

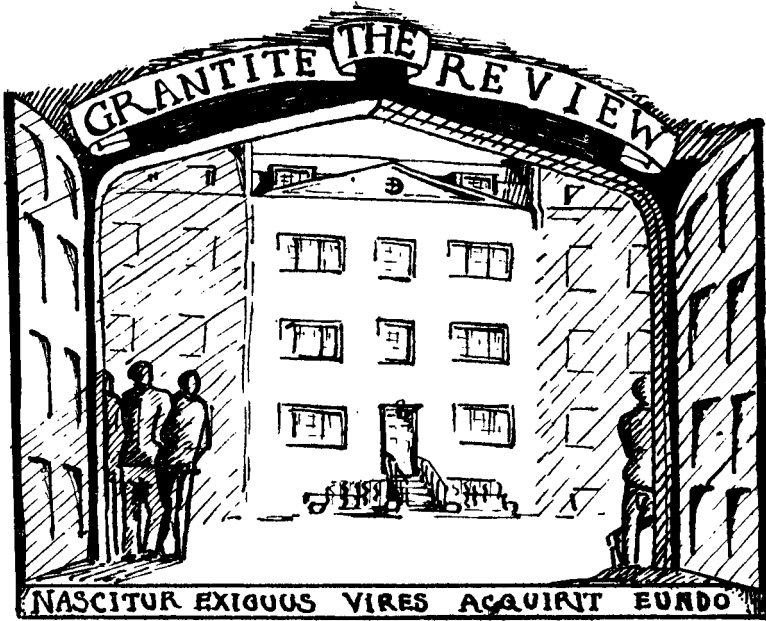
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THE  
GRANTITE  
REVIEW

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# ELECTION TERM, 1953

Volume XXI. No. 1.

218th Edition

## MRS. WILSON

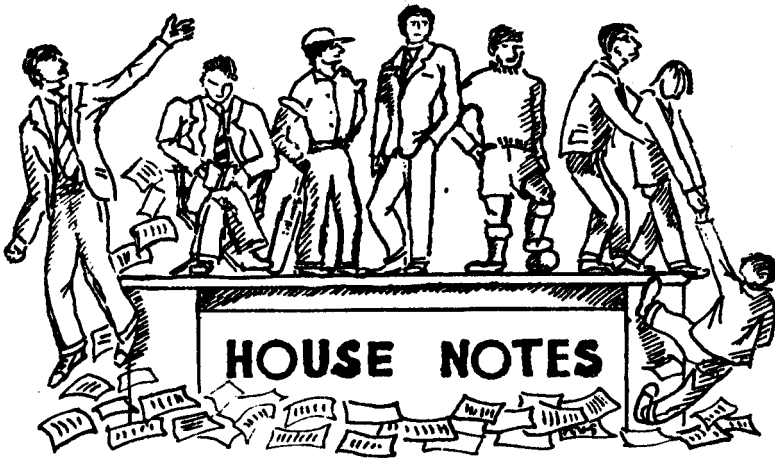
It is with deep regret that we have to record the death on May 31st of Mrs. Wilson. It was typical of her that, throughout the Lent term, she never allowed anyone to know that she was unwell. We shall remember her most for the way she spread a family atmosphere within the House, her kindness on such occasions as Lit. Soc. and at the House Supper. Until the revised catering arrangements were introduced last term she made it her responsibility to cope with all the difficulties of rationing, forms and accountancy connected with the feeding of the House, and Grantites were not boasting when they claimed that they were the best fed House in the School. On behalf of all Grantites, past and present, we extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. Wilson.

## EDITORIAL

A disadvantage to the boy having a parent or connection up Grant's before him, is that he is told the house has obviously changed and taken a step down the slippery slope. This gradual evolution is a necessity for it enables the process to be repeated. Despite this steady degradation the House magically rides through little worse for wear. We must not cast aside the proposition from older Grantites that the place has gone to the dogs without a slight protest in favour of the dogs. Surely there are good points in favour of a downhill trend, providing it is down the right hill. It has been remarked to many Editors that the modern lack of discipline has destroyed the whole outlook of the pre-war schoolboy. This has some truth in it. However, we look upon our parents as having lived in luxury during their time at school. They had five fags for one monitor. We survive on one lag or communal fag for five monitors.

We agree that there is much to be said for fagging in moderation and despite the aftermath of war which has left the seniors with an excess of tolerance towards junior members of the house, an effort must be made by those in authority to strengthen the position of the legislators of wisdom. The decline in oligarchy and rise of democracy may have its good points. To use a position of authority to personal ends is one of the main reasons for the downfall of many regimes and this general political theme may well be related to the small world of the Public School. Even so boys must be made to understand that if they wish Grant's to continue in the spirit with which it has been endowed, a ready submission to fair authority is a necessary preliminary until they themselves are able to reach such a position, which though relatively small in itself, is a test of personality.

Perhaps within a few years, when Grant's has been rebuilt, a system of fagging may be reintroduced to a slightly greater extent. By this time the Editor will be looking back at the old place and continuing the process by depicting how much better the "fellows" were in Coronation year.



#### ELECTION TERM

There left us last term : C. R. Hayes. We wish him the very best of luck.

We welcome this term : J. A. G. Harrop, C. P. Wakely (Boarders) and R. G. M. Spry (Day Boy).

In Inner there are : M. W. M. Davidson, I. J. Fulton, M. G. Drake, R. P. C. Hillyard (Boarders) and D. M. Lloyd-Jones (Day Boy). M. W. M. Davidson, D. M. Lloyd-Jones and R. P. C. Hillyard are also School monitors.

In Chiswicks there are : A. W. Abbott, J. D. S. MacDougall, H. H. M. Rogers, P. R. G. Vickers, C. T. Sims-Williams, J. H. M. Anderson, E. J. N. Kirkby, P. G. Wentworth-Sheilds, C. J. Croft and M. S. Makower (Boarders) and I. R. Cameron and W. E. A. Phillips (Day Boys).

In Buckenhill there are :—N. A. Phelps-Brown, P. K. T. Smith, J. G. F. Fraser, A. C. H. Lathe and G. I. Chick (Boarders) and J. S. Woodford (Day Boy). N. A. Phelps-Brown is Head of Buckenhill and Hall and the Hall Monitors are : C. H. Prince, R. T. J. A. Clark, D. N. S. McArthur and J. W. Parker.

