" on acquaintance, and the great opening quartet and chorus, the "Quis est Homo," the tenor solo with the male voice chorus, the contralto solo "Inflammatum et accensum," and the magnificent final chorus reveal themselves as some of Dvorak's greatest and most inspired music.

Our congratulations are therefore due to Arnold Foster for reviving this fine work for us. The conditions of rehearsal and performance cannot have been easy; in these days a concert with even the most hackneyed choral work requires tremendous organisation and enthusiasm,

and he might well have been content to give us yet another performance of "Messiah" or the "Elijah." To assemble a full orchestra, therefore, and to train three separate choirs in a work that is not easy to learn and must have been new to most of the singers, who must themselves have met snag after snag in the way of attending rehearsals, is a really remarkable feat. It is all the more commendable that the performance was as satisfying and musically successful as it undoubtedly was, and after all, the grateful and friendly audience had not come to make vain criticisms, but to enjoy itself. I was glad to learn, by the way, that C.E.M.A. had given some timely assistance—just one aspect of the invaluable work which this organisation gives us.

The solo parts were in very capable hands, and I must also congratulate the orchestra on their playing, and the choir on their singing, which was always warm and vital. I liked the vigour of their attack, and although not *all* the notes were correct or in tune (the ladies seemed to be rather more certain than the gentlemen—I wonder why that was?), the conductor's enthusiasm and his fine musical feeling of the work communicated itself to all concerned. We could understand why the Stabat Mater is such a grand work to sing; and whatever the work, it must be good to sing for Arnold Foster.

I wish the Society good luck and continued prosperity—perhaps they will now turn to Dvorak's "The Spectre's Bride," or what about an English work—Bliss' Pastoral, for example, or something by Vaughan Williams?

BASIL DOUGLAS.

## TEN MINUTE ALIBI and THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON

At the end of last term two plays were produced in Bromyard by members of Buckenhill. They both reached a high standard, higher than one expects in such circumstances, and they both gave opportunities to some promising actors.

"Ten Minute Alibi," acted by Homeburnham Under, was probably more appreciated by the Bromyard spectators. As a play it has little to recommend it, and the actors are to be congratulated on their success in putting a good deal of verve into a somewhat shoddy script. The best of the cast were undoubtedly J. C. O. Furber, who put over the sleek and shady Don Juan with great vigour and imagination, and I. S. Petherick, who gave the hero a polished rendering. One's esteem for the production must be heightened, when one realises that the cast of eight had to be chosen from only nine people.

"The Admirable Crichton" was acted by Busby's, much better at the first performance than at the second. Nevertheless, on both occasions it was a great credit to the actors, the producer, and the technicians, who were responsible for some really remarkable stage effects. H. C. Gayer, with the title role, distinguished himself: as a butler he was suitably stylish; as "Guv." he exuded

proletarian regality. C. P. Chambers as Tweeny showed unusual promise. We hope that, during his next four years at the School, he will have plenty of opportunity to show himself in really prepossessing parts.

That these two plays could be produced in the same

term as Henry IV, Part II, tells eloquently that the School is flourishing in exile. It will be a long time yet, to steal a metaphor from Crichton, before Westminster reaches the dregs of its tea-cup.

C. R. D. W.

## KING HENRY THE FOURTH—PART TWO

A performance by the "Westminster-at-Whitbourne" Players at Whitbourne on April 3rd. Afterwards presented in College Hall on April 8th.

### THE CAST

Rumour .. .. .	J. N. Murphy	Page to King Henry .. .. .	R. M. Sweet-Escott
Lord Bardolph .. .. .	R. J. Godson	King Henry IV .. .. .	R. S. Faber
Porter .. .. .	M. S. Graham-Dixon	Earl of Warwick .. .. .	K. G. Allison
Earl of Northumberland .. .. .	K. G. Allison	Earl of Surrey .. .. .	R. J. Godson
Travers .. .. .	P. E. Lazarus	Justice Shallow .. .. .	D. C. Feasey
Morton .. .. .	R. A. Denniston	Justice Silence .. .. .	W. E. R. Barnett
Sir John Falstaff .. .. .	M. Wylie	Mouldy .. .. .	R. J. H. Williams
Page .. .. .	F. J. Somerset	Shadow .. .. .	R. C. Low
The Lord Chief Justice .. .. .	D. M. Peattie	Wart .. .. .	R. A. N. Petrie
Servant .. .. .	B. Eccles	Feeble .. .. .	G. A. W. Sharrard
Archbishop of York .. .. .	A. T. S. Sampson	Bullcalf .. .. .	P. H. J. Young
Lord Hastings .. .. .	J. A. Robinson	Messenger .. .. .	R. M. Sweet-Escott
Lord Mowbray .. .. .	R. G. Acton	Earl of Westmoreland .. .. .	R. W. E. Law
Prince Henry .. .. .	J. D. Priestman	John of Lancaster .. .. .	C. G. Dumper
Poins, his friend .. .. .	G. S. Brenton	Officer .. .. .	M. S. Graham-Dixon
Bardolph .. .. .	S. R. Danos	Officer .. .. .	G. S. Brenton
First Drawer .. .. .	R. J. H. Williams	Sir John Coleville .. .. .	P. H. J. Young
Second Drawer .. .. .	R. C. Low	Blunt .. .. .	J. N. Murphy
Mistress Quickly .. .. .	M. D. Longford	Thomas of Clarence .. .. .	R. A. Denniston
Doll Tearsheet .. .. .	R. M. Golding	Humphrey of Gloucester .. .. .	B. Eccles
Pistol .. .. .	D. A. H. Jones	Davy .. .. .	P. E. Lazarus
Peto .. .. .	R. M. Sweet-Escott		

This play forms part of a great dramatic representation of more than ninety years of English history, and its choice for the time and place was happy. For surely, "out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety," (if we may hark back to Part I), is the very image of England's situation in the Spring of 1943, and the player king enacted grief and death not many yards removed from the actual scene of the historical event. The play was happily chosen also because it suited very well the available talent. The most notable thing about the whole performance was the very high general level of the acting, from which it is difficult to separate the satisfactory unity of style and feeling which informed the production. The performance was all of a piece, to a degree which amateur performances do not often reach.

