

THE ELIZABETHAN



DAT DEUS INCREMENTUM



MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD

(extension of the Bod'ey Building in 1932)

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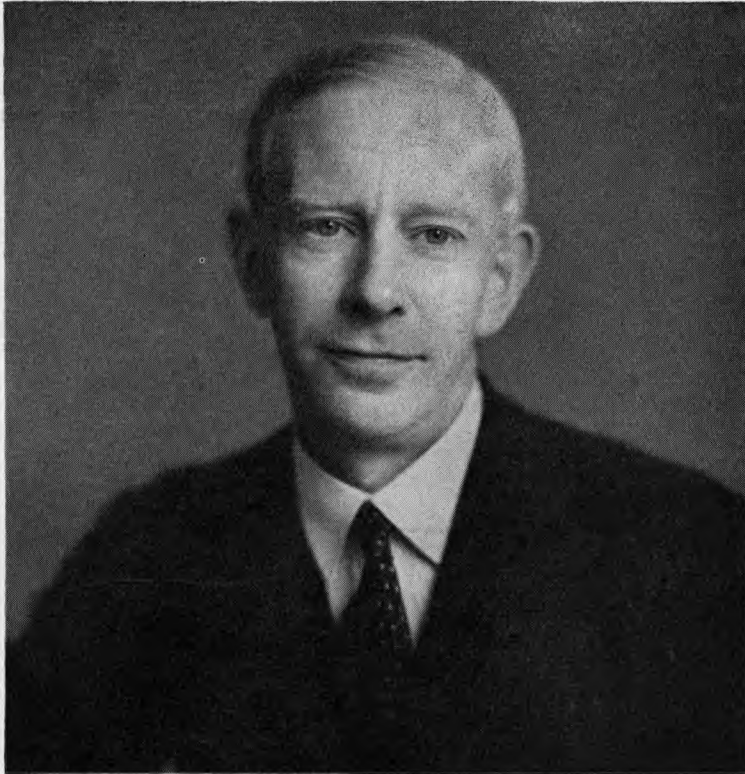


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THE HEAD MASTER

THE HEAD MASTER'S retirement, as already announced in these pages, takes effect at the end of this term, and by the time many readers receive this issue he will have already left Westminster.

Twelve years is not a very long time in the history of the school, yet it may be doubted whether any other twelve years at any time in the school's history have seen greater changes. Since April, 1937, a new House—No. 17 Dean's Yard—has been acquired, and for the first time, Little Dean's Yard has been completely surrounded

by the school's own buildings. The Westminster School Society has been founded and has already collected nearly £100,000 for the benefit of the school. Donations from the Pilgrim Trust and from a War Memorial Fund which amounts to some £40,000 have made it possible for College Dormitory, torn and ravaged by fire, to rise again. The purchase of furniture from the Churchill Club has revealed the fact that in Ashburnham House the school possesses one of the architectural treasures of London. Last, but not least, the Under School has been founded and flourishes, a fruitful nursery of Westminsters.

These are notable achievements for any Head Master. Set against the background of the years 1937-49, they are immense. No one who took no part in the school's evacuation can realize how baffling were the problems involved or how near the school was at times to disaster. Intricate and delicate negotiations had to be undertaken with Lancing and University College, Exeter, reluctant Government departments had to be browbeaten or cajoled, derelict Herefordshire mansions had to be acquired and made habitable; and over everything hung the shadow of dwindling numbers and immense expenditure. It was a time which called for courage, for although the Head Master was supported by a willing staff and although he had behind him a Governing Body which was always glad to endorse his decisions, it was on him and him alone that the main burden of deciding fell. Perpetually confronted with alternatives one of which, or as it sometimes seemed, both of which, might involve the school in calamity, it was small wonder that in time the strain began to tell on his health. But his courage did not waver and Westminster's of every generation owe him a debt for his determination to

fling all resources into the struggle and to carry on whatever the difficulties and whatever the cost.

It was typical of the Head Master that in spite of ill-health he should have refused to desert his post until he was convinced that the school's future was assured, and the pace of recovery has been so fast that it is only now, when he is going, that it is possible to take stock of how much he has himself contributed to it. His vigorous classical teaching is the subject of a separate article. It has borne much good fruit and will continue to do so long after he has gone, as his pupils make their way from the Universities into the world. But his scholarship is only one gift among many. As a preacher whose views command wide attention, as an educationist, as a forthright brains-truster, as an after-dinner speaker, he is known to many who know and care little about Westminster, and now that he is returning to his native Oxford he will carry this wider public with him. But Westminster's will remember him for all these things and for something more—his sincerity and devotion to the interests of the school during the greatest crisis of its history.