\* \* \* \*

R. P. C. Hillyard is Captain of Cricket and Secretary of Football.

M. S. Makower is Captain of Fencing.

D. M. Lloyd-Jones is Concert Secretary.

\* \* \* \*

We won the Exeter and Erskine cups for Music.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 1st-4th	Henley Royal Regatta.
„ 7th ...	1st XI <i>v.</i> Lords and Commons (Home).
„ 4th ...	1st XI <i>v.</i> Butterflies (Home).
„ 18th ...	1st XI <i>v.</i> Charterhouse (Home). Tennis 1st VI <i>v.</i> Lancing (Away).
„ 25th ...	1st XI <i>v.</i> O.WW. (Home). 2nd XI <i>v.</i> O.WW. (Home). 1st VI <i>v.</i> O.WW. (Home). School Regatta—Finals.
„ 26th ...	Election Sunday.
„ 29th ...	Term Ends.

\* \* \* \*

## LENT TERM

We won the Interhouse Athletics cup and the Bringsty Relay for the tenth successive year.

We lost to Busby's 2—1 in Football Seniors after extra time in the replay.

Congratulations to: J. S. Woodford on his Thirds for football.

and to: R. T. J. A. Clark, C. H. Prince, J. S. Woodford and N. A. Phelps Brown on their Seniors for football.

and to: J. V. Salvi and J. W. Parker on their Thirds, and C. H. Prince on his Colts for athletics.

and to: J. V. Salvi, J. W. Parker and C. H. Prince on their seniors and D. E. Wilkins, C. W. Redgrave, M. C. M. B. Frances and M. D. Fairbairn on their Juniors for athletics.

and to: M. S. Makower on his Pinks and Pink and Whites, and E. J. Croft on his Pink and Whites and I. R. Cameron on his Thirds for fencing.

and to: E. J. N. Kirkby and J. G. F. Fraser on their Seniors and A. C. B. Hunter on his Juniors for shooting.

\* \* \* \*

In Lit. Soc. we read "The Man who was Thursday," by G. K. Chesterton. "The Heiress," by R. A. Goetz. "Off the Record" by Ian Hay and Stephen King-Hall and "Charley's Aunt" by Brandon Thomas.

## THE GRANTITE

The Editorship of *The Grantite* is one of the more mentally provoking tasks in the School. Both physically and mentally, the goading of unwilling geniuses into writing for their House can be said to be harrowing at the least. Another vexing task is that of discovering the opinion of the majority of readers—the Old Grantites—concerning the structure of *The Grantite*. *The Grantite*, is, in its present form an enlarged factual report of the movements in and about the House. It is not a literary magazine despite the varied articles which appear towards the end of it. These we may hasten to add are not in any way a true representation of the literary talent of the House which the Editor continually assures himself is only lying dormant. Despite the continual protests from Messrs. Dewar and Cammell that they are the only budding geniuses, he firmly believes that somewhere there must be others hidden in the gloom of undiscovery. It will take a sudden flourish of talent to develop the Grantites literary branch.

We have a new cover this term. This results from complaints from varied sources that the present facade in chocolate and blue was becoming monotonous. This spectacular new cover was designed and drawn by P. G. Wentworth-Sheilds who has just won a Scholarship to the Architectural Association.

It is due to financial circumstances beyond our control that the Editor's task will be lightened. In future the comparatively large size of *Review* will be produced in the Election term. The remaining two issues will be reduced in size, containing a factual report of little literary merit, and have no cover to reduce costs. This reduction will allow for the larger Election term issue of *The Grantite* complete with cover, to contain a selection from the whole year's literary efforts, thus perhaps, with encouragement from the Editor, producing enough respectable matter to prove that some of Grant's hidden intellectual ability has sprung to light.

## FOOTBALL

Grant's, fielding a comparatively young and inexperienced team, did extremely well to reach the final of Seniors and to force Busby's to replay. Indeed at one stage it looked as if Grant's were going to confound the critics, achieve the "impossible" and win. In the first round we met College and gained a fairly easy victory by three goals to nil. It must be admitted though, that the team played a very scrappy game, with only Hillyard, the captain, playing outstandingly. Against Wrens in the second round the team showed a considerable improvement and beat, what on paper was a superior side, by 1—0, Frances scoring a good opportunist goal. This was an exciting match with our defence playing very well under continual pressure. The halves and the backs combined

well, nevertheless, Clark, in goal, was several times called upon to do spectacular saves. In the final it was generally expected that Busby's would win easily, having four Pinks, and altogether an exceptionally strong team for a house. Both sides brought all the support they could and the shouting would have done credit to a professional match. Grant's opened the scoring when Phelps-Brown scored an excellent goal from a centre. Previously Busby's had been attacking hard and the Grant's defence did well to prevent them scoring. Busby's equalised soon afterwards but instead of giving up hope Grant's scored again when Hillyard headed a brilliant goal from a good centre by Frances. In the last few minutes Busby's again equalised and extra-time was played. It was expected that Grant's would tire, but they held on and it was Busby's who showed signs of fatigue. Despite both sides coming near to scoring, the defences held out and a replay resulted.

In the replay both sides were slightly depleted by injuries and most of the school turned out to watch. After much attacking by Busby's which our defence did well to repulse, Phelps-Brown and Lathe worked their way down the field and Phelps-Brown scored. After that both sides attacked furiously but it was not until the last minutes that Busby got a scrappy equaliser. At this stage our opponents' tactics were becoming rather rough and they approached extra time obviously determined to win by any means possible. Clark and the Grant's defence had to do some desperate work. We nearly scored two or three times, but in the last minute Busby's scrambled through again and a desperate dive by Clark could not quite reach the shot. It would be difficult to pick out any individuals but Clark in goal and Hillyard were outstanding. Hillyard captained the side well, playing brilliantly throughout, and to him must go much credit for inspiring a fairly inexperienced team to so many spectacular efforts. The team was: R. P. C. Hillyard (captain), D. M. Lloyd-Jones, E. J. N. Kirkby, J. S. Woodford, N. A. Phelps-Brown, R. T. J. A. Clark, C. H. Prince, P. M. Godfrey, G. S. Clarke, D. B. Wilkins, M. C. M. B. Frances and A. C. H. Lathe.