Falstaff was played by M. Wylie with great spirit and notable timing and finish. This was not so much the brilliant, clever rogue as the naughty, jolly impudent fellow who, with his kindly humour and worldly sagacity, had attracted the Prince; the remnants of breeding and of the habit of command were skilfully brought out, and the final difficult scene, with its dismaying humiliation and shock, was well done.

R. S. Faber, as the King, has the natural advantages of a good presence and a fine voice. He used these to give an

intelligent and sensitive representation of the failing sovereign oppressed by anxiety and misgiving, but still the old Bolingbroke, able, crafty and ruthless. He was most moving in the famous scene in which he achieves at last understanding of the Prince. J. D. Priestman, in interpreting this somewhat unsympathetic part, made the Prince a true son of his father, calculating, tough and cold, and was most successful in the scene at his father's deathbed. He was less at home at the Boar's Head and rollicked with some difficulty.

Shallow, Silence and Pistol are rich opportunities of which grand advantage was taken. D. C. Feasey, as Shallow, was very good; like Falstaff and the King he got well within the skin of the part, comic yet credible. W. E. R. Barnett, as Silence, had only a small canvas, but he painted a delightfully funny portrait. The bunch of rustics rounded up for Falstaff's recruiting raised many laughs. Pistol (D. A. H. Jones) skilfully presented the wild panache of that strange creature. Mistress Quickly (M. D. Longford), Doll Tearsheet (R. M. Golding), and Bardolph (S. R. Danos) were in competent hands; the dame in particular was a great success with the audience.

Among the Nobles and Princes of the Court the Lord Chief Justice (D. M. Peattie) was perhaps the most impressive figure, portraying with surprising success for a young

man this upright, sober and rather rigid character. K. G. Allison, as Warwick, presented with effective contrast the warmer and more comfortable personality of the King's friend and consoler. John of Lancaster (C. G. Dumper), especially in the scenes at the rebel camp, had the carriage, air and speech of a cold and ruthless prince. Among the rebel lords, the Archbishop was played with the same successful illusion of mature years that marked the King and the Lord Chief Justice, and A. T. S. Sampson, as this politically minded prelate, cleverly evoked a suggestion of his spiritual functions. The arrest of the Archbishop and his rebel lords after their capitulation was one of the most dramatic scenes of the play, the well-conceived brutal vigour of Westmoreland (R. Law) being most effective.

One final word: too many of the actors spoke their lines with the cramped and squeezed vowel sounds, characteristic of so much present-day modish speech. The consequent flattening (or should it really be spelt "flettening") and thinning of the noble music of Shakespeare's poetry sounded disagreeably in at least one pair of ears. Their owner hereby puts in a plea for good round O's, ample, full breathed A's, and bold, clear-cut E's and I's and U's, not only, indeed, in stage but in everyday speech.

M. D. L.

## THE CHALLENGE 1943

The following have been elected to Resident Scholarships:

- M. E. ADIE (Mr. F. G. Turner, Tormore School, near Basingstoke).
- A. P. GRAHAM-DIXON (Rev. J. W. Blencowe, Brambletye School, Lee Abbey).
- A. M. ALLCHIN (Mr. A. G. Phillips, Durston House, Ealing).
- K. R. RUPPEL (Westminster School and Mr. H. Paullay, Malvern Link School).
- F. B. BATESON (Mr. R. C. Huband, Lockers Park, Hemel Hempstead).
- P. WEBB (Mr. J. H. Leakey, Dulwich Preparatory School, Bettys-y-Coed).
- J. C. B. LOWE (Rev. W. H. Oldaker, Oxford Cathedral School).
- C. P. CHAMBERS (Westminster School and Mr. R. G. Gladstone, Abbey School, East Grinstead).
- T. BROWN (Mr. A. E. Lynam, Dragon School, Oxford).
- H. G. DICKINSON (Mr. W. B. Harris, St. Ronan's, Bicton).
- M. L. G. REDHEAD (Private Tuition).
- S. L. H. CLARKE (Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe).

The following have been awarded Exhibitions:

- A. G. MORTON (Westminster School and Mr. E. M. Lawford, Bassetts, Evercreech).
- D. L. ALMOND (Westminster School and Rev. W. R. Mills, Highfield School, Liphook).
- P. GOODWYN (Mr. A. M. Jackson, St. Felix School, Flaxley Abbey).
- N. H. PALMER (Heath Grammar School, Halifax).
- D. J. P. WADE (Falconbury School, Astrop Park, Banbury).
- O. KERENSKY (Vinehall School, Killerton, Broadclyst).

## UNDER SCHOOL

*From the Prospectus:*

The Under School will be re-established at Westminster (in London) in September, 1943, to prepare boys between the ages of 9 and 14 for entry to Westminster or other Public Schools.

The School year will consist of the usual three terms, and there will be three holidays, about four weeks at Christmas and Easter and seven weeks in the summer.

The hours will be from 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on all week-days except Saturday. (Boys may arrive before 9.30 a.m. only if notice is given to the Under Master that it would be a convenience to parents for them to do so). There will be one hour's preparation to be done at home on week-days other than Saturday.

There will be Physical Training every afternoon except when there is Football or Cricket (probably on Wednesday afternoons).

A short service in English will be held in St. Faith's Chapel at the beginning of School each morning, and there will be Latin Prayers at the end of School.

Boys must not be absent without leave obtained beforehand from the Under Master, except in the case of illness. In any case of infectious disease or where a boy is likely to be out of School for more than a couple of days, the Under Master should be notified by letter or telephone.

In the present shortage of supplies it is difficult to insist on uniformity of dress, but the regulation School dress will consist of grey flannel shorts, with grey flannel coat to match, shirts of grey or khaki flannel, detachable collars are recommended. Ties should be black until School ties are available.

The fee will be 25 guineas a term and will include Tuition, Mid-day Dinner, Milk at 11.15, Books, Stationery, etc. There will be no extras of any sort. Parents will be asked to pay for books lost by their sons, and for damage done to School property.

All enquiries should be addressed to The Bursar, Westminster School Bursary, Little Dean's Yard, S.W.1 (Telephone: Abbey 5516). Mr. Willett will be available for interviews at times to be ascertained from the Bursar.

