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THE ELIZABETHAN

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BARREN SUMMER

WESTMINSTER as a place and as a school is at its best in the summer, with its ever varying pace of hurrying and excitement followed by sudden oases of calm and delight. To the old joys of walks in the evening and cricket watching afternoons up Fields has now been added the more plebeian pleasure of ice creams in Ashburnham Garden. Yet few would deny on careful consideration that something vital is still lacking.

Though the evening is often shaken by the sounds of violins repeating themselves and voices singing through open windows in preparation for music competitions, the arts as a voluntary and vital part of the School's activity remain for the most part dormant, waiting for the packed scene in Ashburnham drawing-room with the drawn curtains and the lit chandelier. Yet it would be untrue to say that nobody wants there to be any flowering of School societies in the summer term. Indeed, there are many who try their utmost to maintain the interest and enthusiasm so characteristic of all that is best about the Play and Lent terms, but it is inevitable that these few crusaders should in the end be defeated and discouraged by small attendances and the current of dismal apathy that seems to pervade all that goes on outside the range of Putney or Vincent Square.

Of course, the new time-table has helped a little. At least one feels it ought to have done. But the problem still remains the same. Cricketers and watermen, if they have any ambition at all, are compelled to spend four of the five weekday evenings practising their crafts. Nobody would deny the need for the School to be represented in its various activities by trained and accomplished specialists. It is likely, though, that this specialization can be as dangerous as it is successful. O. level in class and distinction on the field do not make of themselves a liberal education. Of still

greater importance, at a school of Westminster's size, this concentration on one or even two activities, though it may appear to be of great benefit to the School, will in fact seriously incapacitate it in its all-round achievements. Westminster without its sportsmen is rendered leaderless. Any activity organized in their absence lacks the healthy broadmindedness that only they can give, as well as emphasizing a division between the aesthetic and the athletic which is unhealthy.

The answer, without doubt, lies in the invention and careful application of a scheme of time regulation which will allow for the need for all kinds of life in the make-up of a Westminster pattern. There is no easy solution to apply. Westminster cannot amend its time scheme in the way most public schools have done, for day boys prevent early morning prep. and late evening society meetings, which can be planned in order to leave the whole afternoon, five days a week, free for stations. Somehow, therefore, the hours between nine in the morning and a quarter to seven at night must be filled to everybody's best advantage and to that of the School as a whole. It is likely that a key will be found in the better use of the three hours a week still called "culture". Could not the School societies meet at this time, at present the only interval when stations are not allowed to proceed?

Meanwhile compromise and goodwill must take the place of an actual solution. But nobody should allow themselves to forget as they lie back in their deck chairs pretending to watch the cricket or walk placidly in the dusk beneath the floodlit towers, that the full sum of Westminster in June and July is not perfection. With skill and tact it may one day become so.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

POLISHED PERFORMANCE BY LEWSEN



FIRST, honours to Mr. Spaul and his assistants for an eighteenth-century setting as beautiful as anything that has been seen up School since the Shell disappeared before the onslaught of the nineteenth-century improvers. To conceive an interior set which makes the audience envious is no small achievement even in the professional theatre, and to contrive it with the help of amateur labour, with the minimum amount of expense, on a stage severely limited in depth and storage space, was a masterpiece of ingenuity. Time after time, in Sir Peter Teazle's house, in Charles Surface's picture gallery, in Joseph Surface's library, the atmosphere of the period was suggested by a few subtle touches, and the ingenious use of removable panels speeded the action so that scene succeeded scene with hardly any perceptible pause.

It has often been remarked that school productions of Shakespeare are always a safe bet. Not only are the audience well-disposed towards anything so traditionally edifying, but also the lines carry the action, and the beauty of the verse survives mishandling to a surprising degree. The same should be true of Sheridan, and indeed *The School for Scandal*, with its sparkling dialogue and its better-than-Shakespeare plot, has been a favourite with amateurs for one hundred and fifty years. But in practice performance rarely comes up to expectation. It is all very well for Sir Peter to rail against marriage or for Sir Oliver to try out a few simple impersonations, but the scandal-monger scenes demand a degree of sophistication rarely found among schoolboys on either side of the footlights, and it is no disparagement to the cast to say that on the first night, supported by a dullish audience, they allowed many of the most brilliant flashes to pass unobserved. Westminster's grand old ladies, J. F. Town (Lady Sneerwell) and R. K. Franklin (Mrs. Candour) worked manfully, but they had a touch of the sinister about them—an Arsenic and Old Lace quality—which damped the fun, and it was only in the description of the duel that they came into their own, aided by a brilliant piece of grotesque from Sir Benjamin Backbite (J. P. Gross).