## ATHLETICS

The Athletic season started with the Long Distance Races. In the Senior race Gasper (A.HH.) beat Hayes (GG.) by a few yards in a record time with Phelps-Brown (GG.) 4th and Parker (GG.) 5th. In the Junior, Salvi of Grant's was expected to win but unluckily fell and finished 4th, two places ahead of Frances, the next Grantite runner to finish. Then came the Bringsty Relay which Grant's won for the tenth year in succession. But for a slight alteration in the course the record would most certainly have been easily broken. After this there came the House Heats and the School Heats. It was obvious that in the Finals Grant's would have to rely upon five people if they were to retain the House Athletics



Cup. Wilkins and Salvi between them won five track events. Lloyd-Jones won the hurdles and the 100 yards and was second in the 220 yards. Hayes came equal first in the 440, second in the 880 after another fine struggle with Gasper who again won by feet. The mile was surprisingly won by Haccius of Ashburnham with Gasper narrowly beating Hayes for 2nd place. Grant's did not do so well in the field events though Prince won the Junior long jump. Grant's retained the athletics cup by about 15 points. In the house relays, which were run in pouring rain, Grant's did badly only winning one event. In the Medley Relay, Hayes, who had a lot of leeway to make up on the leaders, could not quite match Gasper's finish but was again only beaten by feet. Hayes has now left us and it will be a long time before the House has another athlete of his standard. Despite ill health in his last season he still managed to run and although Gasper beat him there was never much in it. He won races over nearly all distances and also twice reached the final of the high jump and was captain of School Athletics for two years.

## WATER

The Lent term was as usual spent practising for the Schools' Head of the River Race. Grant's was not as well represented in the school crews as it has been in the past. This state of affairs must be remedied before next year. Watermen should realise that the keenness or lack of it that they display during the regatta inevitably has a considerable effect on their rowing careers at Westminster. Quite apart from house considerations it is in everyone's interest to try their hardest this term.

It has been shown in the past that it is dangerous for a house to be too dependent on senior watermen in the Halahan cup. When they leave, descent is often rapid and disastrous. The effort must come from the bottom as much as from the top. It might well be said that juniors are the most vital part of a house's rowing. During this term all watermen should do their utmost to be ready for the regatta and no opportunities for sculling should be missed. No one should leave it to the other man to do the hard work.

It has been decided to promote a sculling competition in the house this term. It is being run on a ladder system which only the Head of House Water appears to understand. There are two divisions, Junior and Junior-Senior. In the past sculling points have often decided the fate of the Halahan cup for every race won after the preliminary round scores a point. The purpose of the competition is to encourage sculling and to provide a certain amount of racing experience.

Any future successes in the School regatta will be built on foundations which must be laid now; the sooner everyone starts really trying hard the sooner will we win the Halahan cup again. Watermen must not be discouraged by the memory of last year's disaster. All that matters is the future.

## GOLF

The meeting in the Easter holidays took place at Sudbrook Park, when in the morning the Pitamber Cup was played for. The weather at these meetings has never been very kind; in the past we have had snow, rain, and dense fog. At Sudbrook Park there was, in the morning, a combination of steady drizzle and mist which made good scoring rather difficult. The attendance was low, only twelve boys turning up and it was fairly obvious that the battle would be between S. L. Henry (RR.), R. Bulgin (Q.SS.) and R. P. C. Hillyard (GG.). All three played fairly well, hitting the ball a long way and getting good figures, though accurate putting was not easy. Bulgin holed a chip shot at the fifth, but in the end it was Henry who won with a nett score of 68, Bulgin being second with a nett 71. This was Henry's second successive win, a creditable performance.

In the afternoon the match with the old Westminsters was played, the school losing by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  matches to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  matches. The Old Westminsters' team included Mr. R. K. Pitamber, the Oxford University captain and Mr. T. J. Davies, winner of the cups in the past, fresh from victories in two local county competitions. In the top match R. Bulgin produced his best form to beat Pitamber 3 and 2. Both players played very well and it was greatly to Bulgin's credit that he did not let his opponent's reputation overawe him. He has made a very rapid advance in the last year and should ultimately be very good indeed. In the next match S. L. Henry played as the winner of the cup should. Going out in 38, he was up on Mr. A. C. Grover and he came back, till the eighteenth in level fours, winning 5 and 4. He deserved his win over a very competent opponent. R. P. C. Hillyard lost to Mr. T. J. Davies by 3 and 2. Mr. Davies, while not perhaps at his excellent best, went round in 72, which was just good enough to beat Hillyard who put up a very good fight. Both A. W. Abbott and J. W. Tourlamain were unfortunate in that they met opponents in Mr. J. Hornsby and Mr. L. Leighton, who played very well but neither of the two school players had any luck and found the run of the greens against them, frequently losing a hole which was apparently won. Both lost by considerable margins. In the last match C. P. Danin halved an exciting match with Dr. Hallett after being dormy two up. This was Danin's first appearance for the School and it is to be hoped that he will continue to improve. In the Stapleford competition for the other players the best return was 35 points by A. G. Gordon.

It is regrettable that so few boys come to these golf meetings. It is a fact that there are many golfers in the school, and there can be no reason why more should not turn up. The competitions are always played off handicap and all are given an equal chance to win. It should also be noted that all expenses are very kindly paid by the Old Westminsters, and it is always the case that everybody, without exception and whatever their standard of golf, enjoys a

thoroughly good day. Golf is a game that can be enjoyed by all and the fact that the school now boasts the captain of the Oxford University team in Mr. R. K. Pitamber and a member of the team in Mr. R. T. Robinson, should serve as an encouragement to all. The full results of the match were : R. Bulgin (Q.SS) beat Mr. R. K. Pitamber, 3—2. S. L. Henry (RR.) beat Mr. A. C. Grover, 5—4. R. P. C. Hillyard (GG.) lost to Mr. T. J. Davies 3—2. A. W. Abbott (GG.) lost to Mr. J. M. Hornsby, 5—4. J. W. Tourlamain (RR.) lost to Mr. Leighton, 4—3. C. P. Danin halved with Dr. Hallett.

### FENCING

This year the Public Schools' Fencing Championships were held at the City of London School on April 9th, 10th and 11th. In the foil C. J. Croft and I. R. Cameron got to the second round and M. S. Makower went on to the semi-final. The épée went better : C. J. Croft came sixth in the final and I. R. Cameron was very unlucky not to get out of the semi-final into the final. C. J. Croft and I. R. Cameron did not get far in the sabre but M. S. Makower went on to take fifth place in the final. All three fencers will still be up Grant's next year ; the School, and in particular Grant's, ought to do well in the championships.