*We print below extracts from a letter to be circulated from the Head Master to Old Westminsters:*

The Director of the Under School for the present will be Mr. Willett, whose services to Westminster have never been greater than during these past few years of trial; he will be assisted by Mr. Earp and Mr. Young. It will, to begin with, be housed up Grant's; and any Old Westminster who wishes to see a prospectus has only to apply to the Bursar.

I am sure that the establishment of the Under School is, at the present juncture, well advised. There is a real educational need in London for such a school; it will give us a footing once again in Westminster; and lastly, the Governors believe that whatever changes are in store for the Public Schools after the war, those with Preparatory Departments of their own will be making a wise provision. We still hope to draw largely on the support of other Preparatory Schools, whose contribution in the past has been so valuable and has given Westminster a precious variety. Nor will all the boys in the Under School be earmarked for Westminster.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## FIVES AT WESTMINSTER

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

Mr. O'Brien's letter suggesting the possibility of playing Fives at Westminster is a very natural one.

Unfortunately, the Courts are quite unfit for use. It will be remembered that the former Rackets Court possessed a glass roof divided into large sections—as a result of the bombings some of these sections of glass are missing and others have been shattered and are suspended most dangerously from the wire netting that is immediately beneath them. It is, in fact, extremely unsafe for anyone to go into the Courts as an unlucky fall of glass might easily cause fatal injury.

At the moment the replacement of the glass roofing is impossible. It would be a highly skilled job and there would be no chance of obtaining priority licences for either the skilled labour or the material.

Fortunately, the structure of the Courts themselves has escaped damage so that there need be no long interval after the war before the School and Old Westminsters can once again enjoy one of the finest of all forms of exercise.

EWART GERRISH,

Hon. Sec., Elizabethan Club Games Committee.

Ashburnham,  
Sandown Road,  
Esher.

## MUSIC AT WESTMINSTER

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

I am sure the first word, line 18, first column, page 237, of your 556th issue is merely a printer's error, and not inserted deliberately by the author of "Music at Westminster." Surely the famous name of Turle has not been forgotten. When I went to Westminster, in 1877, James Turle was still officially organist of the Abbey and he occasionally played, but his increasing deafness compelled him to give this up entirely, though he still continued to be organist until his death, in 1882; his successor, the late Sir Frederick Bridge, then Dr. Bridge, being officially termed "Permanent Deputy Organist." James Turle's deafness made it increasingly difficult for him to accompany the choir, and when he was at the organ it used to be said "The singers go before, the minstrels follow after, in the midst are the damsels playing on the timbrels."

James Turle was extremely kind to me as a boy, and I spent much of my available time at his house in Cloisters. The last time Turle played in the Abbey was after the attempt on the life of Queen Victoria, in 1882, when he played "God Save the Queen" before the out-Voluntary on Sunday. One anecdote is interesting. James Turle was on a visit to his old home in Taunton, in 1827, and he told me that while there the Duchess of Kent, who was staying at some great house in the neighbourhood, paid a call, and brought with her a little girl of ten. This little girl made friends with James Turle and sat on his knee while he told her stories. This was later Queen Victoria.

Turle's four sons were at Westminster.

Yours faithfully,

TREVISIA CLARKE.

Drumahoe,  
Londonderry,  
Northern Ireland.

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

I was much interested in your correspondent's article "Music at Westminster" in the March ELIZABETHAN; perhaps you will allow me, however, to correct one or two inaccuracies. First, James Turle, not Turtle, was the Abbey organist and first recorded music master of the School. My father was appointed in 1877 as assistant to Minor Canon Troutbeck, whom he shortly succeeded, and of whom no mention is made. The year 1913 is given as the date of the Beggar's Opera production instead of 1920; and finally your correspondent in referring to me as "Sir Frederick" credits me with an honour to which I have no claim; which doesn't even come under the head of "coming events casting their shadows before," but which is, I like to think, a pleasant piece of wishful thinking on your correspondent's part, for which I thank him.

I am, Sir, your highly flattered,

(Mr.) FREDERICK RANALOW.

Garrick Club, W.C.2.

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Sir,

The very interesting article in your March number was, I venture to think, not quite complete.

Sir C. Fortescue-Brickdale recorded in your 543rd issue that "in the seventies we were very much indebted in the matter of music to the late Canon Troutbeck, Mus. Doc." (*sic*—his doctorate was of divinity) "who was afterwards Precentor of the Abbey, and who devoted many precious hours to helping us over the elements of Chorus singing," and that this was part of the recognised music teaching of the School is shown by the title-page of the Clarendon Press "Music Primer for Schools, by J. Troutbeck, Music Master in Westminster School, and R. F. Dale, M.A., B.Mus."

Then for some time up to August, 1884, Mr. T. Pettit shared the music teaching with Mr. Ranalow. It is true that "during Mr. Ranalow's time at the School the Glee Society was founded," but any inference that he had anything to do with it would be incorrect. The prime mover in that was Mr. Ernest Murray Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn, who died only last February, got some of us together to arrange an informal (very) entertainment up School once a fortnight: there were songs, readings, and glees, which we practised amongst ourselves; I think Mr. Ranalow was kind enough to act as accompanist and occasionally would oblige with a song sung with his beautiful voice and style. After our time, however, and Mr. Blackburn's departure, I think the direction came more into Mr. Ranalow's hands, and "Glee Soc." became more a part of the School music routine.

All too many of those who performed in these concerts have now been transferred to "the choirs invisible"—we cannot but think of Charles Erskine—but it is interesting to recall some still amongst us and what they played or sang nearly sixty years ago: R. H. Ballaiss, E. N. Sharpe, L. James, H. W. Smyth, G. Grant-Wilson, H. Harrison, A. A. Markham, H. Withers and even

Yours faithfully,

F. M. YGLESIAS.

## "GREASED OUT OF AFRICA"

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

It may be of some interest to your readers to learn that the traditional rite of tossing the Pancake was observed on



this Shrove Tuesday by at least one Unit in the 8th Army.