A GREAT CLASSICAL TEACHER

MR. CHRISTIE's election to be Principal of Jesus means the loss to Westminster not merely of a notable Head Master, but of something rarer—of one of the greatest teachers of classics in the history of the school. No Westminster would wish to detract from the fame of I. F. Smedley or of John Sargeant, two great figures who will always be remembered with gratitude and admiration. But a pupil of Mr. Christie, who never knew either of these famous men, cannot refrain from claiming that he combined with the precise and elegant scholarship of a Smedley a command of attention and a capacity to enthuse that those who never heard Sargeant will scarcely believe he can have equalled. Any of his pupils will agree that the most notable feature of his teaching was the fire and vivacity that could give life to any subject that he chose to handle and this quality showed especially when he talked of poetry. His reading of a small part could send his class away with the impression that they had seen the play magnificently performed. He had a

genius for seizing on some feature of a passage which a boy, left to himself, might not have noticed, but which, once pointed out, would arouse the same boy's curiosity to an exploration of the whole work from which it came. But Mr. Christie's never-failing command of the rarest articles of a great teacher's equipment should not lead his pupils to forget the scholarly precision, the unremitting caution, the inexhaustible patience that he so unusually combined with it. His flashes of inspiration in interpreting a text could give his pupils moments of sheer delight in great poetry that some will not easily forget; yet no master could have been quicker to puncture the bubbles of self-complacency or vague aestheticism, or to insist on the importance of caution, scepticism and persistent work. The importance in the school's history of his work as Head Master cannot at present be assessed; but no one who was his pupil can have the slightest doubt of his unique genius as a teacher.

COMMÉM

WHEN the triennial Commemoration service was held in the Abbey on November 17th, it was only the second Commem since the war, but what few probably realized was that it was also only the second time that Mr. Christie had read the Commendatio, the other occasion being in the distant days before the war. In all, well over a thousand guests attended the service and the reception that followed up School. The Abbey was so full that the Nave was filled; but those who sat there, even though they could not see what was going on at the other and warmer side of the organ screen, had at least the consolation of sitting in the acoustically best part of the Abbey.

The service began at 5.15 with the procession of the clergy and the King's Scholars. But it had been a smaller procession ten minutes earlier that had drawn many a comment. Led by a verger, the Master of the King's Scholars and two College Monitors processed up to the High Altar and then disappeared behind it into the less well-known part of the Abbey to lay some roses by the tomb of Queen Elizabeth. The actual service went very well. The plainsong practices had done their work, and despite the difficulties caused by the separation of the half of the school in the Choir from the half in the Lantern and Transepts, the singing was up to standard, which helped create in those present something of the feeling that the service should arouse. The dignity and colour of the service was enhanced by the presence of the Abbey clergy and by the impressive reading of the lesson by the Dean and of the Commendatio by the Head Master. As all noticed, this year the Commendatio included for the first time, mention of the generosity of the Goldsmiths, in addition to the list of earlier benefactors familiar to every O.W. and boy in the school. The service concluded with the *Te Deum* and the blessing by the Dean.

The scene then switched to School, where the guests, let out of the Abbey in an orderly but efficient manner by the corps of ushers, arrived by way of the cloakrooms and the Grand Staircase in Ashburnham House. School was in fancy dress and looked its best—it was flanked on either side by a row of tables well supplied with drink and refreshment, the quantity of which rapidly lessened as School filled up. Many prominent Old Westminsters were present, including (to name but just a few) Sir Adrian Boulton, Dr. Webb, and Mr. E. R. B. Graham, the newly elected President of the Elizabethan Club, while the Dean and Mr. Hamilton were centres of attraction in their own right. Within a short time movement became

difficult, but all present evidently enjoyed themselves. Some were attracted away by the Royal Pardon and by the photographs exhibited in Ashburnham House, but numbers up School never flagged for well over an hour. Enough boys in the school were admitted to assist with the distribution of refreshments and they found opportunities to display their talents as hosts. Both the service and the reception had proved successful and the last of the guests departed somewhat reluctantly.

It is sometimes asked why Commem comes only every three years, while others wonder why it ever comes at all. Surely this year, as at all Commemms, the answers to both were given. As an impressive and moving ceremony the service in the Abbey has a claim to stand by itself and the reception satisfies a need for an informal gathering of Old Westminsters and parents which no other school function or O.W. society provides in quite the same degree. Coming every third year, Commemms are eagerly looked forward to by the school and by Old Westminsters, and if this year's Commem is any guide, no one was disappointed.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 20th.	Term ends.
Jan. 17th.	Boarders back in the evening.
Jan. 18th.	Lent term begins.
Feb. 4th.	1st XI v. Lancing Old Boys (H.). Colts v. Brentwood (A.). Fencing v. L.F.C.
Feb. 11th.	1st XI v. Old Aldenhamians (H.). Fencing v. Salle Paul.
Feb. 14th.	1st XI v. Winchester (H.). Fencing v. Winchester (H.).
Feb. 18th.	Fencing v. Oxford University Assassins (A.).
Feb. 21st.	Fencing v. Harrow School (H.).
Feb. 25th.	1st XI v. Eton (A.). Colts v. Eton (A.). Fencing v. Merchant Taylors' (A).
Mar. 4th.	Fencing v. Lansdowne Fencing Club (A.).
Mar. 11th.	Fencing v. Eton (A.).

From January 1st, 1950, the address of *The Elizabethan* will be 3, Little Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1.

A WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

THERE are many rationalists in the school and not a few of them, as well as several Old Westminsters have wondered what this page sets out to do. The answer is that this page, which we hope will in time become a regular feature in *The Elizabethan*, proposes to recount some of the events and little details, some of which are of importance, while others are no doubt transient and frivolous, that occur around the school.

With the end of the Play term almost upon us, the thoughts of many in the school turn to that annual orgy and excuse for merriment, the Play Supper. Each house has its own jealously retained traditions and the rites of the evening are different in each case. In College at the moment the dress is fancy, on some particular theme, and the supper is followed by various forms of entertainment. The other houses compete with one another for the possession of College Hall, which restricts rioting by its massiveness, or else eat in solitary state in their own house.

