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THE PROBLEM OF TIME

IT is over two years ago now that there appeared in this magazine a short leading article under the title "The Problem of Time". In 1948 it was considered dangerous to approach anybody in a position of responsibility in the school, because of the consequent risk of being bludgeoned into some new duty to attend a practice or meeting. The various recreational activities, it used to be argued, had to be kept alive until the school numbers had grown. Since then the school numbers have indeed grown, and with them the choice of activities. The problem of time is as acute as ever.

Part of the difficulty is the simple choice every individual has to make, between the various recreations that exist for him. But until the school is in the happy state of possessing enough space and equipment for all its requirements, his problem will be aggravated by the inevitable failure of the organizers of those recreations to parcel out the school's resources satisfactorily among themselves. To relieve this there has been appointed a custodian of the Drawing Room in Ashburnham House, whose consent is required before the appropriation of the room for society meetings. But even where shortage of space is not involved, shortage of time makes it increasingly difficult to allow boys a free choice of recreations; and it is now impossible, for instance, to be both a practised boxer and a dutiful member of a school society, or even for a keen waterman to play in the school orchestra.

There obviously is a point where it would be more convenient for all concerned for the number of activities to be reduced, so that the more important ones at least would not clash with each other and would be reasonably well patronized. Among the school societies this point has probably not been reached, because the younger societies have mostly replaced others more or less moribund, which shall be nameless if only because the very mention of their names might prompt an unwelcome revival. But the number of alternative sports for station afternoons is already being reduced. A small school like Westminster cannot hope to be respected for any of its sports if there are only a dozen or two boys engaged in each. It might, of course, be argued that the school's

reputation was made for man and not man for his school's reputation. But the fact is that a good deal does depend on the school's reputation for those sports for which it enters, not least the keenness and happiness of those who play them.

The difficulty, of course, is to reconcile this policy of thinning out the school's recreational activities with a general benevolence towards those who are profoundly bored by all the sports offered them, and who are not particularly interested in any but the more specialised school societies. The whole process of education can be thought of as a way of ensuring that a boy discovers early in life the occupations that suit him best, and there is certainly something to be said for keeping a large assortment of interests open. It is a great disadvantage even to a budding golfer if he is not encouraged to practise the game until entrance to a large university provides him with the facilities; and the conversion of the squash courts in the Science Block into five courts many years ago deprived most Westminsters of all knowledge of one of the most enjoyable of games—the sort of game which may well appeal to the boy who loathes the common run of organized sports.

What is true of sport is true also of the school's cultural activities. It is usually at school that the musician first concentrates seriously on music, the artist on art, the actor on acting. There are facilities for relatively serious practice in these and several other fields on Wednesday afternoons; but the fact that a great many boys are passionately keen on none of these activities enforces an unpleasantly short timetable on those who are interested in more than one of them, and would like to sample them all fully while they have the chance.

The problem of time is insoluble, and this fact in itself has its consolations. The problem might even be welcomed as a sign that the school facilities are being used in the best possible way. For it is not a difficulty that is imposed from above, but rather one that is produced by the strong wills and preferences of the boys themselves. And the habit of fitting one's recreations into a timetable that is much too small for them is surely a very good training for life after one has left school.

A WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

HEAD MASTERS, ROOFS, AND FRENCHMEN

THREE Head Masters of Westminster were to be seen under one roof when the Rector Magnificus of Louvain University delivered the Burge Memorial Lecture up School. Such a thing may have happened before, for both Williamson and Liddell survived into the reign of the next-but-one Head Master; and for a short period between 1803 and 1808, when Markham (who had become Head Master in 1753) died, no less than six Head Masters could theoretically have assembled to exchange School gossip extending over half a century. But the chances are that the Dean of Gloucester, Mr. Christie and Mr. Hamilton were making history when they listened on November 14th to Mgr. van Waeyenburgh speaking, appropriately enough, on continuity and tradition. The chair was taken by the father of a Westminster, Sir Ernest Barker, and the vote of thanks was moved by an Old Westminster, the Bishop of Chichester.

There gathered in the Classical room of the library one week soon after the Exeat twelve of the more senior boys in the school. They were there to write the examination for Election to Christ Church, and they included in their number the last five survivors of the band of original colonists in Little Dean's Yard on Westminster's return from Herefordshire. Of the masters who took part in that historic landing only six are left, apart from Mr. Foster, who has guided Westminster music without a break since before the war. On the whole, the Election candidates who went up to Oxford for their interview that Saturday are said to have found the atmosphere at Christ Church the nearest contemporary approximation to that of Westminster in the good old days. Which, perhaps, is why they took the examination.

This term Ashburnham House is having its roof retiled. There was apprehension when the Election candidates were threatened by hammering that could fortunately be stopped, and when a sudden heavy fall of rain looked as if it was going to ruin the library ceiling. But now all seems well. It is likely, by the way, that expert evidence will soon appear concerning the real designer of Ashburnham House. That the real credit should not go to Inigo Jones is as certain as that the real credit for the building now inhabited by College and Wren's should not go to Sir Christopher Wren. What is yet to be decided is which of Jones's pupils it was who incorporated his master's designs in his own ideas some years after the famous architect's death, and whether the original designs covered more than occasional beadings and decorations.

To mark the occasion of the Royal visit to the school last term, Her Majesty the Queen has presented to the library the twelve volumes of E. M. Tenison's "*Elizabethan England*", a standard work which we did not possess.

Never before has a Head Master of Westminster gone to play the Wall Game at Eton, yet this happened in the middle of this term. The Head Master actually captained a team, a feat which he has been performing regularly since he left Eton, and played, we believe, with unflagging energy, protesting the while that this was undoubtedly his last Wall Game. The only regrettable feature of the whole afternoon was that his opponents won.

The news has leaked out, from reliable sources, we understand, that the Modern Languages Seventh has decided to take a holiday in Cannes next term for six weeks. This information has divided the School into two camps. There are those, conservative, who consider that such an experiment is undoubtedly the beginning of the end, and there are those, shall we say less conservative, who merely think that if the Modern Linguists are to do that sort of thing, could not some other such parallel activity be arranged, such as the classicists going to Rome, or the scientists spending a week-end with Professor Einstein. Dr. Sanger, through whose energies this expedition has been organized and who is actually going as well to Cannes, has firmly stated that the scheme is quite exclusive, and the only repercussions it will have on the rest of the school will be the arrival of the same number of French boys to take up the places the Modern Language Seventh have temporarily vacated. This has given rise to earnest disputes as to whether they can reside in College, unable as they are to wear gowns or be on the foundation of the Abbey, and therefore, as the purists would have it, unqualified to live between College's four walls.

PROFESSOR E. D. ADRIAN

PROFESSOR E. D. ADRIAN, O.M., has been elected President of the Royal Society. He is the first Old Westminster to gain this distinction since Sir Christopher Wren, who was the first President of the Society. Professor Adrian came to the School in 1903, and took up a non-resident scholarship in 1904, going on as an Exhibitioner and later as a scholar to Trinity College, Cambridge. He was awarded First Class Honours in Natural Science, and won the Baly Medal in 1929 and the Royal Medal of the Royal Society in 1934.



Photo : L. H. Burd.



Photos : J. G. F. Frazer.

MUSIC AT WESTMINSTER

STANFORD OR BEETHOVEN?

“WHAT is the point of going to the concert to hear a lot of people I have never seen before.” It would be unwise to say that this is the average view, but there is probably in the back of many people’s minds the thought that the Westminster School Augmented Choral and Orchestral Societies are not so much Westminster School as Augmented. Indeed many would hold that the school concert should only comprise members of the school, for if they were interested in the best performance they would get a far higher standard at professional concerts.

But if the school musical societies are not augmented, they immediately become so limited in scope that it is doubtful whether the sacrifice is worth while. For then works have to be chosen that are easy enough for the poorer players in the orchestra, and that will not show up the weaknesses of the choir. So Stanford’s *Songs of the Sea* are chosen, with one or two movements from an easy Mozart symphony, and the rest of the programme is filled up with a piece or two of chamber music or individual events.

It is not long, therefore, before the audience finds that it is continually having to make allowances, and begins to wonder whether these scrappy concerts are worth while. But where there is judicious augmentation the audience can enjoy the music at the same time as the social side of the school concert.