A Pancake of redoubtable dimensions was skillfully tossed over an improvised bar by Lieutenant Barber, R.A.S.C. (up Ashburnham 1932-4), and the subsequent "Grease" was as frenzied as any in our memory. After a two minutes' tussle, scales were produced, and all sand having been most carefully removed, the various fragments were then weighed and the fortunate possessor of the heaviest presented with a 100 Franc Note, Algerian currency, the customary golden guinea not being at hand.

We would suggest that this observance was the first of its kind to ever have taken place on North African shores.

Yours sincerely,

B. COLEMAN (Grant's 1925-9).  
R. BARBER.

558, Water Tank Company, R.A.S.C.,  
M.E.F.

### ICELAND ENCOUNTER

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

We had rather an unusual meeting. Old Westminsters in war must meet under every kind of circumstance—and in peace, too, for that matter—but Iceland seems, somehow, the last and most outlandish place (anyhow while one is there) to provide contact with any familiar past. It was all the more welcome to come across Paymaster-Lieutenant H. J. C. Cotter, near Reykjavik—not, dramatically, on some glacier or volcano, but in the middle of a lot of foreign mud. Most welcome, especially when he invited me to his igloo-like hut, standing in what I took at that time of darkness to be a very black swamp, and sat me by his coke stove, at which we talked pleasantly of Westminster and the world. The background of his portable mingled occasionally with the strains of a totally different record from another igloo.

We seemed to have a great deal to discuss, even though he was in Rigaud's a few years after I was in Grant's, and we had a talk pleasantly edged by the traditional rivalry. All in all it seemed to us a pleasant and, at the time, a unique set of circumstances. How many O.W.W. are meeting in much stranger circumstances, though? Very many, I imagine, though one's own chance meeting always strikes one as *the* coincidence. But it is good to record the pleasure felt by two Old Westminsters met by chance in Iceland.

I have left there now and am back in England, to go to a Naval Establishment for the training of officers. While I was still in Iceland, and after I had met Cotter, he made life much pleasanter for me by his hospitality, and more interesting by his consideration to me who happened, after all, to be a complete stranger except for the Dean's Yard link. He also interested me a great deal by telling me of the developments and changes in Westminsters during the last few years. These are more surprising and exciting than any chance meeting.

Yours faithfully,

O.Tel. O. M. WILKINSON, C/JX 236307.

46, Fairfield Road,  
Bromley,  
Kent.

### FRANK URCH

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

There is a small error, or rather erroneous guess, in the obituary of Frank Urch, in your March issue.

The first Town Boy to be made Captain of the School was certainly not Urch, but J. T. Stirling, who was so appointed by Rutherford four years earlier—1897. Any-

body who was at Westminster at the time will remember the fluttering at the College dovecote caused by this departure from long precedent, and I have no doubt that you will have received other letters on the subject. In any case, as it is a point of School history, it is just as well that the true fact should be noted.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN LIBERTY.

(T.B. 1883-90).

Bledington Vicarage,  
Oxford.

To the Editor of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Sir,

In the unavoidable absence of my two sons, I hope it will not be considered *ultra vires* for the mother of these O.W.W. to reply to J. A. Robinson's letter in your last issue.

I hope I am misjudging him in the impression I received from his cryptic utterances that he appears to gloat over the dismal picture he draws of the Future—especially in the matter of education—and which he seems to regard as inevitable, as indeed it would be if his own misreading of the word Democracy, as meaning Government of the People by and for the Masses, should be translated into fact. The word People comprises all sections of a nation, and among these will be found many O.W.W., some of them fighting for traditional liberties, which include the right to be able to send their own sons to the school which they regard with unchanging loyalty and affection. Let us, if required, throw open the doors of our Public Schools to all classes (within the usual limit of selection of suitable individuals), but I hope and think that it will be the new members of these communities who will become "unrecognisable," having learned to cast away ignorant old prejudices, and acquired the new loyalties bred in the atmosphere of the Public Schools, and a self-respect and strength of character born of the healthy discipline to be found there and deplorably absent in the National Schools.

J. A. Robinson dismisses the Past with a verbal "flick," and this is perhaps understandable at his age and in the conditions under which he is growing up. But Cause and Effect cannot be so disregarded, and those of us who have lived through the phases of "trial and error" through which this country has been made to pass during the years since the last war, realise that this more terrible conflict has only been made possible through the resultant weakness in our own nation which, if strong, could have maintained the peace of Europe. Is it not reasonable, then, that these suggested changes and upheavals in our national life which has so honourably survived all tests and vicissitudes, should be viewed with concern and resisted by all those who love this country as a *whole* and desire peace within our own borders for the men and women who will have fought the war for us?

But, if we and the whole world are suffering now for the mistakes of recent years, it is a more distant and glorious Past to which we can look for our miraculous deliverance from what looked like certain destruction, when deeds of self-sacrifice and valour, wise statesmanship, genius and industry made us the nation we truly are in spite of the efforts of cranks, and "ists"; and in the greatest crisis in our history there were found enough of "the few" of undaunted courage and honourable purpose to lead the many, to save us from the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, involving in our own downfall the ruin of a World.

So, J. A. Robinson, respect the Past, and the Few, and Floreat the Public Schools. It's up to you and the others!

MAY E. SUTTON.

Cirencester.

## SCOTT'S NOTEBOOKS

To the Editors of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Dear Sir,

A curious error has occurred in J. D. C.'s article in THE ELIZABETHAN. It is over sixty years since I entered the School, so that my evidence is first-hand, and as it may be inferred that I am an honest man, Dr. Scott was Head Master during the Play and Summer Terms of 1883, when Gunion Rutherford succeeded him.

I had the good fortune to be a Westminster boy when vast changes occurred: Home Boarders started under Fox, and Ashburnham started with three boys, the two Protheroes and another. There hangs beside me a painting of Ashburnham House, by Waldo Sargeant, bearing the date 1883: it stood behind an ugly wall with a narrow doorway of entry. There is also a print of School in 1825, which shows large windows, hence it is to understand the statement "the old walls had become unsafe and the windows gave insufficient light."

I vividly recall Mr. Edgehill as master of the new *Science* classroom. *Imaginez vous donc?* Mr. Grenfell was master of the newly established London Matriculation Class. He eventually took half a dozen of his pupils to a very old house in Long Wall, Oxford, to prepare [*sic*] for the Matric. Ten days' holiday is a great institution before an exam.—we all passed, some of us in the first class.