Last year an event occurred which we hope will be revived this year: the Watermen challenged the 1st XI at football in a game fantastically refereed by the Captain of Fencing. Of course, they deservedly lost, but there is little hope of a return match in eights because of the demands of boat safety. However, it symbolized an interest in all the school sports over-riding the isolationist views of a few, and it is as such that we hope the precedent will be continued.

It has come to the notice of the Editors that in our last issue not full justice was done to the unequalled patience and calmness of the Under School. Far worse than occasional leaks in the roof has been the noise and the songs of the men at work repairing College, and we regret that we have neglected their endurance. But let us rejoice with them that their period of trial is over, for in January they move into the quiet haven of No. 19.

The C.C.F. Camp at Pirbright, like most tortures, seems to have had a beneficial effect on most of those who emerged from it, if only by enabling them to realize that there are far worse things in heaven and earth (or the other place) than two hours' military training a week. Many of the sayings of one of this term's Guards Instructors ("Killer" Robinson) are by this time proverbial, however, and his intimidating manner, relieved by less exacting training periods with our own N.C.O's, has helped push all 17 candidates through Cert. "A" Part 2, and 19 out of the 20 who took Part 1 through their part of the examination. As for the Naval Section, they are working for their own test to be Leading

Seamen. They commanded the admiration of everyone else by leaving at an unearthly hour on the Field Day—especially as the arrangements for the Army Section were cancelled at the last minute some hours later. So enjoyable has Corps been this term that even some who had not got out of the Field Day already were disappointed at its cancellation.

Expectations are lively and high for Mr. Lushington's production of "Hamlet" next term. A school production of this play should prove useful in helping to dissociate Shakespeare from Olivier and Simmons in the minds of the Younger Generation, while at the same time affording valuable experience to the actors. Apart from which, it is also a good play. Our performance will be cut to two and a half hours, so it will not be too much for an evening's entertainment. There will be no pseudo-anachronistic Victorian costumes, we understand, but new footlights, new facilities for scenery, and a new curtain will have been installed. We already assemble up School in an effulgent blaze from the floodlights installed for Commem.

We bid a regretful farewell this term to some of the best-loved of the school pets, Mrs. Christie's chickens. For years now, boys have looked down into Ashburnham Garden from their form-rooms to see how they are thriving on their carefully calculated diet of vitamins and calories. For years has a particularly enterprising attempt to escape from their chicken-run or a particularly ferocious fight near the sundial afforded a welcome relaxation during a Latin lesson or an apposite metaphor during a debate. We shall miss the frenzied squawks announcing these diversions, and visualize with horror the uncouth Welsh-Oxford accent that their new residence will impart to their voices.

A Junior Modern Languages Society has sprung up in the school, and is assiduously organizing quizzes and games in the members' second language. Almost the full benefit of school society life is thus available to even the youngest Westminsters, and there is some rivalry with the Junior Debating Society and the house play-reading societies. Of the other house societies, Rigaud's still has the H.S.A.C.U., or the Hall Society for the Advancement of Cultural Understanding, and has recently thrown the amenities of the Rigaud's Cine. Soc. open to the rest of the school; one of their meetings has clashed with a meeting of the School Debating Society, with the result that all the debaters spoke violently for the decadence of the modern film.



College from College Garden

Photo : J. F. Britten

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

MOTIONS this term have dealt with various subjects, and have attracted varying numbers to the library to speak or—all too often—just to be spoken at. The first, debated on September 30th, ran : “ That headmasters should not be schoolmasters.” It was well attended, and two committee members, S. J. Barrett and D. S. Walker, made lively opening speeches. The evening was distinguished by a highly successful experiment in speaking technique by B. S. Green, and an admirable lesson in it from a visiting Old Westminster, O. Kerensky. The motion was defeated.

On October 14th a motion “ That this house would welcome political union with the United States,” was carried after indignant opposition from non-members, who were not allowed to vote. The general verdict favoured American dollars but not the American way of life. On November

11th the motion “ That tolerance is only another name for indifference,” was defeated by 5 votes to 12, after several thoughtful but few inspiring speeches, but a fortnight later a debate on the motion “ That the theatre and the cinema should not only entertain but should also point the way to live,” showed how much this dullness had been due to the absence of this year’s Election candidates. Barrett and Petrie gave entertaining speeches on the collapse of the Roman Empire and Humbug respectively, and made it easier to appreciate the sound reasoning of G. Barton and A. M. Freeman.

The opening speeches by J. W. G. Leigh-Clare and A. M. Howard for this last debate were competent in both matter and presentation, and bode well for the Inter-School Debate with St. Paul’s Girls’ School at the end of this term.

POL AND LIT SOC

THE first two meetings of the term dealt with foreign affairs. Col. the Hon. C. B. Birdwood, speaking on "The Middle East," showed how factors as divergent as family feuds and water supplies, oil and Enosis, are deciding the future of the many new independent states of the Arab League and outside it. Mr. A. Pokorny's talk on Russian-occupied Austria was more personal but no less informative, and we were at last able to appreciate the human qualities of Russian soldiers without losing sight of the political danger they represent. Both speakers had a complete and interesting mastery of their subject and no one could fail to learn much from them.