The Graham-Bartlett cup was again won by St. Paul's and Westminster came fourth with nine points. Of these C. J. Croft gained one and M. S. Makower two. The remaining six points were gained for Westminster by R. S. Clarke, Busby's, last term's captain, who took fourth place in the foil and sabre finals.

On the results of the competition, M. S. Makower was awarded his Pinks, C. J. Croft his Pink-and-Whites, and I. R. Cameron his Thirds.

### HOUSE SHOOTING

The Grant's team in the inter-House shooting competition could hardly be described as powerful. At the start it seemed that College were the favourites with Wren's (the holders) and Busby's strong challengers.

In the first round we drew College. Grant's won the toss and decided to shoot first. We returned the by no means spectacular score of 417 (h.p.s. 500). College shot next, and at the first target were one point behind. This consists of a sprint round Dean's Yard followed by firing ten rounds all inside three minutes. At this point College went to pieces and at the end totalled 404.

In the next round we met Busby's. Again we shot first, but, chiefly through panic, could only score 397. Busby's shot well and won by a twenty-point margin.

In the other half of the draw Wren's beat Ashburnham and then Rigauds. The final was to have been shot on the last Monday of term, but because of the lying in state of her late Majesty Queen Mary, was postponed till the beginning of the Election term, when Busby's won.

The Grant's team was : H. H. M. Rogers, E. J. N. Kirkby, J. G. F. Fraser, and A. C. B. Hunter.

## GRANT'S CHESS CLUB

Chess continues to be a popular pastime up Grant's, and although up till now we have not achieved any outstanding success in the school competitions, there are several sound players of all ages in the House.

In the individual school competition which was held last Play Term, all Grantite players survived the first two rounds, but then met with rapid disaster since most of our players had been placed in the same half of the draw. J. H. M. Anderson was beaten by the winner, Milner-Gulland (Q.S.) in the semi-finals. In the same term a house competition was organized in which all the strong players were placed in the same draw, thus enabling more inexperienced players to stand a chance of winning in the first few rounds. The competition was won by Abbott, who beat Garrett in the final round.

In the Lent Term an Inter-House Competition was held. The results of the first two matches were disappointing to say the least of it but we managed to achieve somewhat better results in the last three matches against Rigaud's, Busby's, and Ashburnham. Our team was picked from A. W. Abbott, J. D. S. MacDougall, P. R. J. Vickers, A. C. H. Lathe, G. I. Chick, J. A. K. Garrett, and G. B. Patterson.

The number of members of the Chess Club has steadily increased during the last eighteen months and there are now some twenty odd members instead of the original little band of nine. There are many forthcoming players among the junior members of the club of whom Patterson and Garrett show especial promise. It is hoped that with such a wide selection of players within the House, we shall be able to fare better in the School Chess competitions next season.

## THE MUSIC COMPETITIONS

H. K. Andrews, Esq., M.A., D.Mus., adjudicated the Music Competitions held up School on June 10th. George Malcolm, Esq., M.A., B.Mus., assisted him by adjudicating the Junior Events. R. D. Creed and C. W. Redgrave came first and fourth in the Junior Piano solo. They also won the Junior Piano duet together; Redgrave came third in the Unbroken Voice solo. In the Senior, D. M. Lloyd-Jones took third place in the Piano solo, and he and M. S. Makower won the Piano duet. W. E. A. Phillips, playing his bassoon, came second in the Wind solo. Although no Grantite got a place in the String solo, there were two young violinists, Patterson and M. Makower, who ought to do well in the years to come. C. W. Redgrave, R. D. Creed, D. M. Lloyd-Jones, and M. W. M. Davidson comprised the vocal ensemble. They sang "Der Jager" by Brahms and came third. With these results Grant's won the Erskine Cup. We also won the Exeter Cup by winning the House Choir event. D. M.

Lloyd-Jones and M. S. Makower played the piano in the Chamber Music event. Their "groups" only came 6th and 4th respectively. The standard of the Music Competitions was disappointing on the whole. But Grant's did very well to win both cups, the Erskine the first time for 27 years.

## THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

As a choice, "The Merchant of Venice" was ideal for a school play and it was in every respect a success. The production by Mr. Lushington was excellent, and assisted by Mr. Spaul's sets, gave a great deal of atmosphere to the play, particularly in the last scene at Belmont.

The standard of acting was very high with a magnificent performance by C. Lewsen as Shylock, which while not caricaturing the part, gave it all Shylock's bad qualities and included rather cleverly his warped sense of humour. At once his Shylock was domineering and also human, and I can find no fault in it except, perhaps, for the one or two rather out of date ideas he used, but that is merely being petty and does nothing to mar his acting.

Grant's was particularly well represented, and we seem to have established ourselves on the Westminster stage. In the male parts of the cast we had M. G. Drake as Lorenzo, who gave a lively performance and one with plenty of feeling, which furthers his good reputation as an actor. D. M. Lloyd-Jones was particularly good as Gratiano, his performance was live with mischievous good nature and his lines came over with what seemed very spontaneous wit. On the female side we had C. W. Redgrave as Portia. He gave a very good performance, his feeling for the run and poetry of the lines was admirable and his elocution also. He is obviously of considerable promise. D. D. Cammell as Nerissa gave a vivacious and enjoyable performance which was a pleasant contrast to G. B. Patterson's Jessica, which although moderately well spoken, never seemed to come really to life. But I have no doubt he will improve considerably with experience.

Apart from my Grantite interest in the play, which has, I fear, overshadowed the other parts, I can say that I found it a most enjoyable and pleasant evening.

## L'ECOLE DES ROCHES

Dr. Sanger took twelve Modern Linguists over to the Ecole des Roches in Normandy for a four weeks' stay during the early part of this term. This was the second visit of its kind and the forerunner, we hope, of many more to come. This year, as last, the French were unable to send any French boys over to Westminster but next year it is hoped that a mutual exchange will be arranged.

We left London in glorious sunshine on April 22nd, not quite certain whether the venture would prolong our holidays by three weeks or shorten them by one. The events of the first day served to confirm our hopes of three extra weeks' holiday as we spent the whole day wandering round the spacious grounds, and were entertained to tea by the Head Master.

Our quarters were quite comfortable—we were in the Sanatorium. Each of us had a glass walled cubicle ; and there was hot water twice a week. The French were extremely hospitable and gave us a great welcome.