But all the arguments usually offered against augmentation seem to be from the side of the audience. But what is the real purpose of music at Westminster? It is surely to give boys who have any music in them whatever a real musical education, and to introduce them to some of the great works that have been written—works which otherwise they would never know. The concert is really an accident. It would be unwise to say that the performers do not do their best to please the audience, but it must always be remembered that the musical societies are primarily for the benefit of the boys. And here it is that augmentation becomes so vitally necessary. For with an augmented orchestra and choir some of the greatest works can be learnt and loved by those who play and sing them. For the best way to learn to appreciate music is to know it. When we realize that this term part of Schumann’s *Piano Concerto* and Beethoven’s first *Symphony* will be played, while the choir has performed such works as Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater* of *The St. Matthew Passion*, can it really be to anyone’s advantage to have merely a skeleton orchestra and choir?

But it must also be considered to what extent and in what places the societies must be increased. The orchestra alone, counting boys alone, comprises four violins, one viola, one cello, two flutes, four clarinets, one oboe, one horn, one trumpet, one timpani, and two percussion. This is rather a meagre assembly, and it is clear that the string section has to be increased a great deal to make it balance at all. And then, as is usual in all orchestras, the brass is probably the greatest problem, as the instruments are extremely difficult to play, and a bad brass player is apt to cause havoc in an otherwise good orchestra.

In the case of the choir there are the same difficulties. There are at the moment twenty three basses, although it is doubtful whether all of these sing: there are seventeen tenors, a relatively large number, but there are only fourteen altos and nine trebles. Quite a few sopranos and altos are needed therefore, especially as very few boys have done any singing before they came to this school which means that they are not confident enough to sing either loudly or well.

How, then, are we to conclude this rather baleful summing up on music in the School? If we are the audience we tend to deprecate it. But if we are in the choir or the orchestra, what then? The whole argument here is “Art for art’s sake.” Either we adhere to the existing arrangement or else we attempt to produce good music with lamentable results, since with our limited resources not much else can happen, or else finally we abandon all hope of Art, and sink back to the low level of singing pretty but conventional nursery-rhymes. Can there be any doubt which course to pursue?

Mr. Foster, who has so ably managed the School’s music in the past, and who will, we sincerely hope, continue to manage it in the lean years that appear to be approaching, has taken the right course. We continue to do advanced and difficult works, which give large scope to the musical ability of the whole School, let alone the performers themselves. Let us therefore continue in this direction, and continue to produce the high standard of music in the School.

There are two corrections to be made of mistakes in the November issue of the *Elizabethan*.

John Funnell, in the article on School Maintenance Staff, was accredited with only 18 years at the school, instead of the 29 that he has actually been here. He came in 1921.

In the Old Westminster obituary, R. N. R. Blaker was said to have been captain of Oxford at football. He was in fact Captain of Cambridge.

A NEW WESTMINSTER MANUSCRIPT

IN the year 1942 the University of Leeds received from the late Mr. J. M. Spencer-Stanhope, of Cannon Hall, Yorkshire, with other manuscripts, the cash book kept by John Smith (K.S. 1780), as an Usher at the School from 4th October, 1788, to 15th December, 1802.

By the kindness of Dr. Ofor, the University Librarian, whom Westminster of the years 1915-1919 will remember as a master at the School, an opportunity has been given of examining the book and transcribing so much of it as is material.

The book records in respect of each payment the date on which and the person by whom it was made, and in most cases the place of payment, the name of the boy on whose account the money was paid, and the nature and amount of the payment.

The importance of the book lies in the fact that it nearly covers the period from September 1788 to 1805, when the Admission Books are missing, and that to bridge this gap there have been available hitherto only six School lists, Dec. 1788, Dec. 1795, Feb. 1797, Oct. 1801, and May and October, 1803, a Grantite house list for March 1797, and two form lists.

It was not, of course, to be hoped that the cash book of a single Usher would supply all the names missing over a period of some seventeen years, but Smith's position in the School caused him to record payments from more boys than might, at first, have been expected, as for nearly half of the time he was Usher of the Third, the largest form in the School, and the one through which most of the boys would pass, and during more than half the period he was House Usher of Clapham's, one of the large boarding houses.

He started as Usher of the First and Petty forms, taking them over from Thomas Watson Ward, and appears to have removed at Midsummer 1789 to the Second, perhaps taking over from James William Dodd. In 1796, apparently about Michaelmas, he left the Second for the Third; he was still Usher of the Third when the book closes.

He succeeded Debary as Boarding House Usher up Severne's about Whitsuntide 1789, and became Usher up Clapham's at Whitsuntide 1791, in succession to either Debary or Des Carrieres. Neither Severne nor Des Carrieres appear in the List of Ushers etc. in *The Record of Old Westminster*. Severne's House seems to have had only seven boys.

Smith's income was derived from two main sources, the payments he received from the School and those he received from the boys. The pay-

ments from the School were two, a salary of twenty guineas a year, and an allowance of £20 a year for his board. From the boys he received payments of several kinds: the principal was for private tuition at the rate of ten guineas a year, though three boys—Browne (at present unidentified), J. W. Allen (afterwards the 6th Viscount), and John Vane paid twenty guineas; in addition he seems to have received a guinea from each boy who, on entering the School, was placed in his form, and a guinea from each boy who was in his form at Christmas: from the boys in the Boarding House he had a guinea when a boy entered the house and a guinea from each boy in the house at Christmas. In a few cases he was paid by or for a boy "for being placed" or "Placing", where the boy does not appear to have been placed in Smith's form; it seems probable that this was for conducting something in the nature of an entrance examination. Occasionally a parent paid a gratuitous guinea or half-guinea.

The only other receipt recorded is a payment by Ginger, the School bookseller, for correcting the proofs of a Latin grammar.

In a large number of cases Smith records the full name of a boy entering his form or the Boarding House, particularly when other boys of the same surname were already at School, so that in addition to recovering the names of some boys entirely new, it has been possible to supply full names of a number of boys appearing in *The Record* with surnames only. In many cases where *The Record* describes a boy as "at School under Vincent" it has been possible to fix a definite date.

A first examination of the analysis cards prepared from the entries in the book, about 1,300 separate payments, has not so far disclosed any names of outstanding importance, but it is pleasant to be able to add Thomas James, 4th Baron Rodney, Thomas Read Kemp, who gave his name to Kemptown, Brighton, a new Hotham, and a new Chicheley-Plowden, and to identify—Plowden. Capt. Sir Peter Parker, Bart., R.N., already known as an O.W. from another source, also appears in the book.

To summarize, the book has provided some ninety new names, a proportion of which have surnames only, full names have been provided for about forty names hitherto known with surnames only, and additional information has been obtained for about another two hundred and seventy.

J. B. W.

THE SCHOOL BOATHOUSE

A ROWLANDSON SKETCH



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WHEN the coat of arms on the front of the School Boathouse was removed last term, the name CLASPER in faded Victorian capitals was revealed behind it. It was a reminder that the Boathouse, antiquated as most watermen consider it, has been the property of the School for a comparatively short period, for it was acquired only in 1922, largely through the efforts of Dr. Costley-White and Mr. L. F. Tanner, who was then Secretary of the Elizabethan Club. Eighty years earlier, when the great boat-building family of Clasper had been acquiring fame as the pioneers of the sliding-seat, the School boats were housed at Roberts's boathouse which stood above Westminster Bridge on the Surrey shore where St. Thomas's Hospital now stands. The Roberts family had been boatbuilders to the School from the eighteenth century and the best known of them had been Dicky Roberts who, in the words of George Colman, "was always ready to provide a capital chance of drowning by letting out sailing wherries, punch-bowls, funnies and other aquatic vehicles, calculated to convert horizontal into perpendicular motion

and to send young gentlemen to the bottom of the river instead of carrying them forward on the surface." When he died in 1816 tribute to his memory was paid in a graceful epigram, beginning

"Ergo abiit, quem vos regem meministis aquarum,
Antiquo dictus nomine Dicky Roberts."

and ending

"At nos per Stygium posthac quoque transvehat
annem,
Et gratis noster fiat, ut ante, Charon."