Even on the last two nights the first act made fairly heavy demands on both actors and audience (probably each thought that the other could do

better), and when Charles Surface strode on to the stage, a little larger than life, those who knew J. Porteous off-stage were prepared for something to happen. They were not disappointed. There was not much polish about his performance, but a successful Charles Surface is often a matter of temperament, not of acting. What he lacked in finesse he made up in vigour, and on the principle that all polish and no spit makes Jack a dull boy, the producer was right to let him have his head. He was never dull, and his ebullient salesmanship in the picture-gallery scene set the pace for the rest of the play.

By contrast, C. Lewsen's Joseph Surface seemed at first underplayed, but both the performer and the performance gained in stature as the play went on, and, when the curtain rang down, the evening was undoubtedly his. To portray Joseph Surface as a cad and a hypocrite is easy enough—Sheridan does the work for you. The real test is to elicit a measure of complacent sympathy from the audience; and Lewsen easily passed it.

The two character parts, Sir Peter and Sir Oliver, suited A. M. Howard and G. Wordsworth admirably. Of the two, Howard's performance was the more professional; Wordsworth's the more convincing. Sir Oliver's is perhaps the easier part. Playing against a background of strongly contrasted nephews he has merely to keep his own end up and to see that justice is done. Sir Peter, on the other hand, as the old bachelor who has married a young wife, must be the nicer student of psychology, and his fate as an actor, as in real life, depends much upon his partner. D. Dewar's Lady Teazle had charm and a happy blend of innocence and pertness. But where were the sudden changes of mood which caused Sir Peter alternately to dote on her and to revile her?

In the smaller parts R. F. Wilding (Snake), J. Hyam (Crabtree) and M. G. Drake (Trip) all gave good performances. D. D. Cammell as Maria was somewhat wooden where merely a certain amount of high-minded reticence would have been sufficient. H. R. Calmann, as Moses, deserves a special mention. In a part which it is easy, and fatal, to overplay he never once put a foot wrong. The production, as we have come to expect from Mr. Lushington, was flawless.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL



INTERRUPTION IN THE LIBRARY

[Photo: A. A. Meyer]



LET THE TOAST PASS—DRINK TO THE LASS

[Photo: A. A. Meyer]

THE RIGHT HON. LORD GREENE, P.C., O.B.E., M.C.

SCATTERED through the pages of British history are the names of many famous, and some notorious Old Westminsters learned in the law. Of the former, there is the great Mansfield, and of the latter, Jeffreys of the "Bloody Assize". Into a niche in the halls of fame has now passed Wilfrid Greene.

He ascended the legal ladder, rung by rung, by his brilliant gifts, until he reached the highest legal tribunals—the House of Lords and the Privy Council.

There are others far better qualified than I to tell the story of his superb scholarship and of his professional attainments. My purpose is to place on record the immense, but largely unknown, debt which Westminsters, past and present, owe to him as a joint founder and first Chairman of the Westminster School Society. It was in 1934 that by Resolution of the Governing Body, a Committee was appointed "to consider how best the present financial anxieties of the School may be relieved, and the future responsibilities met". This Committee, of which the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Greene was a member, sat from 1936 until July, 1937, when, as a result of its deliberations, the Westminster School Society was founded. Greene was by acclamation elected first Chairman of the Council of the Society, for he it was who was responsible for the drafting of the Constitution of the Society, and it was his fertile and ingenious brain, and his powers of persuasion that created a legal entity able to receive for the benefit of the School by way of legacies, subscriptions and gifts, moneys and properties of all kinds.

The Westminster School Society was firmly established before the war was declared, and it is no exaggeration to state that the untiring labours of Wilfrid Greene were mainly responsible for

this. When in 1944, the Westminster School War Memorial Fund came into existence, Wilfrid Greene was a member from its inception, and was a generous contributor to the Fund. I believe it is true to say that had it not been for the way in which Old Westminsters first laid the foundation of a permanent endowment through the activities of the Society, and second came to the aid of the School by raising the Memorial Fund to assist in making good the terrible depredations it had suffered in the blitzes, it might not have been able to survive. The School's survival may therefore be said to be largely due to the part played by Wilfrid Greene.

