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THE ELIZABETHAN

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THE SCHOOL OFFICERS PLAY TERM 1951

School Monitors

J. PORTEOUS, Captain of the School, Captain of the K.S.S.
T. M. ROBINSON, Princeps Oppidanorum, Head of Wren's.
S. G. CROFT, Head of Grant's.
S. CRASKE, Head of Rigaud's.
A. M. HOWARD, Head of Busby's.
G. C. ROSS, Head of Ashburnham.
T. M. P. BENDIXSON, Head of the Water.
A. C. HORNSBY, Captain of Football.
C. J. H. DAVIES, Captain of Cricket.

Head of the Water
Captain of Football
Captain of Cricket
Captain of Lawn Tennis
Captain of Fencing
Head of Music
Editors of *The Elizabethan*

Secretary of Pol. & Lit. Soc.
Secretary of Deb. Soc.
Captain of Athletics
Captain of Eton Fives
Captain of Shooting
Captain of Gymnastics
Captain of Boxing

T. M. P. BENDIXSON
A. C. HORNSBY
C. J. H. DAVIES
N. B. R. C. PERONI
J. L. LEE
J. L. LEE
J. PORTEOUS
A. M. HOWARD
I. L. HUNT
G. G. F. WORDSWORTH
J. I. HYAM
A. M. HOWARD
I. L. HUNT
C. R. HAYES
J. KAY-MOUAT
D. M. RENSCHAW
I. L. HUNT
G. A. D. SAWARD

OLD WESTMINSTER M.P.s.

The following Old Westminsters were elected
Members of Parliament in the General Election
of October 25th :

Conservative

F. M. BENNETT (1932-36)
L. R. CARR (1930-35)
H. V. RAIKES (1914-18)
G. P. STEVENS (1916-1921)

N. Reading
Mitcham.
Garston,
Liverpool.
Langstone,
Portsmouth

Labour

Hon. A. N. WEDGWOOD BENN (1938-42)
J. H. FREEMAN (1928-33)
South-East
Bristol.
Watford.

Mr. Bennett won his seat from the former Labour member by a majority of 302 votes.

A WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

I WONDER how many Westminsterers, as they walk out of Yard at the end of each term, feel a slight pang of conscience that so much housing space should stand empty, three months in the year, for their benefit. Those that do might have felt comforted by the knowledge that last holidays at least the School Johns were not the only people to spend their days around Little Dean's Yard.

Hardly had the King's Scholars settled down at Bourley when their more pleasant quarters at Westminster were taken over by a number of choir boys. These, chosen from schools all over the country, came to sing in Abbey while the regular choir boys were on holiday. Normally during this period the Lay Vicars sing alone, and the services are in plainsong, but for the Festival it was thought worthwhile to find a temporary choir.

Rather more exalted tenants of the School during the holidays were the delegates who came from all over the world to attend the International Air Transport Association Conference, opened on August 10th by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee. The main conference was held up School, which was draped in blue silk for the occasion. However, the chiefs of the world's airlines formed a superior committee, which met in the Busby Library.

AUTUMN has shown itself in Little Dean's Yard, and already Liddell's Tree, the School's precious signal of the passing year, is flushed in browns and yellows. Its fallen leaves are whisked up into little whirlpools by the wind in the corners of Yard. I find that the life of a plane tree in London is seldom more than two hundred winters. Westminster must be prepared, for certainly her tree is middle-aged and one day, not so far hence in terms of Westminster history, it must come down. Looking round Yard for a site for a new tree, it seems to me that the best place would be between the Mons. Os. stone and the north-west corner of College. Here the young tree would get the sun throughout the day, and here it would lend shade to the Pilgrim Trust seats, making this lovely corner of the yard still more pleasing.

And, perhaps, when *Hamilton's Tree* is old and wide of trunk, a seat could be built round it, in anticipation of hot July mornings years hence. For it will be remembered that it was under the shade of plane trees, in the groves of Academus, that the youth of Greece assembled to hear the wisdom of Plato.

WESTMINSTER Grey, which we had rather reluctantly regarded as having come to stay, was one of the less successful of our post-war experiments. The idea of a uniform suit for the whole school was in itself not a bad one. There had been a lamentable tendency in the School in the period immediately before its introduction to appear dressed in natty pin-stripe suiting and other vulgar attire, and even some of the more sober variations from the accepted styles looked rather unbecoming when all the School was assembled together. However, the uniform was a disappointment. The first trouble was that it was not strongly enough enforced. As a result, two years after it had been made "compulsory" not half the school was yet wearing it regularly. Another trouble was that, though not of an unattractive pattern, the suits were rather unsatisfactory for school use, and the price compared unfavourably with that of flannel suits which lasted just as long. Consequently, many people were buying other types of suit in the hope, usually realized, that the authorities would not complain unduly.

And so, although most of us had become reconciled to having at least one suit of it in our wardrobes, none of us were very sorry when it was announced at the beginning of this term that Westminster Grey was no longer to be the school uniform, as the supplying firm had run out of material.

As well as fulfilling their customary decorative function in and around the Abbey, Westminsterers have played a more specific part in making a success of the Festival of Britain. On September 25th, with Mr. Lowcock and Jack Shreeve, the football coach, sixteen boys went to the South Bank Exhibition. There they gave two demonstrations to the Festival public of how footballers are taught, trained and coached at public schools to-day. A commentary on their demonstration was given by a professional South Bank commentator. This expedition involved a day off school for those taking part, as they remained at the South Bank for nine hours. For this long day's work they received six shillings each, out of which they were expected to pay for their lunches. However, what are material rewards, when in after years they can tell the world that *they* were exhibits at the Festival Exhibition?

WESTMINSTER VISITS THE WORLD AND . . .



FOOTBALLERS AT THE FESTIVAL
THE WORLD VISITS WESTMINSTER

(Photo : Fox)



AIR CONFERENCE UP SCHOOL

(Photo : B.O.A.C.)