In 1852 Roberts's boathouse was abandoned in favour of Searles' which was nearer Westminster Bridge, but Searles' boathouse, which appears above in a pleasant sketch by Thomas Rowlandson, which was recently exhibited at the New Burlington Galleries, did not remain the School's boathouse for many years. The increase in fast river traffic and the building of the Thames Embankment (begun in 1864), which considerably altered the scour of the river and the strength of the tides, were between them making rowing at Westminster almost impossible, and the final blow came in 1866 when Searles' was pulled down to make way for St. Thomas's Hospital.

DRAMATICS AT WESTMINSTER 1930-50

FROM "HAMLET" TO "DICK
WHITTINGTON"

DURING the past twenty years thirty-five plays, one variety show, one ballet, one puppet show and one pantomime have been produced by Westminster. That is no mean achievement especially when it is remembered that for eight of those twenty years the Latin Play was being produced as well, and this naturally had to take pride of place. Briefly the dramatic history of the past twenty years can be divided into three periods. First there is what might be called The Westminster Theatre Era, which is notable for the fact that two house plays were produced at the Westminster Theatre at that time in the ownership of Mr. A. B. Horne (O.W.). Then there followed the years of the Bromyard-College Hall alliance during which time Shakespeare reigned supreme—no less than six of his plays being produced between the years of 1942 and 1944. Finally there is the "pain in the seat, crick in the neck" period, thus called because these are the inevitable attributes of watching a play up School, where all dramatic performances, with two exceptions, have taken place since the war.

If it is permissible to be like Hamlet's crab and go backwards it might not be altogether foolish to start with the "pain in the seat, crick in the neck" era, which is after all the freshest in our memories. The first play to be produced after the school's return to London was "*Julius Caesar*". It was performed by College in the Mary Sumner Hall at the end of Lent Term 1946; and it is perhaps kinder to say no more than that. The next house to take the plunge was Grant's whose "*Ambrose Applejohn*" (produced by J. A. Davidson) was a great success. That was in June 1946. For the next two years there was a lull in dramatic activity—possibly because the price of hiring halls had risen steeply since before the war and the school had of course no hall of its own. But when School was once again protected from the elements by its aluminium roof, that difficulty ceased to exist, and "play-acting" once again began to have its part in Westminster life.

The honour of producing the first play up School since 1939 belongs to O. Kerensky whose production of "*Everyman*" (Good Friday 1948) won the highest praise from even the keenest of critics. It was also about this time that a Dramatic Society came into existence. This used to rehearse on Wednesday afternoons and under the guidance of Mr. Lushington it produced two plays before it met an untimely death. These two plays were "*Androcles And The Lion*" and "*The Importance Of Being Earnest*." Both reflected very

creditably upon Producer and actors—most of whom were treading the boards for the first time in their lives. The puppet show, which has already been mentioned, was organised by F. D. Bateson and the late P. Webb. It took place up School in Election Term 1948 and proved highly entertaining. It should perhaps be made clear that this was no Southend Sands Punch and Judy but rather a Puppet Opera in the best "highbrow" tradition.

The School Play of 1949 was a disappointment in spite of impeccable stage management. Somehow Tobias never came to life and the Angel—imposing as he was—did not suggest for one moment that he came from another world. On the last night of that same Lent Term Busby's presented "*The Blind Goddess*", Sir Patrick Hasting's legal melodrama bulging with perjury and blackmail. It was a production with many faults—the actors were very inexperienced and the walls of the set wobbled in the most terrifying manner—but nevertheless the enthusiasm and attack which was put into it ensured the favourable reception which it received. It certainly succeeded far and away beyond its organisers' wildest hopes; indeed they were so encouraged that they wasted no time in producing a successor, "*Laburnum Grove*", which was performed up School in December, 1949. This was as polished a production as anyone could wish for and it more than fulfilled the promise of its predecessor. It should perhaps be mentioned that the Stage Manager of these two plays (V. Herbert) is now a student at the Old Vic School of Stage Management. Of "*Hamlet*", last year's School Production, it is necessary to write little. Most will have read the notice of it which appeared in these columns a short time ago and which summarised the feelings of nearly everybody who saw it. The part of Hamlet was played by P. C. Petrie (who had previously appeared as Raphael in "*Tobias And The Angel*" and as Algernon Moncrieff in "*The Importance Of Being Earnest*") and his was the type of performance which humbler and less talented actors, like the present writer, dream of one day giving themselves.

That any one boy should play Macbeth, Hamlet and Lear within the space of less than two years is well nigh incredible. Yet that is what L. G. Hunt did between the years 1942 and 1943. The last two of these productions were brought up from Bromyard to College Hall where they were performed on a make-shift stage made up of the famous "Armada tables". L. G. Hunt

was the star actor of the Westminster-at-Bromyard company which consisted of members of Busby's, Ashburnham and Homeboarders. The company's producer was Mr. Fisher, who easily holds the record for play production—having been responsible for no less than ten plays in the last eleven years. The Westminster-at-Bromyard company was not, however, without a rival. Two miles away were the Westminster-at-Whitbourne Players who also produced three Shakespeare plays during the years of exile. These were "Richard II", "King Henry IV (Part Two)" and "The Tempest". Each of these was performed in a building which went under the delightfully attractive name of "Whitbourne Ex-servicemen's Hut", but "King Henry IV" was also brought to College Hall and was thus performed nearer than it had ever been before to the place where Henry IV actually died—Jerusalem Chamber.

It was while the school was at Lancing that Busby's presented "Dick Whittington", the only pantomime in the school's history. It was written (more or less as it went along) by Mr. Carleton, produced by Mr. Fisher, and the part of the Lord Mayor of London was played by a present member of the Staff who was then a boy at the school. From all accounts it was a triumphant and resounding success. Also performed at Lancing was Busby's production of "The School For Scandal" with the "Lord Mayor of London" playing the part of Sir Peter Teazle and with pictures of the Teazle family, painted by the recently elected M.P. for South-East Bristol, adorning the walls of the set. The next stop in the school's wanderings was Exeter and it was here that the variety show, entitled "Go To It!", took place. Its producer and compère was M. H. Flanders who had previously produced a curtain raiser to the Lancing Pantomime. Such was its success that it was brought to London and performed in the Moreland Hall, Hampstead, and the Rudolf Steiner Hall, Baker Street, during the blitz of 1940-41.

Whatever ravages the evacuation may have wrought upon the school, it certainly did much for school dramatics. The plain truth was that in Herefordshire there was so little else to do that "Let's do a play" was always a wildly popular suggestion. The years 1935-39 stand out in sharp contrast to those of the evacuation. During this period only one dramatic performance (leaving aside the Latin Play) was given. That was a combined effort by Busby's and Grant's who provided an evening's entertainment in 1939 by each producing a one-act play up School. Incidentally this was the first time that a play had been presented up School for a great many years. All the plays of the early 'thirties were performed

in hired halls—tickets being sold to cover the expense.

At the moment the "play-acting" house is Busby's. Before the war it was Homeboarders, who presented five plays between 1931 and 1935. The leading light in these productions, or at least in the first three, was J. C. H. Cherry, the President of the O.U.B.C., who was killed in the war. As his business manager he had C. F. Byers, whose administrative gifts are now employed in presiding over the chequered fortunes of the Liberal Party. A leading actor in the company was Peter Copley—his Dancy in Galsworthy's "Loyalties" receiving a somewhat uncomplimentary notice in *The Elizabethan*. Copley was also a member of the school fencing team, and so perhaps Westminster may take some credit for his much praised foil work in the Old Vic's recent production of "Hamlet", in which he played the part of Laertes. The producer of these Homeboarders plays was Mr. Esmond Knight (O.W.) and to him must go much of the credit for their extraordinary success. In his autobiography, entitled "Seeking The Bubble," Mr. Esmond Knight (who is now appearing in "Who Is Sylvia?" at The Criterion Theatre) tells an altogether delightful story about his first attempted entrance—or was it gate-crash?—into the theatre world which he made while at Westminster. It is too long a story to be told here but it is far too funny to miss and we would most earnestly recommend it—and indeed the whole book—to all our readers.