The School is run on much the same lines as Westminster, although the hours of work are much longer and the authority system very different. The monitors have very little authority and are continually attacked by vicious little boys who treat them like dirt. A regular sport, "Kicking the Monitor," is played in the dining room just before meals. The House Master of Le Vallon (where we were billeted) had an unfortunate habit of rushing up to miscreants, slapping faces and pulling ears—happily we escaped both this degradation and the regular punishment of "hand-whacking" with a riding crop.

The French work much longer hours than we do at Westminster, a 62-hour week compared to Westminster's 43-hour one, and this includes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours prep. every day, reveille at 6.55 and Petit Dejeuner at 7.25, which consists of coffee and a piece of bread.

To all intents and purposes we were cut off from civilization and our one chief delight was to watch the 5.20 train to Nantes, which we could see pass from our windows during "Etudes." The one other connection with the world of machines was a petrol pump inscribed Esso, but the illusion that it contained petrol was dispersed by the gardener, who was seen to water the flowers with its contents.

The French have now completed their "Salle de Fêtes," a concert hall resembling a mixture of the Royal Festival Hall and Simpsons, Piccadilly, and there were a number of film shows, lectures, and other entertainments, frequently attended by Westminsters. The projectors invariably broke down half way through the films, but as we didn't have to pay the 100 francs entrance fee, it didn't really matter.

One serious defect is the lack of school societies. Apparently the French tried to form a Debating Society two years ago but three chairs were broken at the first meeting of the society, and the society was disbanded. Dr. Sanger organized two debates, one in English, the other in French. The latter was most successful—the discussion of the German army and its inclusion in the European one—both French and English spoke and ideas were sensibly and clearly put. The second debate in English was not so good as there was only one speech from the floor. An embarrassing situation culminated in the vote being taken after 40 minutes ; the result, 20—0 against the liberation of the Colonies.

Instead of school societies great emphasis is laid on "travaux pratiques," book binding, carpentry, metal work, gardening and art, and in this respect the school is well ahead of Westminster. Sport, however, is not quite so earnest. Athletics and volley ball are the main stations with tennis as a subsidiary one. When we were there the swimming pool was full of green slime of various species of animal life so bathing was non-existent.

The great occasion of the week is the ceremony of raising the "Drapeau," held in "le Stade" every Sunday morning. All the houses march (?) in column of *route* to the sports grounds and stand to attention while the tricolour is hoisted. Westminster replied by celebrating "Owl Friday" on May 1st. It was not hard to convince the unsuspecting French that it was an ancient Druid custom to be treated very seriously.

We had two excursions, both very enjoyable, the first to Châtres Cathedral, the second to Mont St. Michel. The latter was a full day excursion—we stopped at various places of interest and travelled through the beautiful scenery of "La Suisse-Normande." The less said about our last excursion (to Paris) the better. Dr. Sanger forgot the tickets owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding and instead of arriving in Paris at 1 p.m. we arrived at 7 p.m. and consequently our time there was rather limited.

It must be said, however, that taken by and large, the visit was a great experience, and very enlightening. If I had the opportunity I should go again, and Dr. Sanger must be congratulated on organising a most enjoyable trip. Let us hope there will be a mutual exchange next year. It would be most interesting to see a French boy's reaction to Westminster.

## POTTCHROME

It was all an accident and a very unfortunate accident it proved to be too. It befell a certain Mr. Potts and this is the story of how it happened.

Mr. Potts invented a new colour—a totally new colour. The great discovery was made in his living room at 24, Tooting Bec Road, Tooting, London; and it was due to this discovery that misfortune befell Mr. Potts.

But how did this discovery make Mr. Potts so unfortunate? At first he was very happy and prosperous. For everywhere one went one could see the new colour or Pottchrome as it was called. Sixty per cent. of the houses were painted with it. And in the rush to be original and have an unusual colour scheme everyone had it somewhere. Newspapers were printed on "Pottchrome Paper"—in fact it was impossible to avoid it wherever one went.

It was then that Mr. Potts very unwisely discovered that he was allergic to his own colour. For whenever he saw it he would burst out in uncontrollable laughter terminated by horrible coughing.

And as Pottchrome was everywhere this was very unfortunate. And the upshot of this unhappy story is that since Mr. Potts finally became violent at the sight of the colour, he had to be sent to a home and locked in his room, day and night. And as everything he uses there is coloured in the way of the pre-Pottchrome era Mr. Potts on the whole has not ended his career as happily as one might have supposed.

## GEORGE

George sat down. There was nothing particularly unusual in that, George, being a gentleman of leisure, did little else, except lying down. On this occasion, however, there was a difference and George, who did not like his routine disturbed was justifiably annoyed when he found himself lying on the floor, especially so as he had intended sitting in a chair. Up to now the chair had been quiet and docile and George wondered idly, while rubbing the back of his head, what had induced it to let all its legs fall off at once. However, George really couldn't allow himself the exertion of worrying about it too long, and, getting up from the floor he subsided into one of the many comfortable arm chairs which were dotted about the room in convenient corners. The ceiling of the room was about ten feet from the floor. This was lucky, it was almost as if George's guardian angel had foreseen the unfortunate event, and had taken steps to lessen the shock. For, on sitting down a second time George had suffered the unusual experience of being propelled upward by some invisible force below. When he came to rest on a large vase of flowers, which broke on his arrival, he passed out from among the tulips and daffodils to discover who and what the mysterious force might be. He was disappointed to find that what had previously been a valuable arm chair was now ruined beyond repair, with its springs quivering happily in the middle. It seemed odd to George that all his chairs should decide to give way at once and so went into the kitchen to make himself a consoling cup of tea, carefully avoiding all furniture lest it should jump at him, or break at his approach.

George's kitchen was a small affair, just the sort of kitchen bachelors have, with all the crockery bestowed untidily in various places. He took a box of matches from his waistcoat pocket, lit a match and turned on the gas. The gas appeared to have come to the conclusion that George needed a wash and instead of producing gas, produced jets of hot and cold water. When he had recovered from the initial shock George had the presence of mind to turn it off. He then produced another match, lit it, and turned on the tap in the sink. He was gratified when the tap made a hissing noise and he applied the match and was rewarded with a blue flame. But his gratification was damped when he realised that the prospect of holding a kettle full of water upside down beneath the tap was not



easy, even if he had been able to fill it upside down from the gas ring. Reluctantly George decided that he must be ill and that it would be all right in the morning, so he went to bed.