CULTURE, I suppose, is just one more example of what Lord Chesterfield was pleased to call Westminster's "illiberality". The Choral and Orchestral Societies, we all know, cause a most ridiculous distortion of the features, while the pursuits which some narrow minds like to think are of more solid and academic worth the true man of the world knows to be merely "the study of the minute and unimportant parts of remote and fabulous times".

But even such an exacting critic as Lord Chesterfield might have revised his opinion of Westminster, had he seen the party of boys and masters, all hand picked for the occasion, with which I went the other day to the annual wine-tasting in the cellars of Messrs. J. L. P. Lebégue & Cie by London Bridge.

Under expert guidance we went up the long line of stands, tasting, as we were directed, some of the best wines of France. Most were prudent enough to spit out the wine in the professional manner, and some, to keep up the illusion that they knew all about it, occasionally held their glasses to the candles provided. What they saw I know not, for they all looked very much the same.

Few of us were connoisseurs when we left, but

our taste and our education were substantially improved in the course of the morning. We received delightful entertainment throughout. For the lunch, the best we can say is that it lived up to the *hors d'oeuvre* of caviare and champagne which preceded it.

THE new timetable, much discussed and long awaited, was finally put into practice at the beginning of this term. Minor alterations are many, and it has been hard getting used to it, but there are only a few radical changes. As a general rule free time has been cut down on all sides, but it has been returned to us *en bloc* in a break of nearly an hour before lunch. P.T. is now treated as a class-room subject, and it is practised, fortunately, only by the lower school. This is an admirable idea, but for the unathletic among us this advantage is somewhat offset by the increase in the number of station days. There are now three a week. Nobody that we know of has yet protested against the curtailment of the hours of Corps, which now takes place after a period of afternoon school on Fridays. Latin Prayers are now on Mondays and Wednesdays, after afternoon school and before a voluntary Culture.

MR. WILSON HARRIS AT THE POLITICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY

THE SPECTATOR, we have always thought, is a friendly paper. It has about it a certain air of warmth and comfort which is certainly not shared by its more acid rivals. And since it is common knowledge that its Editor writes a great deal of it himself we were perhaps justified in hoping that the visit of Mr. Wilson Harris on October 8th would show that not all journalists are the cynical, hard-boiled sensation mongers of popular imagination. That at any rate was the hope which we treasured, and we were not disappointed.

Mr. Wilson Harris turned out to be as fluent a speaker as he is a writer which, as we have learnt to our cost, is by no means always the case. He chose for his subject "Newspapers and The Like"—which Polonius would surely have described as "an ill phrase, a vile phrase". But Polonius could not have persisted in his criticism for long; soon even he would have been silenced by the delightfully easy and informative way in which Mr. Wilson Harris traced the history of the newspaper from Ancient Greece to the present day. It would, however, perhaps be true to say

that our speaker did not really come into his own until the time came for questions. Here the former (and, dare we say, the future?) Independent Member of Parliament for Cambridge University was obviously completely at home. What was perhaps most appreciated was his frankness; members of the Society do grow a little weary of the dexterity with which discreet politicians and ingenious authors side-step or parry any awkward question. That was precisely what Mr. Wilson Harris did not do. The influence of the public on the newspaper, the influence of the newspaper on the public, the proprietor-editor relationship, the law of libel, the place of scandal on the front page—all seemed to come equally easily to him. And in answering our questions he showed not a little of that dry humour which is surely one of the most attractive of Janus's many admirable qualities. It was refreshing, too, to have a speaker whom we could all understand; there is nothing more tiresome than the speaker who is so profound that one cannot begin to fathom his profundity.

THE C.C.F. AT BOURLEY

THERE is a well-known book entitled *Unforgettable Unforgotten*. That might possibly have served as the sub-title for this article. The seven or eight days spent at a Corps Camp do not stand out in the memory—except perhaps among Company Sergeant Majors—because they are especially enjoyable. Indeed with some people, it may be hinted, the very opposite is the case. However that may be it is certainly undeniable that a Corps Camp does remain far more firmly entrenched in the memory than does time spent at school. The clue to the mystery lies perhaps in the things by which we remember a Corps Camp.

There may be people who remember the week at Bourley for the right reasons—the score obtained on the range, the mortar demonstration, or the map-reading exercise. But we are prepared to wager what little reputation we have that for the vast majority Bourley only lives in the memory for reasons completely irrelevant to the purposes of the C.C.F. There must be more than a few whose most vivid memories are of being borne triumphantly into Aldershot by some passing lorry, of tasting once again of the comforts of civilization in The George Hotel, or even of making a pilgrimage to the tomb of Napoleon III in Farnborough.

Of the Corps side of the camp, about which we must presumably say something, it is not easy to remember a great deal. Tents, we are now firmly convinced, are altogether preferable to huts—if

only because they are far less dirty. But although the tents we slept in emerged with the utmost credit from the battle which they fought with the rain, the same can certainly not be said of the larger tents housing the Naafi, the Cinema and the Lecture Hall. These latter proved quite unequal to the strain which four days of rain placed upon them and we have miserable memories of sitting sodden in the Camp Cinema watching somewhat unappealing war films while cascades of water descended threateningly from the roof. But there is truth in many an old proverb and it was a hard task for some to pretend to be disappointed when “Night Ops” were cancelled. During the week we experienced all our usual feelings of despondency, frustration and irritation; but there were also moments—a large proportion of these were spent in the Naafi—when life appeared hilarious if not actually cheerful. Even more surprising was the fact that once or twice we forgot our sufferings out of sheer interest in what we were doing; Mr. Brock’s lecture on the last day but one absorbed our attention so completely that we omitted to pursue our usual habit during lectures of planning our evening meal for the Naafi. To the question “Did you enjoy Corps Camp?” there can of course be only one answer—a withering look. But the question “Are you glad you went?” is altogether more subtle and if we were asked it we are not at all sure whether we would not have to betray all our principles and reply in the affirmative.