At about the same time as Homeboarders, Rigaud's were also producing plays—though perhaps with not quite the same success. On one occasion they had the services of a member of the Collegiate Body, the Rev. C. Hildyard, as producer. That was in "The Fourth Wall" in 1934. The Elizabethan's reviewer of this production tells a story about an incident which occurred at one performance. Somehow or other a siphon which was meant to sound failed to do so. To cover the omission one of the actors with magnificent presence of mind made up some moderately sensible remark. Unfortunately he was playing his part with an assumed voice and in the anxiety of the moment he quite understandably forgot this. His natural voice rang out true and clear through the hall to the accompaniment of gales of laughter.

At last we come to the ballet—how many other schools, we wonder, have ever done anything so daring? It was produced up School on July 6th and 8th 1931, but only after it had weathered a storm of protest from Old Westminsters and masters. There were many who considered the whole idea to be ridiculous and disgusting—"lot of little boys kicking their legs up in the air, never

heard such nonsense". But the production had four stout defenders in Mr. C. H. Taylor (the master-in-charge of cricket and football who is now a master at Eton), in Mr. Burd (its Business Manager), in Mr. H. S. Williamson (the art master of the day who produced it), and in the Head Master. It was altogether a most strange combination—somehow one does not imagine that the master-in-charge of football would have any interest at all in so sophisticated an art as ballet. Nor would one expect to find the 1st XI goalkeeper dancing one of the principal rôles, but he did! On so controversial a production as this was, it is not easy to find an impartial verdict. Perhaps however, a review in "*The Observer*" may be considered to be above suspicion. That was altogether complimentary and it seems safe to say the ballet was a definite success.

Westminster has perhaps more distinguished sons on the stage than in any other profession. John Gielgud, Peter Ustinov, Jack Hulbert,

Michael Shepley, Esmond Knight, Peter Copley and Sir Kenneth Barnes—"there's glory for you". Yet the remarkable thing is that none of them, apart from Peter Copley, did any acting at all during their time at Westminster. They may well have longed to do so—Mr. Esmond Knight surely must have done—but never had the opportunity, for until 1930 it was rare indeed for an English play to be produced by Westminster and the Latin Play was of course a "closed shop" to Town Boys. It is perhaps surprising that not one of Westminster's famous actors of this generation should have been in College—although Mr. John Gielgud was, it is true, a non-resident King's Scholar up Grant's. If Westminster could produce giants like these without making any conscious effort, what will she not be able to do now that dramatics play such a large and vital part in her life? In ten years time we shall expect half the names that go up in lights in the West End to be those of Old Westminsters.

REVIEW

THE FIRST FAMILY

A diary of the Royal year, kept by L. A. NICKOLLS.
Macdonald, 8s. 6d.

WE at Westminster feel we know the King personally since his visit to us last term, and consequently tend to feel suspicious when a book about him is produced by a Court Correspondent. But the author of *The First Family* soon dispels our doubts when we see that he shares our deep respect for our Sovereign, and that he does not surrender to the widespread demand for cheap news, which sometimes overcomes the consciences of even the best journalists. This book places Their Majesties in just that human and personal light in which we have learnt to love them, and we feel more and more as we advance in it that the King is "our King," and the Queen "our Queen." It is in the form of a diary, being a day-to-day record of the year's Royal functions, though it has been touched up after the events by the pen of a ready writer, who has devoted considerable attention to the impression he wishes to give his public. But the line he takes is not disturbing, for it converts what would at best have been only an amazing record of Royal devotion to duty, if it had been left as a chronicle, into a vivid and sympathetic interpretation of the motives and feelings which have determined the actions the world has seen.

Naturally enough, the entries of most interest to a Westminster are those connected with the School. Full justice has been done to the Royal Visit of June 6th, and an excellent account,

garnished with two photographs from *The Times*, delights our eyes. A reasonably accurate translation of the Captain's speech on that occasion has thoughtfully been provided, and this is perhaps the first opportunity for those who are not classicists to discover the nature of the remarks then made on their behalf. The Abbey, too, is given full attention: most of the services which Their Majesties attended during the year are described, and the familiar faces of the Chapter greet us from many well-taken photographs.

In fact, the general presentation of this book is of a very high standard for the price. The photography is particularly good, and the pictures are set out most attractively. If one has a complaint at all, it is perhaps that Mr. Nickolls adds only a little detail and only a little personal colouring to the broad outlines of a picture we all know very well: an assiduous reader of the London dailies might by now have cultivated that fine appreciation of Royal merit, of which he has set out to sow the seed. But *The First Family* has done for Royal literature rather what the *Golden Treasury* did for our national poetry: it has collected and stored some of the finest blossoms of its subject, and has added to them a flavour of its own. It is decidedly a book which will appeal to anyone who is interested in what goes on as a background to the splendid pageantry of Their Majesties' life.

THE BUSBY'S PLAY

PEACE IN OUR TIME

BUSBY'S can always be relied on to produce a House Play of a very high standard, and your critic accordingly attended on Thursday evening in a mood of genial patronage, which was intended to overlook minor blemishes in the performance with a magnanimous tolerance. He expected first-class acting from the hardened core of old staggers, and competent attempts at the secondary parts from those whose names were appearing on a programme for the first time. In short, he was present because he felt that Busby's Play is an excellent institution, which should be encouraged wholeheartedly.

The unusual feature of "Peace in our Time" was that the cast formed a co-ordinated unit: it acted as a team throughout. Rehearsals had obviously been conducted with great thoroughness, and the actors were consequently quite accustomed to one another, so much so that where it was necessary they were able to show complete indifference on the stage to those whom they see every day up House. This meant that the merit of individual performances was obscured by the sum effect of a scene, and we could forget that the publican had once been Polonius, or that his daughter had never acted before at all. The new-found talent of the Queen of Denmark for radio announcing did not overshadow the ability of Gestapo officials in looking human in their first part on the stage.

The play itself, of course, had been well chosen. There are plenty of parts in it to suit every talent. M. B. Rose was able to give full vent to hitherto repressed plebeian instincts; J. F. Town brought a superbly gin-soaked voice to the part of a cabaret artiste; S. H. Baynes produced a fawning and side-whiskered intellectualism which was exactly suited to the part of Chorley Bannister; R. K. Franklin as Janet Braid justified her renown for caustic irony. All the German characters had an accent of some kind, but R. M. Barker and R. A. C. Norrington achieved this without any of the conscious giving which is so difficult to resist.

The real stumbling block in a House production is the playing of women's parts. In "Peace in our Time" there are no less than nine of these, as was seen from the programme, and this caused some consternation in the audience before the play began. The difficulty is not only to talk like a woman, but to look the part, and most of all to act it. The Busby's actors surmounted the first two obstacles triumphantly, the first by their own talent and the second thanks to the generosity of parents and friends of the School, who provided some

excellent dresses, and to some ingenious work in the make-up department by Mr. Lushington. The third obstacle was not so easily conquered: only Franklin and Town were really convincing actors, though C. Strachey endeared his Mrs. Massiter to us, and C. S. E. Long made a deliciously doleful Nora.

Among the men, A. M. Howard was as elderly as usual, and held the cast together from behind the beer-pulls. O. F. Pigott and G. A. D. Seward had easier parts, and made the most of them, while J. Kay-Mouat's George Bourne was not noticeably different from J. Kay-Mouat. Comedy was superbly achieved by Rose as Alfie Blake, with M. Bluff as an admirable sparring partner.

To back up the main parts, there was a supporting cast composed largely of spivs and radio announcers: one can make a guess at the future careers of many Busbites, to judge by the enthusiasm to obtain these parts which was shown during setting-up. Behind the scenes excellent work had been done by K. Carmichael and his helpers, and the result was a very competently constructed set. To convince the audience that this really was a pub, Watney's advertisements were scattered liberally on the walls, and austerity conditions had not been allowed to limit the number of bottles behind the bar. Sound-effects were well managed with the help of apparatus lent by Easco Ltd., and in general the Stage Staff showed themselves quite capable of continuing the high standard of past years.

In fact, one's only complaint is perhaps that the whole play moved a little slowly: this may be due to poor timing of entries and picking up of cues, or just to insufficient acquaintance with the script. The result was that climaxes were a little less tense than they might have been (with one exception, in the first scene of the second act, when Mrs. Braid has a triumphant victory over Chorley Bannister), and consequently the play sagged a little in the middle.