Mr. Graham Greene preferred the method of question and answer to a set talk, but began by reading a short paper on "The Subject Matter of Films," which he defined as "life as it is and life as it ought to be." The theatre, he claimed, is not true to life, and the music-hall, which was, has been supplanted by the cinema in this aim. The cinema suffers from being continually forced to outwit the censor, but it should be able to go deeper than the shadow morality to the realism of "life nasty, brutish and short." Of the many questions and replies that followed it is impossible to give a connected account, except that we learnt much of the writing and making of films, and more of the author himself.

Sir David Maxwell Fyfe spoke on "The Future of Europe." He showed the need for a firmness against Russia by the rest of Europe that would be strong enough not to provoke war but to prevent it. This unity can be achieved by personal contact between responsible statesmen of the various countries and by a genuine attempt to take a European rather than an individualist viewpoint, as has already been seen at Strasbourg this year. Western Union does not in any way conflict with the interests of the Commonwealth, and it is, in fact, Britain's urgent duty to lead Europe in demonstrating to other nations the benefits of united and peaceful democracies. This talk, although at times perhaps unjustifiably optimistic, was one of the most stimulating we have heard, both as a lucid account, and as the sincere statement of belief by one whose part in deciding the future of Europe may be no small one.

THE ESSAY SOCIETY

THIS term the Society has heard three essays. S. J. Barrett read his Phillimore Prize essay on

"The Golden Age—is it Past or Future?" In the two thousand words at his disposal he incorporated an immense quantity of detailed thought. He differentiated between cultural and social Golden Ages in the future, the one an imaginable recurrence of a similar age in the past, the other less easily definable. The Golden Age in the past cannot be anything more than an example: the Golden Age of the future is an ideal state that may actually be achieved.

R. Plant's lucid exposition of Sir Arthur Keith's "A New Theory of Human Evolution," explained the part played in human evolution by the social groups among primates, necessary if the "sports" were to be able to increase. He showed the importance of the application of Sir Arthur Keith's results to the modern world: the group instinct and other primitive instincts cannot be discounted in the consideration of the problems of nationalism and free enterprise, with Sir Arthur Keith's evidence at hand. The essayist made his listeners feel the necessity of understanding Sir Arthur Keith's approach and results.

L. J. Herrmann read an essay on Vincent van Gogh. Against a biographical background, Herrmann succeeded in building up an effective portrait of the painter. His early religious fervour, the influence of peasant life, the slow development of his taste, and his transition from the blue phase to the yellow, was well related to his work. The reproductions that the essayist provided made the more real the understanding of the artist that the essay had well transmitted.

JUNIOR DEB SOC

THE PLAY TERM, the test of interest in a new Society, has found us, as mentioned in the last *Elizabethan*, still going strong. A junior Society has difficulties of its own to contend with—its field of selection is only half as great as that of other societies, it is more inclined to rowdiness, and, gravest of all, it has no snob value. In spite of all this, people are beginning to realize the usefulness of the Society, especially as a means to enjoyment.

Two debates have been held this term. The motion "That the Englishman is no Gentleman," was carried by 10 votes to 7. Arguments ranging from colour prejudice to the Nuremberg trials were brought forward; one speaker even found it necessary to proclaim that he never was or will be a gentleman. He has since been elected to the Junior Debating Society.

FOOTBALL

THE 1st XI did not make a good start this season, partly due to the various rearrangements within the team. The following Club matches took place up Fields : v. the Staff, lost 0—1 ; v. the Eton Masters, lost 3—4 ; v. Old Bradfieldians, lost 1—2 ; v. Old Carthusians "A," drawn 2—2 ; v. the O.W.W., lost 1—3 ; v. the Metropolitan Police, drawn 2—2.

1st XI v. Aldenham (home), drawn 1—1.

Playing with the wind on a heavy ground, Westminster soon had Aldenham in trouble. Our long, swinging passes were very effective, and the open game gave us many chances of scoring. After ten minutes' play a perfect centre from Robinson was headed in by F. D. Hornsby to score a perfect goal. Soon afterwards Chapman was hurt in a hard tackle and had to leave the field for the rest of the game. Westminster succeeded in maintaining their lead until half-time. In the second half we played straight into a low-setting sun, but this did not seem to handicap the forward line, which kept up a continual attack on Aldenham's goal. Then, during an Aldenham advance, Lee kicked into his own goal. Westminster continued to fight back, but failed to score before time.

1st XI v. Lancing (home), lost 1—2.

After about fifteen minutes' hard play a Lancing full-back, in order to prevent a certain goal from a partially-saved shot put in by Martindale, picked up the ball. Pitamber missed the penalty kick, hitting the bottom of the crossbar, so that the ball went straight down and was cleared. A few minutes later Lancing scored, after Kendall failed to clear a corner. Westminster pressed hard, put in many shots, but could not score. Then, fifteen minutes after half-time, the Lancing inside-left made a harmless ground shot which slipped through Kendall's fingers. Five minutes later Robinson scored after a scramble in the Lancing goalmouth. Westminster, however, did not score again.

1st XI v. Highgate (home), won 2—1.

Westminster kicked off and attacked from the start. Then, in a Highgate advance, Makower failed to clear from the goal-area and the Highgate left-wing put a hard shot into the net. Westminster took the ball back into the Highgate half, firing shot after shot. At half-time the light was poor, and it grew steadily darker. After ten minutes Pitamber beat two men in the Highgate penalty area and made a beautiful shot to score. Another ten minutes passed and Woodward, in a scrimmage in front of the Highgate goal, got his foot to the ball and scored. Westminster held this lead until the whistle went for time.