We little boys carried our ink bottles stuffed with cotton wool in our pockets to prevent them leaking, but oft do I recall vividly the flavour imparted to the cake, presented by a fond mother, by the leaky ink bottle.

In short the whole atmosphere of our Elizabethan School had completely altered in five years—1883–87.

Yours truly,  
VAUGHAN PENDRED.

**The Editors would remind correspondents that it is more than ever necessary to make their letters brief.**

## AN OXFORD LETTER

Sir,

Oxford Correspondents are but men:  
The golden sunshine moves the lyric pen;  
Prose yields to verse; perverse, for worse or better  
Your servant writes in verse the Oxford Letter.  
Within the mellowed walls of Wolsey's seat,  
Some meet to learn, and others learn to meet.  
There triumphs Honour, strong to rule the Right,  
There blushes Ray, there, harbinger of night,  
Twangs the banjo the buoyant Mr. Cary,  
And wires up wirelasses where walk th' unwary.  
There Mr. Willsher, Guardian of the Home,  
Serves Science; Hodges, there, and Beecroft roam,  
Both waiting for their wings; there Mr. Faber  
Looks out to sea, and disbelieves in Labour.  
The order changes, yielding place to New,  
Where Lord Monk Bretton stands in Clio's queue;  
There moves MacMahon, the most humane of men,  
There stirs the eloquence of Wedgwood Benn.  
Outside, where Balliol strikes an awed dismay,  
The patriarch Johnston moves his Cosmic way.

Sing, Muse, of Sleightholm's scientific zeal,  
Of Mr. Cotter's fleeting cycle wheel;  
Of wise de Mowbray, and his many strings,  
Of Mr. Neal, and aeroplanes, and things.  
In Magdalen Turnbull turns the tuneful keys,  
In Wadham Leslie labours by Degrees,  
Last, but not lost, nor least, in Corpus Christi  
There's Mr. Whiskard. Sir, our eyes grow misty,  
When we reflect how few will still be here,  
When brown October starts another year.  
The daylight darkens on the spires; the time  
Is come to close this ill-considered rhyme.  
Tom tells the hour; no longer now despondent,  
We sign ourselves:

YOUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

## CAMBRIDGE LETTER

SIR,

Our term has just drawn to an end and with its close many familiar faces are leaving us. Foremost amongst these is Mr. Adams, the patron of O.W.W. for several years past, whose departure will mean a considerable loss to those of us remaining; his success in the Biochemical fields of the future is a foregone conclusion.

Mr. Wilson has plied pen and foil with like dexterity, and from all accounts it seems many University fencing matches have been won under his captaincy, while the fact that so little has been seen of him this term is surely an indication that he has put the numerous attractions of this town in their right perspective, and concentrated on the Tripos. Although Mr. Woodwark is keenly sensible of his role as a prospective physician he still spares time from his mental manipulations to sport his most attractive shag at Newnham. While Mr. Coleman, though seen little of late, can always be recognised by his Ashburnham shag, the foremost use of which seems to be as a smoking jacket. The appearances of Mr. Macnamara, however, are not so rare, although such is the state of his mental concentration that the task of attracting his attention is indeed a difficult one. Mr. Kidd reminds one that Arts subjects do still exist, while his Cambridge accent to say the least of it is quite unique. It is regrettable but true that the Bohemian hair style of Mr. Whitehead will have to be modified when he enters the armed Forces, for one feels that it so admirably suits the cloistered courts of Trinity, or for that matter those of Newnham or more distant Girton.

However, Sir, I beg to assure you that, despite all appearances, the reputation of the School is worthily upheld, and remain your obedient servant,

YOUR CAMBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT.

## OLD WESTMINSTERS ROLL OF HONOUR

### KILLED IN ACTION

P. J. L. Crook, Lieutenant, R.T.R.  
 B. H. Cumberland, Captain, The Loyal Regiment.  
 P. F. Lestock Forbes, 2nd Lieutenant, Rajputana Rifles.  
 C. Lewis, Lieutenant, Scots Guards.  
 R. E. D. Nadin, Corporal, A.A.C.  
 P. C. Zoepfel, Flight-Officer, R.C.A.F.

### KILLED OR DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

A. Dearmer, Sergeant, R.A.F.V.R.  
 J. M. Fisher, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Brigadier.

### PRESUMED KILLED

J. B. Aris, Pilot-Officer, R.A.F.V.R.  
 M. G. S. Harston, Lieutenant, R.N.V.R.

### PRISONER

J. A. Wheeler, Lieutenant, R.A. (Japan).

### WOUNDED

H. Boggis Rolfe, Captain, Intelligence Corps.  
 F. W. P. Corbould, Captain, Coldstream Guards.  
 E. J. A. Freeman, Lieutenant, Durham Light Infantry.  
 E. S. Meyer, Captain, Black Watch.  
 A. H. Woolrych, Lieutenant, R.T.R.

### MISSING

H. M. P. Thomas, Lieutenant, The Buffs (from Malta).  
 H. M. Young, D.F.C., Squadron-Leader, R.A.F.V.R.

Shortly before his death, in hospital, Major E. G. Buckley was, by command of King George of the Hellenes, presented with the Gold Cross of the Royal Order of George I, for his services as liaison officer with the Greek troops in Egypt.

Flight-Officer A. P. Miller, R.A.F.V.R., 20th Squadron, has been awarded the D.F.C. for

gallantry in reconnaissance flights over jungle country.

A Battle Hymn, composed by Ldg. Aircraftsman Howard Ferguson, R.A.F.V.R., was performed in the programme of the concert in aid of the Royal Air Force Fund at the Albert Hall on March 7th.

### THE WESTMINSTER TEA

There was a large gathering of Old Westminsters and their friends at the Hyde Park Hotel, on April 10th, to meet the Head Master. The Dean of Westminster and Mrs. de Labilliere were the principal guests, and amongst others present were Dr. C. C. J. Webb (President of the Elizabethan Club), Lt.-Col. H. M. Davson (Chairman of the Entertainments Committee), Sir Arthur Knapp, Sir Owen and Lady Beasley, Sir Wilfrid and Lady Eady, the Rev. Shepley Smith and Mrs. Shepley Smith, Mr. H. L. Geare, and Mr. W. E. Gerrish. Masters present included Mr. A. T. Willett, Mr. D. C. Simpson, Mr. J. S. Rudwick, Mr. T. M. Murray-Rust, Mr. C. H. Fisher, Mr. M. F. Young, Dr. W. J. N. Burch, and Mr. F. O. M. Earp. Mrs. Christie was unfortunately unable to be present.