Right through the war he was Chairman of the School Finance Committee, in which capacity he rendered selfless service in guiding the Committee and the School during a period of unexampled financial difficulty, when evacuation succeeded evacuation, and never-ending expenditure seemed at times to be leading to inevitable bankruptcy.

Throughout the war years, Wilfrid Greene's profound love and staunch loyalty for his old School were an inspiration and an example to everyone associated with him in those dark days. His services during the various negotiations—largely financial—to bring order out of the chaos of the aftermath of the war, were incomparable.

As a man, his taste was exquisite, his learning profound, his wit sensitive. His charming gift of suffering fools, if not gladly, at least always patiently, was a lesson in self-discipline, an example of how fruitful a genuine kindness of heart can be.

It is hard to believe that Wilfrid Greene is no longer with us, but all his friends will believe that with triumphant and melodious chords the trumpets sounded on the other side.

D.



THE TRIFLER

In 1950 when King George VI came to Westminster to re-open College Dormitory a literary magazine, with contributions by distinguished Old Westminsters and parents, was produced to celebrate the event. Last year a second number appeared, with contributions among others by J. D. Carleton, Michael Hamburger and Kathleen Raine.

This year's *Trifler* will appear on July 22nd and may be had of

The Editor, *The Trifler*,

2 Little Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1

at a cost of two shillings and sixpence.

THE POLITICAL and LITERARY SOCIETY



DURING the Election Term, as a rule, people's minds are too full of other things, of cricket, of rowing, and above all, of examinations, to take the interest in Society proceedings that other terms allow them. When May and June are as sunny as they have been this year, it becomes worrying for a Secretary, however carefully he may have planned his series of meetings. But the heat of summer, as well as giving Westminster sportsmen a pleasant time, has proved the worth of numbers in one society, at least in one aspect. Former years have seen what has been a virtual disintegration of the society during these months, and a reassembling at the beginning of the Play Term. This summer no such disturbance has been necessary. Three most valuable meetings have been held, and a fourth is soon to follow.

The first meeting provided interest of a different sort from that to which we are used. It was odd, but possibly more enjoyable than any meeting in the last few years. Mgr. Ronald Knox addressed the Society with wit. This does not often happen. His paper "French without Tears" kept his audience continually amused, and left the Society convinced that summer meetings are well worth attending. And so there was a good attendance when the Society met again, this time to hear a more serious talk by Dr. Keith Feiling.

Dr. Feiling had a subject most happily suited to our interest and our need. For being at present engaged in writing a biography of the Old Westminster, Warren Hastings, he found it a convenient and simple matter to speak to us about him. To modern Westminsters, who know so little of this most notable of their ancestors, his address was a revelation. What we had known was largely confined to textbooks, in which Hastings's life begins at the age of fifty, and in which he is passed over with little of truth or of justice. Our speaker concentrated largely on the biographical side of his subject, and the talk was in consequence a human and personal treatment, valuable to the specialist, and entertaining to the layman.

Dr. Feiling first ingratiated himself with his audience by assuring us that in his view Westminster had been the making of Hastings. As modern Westminsters are brought up to believe

in the greatness of their school in the eighteenth century, this remark was well received. Nor, we fondly believed, was this mere flattery on the speaker's part, as for Elijah Impey, Lord Chief Justice of Bengal, and second in the election in College of which Hastings was liberty boy, Dr. Feiling had scanty praise. He remarked that there was hardly any of Impey's correspondence that did not contain some request for pension, place, or preferment.

The speaker went on to enlarge upon Hastings's first period in India as a servant of the East India Company, which he considered was too little noted by historians. He contended that it was during this time that most of Hastings's ideas about India first took shape. And only when he had dealt fully with Hastings's early development did he permit himself to launch upon discussion of the period as Governor-General, and the familiar controversy, "was Hastings right or wrong?"

To try and summarize all that Dr. Feiling said about these subjects would be to reduce his talk to the textbook level. He led us over many historical paths, with that wealth of allusion which is one of the most attractive features of his writings, and he gave to everyone a clearer picture of this most remarkable of Old Westminsters.

Sir Adrian Boulton has been to the Society before, and we were delighted to see him here again. His method was bold even if it did not make for an entirely homogeneous address. Not many of our speakers confine themselves simply to the answering of questions. But Sir Adrian seemed to thrive on them, and the meeting went on past its time with a large number of questions drawn out by the affability of our speaker. In an hour and a quarter we wandered, but with purpose, through a wide circle of musical subjects, which were treated sometimes by the application of musical theory, sometimes by the merest anecdote. Sir Adrian talked of film music, of the size of orchestras and their conducting, of modern halls and modern composers, of modality, of intonation, of state-subsidized music and of the musical career in a way calculated to interest both the musical and the unmusical among the society's members.