The team's backbone in these three matches has been the half-back line. C. C. P. Williams, G. N. P. Lee and G. R. Smith have held a slightly insecure full-back line together and have given the forwards the support necessary for goal-scoring. The team for the school matches was : J. H. Kendall (D. F. H. Sandford against Highgate) ; P. Makower, P. S. Houston ; C. C. P. Williams, G. N. P. Lee, G. R. Smith ; F. D. Hornsby, R. K. Pitamber (Capt.), A. P. N. Woodward, R. T. Robinson, A. R. H. Martindale (G. V. Chapman injured in the Aldenham match).

The 2nd XI this season has managed to build up a useful side. Cullimore at right-half is a spirited Captain, and with Lowe and J. Wordsworth forms the mainstay of the team. A draw, 2—2, against Chigwell, a decisive win against the Colts, four losses, and a 2—1 victory at Highgate is not an impressive record, but there are more matches to come, and since the preliminary trouble of exchanges between 1st and 2nd XI players has now been overcome, some good results are to be expected.

The Colts' match performance has so far been spasmodic. At Forest we never got going and were deservedly defeated 0—3, but against Latymer Upper we completely controlled the game for more than half the time, and could do everything except score, with the result that we were most undeserving losers, 1—3. Hopes inspired by this game were disappointed by an indifferent performance at Aldenham (2—7). Against Lancing, however, we had a convincing win (3—0), playing harder and faster football than our opponents, but we lost to Highgate 0—3.

The Under 15 XI this year, though rather small and light in the forward line, has plenty of skill ; Crook among the forwards and B. P. Griffiths in goal are particularly promising. Against Mercers there was no score at half-time ; thereafter their more forceful tactics resulted in our losing 0—2, though at the final whistle we were attacking hotly and had several near misses. Against Latymer Upper we were completely outplayed by a heavier and faster team and lost 0—13. In spite of the score, Griffiths in goal did extremely well.

The Under 14 XI has been well led by K. G. Sandford, and contains several promising players, notably Sandford himself at right-back, Henry in goal, Garcia at centre-half, and the right-wing pair of Tourlamain and Hillyard. One pleasing feature of the Club as a whole is that we have adequate reserves to fill most of the positions on the field, a good omen for the future.

THE WATER

DOWN at Putney towards the end of the Play term the early winter nights drastically curtail our rowing time. Even though the *Challenge* can resemble a Christmas-tree, as well as relying on her horn and occasional curses to clear the river, and although even the lowliest eight sports a bicycle lamp on its bows, navigation after 4.30 is a perilous business. All the same, six eights go out regularly, and in wind and rain Westminster oarsmen are undertaking the arduous task of ensuring summer success by winter practice. "A" crew, coached by Mr. Fisher, is composed of the old Pinks plus other promising oarsmen and progresses well. "B" crew, with Mr. Hamerton as coach, are light but lively and interesting. "C" and "D," coached by the

Secretary and the Head of the Water, are rival crews, and while both have improved since the beginning of term, at the moment "C" has the edge that superior boat control gives. "E," only recently formed, shows its power, and "F" with Mr. Carleton consists of young oarsmen being taught the difficult art of balancing an eight. For the Boat Club as a whole, the new Watermen bring our numbers up to over 100, and there were at the beginning of term, boat as well as accommodation problems, in addition to the serious shortage of coaches which at the moment is being overcome only by senior oarsmen sacrificing their sculling time. However, the test of this term will be when the races begin next term.

FENCING

INTEREST in fencing in the school is still growing and the number of fencers is larger than ever before. The thirty boys who do full-time fencing station now find the gym. too small to do justice to their footwork. The majority of them are young and will take a year or two to develop the fluid style and endurance that go to make a good fencer. The task of training them is shared by the two professional instructors, the Master in Charge and a new master, Dr. Sanger. He was the fencing master at Lancing and has an expert's knowledge of sabre.

There are only four first team matches this term, the season starting in earnest next term with a fixture list including a university and three clubs. The team is practically the same as last year and is settling down to improve its fencing after the loss of the Public Schools' Cup. The captain, P. C. Petrie, has been chosen to take part in the National Junior Coaching Scheme. An experienced match-fighter, his results are con-

sistently good. He is well supported by the rest of the team, whose vicissitudes of form are probably due to their not yet having developed a match fencing temperament. B. S. Green is a fast and effective épée. T. G. Phemister lures opponents into the range of his stop-hit with an apparently timid and static style. A. Plummer is stylish, but not always successful, and V. Herbert, leaving his stroke's oar in the First VIII, is learning to use a sabre.

The first match of the term was won against Lancing College, 19—8, the Colts losing 3—6. The O.W.W. sent a fairly strong team and beat us by 9—18. The best results were obtained in épée, which remains the school's strongest weapon. At Cambridge we lost 6—21 to an "A" team consisting of the University First Team minus their captain. A Second Team match was lost against Cranleigh School 15—11. Thirds have been awarded to M. Miller and V. Herbert.