It was the seventh of these war-time functions, held under the auspices of the Entertainments Committee of the Elizabethan Club, and it now seems as if the custom of holding an informal tea or supper thrice yearly is firmly established. As the Head Master has pointed out, these gatherings at fairly frequent intervals are not only pleasant occasions; they also provide a most valuable opportunity for letting Old Westminsters know how the School is getting on in Herefordshire, and for telling them about future plans. Thus, at the last tea the Head Master was able to give a brief outline of the events of the Lent term and to make a preliminary announcement about the Under School, which is to be established at Westminster next September, under Mr. Willett. He closed his speech with a well-deserved tribute to Mr. E. R. B. Graham.

### FORWARD FROM VICTORY

A book on the problems of reconstruction by M. Kinchin-Smith (K.S. 1935-9), N. Orgel, A. G. F. Rippon, and D. M. A. Wedderburn.

As one would expect from four Young Conservatives there is no Utopia embodied in this book. The authors are refreshingly practical and sensible in tackling major controversial issues, and their arguments seldom lack plausibility. Their subject is inevitably divided into home and foreign affairs and they deal with the latter first. Any short discussion of Europe's future is bound to seem inadequate, but with a singularly realistic approach to the problem of Germany the difficulty has been partly overcome. Imperial affairs receive careful and well-merited attention. Politics and economics have been separated wherever possible and the overcoming of all trade barriers is not considered incompatible with the maintenance of nation states if there is sufficient machinery for co-operation.

The true nature of Conservatism, however, is more apparent in domestic issues. It is here that its adaptability is at once its weakness and its strength. The authors, fully appreciating the evils of bureaucracy, advocate the minimum of State control except where glaring wrongs must be righted: social security and freedom from monopolistic exploitation are cited, but private enterprise as a whole is defended.

Two important subjects, education and agriculture, are dealt with from the point of view that adaptation is the best form of change and that vigorous policies should secure the best results from the present systems with State assistance for what is best in them. This theory of adaptation extended to domestic politics and economics would bring us a revision in electoral methods and in the composition of the Upper House while little change in financial methods is advocated.

This small book is most timely when the Left Wing politicians are so vociferous and the rejuvenation of the

Conservative Party such a live issue : it is to be hoped that other Young Conservatives may be able to add their contributions to solving the problems of reconstruction.

I. D. M. REID.

### BIRTHS

**BINDLOSS.**—On November 18th, 1942, to Joan, wife of A. A. Bindloss, a daughter.

**BLAKER.**—On February 20th, 1943, at Beckenham, to Irene, wife of R. K. G. Blaker, a son.

**BROADHURST.**—On February 26th, 1943, at Madras, to Irene Laura, wife of Captain M. Broadhurst, a son.

**CARNWATH.**—On March 24th, 1943, in Edinburgh, to Margaret, wife of Lieutenant T. D. Carnwath, a son.

**CARTER.**—On February 25th, 1943, to Lesley, wife of Squadron-Leader P. C. Carter, a daughter.

**FORWOOD.**—On April 12th, 1943, to Maureen, wife of Captain C. Forwood, a daughter.

**GILES.**—In December, 1942, to the wife of Lieutenant B. A. Giles, a son.

**GUTTERIDGE.**—On May 10th, 1943, at Birmingham, to Joan, wife of Richard Gutteridge, a son.

**HEARD.**—On May 11th, 1943, at St. Annes'-on-Sea, to Sarah, wife of Eric Heard, a son.

**HEWINS.**—On March 17th, 1943, at Wimbledon, to Constance, wife of M. G. Hewins, a son.

**HORNSBY.**—On May 22nd, 1943, to the wife of Captain J. M. Hornsby, a son.

**JENNENS.**—On May 1st, 1943, to Alison, wife of Major P. K. Jennens, a daughter.

**JEREMY.**—On June 11th, 1943, at the Manor House Nursing Home, Sidcup, to Doris (née Ludlow), wife of Squadron-Leader W. H. R. Jeremy, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., R.A.F.V.R., a son.

**LAWTON.**—On May 6th, 1943, to Letitia, wife of Wing-Commander P. Lawton, D.F.C., a daughter.

**LOYD.**—On May 26th, 1943, at Dorking, to Peggy, wife of Major I. D. Lloyd, a son.

**MARSDEN.**—On March 5th, 1943, at Cambridge, to Ruth, wife of Lieutenant C. Marsden, a son.

**MASEFIELD.**—On February 21st, 1943, at Brentwood, to Patricia Doreen, wife of Peter Masefield, a son.

**MAY.**—On February 23rd, 1943, at Ballinger, Great Missenden, to Dorothy, wife of Paul May, a daughter.

**MONTEFIORE.**—On March 14th, 1943, at Kidlington, to Gladys, wife of Flight-Lieutenant N. Montefiore, a son.

**MURRAY HILL.**—On March 26th, 1943, at 30, Cranmer Court, S.W., to Phyllis, wife of P. A. Murray Hill, a daughter.

**NUNNS.**—On October 26th, 1942, to the wife of E. F. B. Nunn, a daughter.

**REYNOLDS.**—On May 10th, 1943, to Margaret, wife of Dr. S. J. Reynolds, a son.

**SAMUEL.**—On March 17th, 1943, at Kidmore End, to Rosemary, wife of Captain D. E. L. Samuel, a daughter.

**SEDGWICK.**—On March 2nd, 1943, at Wellington, N.Z., to Mana, wife of Romney Sedgwick, a daughter.

**SNELLING.**—On March 26th, 1943, at Wimbledon, to Lorna, wife of Lieutenant R. W. Snelling, a son.

**SPOKES.**—On April 30th, 1943, at Oxford, to Lilla, wife of Peter Spokes, a son.

**STEVENS.**—On April 27th, 1943, at Tong Vicarage, Bradford, to Dorothea, wife of the Rev. G. H. Stevens, a daughter.

**TRIPP.**—On March 10th, to Ann, wife of Dr. G. F. Tripp, a daughter.

**MOSS.**—On April 5th, 1943, at Munstead Heath, to Prue, wife of Lieutenant W. F. Moss, a son.

### MARRIAGES

**BENSON-WAUGH.**—On May 1st, 1943, at Kenley, Flight-Lieutenant James Gillies Benson, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., to Jean Muriel, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Waugh, of Kenley.