THE SCOUTS

THE scout camp, this year, took place in that wettest of all districts, the Lakes. We were, however, lucky where the weather was concerned, having to put up with only one really rainy day. The mountains round Seathwaite, where the camp was situated, provided plenty of climbing, and many people hiked to places like Windermere and Grasmere. For bathing most people chose a deep place in the beck which flowed past the camp, but about a mile’s walk away there was a tarn, much more suited to swimming, but so cold that only the bravest made use of it.

This year’s camp was notable for the introduction of patrol cooking. This took up a great deal of time, but many were able to learn to cook as a result of it.

On the Sunday we were visited by the Head Master and Mrs. Hamilton on their way up to Scotland. The Head Master attended prayers that evening after inspecting the camp.

Mr. Sturley, who drove the horse and cart carrying our equipment from a nearby farmhouse with great virtuosity, and Mr. Whorwell, who acted as medical orderly, helped Mr. Craven in making the camp a most enjoyable one.

At the beginning of this term we were sorry to hear that Mr. Craven was to resign his post as Scoutmaster. He has given the Scouts much of his time, and he has done a great deal for them. Mr. Whorwell, who has had much scouting experience, is to succeed him.

COLLEGE UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNORS

By J. B. WHITMORE, F.S.A.

THE University Library at Cambridge contains three manuscripts which throw a little light on the life of the King's Scholars after the College passed under the control of the Committee appointed by Parliament. The three MSS. are described in the printed Catalogue of MSS. as follows :

Dd. VIII 50. Accounts of James Chapman Baker to the College, 1645-8.

Ee. III 38. Memorandum Book of the Accounts of Westminster College. 'Chiefly of the year 1648.

Ee. V 25. The State of the Accounts of Westminster College, 1645.

The descriptions of the first and second items are not quite accurate : the first, in fact, starts with the year ending at Michaelmas 1644 and ends at "Christ-tide" 1648 : the second contains a series of accounts by the various officers of the College ; these are mostly for three years ending Michaelmas 1648, one is for three years ending Christmas 1648, and one for one and a half years ending Midsummer 1643. The third is a series of amounts similar to the second, mostly for one year to Michaelmas 1645, but some for a year and a quarter ending Christmas 1645.

The second and third items contain numerous alterations and it is not clear whether these alterations were made with a view to the accounts being submitted to the auditors or whether they were made by the auditors before the accounts could be passed.

Each officer's account takes the same form : he starts with the balance either of cash or kind, e.g., bread or beer, which he had in hand at the opening of the period, adds what he actually received or should have received, arrives at a total, the "Charge" and then sets out what he spent or expended, the "Discharge", and strikes a balance.

Except in the case of Dr. Busby we are mostly concerned with the items of Discharge as it is in these that we find items referring to the feeding of the King's Scholars. The cost increased steadily and it might be supposed that this was due to a period of rising prices, had not James Chapman, the College Baker, kept the long series of accounts for eight years and a quarter in terms of wheat expended.

In the year 1640-41 he used for "bread for the Schollers" 43 quarters $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and, in addition, 6 bushels of "flower" for them : for 1641-42 there was a drop of a bushel in the bread account, but from then there was a steady rise until for the year ending 1648 the amount consumed for bread was 66 quarters 1 bushel, an increase of over fifty per cent.

The amount of 6 bushels of flour remains constant throughout.

In addition he provides additional bread and flour for "the Election", but here the reverse process was in operation : the amounts expended vary from 1 quarter for bread and 5 bushels for flour in 1640-41 to 1 bushel of flour in 1646 : for several years there is no expenditure at all for Election.

The auditors appear to have been struck by the increase in the amount of bread consumed, as in the margin of the account for 1644-45 is a note of the amount consumed in 1640-41, and in some memoranda, clearly made by the auditors, we find "why 23 quarters more spent in bread 1648 than in the year 1641" ; in a note at the foot of the Butler's amount for the years 1645-46, 1646-47 and 1647-48 the facts are drawn to the attention of the Committee of Governors.

The Butler, who received the bread from the baker and the beer from the brewer, also kept his accounts in kind : at Michaelmas 1645 he had in hand 18 hogsheads of beer, in 1646 he received 230 and again in 1647, but in 1648 he received 260 making a total of 738 hogsheads to be accounted for : at Michaelmas 1648 he had in hand slightly over 16 hogsheads : a note at the foot of his account states that this worked out, with an allowance for leakage, at four and half hogsheads per week : he calculated the consumption of bread at one quarter of wheat per week : by the end of the period it was twenty-five per cent above that.

The only other specific item of the scholars' food that is mentioned is meat : the butcher's bills for the three years 1646, 1647 and 1648 were £191 9s. 7d., £225 7s. 3½d. and £239 17s. 9d. ; this last figure includes about £12 for the poor. Unfortunately, no information appears of the quantity that these figures represent.



Dear Reader,

I wish I had
a Peltinvain Raincoat
like the chap on the
end of this lead!

most sincerely,

Rufus.

There must, of course, have been other purchases for vegetables, condiments, etc. : these must be concealed in payments to the cook "for schollers commons", which for the same three years were £55 11s. 8½d., £61 4s. 1d. and £67 18s. od.

Mr. Adam Browne, the Deputy Clerk of the kitchen, whose accounts give us the amounts paid to the butcher and the cook takes credit in 1647 and 1648 for payments at Election for £27 6s. 11d., including an unspecified amount paid to the "polter" (? poulterer), and £31 6s. 8d.

The only items of food for which prices are given are wheat and beer : in 1644-45 wheat was reckoned at £1 16s. od. a quarter in one account and £2 1s. 4d. a quarter in another, but in 1648 the auditors considered that the balance in hand should be valued at £3 os. od. a quarter : beer throughout is reckoned at 10s. a hogshead, but this may represent only the cost of brewing as the brewer received much of his malt in kind rent due to the College.

It seems a fair deduction from the steady

increases in the amount of bread and the cost of butcher's meat that the Committee of Governors saw to it that the scholars were well fed.