FIVES

With the fast courts that we have and the growing popularity of Fives in the school, the standard of the Senior and Colts pairs has risen rapidly, and match results have so far been very satisfactory. We have beaten Westminster City School 16—2, the Old Westminsters 9—1, and lost to the Old Carthusians 3—1. There are hopes of many school fixtures next term, and we have confidence of good results in these.

SHOOTING

We welcome this term Mr. Kilvington as Master in Charge. So far this season we have had three matches; we won against the Staff,

559—546, but lost to Eton College, 690—542, and to Merchant Taylors' School, 528—608. Other fixtures this term were against Highgate, and the annual match for the Waller Cup against Lancing.

GYM

The Gym Competitions were held during the last week of last term. D. F. H. Sandford won the Senior with 69 $\frac{1}{3}$, and A. C. Hornsby the Junior with 68 $\frac{2}{3}$; the House Cup was won by Grants. Because many of the Gymnasts were rowing in the School Regatta, so that only 60 per cent competed, the Competition will in future be held in the Play term.

OLD WESTMINSTERS

Sir Reginald Sharpe, K.C., has been appointed a Commissioner of Assize on the Western Circuit.

Mr. R. H. Blundell has been appointed a Metropolitan Magistrate and will sit at Bow Street.

Sir Harold Morris has been made deputy chairman to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Middlesex.

Mr. Henry Willis is in charge of the extensive additions to the organ of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Mr. R. P. Hinks, Director of the British Institute at Rome, has been appointed British Council Representative in the Netherlands.

After forty-five years' service in the Bank of England, Mr. James Harrison has been ordained deacon.

BIRTHS

BALL—On August 19th 1949 at Nuffield House, to Joy, wife of Ian Ball, a son.

ENEVER—On April 6th 1949 to Dorothy, wife of W. B. Enever, a daughter.

EVANS—On July 5th 1949, in London, to Audrey, wife of Brian Evans, F.R.C.S., a son.

HARRISON—On June 14th 1949 at Margate, to Joan, wife of the Rev. P. G. Harrison, a daughter.

IVANOVIC—On September 18th 1949 in New York, to June, wife of I. S. Ivanovic, a son.

JEREMY—On July 27th 1949 at Poltimore, to Doris, wife of Dr. W. H. R. Jeremy, a daughter.

KIDD—On September 1st 1949 at Dorchester, to Annette, wife of R. G. B. Kidd, a daughter.

NUNNS—On August 20th 1949, to Mary, wife of E. Nunns, a son.

PARKER—On June 25th 1949 in London, to Valerie, wife of G. B. Parker, a daughter.

REED—On September 11th 1949, to Margaret, wife of Major R. G. Reed, a son.

SHORT—On September 17th 1949 in London, to Hava, wife of Dr. R. H. D. Short, a daughter.

SUENSON-TAYLOR—On June 26th 1949, to Betty, wife of Kenneth Suenson-Taylor, a daughter.

TURQUET—On August 8th 1949 in London, to Ellen, wife of Dr. Pierre Turquet, a daughter.

WARD—On July 2nd 1949 at Craghead, Co. Durham, to Kathleen, wife of the Rev. Aidan Ward, a son.

DUNCAN—On October 18th 1949 in London, to Ann Rosemary, wife of Major C. S. A. Duncan, a son (Philip Andrew Anson).

HENDERSON—On November 12th 1949 at Swansea, to Beatrice, wife of A. J. Henderson, of The Swansea Theatre Company, a son (Robin).

MARRIAGES

CAREY : MILLS—On September 10th 1949 at Liphook, D. M. M. Carey to Margaret Ruth, daughter of the Rev. Canon W. R. Mills and Mrs. Mills of Highfield School, Liphook.

CRAIG : BEATTIE—On March 10th 1949, J. B. Craig to Sue, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Beattie of Sydney, Australia.

GIORDANI : HODGES—On July 9th 1949 at Kingston-on-Thames, Dr. A. Giordani to Dr. Christine Hodges.

HACKFORTH : DESENISS—On August 20th 1949 at Reigate, Capt. C. A. P. Hackforth, D.S.O., to Erica Deseniss.

HAVERS : LAY—On September 3rd 1949 at St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, R. M. O. Havers to Elizabeth Lay, elder daughter of Mrs. Norman Dexter of Hadley Wood, Herts.

HOLLOWAY : CRAIG—In May 1949, J. A. Holloway to Nina Margaret, only daughter of the late Surg. Capt. J. W. Craig, R.N., and Mrs. Craig of Kircudbright.

MCNAMARA : ROGERS—On September 3rd 1949 in London, R. E. McNamara to Diana Mary, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Rogers of 65 Acacia Road, N.W.1.

NICHOLAS : YOUNG—On June 18th 1949 at St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, T. B. Nicholas to Marie Antoinette Lorna Young.

RIDLEY-THOMPSON : PEAKE—On June 11th 1949 at Holy Trinity, Forest Row, A. Ridley-Thompson to Jacqueline, only daughter of the late Mr. Ronald Peake of Ashted, Surrey, and Mrs. H. Neal.

TREBUCQ : POLETTE—On August 18th 1949 at La Coquille, Dordogne, M. Trebucq to Janine, daughter of M. Andre Polette of Paris.

WEDGWOOD BENN : DECAMP—On June 17th 1949 at Cincinnati, U.S.A., the Hon. A. Wedgwood Benn to Caroline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. DeCamp of Cincinnati.