It should perhaps have been mentioned that George was very fond of his appearance, always cleaning his teeth and combing his hair before sleeping. He took out his tooth brush and his toothpaste and gently squeezed the latter. As a rule the tube showed a marked reluctance to part with its contents. This night, at the first pressure it gave a happy sigh and seemingly imagining itself a jet plane, blew its contents all over George's hair. George took up his comb to try to remove the substance but once again this purpose was thwarted for the comb was possessed with a desire to imitate such animals as shed their winter coat in the spring. The comb had no coat to shed but made up for this deficiency by allowing all its teeth to fall out at once. This gave George's hair an interesting appearance, for pink toothpaste and green comb teeth provided a fascinating blend of colour, especially on red hair.

George entered his bedroom and was surprised to find that his bed still seemed to be in one piece, and not growing potatoes, as he had expected. However, the fact that there was a performing seal on his bed, balancing a bottle of Guinness on the end of his nose seemed to George's feeble mind to explain everything, so he went to his chest of drawer and produced a large red and white beach ball. For the rest of the evening they played catch to their hearts content.

## MURDER

Dark and truthful is the hour  
When the hand of death draws near :  
When that ceaseless, changeless power  
Fills the heart and soul with fear :  
When the bloody scaffold looms  
And the bell of judgement booms.

Not the human trial to dread,  
Not the rope, or pain, or death,  
No more care for earthly stead,  
No more thought for human breath.  
Now hell's keeper stands and waits  
Now he opes the fiery gates.

E'er since Cain did Abel kill  
In men's brain a sin has prowled.  
Turned souls hard and warm hearts chill.  
Murder! Deep in hell embowled  
Black and damned beyond recall.  
Cursed! has placed a bitter gall  
Among the human race  
Now the scaffold's trap must fall  
The killer death embrace.

## IN CORONATION MOOD

To one member of Grant's house at least, the idea of celebrating this Coronation year in a truly festive fashion, has occurred, and it was with this object in mind that he appointed himself extraordinary correspondent to *The Grantite*, and made a pilgrimage to the "Prudence Flounder" memorial hall, situated in a cul-de-sac not 30 miles from the Edgware Road, where the All England Arts Committee were holding their second exhibition of contemporary art.

There was an aura of the 20th century about the neo-Gothic exhibition hall, and though the *Grantite* representative could admit to no definable emotions, there was certainly some intangible influence exuding from the segment of gilded soap which had been suspended, at great trouble and expense, from the ceiling upon a length of rope. This was the first, and in many ways the most extravagant item in the Art Committee's display, though only the most conservative amongst the visitors would have failed to have experienced some sensation, were it only of revolt, at the next exhibit; to quote the artist's, or rather the foundry workers' own words, "A reduction of the 'Uman form to its most fundamental shipe." The foundry worker had succeeded so well in his reducing process, that the "'Uman form" now consisted of a straight wire a fraction over seven inches in length, embedded in a cubic piece of wood two inches square. It must here be admitted that The *Grantite's* representative was a trifle puzzled by this work, until its constructor explained lucidly that it was "Orl sciled dahn, of course." Of course.

The most important of all the varied items on the menu, however, a mobile sculpture, entitled "Canon Row Police Station." "Dull would he be who could pass by a sight so touching . . ." Though it would be fruitless even to attempt to describe this breathtaking example of "Britain's Best," its true worth may be fully appreciated when it is known that not less than one person has suggested erecting its facsimile five hundred feet high, in cast iron, upon the top of the "Royal Albert Hall." Alas!, I fear, the Albert Memorial would look out of place beside it.

## PARIS TAXIS

A pleasure which few appreciate when they go to Paris is that to be obtained on hiring a taxi.

Two strangers: a taxi driver and you. You meet him at the railway station and for a few hundred francs you procure a furious loyalty. There is no other taxi, no other person but YOU. With vituperation to shrivel all rivals, he fights valiant battles to open you a way, no obstacle can stand in YOUR path and on the altar of YOUR comfort he sacrifices a dozen innocent Parisians as you.

pass on your triumphant way. With the intenseness of some Roman chariot driver he leaps across all controls and risks life and limb and tyre, eventually to deposit you breathless but enthralled at your destination. Can some paltry francs reward such devotion? For a few minutes a complete stranger, you have been the centre of his existence, for you his considerable oratory, gymnastic ability, all his skill to drive through all and everything has been displayed. Then he is gone!

However few the francs I may have when I arrive in Paris, this is something that I would never miss.

### GRANT'S REBUILT

We are frequently assured by various people that Grant's when rebuilt is going to become a sort of Mecca—land flowing with proverbial Milk and Honey. But many people however, little realize how near they were to having no new Grant's at all; for there were plans to pull down the old Grant's and put in its place a school theatre—or who has heard of the greatly hushed up Garden Plan? For most of us, however, these things mean little since probably most of them will be in Bath chairs by the time the new Grant's rises like the Phoenix from the ashes of the old one.

However, if we are optimistic and believe that operations on Grants will begin soon, where are we to live? Most people by now had found out where with mixed feelings. The Underschool although strongly constructed is dark and in its gloomy recesses some, Grantites can picture miserable days. But this, I suggest, is amply compensated for by the news that there are to be many individual studies (reports range from 20-30) and many other luxuries hitherto unknown at a British Public School. These are in truth great compensations and it almost makes me forget that when and if Grants is rebuilt, I shall, like many other of my contemporaries, be hardly likely to be there.

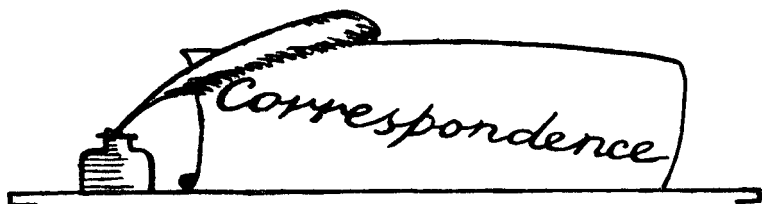
### BEFORE PRAYERS

After the usual violent shoe-rubbing (generally on trouser legs), hair brushing and tie-straightening, the house, excluding the loftier portions, rolls lazily into the dining hall for prayers. Then comes the habitual crash as a shoe or arm aids the demolition of the crumbling building by relieving it of its glassware. Some time, and a great deal of energy, is expended while the mess is cleared up, pepper-and-salt being frequently used to disperse the general scummage around the danger zone, but finally, under the officious supervision of those arch-tyrants, the hall monitors, order and peace are restored. The command—"For inspection, port shoes"—is given, and the same officious beings walk down the lines, doling out "extra shoe parades" to every bearer of muddy footwear.