It would, however, be unfair to allow this consideration to alter one's good opinion of the performance as a whole: the Play Term is always a busy one at Westminster, and boys cannot be expected to sacrifice all their spare time to the learning of a big part in a House Play.



In the last published list acknowledging the receipt of gifts to the Goldsmith's Fund, the receipt of £5.0.0 was acknowledged as a further gift from Henry Leslie Geare, Esq., whereas it was a gift from his son, Major J. D. W. Geare.

THE POLITICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY

FIVE meetings were arranged for the Political and Literary Society this term, of which four have so far been held. All four talks, curiously enough for this society, had some slight connection with either literature or politics, though the speakers might not have admitted it. The fifth, to be given by Miss Kathleen Raine, will be about William Blake as a poet.

On Friday, October 20th, the Head Master read a lively paper on Cambridge in the Eighteenth Century. Perhaps it was inevitable as well as appropriate that he did not lay greatest stress on any academic work performed at Cambridge in this period. But of the conditions that precluded the accomplishment of that work he gave us so adequate and clear a picture that it was difficult to imagine how even the Cambridge of our own day could produce the scholars she had.

The next two speakers spoke on more practical affairs. Mr. George Wansbrough gave, on November 10th, an illuminating and authoritative analysis of the conditions which induced men to work happily and effectively, and prompted a good stream of concrete examples and outspoken criticisms in the discussion afterwards. Mr. George Schwartz of the "Sunday Times" drove home the point a few days later that life to-day was no better than life under Victorian "capitalism";

one felt perhaps that his vigorous talk on "The Bad Old Days" would have been more effective if it had been given to an audience of Socialist Cabinet Ministers, but we trust we shall not now fall into their error of a blind appeal to past injustice as the chief lesson of history.

On November 27th there was held one of the most absorbing and stimulating of all our meetings, when Mr. I. J. Pitman, M.P., spoke on "The English Language". He pointed out that there were really at least four different English languages, those of speaking, hearing, writing and reading, which were hardly connected except by the ideas expressed by them. The adoption of a less arbitrary spelling system would lessen the differences between these languages, and would simplify the process of learning to read and write, just as the use of Basic English, which was founded on simple international concepts, simplified the process of learning the English language as a whole. Shorthand was designed for swift writing at the expense of difficult reading; printing for swift reading at the expense of laborious preparation. The discussion that followed Mr. Pitman's talk touched on all these means of communication, and the willingness and agility with which he answered our diverse questions then and after the meeting won admiration from all present.

THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

A MEETING was held on Friday, 10th November, that showed that German holds out as much attraction as French, for there was a large gathering of members and non-members to hear Herr Gerhard Heinz and Frau Marianne Walla of the German department of the B.B.C. give some very impressive poetry readings. A well chosen programme included poems by Goethe, Heine, Dehmel, and Liliencron and extracts from Goethe's *Faust*, for which Dr. H. F. Garten gave a commentary in English. Though the poems were read with understanding and clarity, it was generally felt that the actors showed their full talent in their rendering of *Faust*.

Madame Iza Reiner of the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées paid a second visit to the Society on Friday, 24th November. The programme chosen was varied, ranging from Racine to Victor Hugo, and showed to the full the versatility of this great artist. She began with a spirited rendering of three of La Fontaine's fables and continued with a rather over-dramatized interpretation of Alfred de Vigny's *Moïse*. The climax of the evening

came when she acted with great feeling two scenes from Racine's *Andromaque* and then ending on a lighter note she performed an extract from Alfred de Musset's *on ne badine pas avec l'amour*.

The Society's affiliation to the French Institute and the Franco-British Society has done much to broaden the scope of its meetings, for the plays at the French Institute are very popular and have always been of a high standard. This term members have attended performances of one-act plays by a Belgian company and also a production of *Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon* given by the Pamela Stirling Company.

To mark the inauguration of the Anglo-German Institute, a German student company called die Amnestierten, produced a cabaret, which was attended by five members of the Society.

Next term, however, the Society's activities will have to be considerably restricted for the majority of members will be enjoying the glories of Cannes for six weeks.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

DURING the past six weeks the Society has launched attacks upon two institutions which may well be considered to be part and parcel of school life—boxing and punishment. Boxing, your scribe is pleased and proud to say, was condemned by nineteen votes to ten. On the second occasion, however, the Society was not so enlightened and punishment gained its acquittal by the narrow margin of three votes. Both these debates were well attended by members and non-members alike—the latter, it ought perhaps to be made clear, had more than a little to do with the remarkably large vote that was recorded against punishment. It is also refreshing to report that the standard of speaking does appear to have improved since last year, and most members are now capable of fluency. But at the end of the term all our most talented speakers, with lament-

able lack of consideration, are departing, and the Society will once again resemble Ichabod.

Our annual fixture with the St. Paul's Union was held on November 30th at Westminster. The motion was "That Columbus went too far". This was proposed by two speakers from St. Paul's and opposed by N. Lawson and S. B. Sylvester. It was a lively and entertaining debate notable for the twentieth century wit of S. B. Sylvester and the classical eloquence of A. B. Swift, the President of the St. Paul's Union. When a vote came to be taken it was found, after much counting of hands, that the figures were exactly equal at twenty-two all. The Chairman was then called upon to exercise his casting vote, which he did, deciding that America was after all not "a good thing."

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

THE introduction of new equipment and the widening of its activities have especially marked this term for the Photographic Society. It is hoped that the notable photographers who have arranged to give lectures will not only improve our productions but also foster a more general interest throughout the School. On the technical side the new enlarger is a great improvement on its predecessor and has shown itself a great asset.

As Mr. Herdson had unfortunately to cancel his lecture arranged for Monday, October 30th, Mr. Herbert, the well-known amateur photo-

grapher, was kind enough to take his place. His witty and informative talk was illustrated with some of his own prints.

A fortnight later Mr. Stephen Tafler, one of the pioneers of the synchronised flash in England, gave a talk which he called "Flash and Eye." This was particularly enjoyed as he demonstrated his flash gun and allowed members to use his apparatus. The photograph which he took of the Society should not be taken too seriously.

At the end of term the Society is holding a small exhibition of its work.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE Society's first general meeting was addressed by W. F. Grimes Esq., Keeper of the London Museum. Mr. Grimes traced the development of scientific methods in archaeology and showed how from the gentleman's leisurely hobby the study grew to be an important instrument of historical research, and how the centre of interest shifted from the actual collectors' pieces to the facts which were supplied by their evidence. The value of a "find", he explained, depends not so much on the beauty or preservation of the specimen as on the novelty and importance of the information that it affords. He illustrated

with lantern slides the archaeological discoveries at the Charter house and the London Wall, and pointed out that but for modern scientific methods we should still have a totally incorrect picture of the original buildings. This was followed by a brief illustration of the value of distribution maps in two instances: Jadeite axes and Omphalos bowls; and so ended a talk which was in its scope and detail particularly valuable to the society, new formed as it is; thanks to Mr. Grimes' lecture and Mr. Keeley's energy the Society has had an excellent first term.

FOOTBALL

DISAPPOINTING SCHOOL RESULTS

THE results of the Club matches this term have been comparatively promising. Since our last issue the School has beaten the Old Bradfieldians by 3 goals to 1, on October 14th, lost a week later to the Old Reptonians 1—0, and beaten Westminster Hospital 4—0 on October 28th. The Metropolitan Police came up Fields on November 7th and were beaten 4—1, giving the 1st XI a total of four wins and two losses in Club matches to date.

The first School match of the season was played up Fields on October 31st against Victoria College, Jersey, when the 1st XI were beaten 1—4. The School took some time to settle down, and the first goal came against the run of the play. Westminster struggled up the field, and after some hard work just outside the penalty area, A. C. Hornsby found the corner of the goal with an opportunist shot. Instead of encouraging the forward line to higher things, this goal had the effect of reducing their speed and effort. Victoria College, although at first badly shaken, came back strongly, and before half-time their centre-forward, who was a remarkably fine player, had scored two goals. It would still have been possible to save the match, but Victoria College played their fast, long-passing game, cutting straight through the School's wavering defence. Their forwards' first-time passing was magnificent, and they soon pressed home two more goals. About ten minutes before the end, after a slight rearrangement of positions, the School started to play football again, but it was too late to avoid defeat.