Busby's own accounts throw no light on the housekeeping side of the School life : one may deduce from them that each King's Scholar paid £2 yearly towards the cost of his commons, i.e., a total of £80 a year. These payments were in arrear, at Sept. 1644, to the extent of £45 ; £2 10s. od. of this was paid off during the year, but further arrears accrued amounting to £23 10s. od., making a total of arrears at Sept. 1645 £66 : this was further increased by £24 10s. od. in 1645-46, by £29 in 1646-47 and £26 in 1647-48 making a total of arrears at Sept. 1648 of £145 10s. od., nearly two years' commons.

Only two items give any hint of the changes that were taking place in England. In his accounts for the years 1640-41 and 1641-2 the College Baker takes credit for "Bread in the Deanes Pantrie" and "flower for the Deane" : these items do not appear again.

JACK ELSON

A Tribute by D. J. Knight

IN the recent passing of Jack Elson Old Westminster mourn the loss of a true and faithful friend, and the School itself will long remember him as an outstandingly loyal servant. For thirty-five years (1895-1930) he tended with loving care—I can truly say with an almost fanatical zeal—our precious ground at Vincent Square. Not only did he tend it with pride and affection, but he, there is little doubt, *created* it from the rough and chaotic state in which he found it into one of the most beautiful grounds in London ; and though this his life's work was grievously damaged during the ravages of the last war, yet so well had he wrought and so thorough were the foundations of his labour, that his skilled successors were able, and still are able, to restore it to very nearly its pristine perfection. Space forbids me to attempt to lay bare his methods and his secret arts as a groundsman ; he would neither wish me so to do, nor indeed could he himself, I feel sure, have been able to explain them, because his was no book-lore, but rather did he possess that in-born instinct that is given to every gifted nurturer of turf, which we perhaps can best describe as "green-fingeredness".

He will linger, too, in our memories as a skilled and inspiring cricket coach ; many of Westminster's cricketing sons, both the great and the lesser ones, owe much to his advice and encouragement, given so freely and in so kindly a

manner. He was a fine all-round cricketer in his younger days (he learnt his game under William Gunn on the Ground Staff at Trent Bridge) and in his days up Fields, when in his sixties even, he was an ideal medium-paced off-spin bowler, who could pitch the ball exactly to order. To the invaluable help which this gift was to the Cricket Master I can myself give ample and grateful testimony. He was, in a word, the *beau ideal* of a practice bowler. At football, too, though I never saw him play, his shrewd advice, just quietly given, was often of the greatest value.

He deserved well of the School he served, and he leaves behind him a son who learnt his lore under him and who, like his father, has given his very best, and continues to do so, to Westminster.

Good and upright Steward, we affectionately salute your memory.

CONTEMPORARIES

The Beaumont Review, The Britannia Magazine, The Cantuarian, The Carthusian, The Christ's College Register, The City of London School Magazine, The Magazine of The Collegiate School of St. Peter, The Dunelmian, The Eton College Chronicle, Etomiana, The Felstedian, The Fettesian, The Glenalmond Chronicle, The Haileybury and I.S.C. Chronicle, The Harrovian, The Hurst-Johnian, The Impala, The Lancing College Magazine, The Leys Fortnightly, The Malvernian, The Mill Marlburian, The Merton College Chronicle, The Mill Hill Magazine, The Ousel, The Rossalian, The Royal College Magazine, The St. Edward's School Chronicle, The Salopian, The Shirburnian, The Tonbridgian, The Uppingham School Magazine, The Wellingtonian.

"WESTMINSTER SCHOOL"

By LAWRENCE E. TANNER

A NEW EDITION

MR. TANNER'S book on Westminster must by now be well known to most people by interest or by association connected with the School. Most happily termed a sketch, perhaps, for the amount of reliable documents surviving from an institution so closely organized and verbally conducted as a school must of necessity be small, Mr. Tanner's work deserves praise for its lucidity and charm of detail; now that a most tactful chapter covering the School's enforced exile during the war, and some new photographs (not, on the whole, quite up to the high standard of the old), have been added, the new edition will tempt many loyal Old Westminsters to part with the thirty shillings which these hard times demand for a publication of such (comparatively speaking) limited public appeal.

Mr. Tanner's work is authoritative without being ambitious, unassuming without being diffuse. It presents a picture of Westminster as it has grown and developed beneath the various political régimes and the various Head Masters in its history. Mr. Tanner has resolutely refused to embark on any discussion of the sociological importance of Westminster as a great public school, or as an incubator of mighty statesmen and undying artists. He has entered on no speculations as to what Warren Hastings and Carteret and Wren gained (or lost) through their education at Westminster, or what influence Dr. Busby and his hive of Royalists had upon the troubled scene of the mid-seventeenth century. With stern reticence he has forborne to scandalize his readers with any revelation of the details of evidence laid before the Public Schools Commission of 1861. The bulky volume which enters, from the School's point of view, into discussion of these fascinating questions has yet to be written; and indeed it may be open to doubt whether such an undertaking would be really worth while. These questions belong rather to English history than to the history of the School, and we may be grateful that so talented a scholar as Mr. Tanner has restrained his imaginative powers to giving us a concise sketch of the life of the School, both as a community and as an institution, in its own right.

There are no judgments in Mr. Tanner's book, save those of the epitaph variety ("He had, however, done more for Westminster than perhaps he realized . . ."). The conclusions of the author are conveyed by implication, by general impression, and therefore no doubt vary with each individual reader—alas, for those who would seek to pounce on "historical misrepresentation". For the present writer the most striking general impression given of Westminster is at least substantiated by the tenor of the School to-day. This is the remarkably unassuming, background rôle played by tradition at Westminster. Most people will not need to be told of the unfortunate insistence on the strength and value of tradition at many public schools. At Westminster this attitude has never been prevalent; and by its absence the genuine and, unconsciously, enormously influential tradition of the School has been made all the stronger. Particularly this is made clear by Mr. Tanner's remarks on clothes at Westminster—remarks which even to-day seventeen years after the first publication of the book, may well open the eyes of some of those who not long ago showed anxiety over the fact that Westminster was not, like Eton, returning to the top-hats and morning dress of before the war.