**BINDLOSS-FEATHERSTONE.**—In April, 1941, Arthur Alexander Bindloss, son of the late E. A. M. Bindloss (O.W.), to Joan Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. R. B. Featherstone, Devonshire Regiment, and Mrs. Featherstone, of Seaton, Devon.

**BINDLOSS-HANFORD.**—In February, 1942, 2nd Lieutenant Edward Rendell Bindloss, Rifle Brigade, son of the late E. A. M. Bindloss, to Elizabeth Berrisford, daughter of Major and Mrs. H. Hanford, of The Rowans, Northampton.

**CORBOULD-STEPHENS.**—On May 4th, 1943, at Wellington Barracks, Lieutenant William Robert Corbould, to Cordelia, only daughter of Mr. T. S. Stephens and Mrs. Stephens, of Eccles.

**O'SULLIVAN-BLACK.**—In 1942, Lieutenant Cornelius Dion O'Sullivan, U.S.N., son of the late Colonel Curtis Dion O'Sullivan (O.W.), to Katherine, daughter of James Black, of San Francisco.

**SEDDON-SAUNDERS.**—On May 5th, 1943, at Watford, Charles James Gordon Seddon, to Violet Marjory, third daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saunders.

**WHITNEY-SMITH-BOOTH.**—On April 21st, 1943, at St. John's Wood, Lieutenant Charles Alexander Whitney-Smith, R.N.V.R., to Patricia Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Booth.

### OBITUARY

We regret to record the deaths of the following Old Westminsters :

**JACK BIDDULPH ARIS**, who was previously reported missing in December last and is now believed to have been killed in action, was the younger of two brothers, both of whom were at Westminster. He was born in 1915 and admitted in 1929 up Ashburnham. He became a Pilot-Officer in the R.A.F.V.R.

**JOHN CORBETT**, son of Admiral Sir John Corbett, K.C.B., died recently in London at the age of 70. He came to the School in 1886. During the last war he was a Lieutenant in the R.A.M.C.

**PHILIP JOHN LANCASTER CROOK**, of the Royal Tank Regiment, was killed in action in North Africa. Born in 1920, he was admitted to the School in May, 1934. After leaving Westminster he was articled to a solicitor, and at the outbreak of war he was attending Birmingham University.

**BENTINCK HOWARD CUMBERLAND** was at Westminster (up Rigaud's) from 1931 to 1936, after which he was articled to a chartered accountant. He served with the Loyal Regiment and attained the rank of Captain. He was killed in action in North Africa at the age of 25.

**ANTONY DEARMER** was the son of Dr. Percy Dearmer and half-brother of Geoffrey Dearmer, both of whom were at Westminster. He was born in 1920 and entered the School in 1933. He became a Sergeant in the R.A.F.V.R. and was killed on active service last April.

**JOHN EDWARD FANSHAWE**, who died on April 15th, in his 71st year, was at Westminster with his brother Gerald

in the eighties. He entered the British Linen Bank and finally became a joint manager. He married Mira, daughter of J. F. Lescher, of Boyle's Court, Braintree.

Brigadier JOHN MALCOLM FISHER was born in 1890 and admitted to Westminster in 1903. In 1914 he took a commission in the York and Lancaster Regiment and served on the Western Front and on the Staff throughout the last war. He was mentioned in dispatches, was awarded the M.C. and D.S.O., and in 1938 was made O.B.E. Recently he commanded the 13th Light A.A. Regiment. He died in the Middle East in May.

WILLIAM CHARLES HALLETT, who died as the result of an accident, was in his ninety-fourth year. His father, J. A. Hallett, was at Westminster, as were also five of his brothers, the last of whom, the Revd. Cyril Hallett, died only a short time ago. He himself was admitted in 1865, but after only a year at the School he left to enter the family firm of Hallett and Co., in which he later followed his father as navy agent. He is survived by a sister, the last remaining of a family of eleven.

MICHAEL GEORGE SIRDEFIELD HARSTON was in April reported as missing and presumed killed in the loss of H.M.S. *Beaverley*. He was admitted in 1932, and while at School won distinction as an athlete. In 1938 he went up to Peterhouse, Cambridge, and when war broke out joined the R.N.V.R. He was 23.

BRET INCE, who died on April 15th, at the age of 78, was a son of Henry Bret Ince, Q.C. He was at Westminster from 1878 to 1882, and went on to Trinity College, Cambridge. He became a member of Lincoln's Inn and was called to the bar. Shortly afterwards he served as secretary to the Royal Commission on Vaccination. From 1924 until his retirement a few years ago he was General Manager of the Cambridge University Press.

REGINALD KEMP, son of T. R. Kemp, Q.C., was admitted in 1880 and called to the bar at the Middle Temple in 1887. He was for many years on the South Eastern Circuit, and in 1915 was appointed Coroner for West Middlesex. He died in his 77th year.

PETER FRASER LESTOCK FORBES was born in 1918 and was at the School from 1932 to 1934. In the war he obtained a commission in the Rajputana Rifles. He died of wounds received in action last February.

CLIVE LEWIS was killed in action in the recent campaign in North Africa, as a Lieutenant in the Scots Guards. He was admitted in 1928, and on leaving School went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge. He married just before the outbreak of war, and met his death a few days before his 30th birthday.

ADRIAN MCKENNA, who died in his sleep on April 16th, at the age of 62, was the son of Leopold McKenna, and was admitted in 1893 as an exhibitor. In the following year he won a non-resident Queen's Scholarship and subsequently went up to Christ Church. His two brothers, Harold and Stephen, were also at the School.

RICHARD ERIC DORNING NADIN was admitted into College in 1928 and left in 1931 to become a bank clerk. He became a Corporal in the Army Air Corps, and was killed flying on October 13th while training as a Glider Pilot.