On November 11th, the 1st XI was defeated by Aldenham in an altogether unsatisfactory match. The XI utterly failed to do justice to itself. The defence was very slow, and was caught right out of position on several occasions. In the very first minute, J. F. Wordsworth headed a goal against the School. It took half an hour for the XI to realize that this was a School match, and by then Aldenham were pressing hard. An equalising goal came from a hard centre from A. H. R. Martindale which P. J. Morley Jacob put into the net with professional ease. A bad piece of positional play by P. Makower resulted in a second easy goal for Aldenham. During the second half, Westminster had most of the play, but failed to finish well, and Aldenham scored yet another goal before the unsatisfactory game came to a belated end.

After the failure against Aldenham there was some reshuffling in the XI; the line-up against

Lancing on November 10th was: S. L. Henry; P. S. Houston, N. B. R. C. Peroni; G. R. Smith, L. E. Lowe, C. C. P. Williams; C. J. H. Davies, D. G. Higgins, P. J. Morley-Jacob, A. C. Hornsby, A. H. R. Martindale. Smith did his Captain's duty admirably, and won the toss. Williams scored the first goal with a fine shot from a pass back from Hornsby, and not long after Morley-Jacob scrambled in a goal from an oblique angle. Sporadic Lancing raids were effectively dealt with by the defence, and all through the match attacks were kept up on the Lancing goal, which had some lucky escapes, though Abrahams, the Lancing goalkeeper, played an excellent game. Westminster emerged from this match 2—0 winners.

On November 25th the School played Highgate away, and lost 1—4. At first Westminster appeared to be having the best of the game on a very heavy pitch; after about fifteen minutes of hard football a perfect pass from Smith let Martindale through to score from close range. But Highgate fought back, and before half-time Henry, the School goalkeeper, failed twice to hold the slippery ball; therefore the half-time score was 2—1 to Highgate. An unfortunate breakaway goal in the first minute of the second-half dashed any hopes of victory that the School may have cherished. The defence never settled down, and there was some muddled calling. Highgate played a game of quick, short passes, that could have been effectively checked by the long passes Westminster had so successfully employed against Lancing, but no impression was made on the Highgate defence, and the match was lost 1—4.

On 2nd December, Charterhouse came up Fields. The match was very even indeed: the first goal was scored for Charterhouse by J. W. H. May with a good shot from outside the area. However, Westminster stood up to the strain of growing pressure, and not long afterwards D. G. Higgins, from a swift attack, shot; the ball hit their left post, bounced across the goalmouth, and A. H. R. Martindale scored. After half-time the play continued very even, until C. C. P. Williams put in a high shot; P. J. Morley-Jacobs leaped to head the ball, unsighted their goalkeeper, and Westminster were 2—1 up. Charterhouse pressed harder, and eventually their right wing, A. J. Barclay, put in a hard cross-shot that hit our right post and bounced in. Both sides struggled hard until the whistle blew, but no further goals were scored, leaving a 2—2 draw, a very fair result, after one of the hardest and best games Fields has seen for many years.

2ND XI.

The 2nd XI have not been successful this term. After cancellation of the Old Bradfieldians match, they lost 0—7 to the Old Cholmelians on October 28th, and gained their only victory to date, 2—0, against a Bank of England XI on November 18th. On November 11th they lost 1—4 to Aldenham, away. Westminster immediately started to attack, and after a scramble in the goalmouth a lucky shot scored. Aldenham fought back hard, and equalized as the result of a defensive mistake. Aldenham's second goal was conceded by a Westminster defender from a corner. In the second half Westminster took the game under control, and the ball was in the Aldenham half most of the time; but Westminster could not, try as they might, put the ball into the net. Aldenham scored two further goals, partly because of bad defensive play, and partly because the School side was tiring. When the final whistle blew, the score was 4—1 to Aldenham.

On November 25th the 2nd XI lost, 0—1, to Highgate up Fields. The match was played in varying densities of fog, and the ball was greasy and difficult to control. Highgate's only goal came from a defensive muddle, rather than from a definite attack, and the whole game was very even, and rather slow.

THE COLTS

The Colts have also been disappointing this term. After a disastrous afternoon against Forest, who amassed no less than 11 goals to 1, they beat Ridgeways 1—0, away, on October 31st. Conditions were ideal, and the pitch larger than the Colts one up Fields. The Colts soon settled down and had most of the play during the first half, though Ridgeways actually came nearer to scoring. Playing uphill in the second half, the defence had some anxious moments, but in a good attack D. M. Jones centred well from a long pass from D. G. Crook, and A. F. Jackson scored. Westminster continued to attack, but failed to score again, while the defence dealt adequately with the Ridgeways attacks. On November 11th the Colts lost to Aldenham 0—3 up Fields. Aldenham had an excellent half-back line, who started many good movements. We were without our regular goalkeeper, and our right wing, but carried out some vigorous attacks. Aldenham's first goal came when the School goalkeeper failed to gather the ball; a determined attack from the throw-in gave them a second, scored by their centre-half. Westminster attacked throughout the second half without success, and a breakaway attack gave Aldenham their final goal. Against Highgate on November 25th, away, the Colts lost 1—3.

THE JUNIOR COLTS

The Junior Colts have made an excellent start to their season by winning all their matches—against Mercers, Forest and Aldenham. The goal totals—17 goals for, 5 against—show that the forwards are not afraid to shoot; they are in fact a lively line, with R. P. C. Hillyard as a fast and thrustful outside right, and J. S. Woodford an opportunist at centre forward. The defence has gained confidence with every match: K. G. Sandford, the captain, is a hard-working and strong-tackling right back, and places himself well, M. D. Garcia is a good attacking wing-half who also covers up well in defence; and E. S. Palmer in goal has played very safely. But it is not so much a side of stars as a workman-like team, which has settled down early in the term to play together. The best win was against Aldenham, when the whole side played fast, open football, and were always quicker on the ball than their opponents. In the tenth minute the School did well to score a goal, and another was added soon after. After that the play became more even, and Aldenham made several attacks on our goal, from one of which they scored. Their centre-forward, their most dangerous forward, was very closely guarded after that by J. O. Crosse, who played a sound game. In the second half we steadily wore our opponents down, and despite good goalkeeping, Hillyard scored twice, making his total three for the match. The final whistle went with Westminster strongly attacking the Aldenham goal.

THE UNDER 14 XI

On October 24th the Under 14 XI played an away match against Ridgeways. That their pitch was large and their players small was no small advantage. In the first half play was even. Though our forwards had more of the ball, they spoilt their chances by crowding and failing to keep position. The teams turned round with Westminster one goal up. In the second half, however, the team played together much better, and the forwards, playing good constructive football, scored no fewer than six goals. On November 11th Mercers came up Fields. The surface was slippery after a night's rain, and a greasy ball spoilt the game, which was dogged rather than skilful. Westminster went ahead early from a good shot by W. D. J. Turner, but Mercers equalized before half-time, after heavy pressure. In the second half play was even, and Westminster were a little lucky to score again, the ball slipping through the goalkeeper's fingers. On the whole, however, Westminster had the better of the game and deserved to win, though the final score of 3—1 was perhaps too large a measure.