THE BOYD NEEL ORCHESTRA UP SCHOOL

KINDNESS OF MR. SPEDAN LEWIS

IT was due to the kindness of an Old Westminster, Mr. John Spedan Lewis, that the Boyd Neel Orchestra played up School on the evening of May 13th, and a kindness to the School can scarcely ever have received so spontaneous and so immediate an appreciation as did this.

The programme was skilfully constructed, the showmanship of Handel and the finesse of Mozart leading us up with a confident expectation of our orchestra's powers, to the central work by Bartok. For some, the flaw in such a construction lay in the apparent anti-climax after the interval of the delicious melodies of Dvorak's Serenade for Strings, the popular Opus 22. However, for others this simple but beautifully styled chamber music was a suitable rounding off to the evening.

Handel's florid Concerto Grosso in A was played with a stimulating fullness of string chording, and a very happy show of skill from the solo trio. If there was a fault in the interpretation, it seems to have been in the division between the *solo* and *tutti* bands. The consequent variation in volume was not really clear. The second work, Mozart's Divertimento in D, was much enjoyed, and the excellent poise of the orchestra's ensemble was very noticeable. In balance, rhythm and

dynamic effect no fault at all could be found with the performance.

Without doubt the most important and the most moving work in the programme was Bartok's Divertimento for Strings, a work which is frequently heard, but which never fails to arrest the attention. Each movement is different in feeling, the first a strident exposition and development of highly rhythmical melodies, most skilful and effective writing for strings; the second a beautiful and powerful meditation, in which the daring harmonies and lengthy working out of the music sets the imagination to build a mysterious portrait of the waste lands of Central Europe from which the composer came; the third an antiphonal whirlwind dance in effect, a wild movement evoking with its vigour and robustness a primitive composition, a primitive expression of triumph.

However, the Divertimento, over and above this, is a finely conceived entity, which is more quickly realized than in many compositions, and most effectively appreciated in the feeling of finality at its conclusion. This, the most difficult piece of music of the evening, was evidently the most enjoyed. It is a celebrated example of the contribution that modern chamber music is making to the old round of eighteenth-century masters.



THE SCHOOL CONCERT

IN the two concerts that have taken place so far this year, we have been able to hear no less than four soloists from the School. At Christmas we heard D. A. Viney and R. A. C. Norrington, who gave a very polished and inspiring performance of Bach's double violin concerto in D minor, and J. R. D'Arcy Dawson, who played Mendelssohn's Capriccio Brillante for pianoforte and orchestra with the confidence that is only founded upon a sure technique. To add to these, at the end of last term, C. A. Gane performed a movement from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in a manner which will not quickly be forgotten. It is indeed pleasant to see that there are instrumentalists in the School capable of undertaking a solo part, even though there are so few of them in the orchestra at the concert.

The Lent Term Concert began with Beethoven's Coriolanus overture, which was given a convincing rendering by all sections of the orchestra, though the rhythm of the bass was at times inclined to be somewhat erratic. Then followed the main work of the evening, Dvorak's Mass in D. This work contains a great deal of charming music, but does not rank among Dvorak's masterpieces, and his treatment of the sacred words gives the work a rather more secular nature. The choir exhibited much the same faults as last term, namely, forcing the tone on high notes, the tenors being especially at fault here, and more generally an occasional lack of attack, but nevertheless they gave a spirited rendering of the more robust choruses, in addition to letting us taste the full flavour of the lilting tunes in the Kyrie and Gloria.

The acoustics were improved beyond recognition by the removal of all the stage save the actual platform, so the final chord, marked down to *ppp*, gained its full effect. Let us hope that the choir will always be free from the trappings of a theatre, and that it will be the fullest sound that reaches the audience.

Debussy's delightful *Petite Suite* which followed after the interval was given a delicate performance on the whole, though the orchestra was sometimes inclined to be a little heavy-handed. But the highlight of this concert was undoubtedly Gane's professional rendering of the first movement of

Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A*. His phrasing and tone are remarkably good, and an excellent balance was achieved between soloist and orchestra, the latter providing a most sympathetic accompaniment.

Lastly, choir and orchestra again combined, for Holst's setting of the 148th Psalm, which was given a rousing performance, and provided a fitting end to another most successful concert. Thanks and praise are due to Mr. Foster for all the hard work he puts into the choir and orchestra, and the excellent results he achieves.