OBITUARY

PETER YOUNG DAVIDSON, who died suddenly in London in November, came to Grant's in 1939, leaving in 1943 to go up to Trinity College, Oxford, as a commoner. He graduated B.A. in 1946, and after spending two more terms in Oxford, returned to London, where he was studying medicine.

The death occurred on August 24th of Sir (THOMAS) CRISP ENGLISH, K.C.M.G. He was born in 1878 and came to the School with an exhibition in 1891. He became a medical student at St. George's Hospital, and became Hunterian Professor in 1903. After a distinguished career in the 1914-1918 war, he returned to London and became consulting surgeon to five hospitals. He was author of a number of authoritative articles on surgery, and was made K.C.M.G. in 1918. In 1905 he married Annie Gaunt, daughter of Angus McLeod of Edinburgh.

WILFRID GUY HISCOX, who died on March 9th at the age of 40, was at Westminster from 1922 to 1927. He became a wine and spirit broker. During the last war he entered the Admiralty Branch of the R.A.F.V.R., served in Malta and became a Squadron Leader. He married in 1937 Norah Early, daughter of G. Tillinghurst of Wellington, Surrey.

The Right Reverend ALGERNON AUGUSTUS MARKHAM, since 1937 Bishop Suffragan of Grantham, died on June 27th, aged 80. He entered the School in 1881, went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1892. In 1908 he married Winifred Edith, younger daughter of Lt.-Col. F. St. J. Barne of Sotterley Hall, Suffolk.

ALAN CHANCELLOR NESBITT was admitted to Westminster as a Queen's Scholar in 1886 and elected to Christ Church in 1892. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn and became a Bencher and Conveyancing Counsel to the Court. He was for seven years Secretary of the Elizabethan Club, and for a time a Master at the School.

The Reverend CLEMENT FRANCIS ROGERS entered the School in 1880; in the following year he went into College, and in 1885 became a Mathematical exhibitioner of Jesus College, Oxford. He was ordained to a curacy at Pudsley, but his chief work was done at King's College, London, where he was appointed Lecturer in Pastoral Theology in 1907 and Professor in 1919. During the years in London he used regularly to speak in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoons on Christian Evidence, and he was the author of several theological works. He retired to Oxford in 1932, and died on June 23rd at the age of 82.

WILLIAM EYTON ROLLER was born in 1858, and died on August 27th in his 92nd year. He was in the Cricket XI for 1873 and played regularly for Surrey from 1881 to 1890. On one occasion at the Oval he made 204 runs and took six wickets for 44, including a hat-trick. He was twice married.

THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

At the Annual General Meeting of the Club held up School on Friday, September 30th, Mr. E. R. B. Graham was elected President of the Club for the ensuing three years in succession to the Rt. Hon. Viscount Davidson, P.C., G.C.V.O., C.H., C.B.

Mr. D. C. Simpson and Mr. W. E. Gerrish, O.B.E., were elected Vice-Presidents. Sir Robert Wilkinson, Mr. A. Clifford Feasey and Mr. D. M. M. Carey were elected Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively. Mr. F. N. Hornsby, Mr. C. M. O'Brien, Mr. F. A. G. Rider and Mr. D. S. Brock were newly elected members of the General Committee.

The Dinner was held in Church House Restaurant, Dean's Yard. Over 170 attended, and the guests included the Chairman of the London County Council, the Prime Warden of the Dyers Company, the Vice-Dean of the Westminster Hospital, Mr. A. B. Horne and Sir Harold Webbe, M.P. The toast of the Guests was proposed by Sir Robert Wilkinson and the Dean of Westminster paid a farewell tribute to the retiring Head Master, who responded to the toast of "Floreat." Members assembled in Ashburnham House before dinner and adjourned there later in the evening.

CLUB PRESENTATION TO MR. J. T. CHRISTIE

The General Committee are considering what presentation should be made to the retiring Head Master, and an announcement will be made in the next issue.

GAMES COMMITTEE FOOTBALL

The Old Westminsters were defeated 5—0 in the A.F.A. Senior Cup by Old Actonians. Other results to date are:—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals	
					For	Agst.
1st XI ..	9	1	0	8	11	29
"A" XI ..	2	0	0	2	2	12

FIVES

The Club is now halfway through the first season since the war. Though there is reasonable support, the playing membership is not yet high enough. It is hoped that many O.W.W. who would like a game would come along on Wednesday evenings. The arrangements are as follows:—

The school courts are available every Wednesday evening from 6.30 to 9 p.m. The school authorities have kindly allowed us to use the changing room adjoining the courts, which is equipped with a hot and cold shower. The club has four pairs of gloves for the use of members who would like to give the game a try before buying their own. In order to meet the cost of lighting, heat and balls, players are asked to pay 2s. 6d. per evening. If the club has sufficient support it is intended to start arranging matches in the New Year, and so bring the Old Westminsters' Fives Club back to its pre-war standing.

SQUASH

A total of 17 matches have been arranged for this season. So far three have been played, resulting in

one win and two losses. A team has been entered for the Londonderry Cup, and we have drawn K.C.S. Wimbledon in the first round. The Hon. Sec., P. A. Jessel, 7 Nepean Street, Roehampton, S.W.15, is still very anxious to find additional players and all interested should get in touch with him.