Suddenly a mighty, terrifying, and plaster-shaking roar resounds throughout the room. A deathly hush falls upon the assembly, broken only by a caustic remark or two, as the human bull-elephant retires to his place, immediately followed by the senior members of the house. It is then that the lag remembers to put out the two chairs on which the master (and guest) of the house are to sit. There is a slight commotion when the heads of house find themselves shut off from their places by two, crookedly placed chairs, and one flustered lag, but silence is very soon restored, and the pattering of the lag's feet is heard receding up the passage outside. The death-like silence is preserved until, once again, footsteps are heard outside, this time heavy and made by more than one person. At last the house administrator appears, followed by a comparatively subdued lag, who rolls the door back, and tentatively sits down on the nearest seat.

Meanwhile the house master has proceeded to one of the two chairs, so thoughtfully placed there by the lag, and a senior holding an open book and a piece of paper, stands up. After one or two coughs and a short, confused explanation of what he is about to read, he commences to expound religious theories, to the congregation. All at once there is an unrestrained peal of laughter from some deep recess in the kitchens below, followed by a burst of subdued giggling from the assembled house. The reader, flustered, continues with the lesson and, at length, comes to a sticky but triumphant conclusion. At the command "Let us pray," the house rises to its feet. At that moment the scullery door bursts open, and a maid bearing a tray of biscuits and cocoa enters the room. With an apologetic "Oh!" she retires to the scullery, and more unrepressed peals of laughter are heard.

Finally, and after a great deal of commotion, the house goes to prayer.



To the Editor of the GRANTITE REVIEW.

Dear Sir,

During a long illness last year I found myself harking back to School days, and I whiled away many lazy hours in hospital by planning a letter to the *Grantite Review*. The receipt of several numbers of the *Review* since then has reminded me of my project, and I have now at last turned up the notes I made at the time, and hasten to send them to you without waiting any longer to put them into literary shape.

My theme is briefly that Westminster seldom had a more notable collection of alumni, judged by their subsequent achievements, than those who were in the School between September, 1894 and July, 1902. A long period; 24 school terms; but that was the school time of W. T. S. Sonnenschein (later Stalybrass), who entered Grant's very young and was head of the House during his last two years. I like to think that a brilliant period of Westminster history, to which he made a memorable contribution, centres round his time up Grant's.

During those years the School turned out many famous sportsmen. Cricket and football blues (and some double blues) were plentiful; Beasley, Blaker, Fisher, Harris, Moon, More, Bernard Willett. At lawn tennis Mavrogordato distinguished himself as a player and was for many years a most valuable member of committee at Wimbledon, just as at Oxford Stalybrass became the undisputed authority on cricket matters.

Turning to other fields than sport, I feel that A. A. Milne stands alone. I trust that, fully restored to health, he may read this letter, and perhaps feel inclined to comment on it.

In the Church, there are probably several names I should mention, but my survey, based on memory alone, must obviously be incomplete, and I can only mention Bell of Chichester. Similarly in medicine I can only mention Max Page, and in law, the incomparable Wilfrid Greene; also Hallett, Beasley and Gwyer.

Again in a class by himself there is St. John Philby, who was Captain of the School, and whose work and life in Arabia read like a romance, while in the class of semi-eccentric genius, one thinks of Stephen Haweis and of A. L. Stephen, the practical-joking son of Sir Leslie.

Some of those we have mentioned were Grantites. The President and Past President of the O.G. Club, Dr. Radcliffe and Mr. Tanner, are two more who have brought distinction to the House and School,

and Arnold Willett, outstanding as a master whom everyone loved, must be in our list as Grantite by adoption.

The names of three other O.G.G. occur to me : D. S. Robertson, the famous scholar ; Spedan Lewis, whose life-work on partnership in the business world may prove to be the solution of many labour difficulties, and last—a name well-known all over the world—Adrian Boulton.

Yours truly,

EDWARD CLEVELAND STEVENS.

May 11th, 1953.

*To the Editor of THE GRANTITE.*

Dear Sir,

While *The Grantite* can lay claim to being the oldest of the School's house magazines, it is the *Queen's Scholars Chronicle* that takes pride in being the most revolutionary. This enterprising journal has recently opened offices in Manchester, and it is thought that your readers might like to know a little about this unprecedented step.

The Manchester offices are situated at 6, Titheway, a finely proportioned building in the Mock-Gothic style of architecture. The turreted exterior is a source of intense gratification to all who behold it, and the famous German philosopher, Herr Brosches, remarked ("Travels in the Wet Country," p.432) that few countries could boast such a curious and disgusting edifice. Number Six, as the *Chronicle* employees fondly call it, is exactly the same as numbers two and four, and would have been similar to number eight had that charming building not received the business end of a doodlebug.

Opposite lies the towering chimney of the Sir Josiah Wilkinson Free Trade Cotton Mill, founded in 1858, and now rapidly going downhill. A portrait of Sir Josiah hung in the *Chronicle* offices until hit by a stray shot from the editor's miniature cannon.

So much for the exterior of the offices. Inside, all is activity, except on the second floor. Here sits Silas K. Raddlebottom, who is bewailing the fact that he rented the front room for \$5,000 from the *Chronicle*, under the impression that it was on the Coronation route. Our sympathies go out to Mister Raddlebottom.

On the ground floor the *Chronicle* is printed: the editorial offices are on the first and third floors. Here the editors, sitting, "Like signs of the Zodiac" (to quote the famous "Editor's song"), edit all day, except during the twenty-five breaks for tea and biscuits.

That then is a brief impression of the Manchester offices of the magazine that is not afraid to face facts. Any of your readers can be shewn round the offices between 2 and 7 a.m. on any day but Friday, on application to the Editorial Board, Manchester.