In passing it may be noted that rather inadequate recognition was given by *The Elizabethan* of 1934 to the first edition. The writer would conclude by saying that he considers the enjoyment which a Westminster, past or present, can gain from this most readable, informative, and delightfully produced volume to be at the price extremely cheap. And it is in no sarcastic vein that he gives his favourite line a quotation from the appendix: "item paied for the blade of a raper and for the scabberd of vellet which being borrowed of thearle of rutland was by euill happ broken in the plaie vjs. viijd". The "euill happ" and the fact that it got broken suggest the great things about Westminster—its life and its humour, the first sometimes crude, the second sometimes gruesome, but two things which, in the essentially living tradition of the School, have made it above all others a home of literary and political talent.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, by *Lawrence E. Tanner*.
Country Life. 30s.

THE CONCERT

'MUSICIANLY PERFORMANCES'

THE Concert, held up School on July 27th, may have contained rather a mixed programme, but it was enterprising enough to secure the interest of the listeners. It opened with "Yarmouth Fair" by Peter Warlock, sung by the King's Scholars, winners of the House Choir event in the Music Competition. If the performance lacked vital energy, the conductor refrained from forcing pace and tone, and the choir obviously took care to watch him and abide by his instructions. The singer in the unbroken voice solo made a commendable effort to overcome the difficulties of a rapidly changing voice; no such difficulties beset Maw in the broken voice solo, and he was able to give a more enthusiastic performance. The wind solo was approached with the emotional detachment necessary for Hindemith; however, the team-work between clarinet and piano was marred by inequalities of tone which hampered the fluency of the music.

Kreisler's Introduction and Allegro for Violin, played by M. M. Aufenast (Wren's) was perhaps the most popular piece of the evening. The violinist was able to display his very considerable technical prowess, and he gave a performance in which skill and enthusiasm were combined to rouse the audience to an excitement rarely seen at school concerts. The Busby's vocal ensemble has become almost an institution, and credit is due to them, and to the Chamber Music players for sensitive, and yet musicianly performances.

The second part of the concert was devoted to performances by the Choral and Orchestral Societies. The orchestra began with a spirited, but untidy rendering of Nicolai's Overture "The Merry Wives of Windsor". This was followed by Sir George Dyson's choral-orchestral work "The Blacksmiths", a setting of a fourteenth century descriptive poem. The musical interpretation given it was highly suitable to the rugged and powerful quality of the words. The solo piano part was undertaken by Martindale, whose brilliant playing was a fitting end to a distinguished musical career at Westminster. There have been few concerts during his time at school in which he has not played a prominent part.

The concert continued with an intermezzo by the Hungarian composer Zóltàn Kodály, which was played with fire and energy. The Brandenburg Concerto which followed it was less successful; the performance was strangely ponderous, but this was probably due to lack of rehearsal. The concert finally came to an end with Vaughan Williams's setting of the rooth Psalm, a solid and dignified work in the authentic English choral tradition. The audience had by now been listening for nearly two hours, and it was therefore understandable that this had less appeal than some of the earlier pieces on the programme. But whatever their feelings, their generous applause throughout the evening certainly gave the musicians no cause for complaint.

In recent years the concert at the end of the Election Term has been criticized for its excessive length and mixed programme. Nevertheless, if the school is to produce soloists of any merit, those who have worked hard for the music competitions deserve the experience of public performance, and if such performances raise the standard of school music they are surely not wasted.

50 YEARS AGO

From *The Elizabethan* of November 1901 :

To the Editor of *The Elizabethan*

Dear Sir, Could not something now be done towards the revival of rowing, as, if the School goes on increasing at the present rate, the room "Up Fields" will be as inadequate as that in Hall?

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

Charon.

(We believe steps in this matter are to be taken when the School has further increased in numbers.
—Ed.)

Rowing had been finally abolished at Westminster in 1884 and it was not revived until 1911, when a few boys were allowed to take up rowing as a station at Putney, with the London Rowing Club as their headquarters.

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THE DEBATING SOCIETY

THE Debating Society began its new year in traditional vein with a debate on the motion "That National Service is a pathetic farce". The Secretary, I. L. Hunt, opened for the proposition with a speech which was forceful, if little more. National Service was a huge burden to the taxpayer, a vast sacrifice on the part of the nation's youth, and all it did was to make the army unwieldy and inefficient. Peace and prosperity were to be won by constructive participation in civilian life and not by service in an army which was in peace-time inert, purposeless, and a lamentable influence on the young men who entered it. The opposer, R. A. C. Norrington, had an unfortunate evening, his remarks never achieving any life or cohesion. However, he gave utterance to the ideas that an army was necessary to preserve peace, and that National Service reminded us how awful war was.

R. M. Barker, seconding the proposition, had the Society in ecstasies with his heartrending, graphic account of "morning at Catterick". In turn, J. Porteous, seconding the opposition, covered some of the ground that one would have supposed the opposition could have romped over with consummate ease. Square bashing, he felt, was an admirable thing for the *hoi polloi*; he appealed to the Society's pacifist leanings not to describe so fearsome a thing as conscription as a "farce", even a pathetic one. When however he told the Society that in the army numbers alone were important and that "anyone who could tell one end of a rifle from the other" was an adequate safeguard of Britain's welfare, one felt that he was becoming reckless.

From the floor creditable performances came from J. I. Hyam, J. M. T. Willoughby, T. R. Ware, and R. N. Edwards, though little new con-

tribution was made to the substance of the debate. The only polished oration, however, came from the ex-secretary, A. M. Howard, who with his customary eloquence had everyone believing for a moment that National Service did the country's "wrigglers" (a term borrowed from the late Head Master) a great deal of good. The speeches from the floor swayed somewhat in their interpretation of the motion, some members apparently supposing, with rather an odd mental approach, that the motion could apply equally well to "National Service" as an idea, as to National Service the reality. The opposer summed up with even less vigour than he began, and left a dubious issue open to the proposer's final speech. This turned out to be rapid, cogent and, if hectoring, fairly persuasive. Opinion hung suspended while Mr. Keeley, the President, summed up the arguments before the House, and then, astonishingly enough considering its violent wording, the motion was carried by 16 votes to 15, with 4 abstentions.