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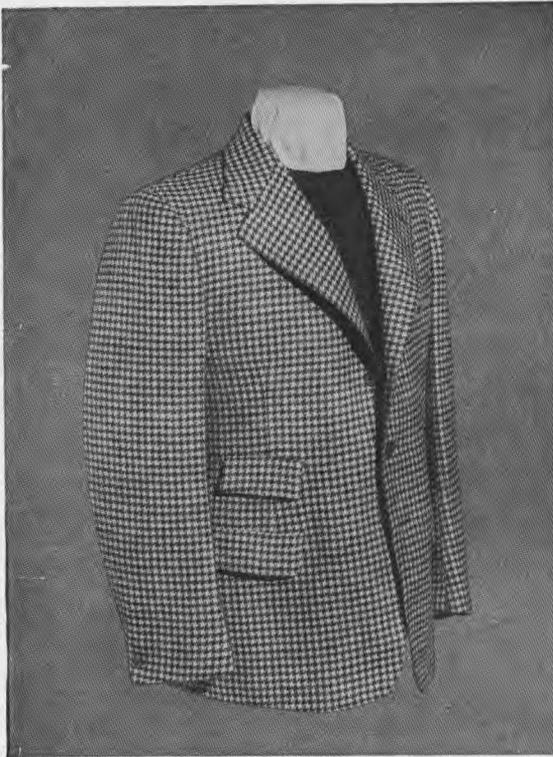
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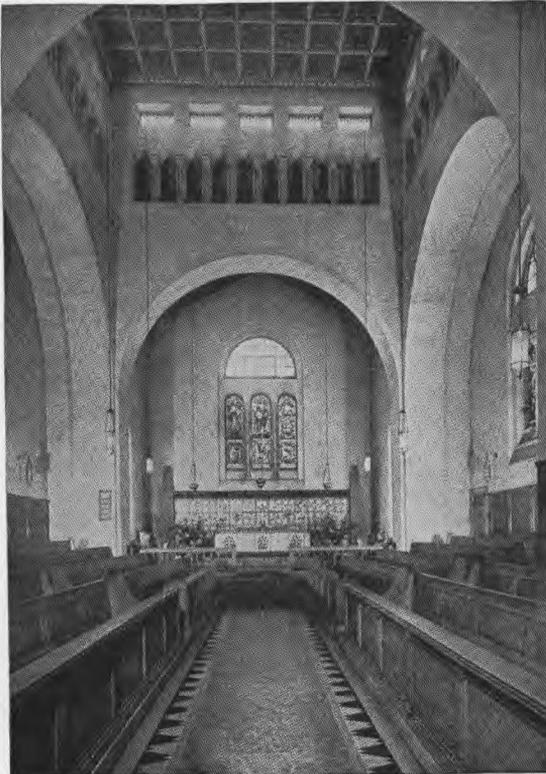
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FENCING

THE Fencing teams have had a far more successful season than was at first thought possible. After winning at Marlborough, as described in the last issue of the *Elizabethan*, they went on to beat Eton, Cambridge and Harrow, only succumbing finally to the Lansdowne Club after a gallant struggle. The Old Westminsters and Imperial College have yet to be fought at the time of going to press, and consequently we can show the proud record of four victories against one defeat.

There had been some doubt as to whether Eton were going to bring a team to Westminster on October 17th, but they arrived eventually, and showed that delay had in no way dulled their appetite for success, by winning the Foil straight away by five wins to four, and this in spite of Plummer's achievement in remaining undefeated. Their triumph in this weapon must be ascribed mainly to their effective use of the *fêche* attack, and secondly to the indisposition of Lee, who was unable to fight with his usual skill. Both schools are adept in the use of an *épée*, and an evenly fought contest resulted, after some original technique had been demonstrated by both sides, in a draw at 4 all. When we came to the Sabre, Eton startled us by winning three out of the first four assaults, and we were faced with the necessity of winning all the remaining fights, if we were to win the match. The team answered this challenge by showing something like their true form, and the fight between the opposing captains decided the result in our favour: we had won the match

by 14 wins to 12. A. Plummer was awarded Pinks for his performance in Foil and Sabre.

On the following Saturday, the team went to Cambridge, fortified by the knowledge that they could hardly do worse than their predecessors last year: a previous result of 6—21, though it affords little prospect of a victory is, encouragingly easy to better. The Cut-Throats raised a team approximately equal in strength to last year's, and so it was a great surprise to us when we won the Foil 6—3. Deservedly so, for the team fought well, especially J. L. Lee, who made devastating use of the time thrust, and won all his fights. The *Épée* was fought with electric apparatus (kindly provided by Cambridge) and this we won narrowly by five wins to four, after some good fencing—coming to the Sabre with three wins required for victory. In fact we scored four wins, but apparently our lack of experience in judging and presiding had flattered us: it is comforting to know that our inefficiency in this respect, though it had influenced the score, had made no difference to the result itself, which was in our favour by 15 wins to 12.

These two results, together with our 16—9 victory at Marlborough, our 17—1 walk-over at Harrow, and our respectable loss to the Lansdowne Club, after which Pinks were awarded to Lee, reflect great credit on Professors Erdelyi and Richards; it is to their hard work, and to greatly improved team spirit on the part of all fencers, that we owe the term's success.

THE WATER

ON November 27th a Westminster crew, which although it contained the three remaining Pinks cannot be said to represent the first eight, rowed City of London 1st VIII from the U.B.R. stone to the mile-post. A strong, cold headwind set up some very rough water; Westminster, on Middlesex station, decided that the best course lay close to the bank, to find calmer water, though losing the tide. Both crews got off the start fairly well, but City of London, rowing a far higher rate, seemed better able to cope with the difficult water, and soon led by about three-quarters of a length. They held this lead to Beverley Brook, but then Westminster found both the better water that had been expected and the advantages of the bend, and drawing level at the end of the fence went on to win by three-quarters of a length. City of London rowed a higher rate of striking throughout the race, and West-

minster showed very little life even in the spurts, but the conditions were so bad that it is hard to judge the crews' performance.

SHOOTING

SHOOTING has been taking place regularly this term, as the range in Ashburnham Garden is now lit and the firing point covered, and three eights have been practising. The 1st VIII has shot two matches so far this term; the first was at the beginning of term, against the Masters. The match was shot on tin-hat targets, and the School won by a handsome margin of 102, the score being 710 to 608. The second match was a postal one against St. Paul's School, under Country Life conditions, excluding the landscape target; we gained a lucky victory by 583—579. The 1st VIII has five more postal matches this term.

CORRESPONDENCE

SIRS,
A chance re-reading of the April *Elizabethan* prompts me to record that the Junior Debating Society has a history slightly longer than is generally known to present day Westminsters. Founded in the Play Term 1932, under the presidency of Mr. C. H. Taylor, it had a lively and (I believe) unbroken record of meetings until some time during the war. Rare among School Societies, it even boasted a printed constitution, of which there were at one time some hundreds of copies.

Finally, as you, Sir, indicate, it was provided by this same constitution that the last meeting of each term should be held at the house of one or another of its members. This "entertaining pre-war custom" certainly deserves its revival.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN GEFFEN.

SIRS,
As an Old Westminster may I dissociate myself from the sentiments of the writer of "The Latin Play". Westminster and other lesser places are founded on tradition, and if you are going to knock away our foundation stone, what will be left?

I hope that our support of our old school proves that we remain true to our traditions.

The suggestion that O.W.W. cannot afford white ties and tails is unworthy of the school's traditions.

At the School Ball, the Red Hat Ball and the House Gaudy I have found no lack of such articles, though for most of us they may smell of moth balls or Moss Bros.

Seriously, those O.W.W. who have had by choice to reside abroad, or, as in my case, among enemies, know how much self-respect and prestige depend on wearing the correct dress—and keeping up abroad the tradition, still accepted, that a Public School or a Varsity man is equal to the best they can produce themselves. Let's drop defeatist talk and keep our traditions, however much lesser breeds outside the law may scoff (and envy).

Yours sincerely,
A. F. H. LINDNER (O.W. 1907—12).

SIRS,
Where was the play held before Sir Christopher Wren built College? A distinguished O.W., who is an authority on matters of this kind, told me that it was held up School. If this is correct, one of the objections to the revival of the Play mentioned in the last editorial will disappear.

Yours, etc.,
A. S. R. HENDERSON.

OLD WESTMINSTERS

Lord Rea of Eskdale has been appointed Chief Whip to the Liberal Party.

Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn has been selected as Labour candidate for South-East Bristol on the resignation of Sir Stafford Cripps.

Dr. J. O. Aglionby is resigning the bishopric of Accra next April after twenty-six years as bishop of the diocese.

Captain M. Richmond has been appointed Naval Director, Joint Naval and R.A.F. Anti-Submarine School, Londonderry.

Mr. Douglas Jerrold's historical study, *England, Past, Present and Future*, was the Book Society's recommendation for October.

In Berlin, Mr. Peter Brook has won the highest praise as producer of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre company's performances of *Measure for Measure*.

Mr. Wallace Nicholls is the author of a new play, *The Boy from Egypt*, written for the Cornwall Religious Drama Society as part of the county's contribution to the Festival of Britain.