CORRESPONDENCE

SIRS, . . . Westminsters have always worn the normal dress of contemporary gentlemen; reference to innumerable prints and pictures will confirm this. Therefore, while agreeing heartily with Mr. Bowen's other comments on dress, it is impossible to deplore with him the disappearance of the top-hat, tail-coat, and the Eton jacket. Even before the last war they had overstayed their period, for they had disappeared from everyday life and remained only, as to-day, the garments of ceremony.

But the suggestion that the school should dress in a uniform grey is wrong. Not only is it badly out of step with tradition, but it leaves no room for individuality. Let it not be thought for a moment that this was true of morning coats and Etons. There was variety in the cloth of the coat and infinite variety in the cloth of the trousers. Moreover, we were not tied to one tailor and many of us have the strongest objection to being forced to buy clothes in one of the large stores.

. . . It seems inevitable that after great modern wars there is slackness in dress and behaviour, but this is in no way admirable and may not be pandered to by those who have the great name of Westminster in their care to-day. The appearance of home boarders leaving Westminster in the evening is revolting and brings great discredit on the school. Stand in Dean's Yard and watch them as they come through the arch from Yard. You will see no hats, tousled hair, grubby, misshapen flannels, and quite incredible, shags in some cases. Remember that these uncouth individuals pass twice a day through the transport system of the Capital City of the Empire wearing school ties, advertising Westminster as shoddy and down at heel.

. . . Perhaps Commemoration in morning dress might be considered a symptom of a condition of sloppiness out of which Westminster would do well to pull itself pretty quickly.

Yours truly,

DOUGLAS SERVICE
(HBB 1912-17)

SIRS, In your August number you took occasion to mention that *The Elizabethan* had attained the respectable age of seventy-five, and to make some remarks on its changing content and appearance since 1874. For the sake of the record, I think it should be stated that the most important change in the typography and layout was made at the sixtieth birthday, in 1934. Sir Charles Fortescue-Brickdale's cover design was then replaced by a new one; it was, to my mind, rather better than the "curious amalgam" that you call it, but its day was certainly done. The pink cover should have gone at the same time (the new design was in fact drawn for cream paper); but the guiding principle then was "one thing at a time," and it was left for 1938 to drop the pink, certainly for good, and I hope, for all.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. M. ROBBINS

SCHOOLS AND THE STATE

SIRS,

The comments you published in the August issue of *The Elizabethan* call for a reply, for they seem to fasten a responsibility on His Majesty's present Government which was in fact assumed by its predecessor. They are also inaccurate and misleading.

The 1944 Education Act clearly demonstrates the nation's belief in the importance of independent bodies and its readiness to give public funds to help them. Inevitably these bodies, in the main, provide facilities for young people and adults outside the area of compulsion. Within that area, children under a statutory obligation to attend school are entitled to the protection of certain minimum requirements affecting accommodation, teaching and other aspects of their school life. It is therefore desirable that the vast majority of children should be educated in schools where that control can be exercised. Public control is also important in view of the large sums involved. None of this means that a rigid uniformity is looked for in the schools maintained by local education authorities. Just because nearly half the primary and secondary schools maintained by them have been provided by voluntary bodies, very great care has been taken in the Act to see that voluntary interests are adequately safeguarded.

Even if it were desirable, the country cannot afford to provide a boarding or even a semi-boarding education for every child, let alone the staff ratios which many independent schools enjoy. Quite clearly, if parents, for reasons best known to themselves, wish to send their sons to schools like Westminster which are outside the public system when there are places available at schools within, neither they nor the schools have the right to financial assistance for this purpose. The same principle applies to those who prefer to employ a private doctor instead of using the National Health Service. In both cases there is absolute freedom of choice and action for the individual.

In the case of parents who exercise their liberty to send their children to an independent school, the local education authorities in the country have, in fact, the power to help them with the fees if the reasons for the parents' choice appear to over-ride all other considerations, and if the expenditure entailed in the circumstances is reasonable. Could anything be fairer than this, and does it not completely demolish the wholly biased view I am criticizing?

Yours etc.,

T. C. SKEFFINGTON-LODGE



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Tompon

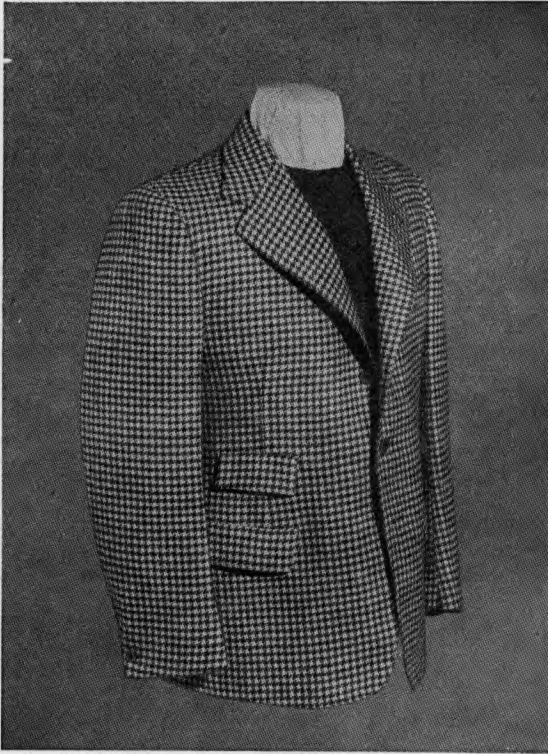
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