This was not in any way an outstanding debate; the standard of speaking was not high, and it was clear that the eloquence of the Society has yet to find its rhythmic feet. But the familiar views of the various members on such subjects as militarism and the governaunce of England were given a vigorous airing, and many members had harrowing personal experiences of life in His Majesty's Forces to relate. For the first debate of the year it was not without promise, and it may reasonably be hoped that the large number of gifted new members will help to create that atmosphere of enthusiasm and incisiveness necessary for a successful debating season. Particularly it is to be hoped that the abilities of the Society will be equal to the occasion of the Old Westminsters' Debate on December 5th.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 7th Mr. R. C. Sherriff to address The Political and Literary Society at 5.15 p.m.
17th 1st XI v. Lancing, Up Fields.
23rd Grants' House Production of *Badger's Green* by R. C. Sherriff at 7.30 p.m.
and 24th
24th 1st XI v. Highgate, Up Fields.
26th The Rt. Hon. M. S. McCorquodale, M.P. to address The Political and Literary Society at 5.15 p.m.

Dec. 3rd Mr. Ralph Edwards to address The Political and Literary Society at 5.15 p.m.
5th Old Westminsters' Debate at 5.30 p.m.
7th Busby's House Production of *Julius Caesar*
and 8th by Wm. Shakespeare at 7.30 p.m.
14th Concert by The Choral and Orchestral Societies at 7.45 p.m.

N.B.—Those wishing to come to the School Concert should apply to:—The Concert Secretary, 3, Little Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

THE WATER

BUSBY'S CHALLENGE SCHOOL

THE 1st VIII returned from Henley last term to find the rest of the boat club already divided into houses in preparation for the School Regatta. Senior fours soon appeared on the water, and quickly the excitement which precedes any racing was evident, for the beginning of the long programme was fully two weeks before the finals day. The water was not consistently good during the first week and there were the usual terrifying and quite uncontrolled scullers who are a traditional part of the preliminary rounds of the Junior Sculls. The last week of the racing brought with it the more important events, and fortunately plenty of low tides to go with them. On the Thursday there were the semi-finals of the Senior Fours. The first race was between Ashburnham and Grant's, when G. C. Ross (AH) stroked his lighter crew into the final. The other race was between Busby's and the King's Scholars. Busby's lost on the start, but their superior size and experience soon enabled them to catch up, and win.

Friday heralded the first final of the Regatta, that of the Double Sculls. It was between J. W. L. Croft (G) and M. D. Birt K.S. and J. F. G. Pigott and T. M. P. Bendixson (BB). Although Croft and Birt were faster off at the start, the Busby's pair took the lead about half way down, and won by two lengths. The other finals were rowed on Saturday. In the Senior Sculls, the first race, Pigott beat Croft by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. Pigott took an early lead and the lighter Croft could not make it up. The Junior-Senior Sculls followed, and L. J. H. Hayek of Ashburnham won them for the second time. Earlier he had set up a new record, reducing by nine seconds the time of 4.20 set up in 1939 by D. W. Scott Barrett. Junior Sculls were won by Maybank of Rigaud's.

In the four oared races, Rigaud's "A" beat their "B" crew in the final of the Junior Fours. After that the ill balance of the upper part of the boat club was shown up when Busby's "A" Junior-Senior Four, drawn entirely from the 3rd and 4th Eights, beat Rigaud's by 4 lengths, and when the five Busby's Pinks beat the Ashburnham Senior Four by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length. This race was really the climax of the day; Busby's weight and

experience just got them over the line first after they had rowed almost level over the whole course. The Coxswains' race was quite exciting. S. R. M. Price of the 2nd VIII beat N. J. Barton of the 1st VIII by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. Once more it was shown that the best-boats, with their comparatively mild handicap have perhaps rather too much advantage over the others. K. J. Douglas-Mann was the winner of that now well-established race, the Old Westminster's Sculls. The conditions for this were poor, and Douglas-Mann beat D. C. Plummer easily in 6.7.

This regatta was the first since the war in which any house has been in the position to challenge the School to a race. However, Busby's saw fit to do so this year, and so a race was rowed from the Railway Bridge to the Boathouse in clinker eights. Busby's settled down rather better than the School in these crude boats, and won by $\frac{2}{3}$ of a length.

Contrary to all expectation the Town Boys got away to a very fast start in Lamprobatrics this year, and they did not have to perform their usual task of rowing the King's Scholars down. The King's Scholars were quite unable to catch them up against the head wind, and the Town Boys won by $1\frac{1}{4}$ lengths.

After all the racing was over Mr. W. A. Prideaux very kindly gave the prizes away. The final result was that Busby's retained the Halahan Cup, gaining $71\frac{1}{2}$ points, with Rigaud's second (47) and Ashburnham third (24). Grant's the King's Scholars and Wren's got eight, six, and four and a half points.

There was an epilogue to this, however, the Inter-Schools Regatta. Unfortunately, the School did not do so well as usual. Only the Novices Four won an event, although there were Westminster entries in many others, including the Senior Fours, which were won by St. Paul's.

This then was the end of the season, and if the School did not finish so well as it might have done, this should not be allowed to obscure some of the more heartening things that happened earlier in the term.

CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,
The Elizabethan is a paper for which I have long had a profound admiration. Despite its inevitable yet constant change of editorial staff, it has, over a period of years, recorded with dispassionate accuracy and solemn wit the life of a great public school.

I should like now to draw your attention to two articles. They appeared in different issues of *The Elizabethan* and were concerned with separate subjects. They contain comments which suggest a trend of opinion held in the Westminster of to-day and upheld by boys with whom I have come into contact. This opinion I regard as erroneous and misinformed.

In *The Elizabethan* [December 1950] there is an article entitled "Dramatics at Westminster, 1930-1950", in which the following statement (an expression of opinion) appears:

"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 'lets do a play' was always a wildly popular suggestion."