Captain A. E. Bloom has been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

The Rev. James Harrison was ordained priest by the Lord Bishop of Durham in Durham Cathedral on 1st October.

BIRTHS

BENNETT—On October 8th 1950 in London, to Ruth, wife of Francis Bennett, a daughter.

COLE—On July 22nd 1950 in London, to Nickie, wife of K. R. Cole, a daughter.

CORBOLD—On July 21st 1950 at Aldershot, to Edna, wife of Captain W. R. Corbould, the Seaforth Highlanders, a son.

CORRIE—On November 5th 1950 to Barbara, wife of J. A. G. Corrie, M.C., a daughter.

DAVIS—On October 9th 1950 in London, to Sheila, wife of Godfrey Davis, a son.

DOBREE—On October 30th 1950 at Penang, to Kathleen, wife of C. T. W. Dobree, a daughter.

GATES—On October 13th 1950 at Lincoln, to Catherine, wife of Major Lionel Gates, a son.

GIMSON—On November 13th 1950 in London, to Ann, wife of P. M. Gimson, a daughter.

HACKFORTH—On October 5th 1950 at Cuckfield, to Erica, wife of Captain G. A. P. Hackforth, D.S.O., a daughter.

HODGES—On November 8th 1950 at Kampala, Uganda, to Jocelyn, wife of J. R. B. Hodges, a daughter.

KNOX—On October 31st 1950 at Beaconsfield to Heather, wife of Lt.-Col. G. S. Knox, O.B.E., a son.

OLIVER-WATTS—On November 12th 1950 at Davyhulme, to Beryl, wife of George Oliver-Watts, a son.

STROTHER-STEWART—On September 28th 1950 at Ashleigh, Newcastle, to Irene, wife of C. R. Strother-Stewart, F.R.C.S.Ed., a son.

VERNON—On October 16th at Geneva, to Susanna, wife of J. A. Vernon, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

GIBBENS : MULLIS—on August 24th 1950 at Weston, Ontario, T. C. N. Gibbens to Patricia Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Mullis of Streatham, London.

HAYWARD : HOLDEN—On September 16th 1950 at Bournemouth, John Hayward to Ruth, daughter of the late Mr. E. C. Holden and Mrs. Royston Lee of Spencer Road, Bournemouth.

MAKOWER : WOOLF—On October 9th 1950 at the West London Synagogue, C. S. Makower to Helena, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. M. Woolf of Baldwins Hill, Loughton.

O'BRIEN : PREBBLE—On November 4th 1950 at Beckenham, C. M. O'Brien to Joy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Prebble of Beckenham.

ORBACH : DE CHARMANT—On October 27th 1950 at Geneva, J. L. L. Orbach to Marie, only daughter of M. Severin de Charmant of Geneva.

OBITUARY

ROBERT EDWARD ARCHIBALD UDNY-HAMILTON, eleventh Baron Belhaven and Stenton, died on October 26th at the age of 79. He entered Westminster as a Queen's Scholar in 1885 and three years later left to go to Sandhurst. He received a commission in the Royal Scots Fusiliers but soon transferred to the Indian Army, and saw active service with the Chitral Relief Force and in East Africa. From 1908 he was employed in the Indian Civil Service, but rejoined the colours in 1915 with the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. In 1918 he was made a C.I.E. Two years later, on the death of his uncle, he succeeded to the peerage of Belhaven and Stenton, and was elected a Representative Peer for Scotland. He added the name Udney when he inherited the estates of that family in 1934. By his marriage to Kathleen, daughter of Sir Benjamin Bromhead, he had a son, who succeeds to the peerage, and a daughter. By his second marriage in 1938 to Sheila, daughter of Captain Algernon Pearson, he had two daughters.

ERNEST STENSON COOKE was the son of the late Sir Stenson Cooke, for many years secretary of the Automobile Association. He was admitted in 1915, but left at the end of the following year and went to Sandhurst. Later he joined the Motor Union Insurance company, in which he became an Inspector. He married in 1924 Dorothy Mabel, daughter of Eduardo Zerega, and they had one daughter.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS PHILLIMORE, who died recently as the result of an accident at the age of 79, was a Westminster of the fourth generation, his great-grandfather, Joseph Phillimore, having left Westminster in 1768. He himself went up to Christ Church in 1890 and later became a clerk, first in the War Office and then in the Treasury. In 1903 he was appointed a director of Messrs. Coutts and Co., where he won deep affection for the

kindness and friendly interest which he displayed to all who were in need of help, and particularly to the young who were starting on a career. He married Alice, daughter of Col. W. H. Champion of Danny Hall, Sussex, where the School was later to receive generous hospitality in the days of its evacuation to Lancing and Hurstpierpoint.

We also record with regret the death at the age of 83 of ALASTER COLLA MCDONNELL, who after his retirement from the headmastership of Armagh Royal School, taught for a time at Westminster.

SIR METFORD WATKINS, known to his business friends as "Michael" and to his Westminster colleagues as "Watson," was even more remarkable for the variety of his talents than for that of his names. He came in 1922 as a Wrangler to take charge of the mathematics of the School, and as Captain of his college boat club to help with Water. His cheerful personality and his breadth of interest—there seemed scarcely a subject to which he could not contribute something worthy of consideration—won him immediate popularity and respect. After only four years he left to enter a business firm in London where he rapidly rose to a position of the highest responsibility. During the war he became Director General of Civilian Clothing and initiated the utility clothing scheme, and his success in its administration was rewarded with a knighthood in 1947. Among his other posts were membership of Sir Stafford Cripps' Working Party on the Pottery Industry, and since 1949, the Chairmanship of the Council of the Royal College of Art. His hobbies included dry-fly fishing and natural history. His death occurred in hospital last November at the age of 50.

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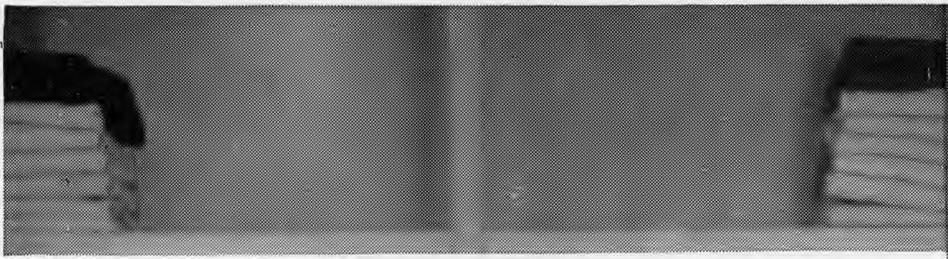
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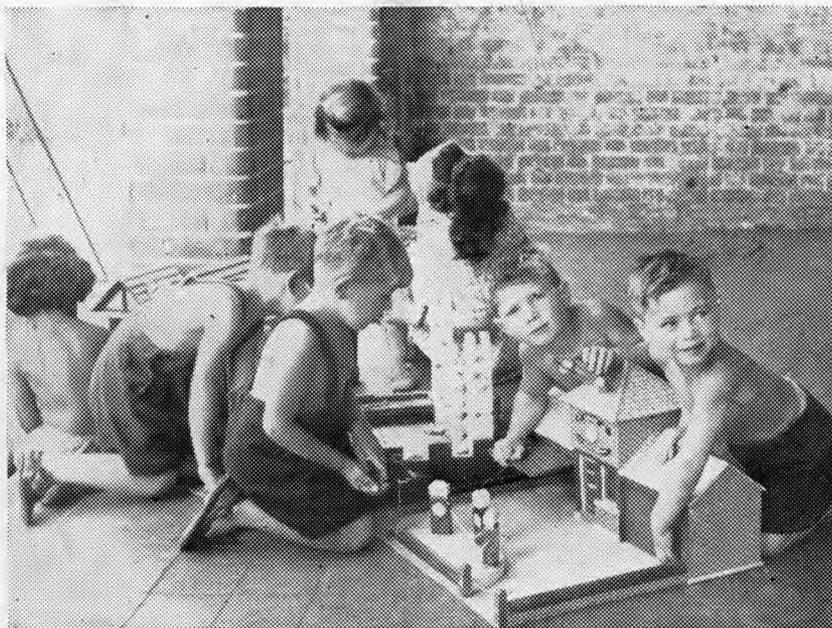
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