The Reverend JOHN SALWEY, son, nephew and father of Old Westminsters, died on March 14th at the age of 75. He came to the School in 1879 and proceeded to Hertford College, Oxford. He was ordained in 1890 to a curacy in Lambeth, and was vicar in succession of St. Luke's, Hampstead, St. John's, Eastbourne, and Westhampnett. Since 1921 he was Canon and Prebendary of Chichester.

GERALD PHILIP STEVENS was admitted to Westminster in 1882 and went up to Trinity College, Cambridge. He

was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn and practised first at Singapore, and later in the Gold Coast, the Cape, at Johannesburg, and at Nairobi. He served in East Africa during the last war. He was the author of *Ramblings of a Rolling Stone* (1924). His death occurred at the age of 74.

ETIENNE AUGUSTE WEBBER, who died on February 13th, in Kensington, was the son of Archdeacon Webber, of British Guiana, and was at the School from 1882 to 1885. He was 75.

PETER CHARLES ZOEPHEL, who was reported missing as the result of air operations in January, and is presumed to have lost his life, was a Flying Officer in the R.C.A.F. He was 21 years of age, and was admitted up Rigaud's in 1935.

ERNEST MURRAY BLACKBURN came as an assistant master to take classics in 1881, and stayed at Westminster for four years and a half. He was educated at Winchester and Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

We regret that in the Obituary Notice of Peter Bowen in our last issue it was incorrectly stated that he entered the Indian Police. The mistake was due to a confusion in the Record of Old Westminsters between Peter Bowen and his brother, Lieutenant R. Bowen, now serving with the Indian Engineers in India.

### J. C. H. CHERRY

We have received from the Principal of Brasenose, Dr. W. T. S. Stallybrass, the following appreciation:

There have been, I believe, more O.W.W. at Brasenose than at any other Oxford College (Christ Church always excepted), but none of them can have stood out amongst his contemporaries more than Conrad Cherry. He was far more mature than the normal Freshman. Like so many O.W.W. he was possessed of an easy self-confidence and plenty of *savoir faire*, and he was quite exceptionally business-like. His capacity for business was recognised when he was elected President of the J.C.R.

But it is as an oarsman that Cherry's name will always be remembered. As a Freshman his style was so good that some thought that he did little work in the boat. But the same men in the end considered him the best Seven there has ever been. The revival of Oxford rowing was due more to Cherry than to any other one man, alike as oar and as President. His word went. If a knot of men were arguing and asked Con for his opinion, he would give them a decision, not an opinion, and that would settle the matter.

When the war came, Con soon took a commission in the R.N.V.R., and there earned golden opinions not only as a man but also for his technical ability. His Commanding Officer wrote: "Con was easy to talk to and make friends with for he was so simple in all his faiths and had such a kindly philosophy. Before he'd been with us three months I would not willingly have exchanged him for any R.N. Officer."

Cherry was always a devoted Westminster—we used often to talk of our old School together. Westminster laid the foundations well and truly, but I think he developed whilst he was at Oxford more than most. He became a personality, though he was somewhat aloof in manner and never acquired that hail-fellow-well-met bonhomie which wins an easy and wide popularity. Nor was he easy to know intimately. As was said of Isaac Walton, he "would be seen twice in no man's company he did not like, and liked none but such as he believed to be very honest men."

Water was his element. At Westminster, at Oxford, yachting in the holidays and during the war he spent his life on the water, and it is as he would have wished that in the water he should find his last resting-place.

**THE ELIZABETHAN**  
**REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1942**

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To School Subscriptions .. .. .	71	14	0	By Printing .. .. .	126	15	6
„ Elizabethan Club .. .. .	150	0	0	„ Postage .. .. .	22	15	0
„ Dividend on Loan .. .. .	10	10	0	„ Sundry Expenses .. .. .	9	12	6
„ Sundry Subscriptions .. .. .	3	12	2	„ Editors' Salaries .. .. .	6	0	0
				„ Balance .. .. .	70	13	2
	£235	16	2		£235	16	2

**BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31st, 1942**

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Reserve Fund .. .. .	240	7	3	By Investment 3½% Conversion Loan at Cost .. .. .	240	7	3
„ Revenue Account : Balance 1-1-42 .. .. .	16	0	4	„ Bank Balance in hand 31-12-42 .. .. .	54	12	10
Profit for the year .. .. .	70	13	2				
			54				12
			£295				0
			0				1

Audited and found correct.—A. T. Willett.  
February 8th, 1943.

**THE ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY OF CASH ACCOUNTS YEAR 1942**

**ENTERTAINMENT AND GENERAL ACCOUNT**

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank 1st January, 1942 ..	20	17	8	By Expenses of Dinner, 7th January, 1942 .. .. .	34	6	9
„ Receipts of Dinner held on 7th January, 1942 .. .. .	39	1	6	„ Expenses of Dinner, 24th April, 1942 .. .. .	27	15	0
„ Receipts of Dinner held on 24th April, 1942 .. .. .	28	10	6	„ Expenses of Supper, 15th September, 1942 .. .. .	64	15	0
„ Receipts of Supper held on 15th September, 1942 .. .. .	61	7	0				126
			128	„ General Expenses, Postage and Stationery .. .. .			7
			£149	„ Balance at Bank, 31st December, 1942 .. .. .			15
			16				3
			8				9

**PUBLICATION OF LISTS AND MEMORANDA OF OLD WESTMINSTERS SERVING IN H.M. FORCES**

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Donations .. .. .	128	10	11	By Balance at Bank overdrawn 1st January, 1942 .. .. .	14	12	6
			£128	„ Printing and Stationery .. .. .	67	5	10
			10	„ Postage .. .. .	29	13	1
			11	„ Balance at Bank 31st December, 1942 .. .. .	16	19	6
							128
							10
							11

Examined and Approved,  
A. CLIFFORD FEASEY,  
*Chartered Accountant.*

March 29th, 1943.

JOHN POYSER,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*  
E. R. B. GRAHAM,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

Presented at Committee Meeting and passed,  
H. M. DAVSON, Lieut.-Col.,  
*Chairman.*

May 21st, 1943.