In a later *Elizabethan* [July 1951] there is an article, "Mirror of Westminster" in which your correspondent writes as follows:

"It will inevitably be asked why it was that *The Clarion* should have changed so radically while at Buckenhill. Leaving aside purely superficial explanations, such as the individual tastes of the Editors concerned, it may perhaps be suggested that the reason for *The Clarion's* altered attitude is to be found quite simply in the life at Bromyard. At the risk of being contradicted by those who actually experienced it, we should say that the Bromyard life must of necessity have been a monotonous life. It is certainly undeniable that important events do not happen with quite the same frequency in a remote village in Herefordshire as they do in the heart of London (. . .) *The Clarion's* Gossip Column (brimming with personal insults), its rabble-rousing denunciations, its daring criticisms all served to provide the School with a little excitement to alleviate a rather tedious existence."

I am not acquainted with your staff writers who will never lack for a job in Fleet Street whatever else they go short of, but the loss, I fear is not mine. I do care though for the truth.

I was at Westminster in war-time. I was at Hurst, at Exeter and at Bromyard, and if there is one word that provides the key to our activities in exile it is the single word "effort". We cycled between forty and fifty miles a week in Herefordshire to keep the life of the school in action, we built our own cricket "nets" and our own football pitches, we created a huge kitchen garden out of a waste land, we helped the local farmers at every season of the year, we tended our own livestock—pigs, chickens, rabbits and ponies—we spent our spare time on Sundays doing Home Guard exercises over the range of half a county.

Some of our more normal activities suffered; they were bound to. We had less time for school work, but we created a record for exhibitions and scholarships to the universities that has yet to be equalled by post-war Westminster. Many of the school societies died temporary deaths and on the strength of that it has sometimes been assumed that the intellectual life of the school collapsed. Certainly the tight little cliques who talked art with a capital "A" found survival hard, and the term "pseudo intellectual" meant just that, but the cultural life of the school (on T. S. Eliot's terms anyway) flourished on an ever-broadening basis.

Certainly *The Clarion*, to whom in those years I was a regular contributor, did provide a much needed outlet for the grievances and complaints of the school, only too many of which were fully justified, but the school, like England, spent those five years fighting for survival and its boys fought with it. Life was not handed to us on a plate and everything that we did had to be struggled for against odds I would not care to wager now.

I have myself, since the war, done something towards reviving Old Westminster games activities, and both from the Westminster of pre-war vintage and from his war-time brother I have met with nothing but sympathy, helpfulness and genuine enthusiasm. I sincerely wish I could say as much for the Westminster of the post-war years. Compared with my generation he has had everything given to him, everything made easy, yet he lacks the wit to appreciate the fact. From my acquaintance with him I have come reluctantly to the conclusion that enthusiasm is a quality no longer encouraged at Westminster to-day and that courtesy has ceased to be regarded as essential to the equipment of a gentleman.

To give a correct assessment of Westminster in war-time, to improve our impression of the Westminster of to-day is a matter that lies in the hands of those who like yourselves wield authority and influence throughout the school.

Finally, may I close with a word of advice from a great editor:

"Truth is sacred, comment is free . . . it is well to be frank, it is better to be fair."

I remain sirs,

Yours faithfully,

W. W. S. BREEM (AHH 1940-44).

SIR,

The Editors of the Record of Old Westminsters are anxious, with a view to the new volume now in preparation, to get in touch with the following O.W.W for whom the School has no address. We should be grateful if any addresses, or any information likely to lead to tracing an address, were sent to Miss Francis, Westminster School Society, 3, Little Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. Y. RADCLIFFE.

ALCOCK, Barry St. Clair (C. 1940-44)

ALCOCK, Patrick Fennell (C. 1937-42)

ANDERSON, Godfrey Howard Parry (H.B. 1922-25)

ATKINS, Barry Kennedy (H.B. 1926-27)

BALFOUR, Douglas Frederick Aylmer Mortimer (B. 1931-36)

BALFOUR, Gerald Peter Aylmer Mortimer (B. 1934-36)

BARBER, Richard Peter Charles (G. 1922-25)

BARLOW, Evan Frith (C. 1922-27)

BLAIR, Alec Michael Ambler (A. 1933-37)

BOYS, Anthony Vernon (H.B. 1936-37)

BREMNER, Alistair John Bruce (H.B. 1930-34)

BROMLEY, Richard Henry (A. 1924-26)

BROOKE, Michael Charles (A. 1929-32)

BROWNELL, John Anthony (1919-21)

BRUCE, Nigel Mitchell (H.B. 1923-25)

BUNTING, Christopher Evelyn (H.B. 1938-39)

CAMERON, Frederick John Alistair (G. 1931)

CAMPBELL, Colin Keith (H.B. 1925-28)

CAMPBELL, James Lawrence (A. 1928-31)

CARDEW, Ronald Evelyn de Stonyford (H.B. 1937-40)

CARLING, Tom In de Beton (G. 1922-23)

CAW, John Morison (R. 1932-33)

CHARLES, Regilaus Henry (A. & B. 1922-26)

OLD WESTMINSTERS

Sir Henry Tizard has been appointed a member of the National Research Development Corporation.

Sir Stephen Holmes has been appointed Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Commonwealth Relations Office.

Major G. L. Y. Radcliffe, K.S.L.I., and Lieutenant B. St. C. Alcock, Royal Ulster Rifles, are serving in Korea.

Mr. J. M. Hartog, Joint Leader of the Oxford and Cambridge Spitzbergen Expedition, has been awarded a Research Grant by the Leverhulme Research Fellowship Advisory Committee.

Mr. D. C. Whimster, Head Master of King Edward VI School, Nuneaton, has been appointed Head Master of Weston-super-Mare Grammar School.

Mr. B. G. Almond has been appointed an assistant master at Aldenham School.

The Reverend W. R. F. Browning has been appointed Rector of Great Haseley, and Lecturer at Cuddesdon Theological College.

Mr. David Lines has been appointed Deputy Clerk of the Peace and a member of the County Council of Bedfordshire.

Mr. D. W. Shenton and Mr. R. Wakeford, V.C., have passed the Final Examination of the Law Society.

Mr. K. Suenson-Taylor has been appointed Lecturer in Company Law to the Council of Legal Education.