Yours faithfully,

C. D. N. BORG.

## OLD GRANTITE NEWS

Our congratulations to :—

- W. J. REED (1939–1944) on his engagement to be married.  
D. J. P. WADE (1943–1944) on his engagement to be married.  
I. GREGG (1938–1943) on his marriage (Apr. 7th, 1953).  
R. PLUMMER (1924–1928) on the birth of a daughter (Nov. 26th, 1952).  
W. E. P. MOON (1925–1928) on the birth of a daughter (March, 1953).  
A. S. H. KEMP (1930–1936) on the birth of a son (Aug. 29th, 1952).  
H. T. N. SEARS (1932–1937) on the birth of a son (Dec. 30th, 1952).  
A. D. SELF (1936–1940) on the birth of a daughter (Jan. 12th, 1953).  
F. W. E. FURSDON (1937–1942) on the birth of a son (Dec. 20th, 1952).

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The Annual Dinner of the Old Grantite Club was held on April 10th, 1953, in the King Charles Suite, Whitehall Court, London. The guests of the Club were the Housemaster, the House Tutor and the Head of House and some 50 Old Grantites joined them for dinner. Dr. G. L. Y. Radcliffe presided.

After dinner Dr. Radcliffe rose to propose the health of the Guests and of the House. He first read two telegrams, one from Mr. T. M. Murray-Rust and one from Ian Gregg, both regretting that they could not be present and sending the Club their best wishes. Dr. Radcliffe then expressed the Club's gratitude to the Hon. J. A. Davidson who had taken over as Dinner Secretary at short notice and to F. N. Hornsby who was responsible for finding such a suitable dining place. The President then announced that Mr. D. S. Brock, the House Tutor, had been appointed Housemaster of Ashburnham and on behalf of all present wished him the very best (consistent with the affairs and fortunes of the Old Grantite Club!). Continuing he said that those guests who had never dined with the Club before and had enjoyed themselves could come again next year provided they joined the Club!

Dr. Radcliffe went on to say that Grant's and the School had now reached a very important junction in their history; the reconditioning of the House was to start in the autumn and it was no doubt a sign of the times that the basement, which had served so many generations of Grantites so well, was being done away with in the new layout. (Cries of "Shame"). The frontage of Grant's was to remain unchanged and it was to be hoped that the mantle-piece on which so many Grantites had become members of the House was to be retained. All this rebuilding was placing a heavy financial strain on the School and this was causing the Governors grave anxiety. Dr. Radcliffe asked that everyone should do all they could

to help and suggested that those who had not joined the Westminster School Society should do so and that it was also time to start thinking about recruits for the House in 10 to 12 years hence.

In reply, Mr. Wilson said that according to last year's record of the dinner he had nothing to say; this time, however, he had a lot to report and continued by giving further details of the rebuilding programme. The biggest change is to be the provision of individual studies for boys during their last years up House (Loud boos and again cries of "Shame."). Going on to report on the activities of the House during the past year the Housemaster said that academically it was not brilliant; in games the unbroken period of success had suffered a temporary decline. Many of the old favourite cups had disappeared but had been replaced by new ones. In place of the Football Shield the photographic, fencing and tennis cups now graced the mantelpiece. He was pleased to report that the House had again won the Bringsty Baton. Mr. Wilson ended by saying how much the House owed to Mr. Brock and how much he would be missed next term.

The club then drank the final toast of "Floreat."

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The appeal for news of Old Grantites at last appears to be meeting with some slight success as four unsolicited letters have been received since the last issue of *The Granite Review*. Surely Old Grantites can do better than this. Details of your activities should be sent to:—

Flight Lieutenant R. J. M. Baron, M.B.E., R.A.F.,  
c/o 12/39, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

\* \* \* \*

Lecturing in the theoretical side of forestry at the Gwydyr Forester Training School at Bettws-y-Coed is H. A. E. TILNEY-BASSETT (1945-1946). After completing his National Service in the R.A.F. he took a B.Sc. (Forestry) at Edinburgh University in 1951 and was appointed a District Officer in H.M. Forestry Commission at the end of that year and posted to the School as an instructor.

The legal profession was well represented at the Annual Dinner but in view of the recent newspaper furore about distinguished lawyers and advertising, neither D. W. SHENTON (1938-1943), E. F. R. WHITEHEAD (1938-1942), or P. B. ASHBROOKE (1939-1940) would make any statement about their activities. An even more reticent Old Grantite was I. D. GRANT (1939-1942) who would only say that he was "architecting" in Bloomsbury.

Only able to stay for a few minutes before the Dinner was M. SHEPLEY (1921-1926) who had just finished playing in "The Happy Marriage" at the Aldwych Theatre. He has been elected Chairman of the Lords Taverners for Coronation Year.

Still keeping up his fencing is L. A. WILSON (1936-1941) who is now living at Dulwich and working in London as a Mechanical



Engineer. Also involved in engineering though on the Civil side is J. R. RUSS (1937-1942) who worked on the Clarewen Dam and is now busy with the Northern Outfall Works for the L.C.C.

Two Old Grantites who are now Regular Army Officers are V. T. M. R. TENISON (1937-1940) and F. W. E. FURSDON (1937-1942). The former is stationed at Aldershot teaching National Service Officers while the latter is at present at H.Q. Eastern Command and building Coronation Camps.

Looking even taller than when he left is G. G. SKELLINGTON (1943-1947) who spends his time in and around London as a sales representative for a Sheffield steel firm. Also in the metal industry is M. L. PATTERSON (1933-1938) who lives in Liverpool and sells bolts and nuts (not nuts and bolts) for a small firm there. He said that he would not consider sending his son to Grant's unless the basement was allowed to remain unaltered in the re-building!

Reputed to be the elusive artist who designed the old frontispiece of the *Grantite Review*, J. P. Hart (1932-1938) was deploring the present School dress and voicing a plea for some suitable and proper mode of clothing for London (top hat and tails). He now deals with aviation fuel for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (B.P.).

R. P. ADLER (1922-1926) put forward a strong plea to have the Annual Dinners in lounge suits (printed without comment). He is in Commerce (he would say no more) in the City and is fortunate to run a light aircraft to enable him to get around quickly.

Hoping to go to Grays Inn in October is T. J. DAVIES (1948-1952). He confided that he had not done any Athletics since leaving although he is playing in the Inter-Public School Golf Cup.

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Our Congratulations to : RALPH HODDER-WILLIAMS (1902-1908) on his election as President to the Publishers' Association.

JOHN GIELGUD (1917-1921) on his knighthood,

HON. FRANCIS HOPWOOD (1910-1914) on his knighthood, and

L. E. TANNER (1900-1909) on his C.V.O., in the Coronation Honours.