Mr. J. W. S. Sprigge has been appointed an Assistant Secretary to the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute.

The Reverend A. G. G. C. Pentreath, Head Master of Wrekin College, and formerly Master of the King's Scholars at Westminster, has been appointed Head Master of Cheltenham College.

BIRTHS

BANG—On August 5th 1951 at Chichester to Betty, wife of C. L. Bang, a daughter.

BENN—On August 21st 1951 in London to Caroline, wife of A. Wedgwood Benn, a son.

BERRY—On July 8th 1951 in London to Diane, wife of Z. D. Berry, a daughter.

BOYD—On July 16th 1951 at Georgetown, U.S.A., to Isabel, wife of J. G. Boyd, a son.

DALE—On June 9th 1951 at Douglas, I.O.M., to Jacqueline, wife of J. F. Dale, a daughter.

EVETTS—On August 12th 1951 at Bagshot to Rosamond, wife of D. F. Evetts, a daughter.

GAMBLES—On August 23rd 1951 in London to Ann, wife of J. M. Gambles, a daughter.

HEWITT-JONES—On September 26th 1951 at Arnside, Westmorland, to Anita, wife of A. Hewitt-Jones, a daughter.

HOWELL—On August 14th 1951 in London to Bridget, wife of P. P. Howell, a daughter.

NOEL-BAKER—On July 25th 1951 to Ann, wife of F. E. Noel-Baker, a son.

ROBERTS—On August 1st 1951 to Margaret, wife of Colonel Sir Thomas Roberts, a son.

WILLIS—On September 10th 1951 to Barbara, wife of Henry Willis, Jnr., a son.

MARRIAGES

BURGES : TURNER—On August 4th 1951 at Christ Church, Great Malvern, Squadron-Leader J. R. Burges, R.A.F. to Rosalind, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Turner of Great Malvern.

EVERINGTON : HOVIND—On August 18th 1951 at St. Edmund's, Oslo, G. D. Everington to Laila Nissen Hovind of Oslo.

FEILING : STEWART—On April 28th 1951 G. S. A. Feiling to Eva Veronika Stewart, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Viktor Varga, formerly of Budapest.

FRAMPTON : DAVIES—On August 4th 1951 at Leigh-on-Sea, W. J. Frampton to Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Davies of Westcliff-on-Sea.

GROVE : PIKE—On August 31st 1951 at Toronto, A. A. Grove to Barbara Gordon, daughter of Mr. G. F. Pike and the late Mrs. Pike.

LANGRISH : GOW—On August 1st 1951 at St. Peter's, Vere Street, R. S. Langrish to Helen Mabel, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Gow of 26, Elsworthy Road, Hampstead.

SELF : WILLIAMS—On September 15th 1951 at Braintree, Anthony Self, M.R.C.V.S., to Audrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Williams of Rayne, Essex.

OBITUARY

We record with regret the death of the following Old Westminsters :

CHARLES NEVILLE BRAND was admitted to the School in 1909. He became a clerk in the Bank of England in 1914, but on the outbreak of war joined the R.N.A.S. as a seaplane pilot, and was later in the R.N.V.R. In 1918 he married Norah, eldest daughter of Victor Vaughan of Hampstead. He was the author of several novels and some volumes of verse.

MALCOLM HENRY CARTER, who died at the age of 74, came to Westminster with his elder brother in 1888. After leaving the School in 1891 he was for a time in Belgium, and married in 1901 Albertine, daughter of Louis Houba of Brussels. Returning to England he was called to the bar at the Middle Temple in 1906, and went on the Western Circuit. In the first world war he took a commission in the R.G.A. After the war he became Chairman of the Pensions Appeal Tribunal until 1922.

EUSTACE MALLABONE EUSTACE was admitted as a Queen's Scholar in 1893. After taking his degree at Cambridge he became an assistant master at Mansfield Grammar School, and subsequently at Wellington College, where he later became a housemaster. He married Cathmar, eldest daughter of Osmund Airy of Crowthorne.

CECIL MOLYNEUX HOWARD-LANGTON was at Westminster from 1910 to 1912. In 1915 he received a commission in the Gloucesters, and in the following year was attached to the Machine Gun Corps. He was wounded at Loos and lost the sight of both eyes. After his discharge he was for a short time in the Trades Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office, and in 1920 became an undergraduate at Christ Church and took his degree in 1923. The same year he married Helen Cynthia, daughter of Russell Thompson of Minehead.

GUY HOWARD HUMPHREYS was born in 1896 and entered the School in 1908. He went up to Trinity, and took his degree in Natural Sciences, and then went into

business as a civil engineer in London. He became a member of the Council of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and was at one time President of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers. In 1941 he joined the Westminster City Council, where his ability as a mathematician and engineer won him distinction on various committees. He travelled widely in connexion with his profession to many parts of the empire. He is survived by his widow.

HUBERT STUART MOORE, whose death occurred in May at the age of 81 was for many years secretary to the Selden Society, a task which he carried out with the greatest efficiency and tact. He was an authority on the law of fisheries and the foreshore, and was the author of standard works on these subjects, as well as assisting with his learning the production of several of the Selden Society's volumes. He was admitted to Westminster in 1881 and went up to Queen's College, Oxford, in 1887. He was called to the bar at the Inner Temple and practised in the Admiralty Court. He married in 1907 Evelyn, daughter of Sir Arthur Underhill, who died in 1941.

THE ELIZABETHAN CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held up School on Thursday, 4th October and attended by 150 members. Mr. D. C. Simpson, Mr. A. C. Feasey and Mr. D. M. M. Carey were re-elected Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively. Mr. G. L. Troutbeck, Mr. D. R. Mullis and Mr. S. P. L. Kennedy were elected members of the General Committee.

After the meeting, the President, Chairman, Officers and General Committee gave a Reception in Ashburnham House which was attended by 200 members. The guests included the Dean of Westminster, Sir Wilfrid Eady and Mr. and Mrs. John Christie. During the Reception the portrait of Mr. Christie was presented by the President to the School.

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