L'ECOLE DES ROCHES

WHEN Dr. Sanger and thirteen members of the Modern Languages Seventh did not appear at the beginning of this term, there was a general feeling of incredulity that such an ambitious scheme as a form visit to France should have been accomplished. Such visits had been planned before, and had fallen through.

However, in actual fact, we assembled safely at Paris at the *Hôtel de Londres* ("Salle de bains-dernier confort") and took the train to Verneuil, about seventy miles west in Normandy, where we had been invited to stay at the *Ecole des Roches*. None of us had ever been to the school before, but its reputation as one of the best schools in France made us hope for the best.

In appearance the school is attractive. There are no boundary walls with iron gates to pass through, and the sense of freedom is emphasized by the fact that a public road runs through the school grounds. The buildings are separated by large unkept lawns and scattered woods, which relieve the flatness of the surrounding plains.

The boys, three hundred and fifty in number, are divided between four houses and a separate junior school. Each house is run on Public School lines, with a housemaster, a head of house and monitors, though only the housemaster has any real authority. The school work is very hard, starting at eight-fifteen in the morning and finishing the day with three and a half hours of preparation. What is worse, is that there is no intellectual activity outside this work, as there are no school societies.

While we were there, we did our best for the cause of English culture by playing cricket and tennis, by giving a demonstration of fencing, by singing a programme of English songs at a musical evening, and by organizing two inter-debates, one

in French and one in English. The French people on their part were magnificently hospitable and friendly. They organized excursions for us,



Form Rooms—Ecole Des Roches. [Photo: J. K. Oliver]

including one to Chartres Cathedral, arranged film shows, and were constantly inviting "les camarades britanniques" to lunch or dinner. Finally, on our last day, they organized a farewell ceremony at which the Union Jack was hoisted amid signing of *God Save the Queen* and *Auld Lang Syne*.

This was the first big exchange between Westminster and a foreign school, and as an experiment it was a great success. Every tribute must be paid to Dr. Sanger, who not only conceived the plan, but brought it into execution, and who earned the gratitude of the whole party. Let us hope that this visit is the first of many exchanges between Westminster and the *Ecole des Roches*.

THE SEASON'S CRICKET

SATISFACTORY RESULTS



AFTER two steady performances against the Eton Ramblers and Wimbledon to start the season, a fairly confident side took the field against Stowe. Stowe were dismissed for the rather unimpressive total of 176 on a perfect wicket. Jones was responsible for most of the wickets, although for long spells he was not accurate enough to be effective. Lorimer-Thomas and Tourlmain opened the innings for the School and the score reached 50 before they were separated. By now, however, we were somewhat behind the clock and both Higgins and Davies were out trying to force the pace, but even then 96 for 3 did not look unreasonable, and no one could have foreseen from the very average Stowe bowling that five wickets would fall in the space of the next six overs, but they did, and the School, with no hope of getting enough runs for victory, played out the last few overs without losing another wicket, Lorimer-Thomas carrying his bat for 51 runs.

After a disappointing display against Radley at Vincent Square, the 1st XI went down to Sherborne on 30th May for a two-day match, determined to redeem themselves. Sherborne elected to bat on an easy paced wicket, but in the first over Davies bowled one of their men with a swinging yorker. Some obstinate resistance by Lewis, the Sherborne captain, and Shields, made a change of bowling necessary, and Jones replaced Davies. Shortly afterwards Lewis was out well caught by Henry at deep square leg, and later Shields was bowled by Davies, after which very little resistance was put up against an accurate attack well backed up by good fielding, and Sherborne were all out for 110. Westminster soon lost Lorimer-Thomas, but Tourlmain and Hillyard settled down, and slowly got on top of the bowling. Both batsmen looked well established, and Tourlmain particularly made many delightful strokes before unluckily playing on to his wicket off his foot. Higgins, who never looked happy, and Hillyard were out by 106, and Davies and Henry then proceeded to put on 65 without much difficulty. Henry was finally out, and Davies and Blume saw out time. Westminster retired for the night well satisfied with a successful day. The next morning wickets were sacrificed for quick runs, and Westminster declared 228—9. It had already rained heavily and it soon became

apparent that play would be interrupted many times. The side tried desperately to dismiss the opposition cheaply, but it soon became impossible to hold the ball, and the match dissolved into a tame draw.

The M.C.C. brought a strong side to Vincent Square. They rather outclassed the Westminster bowling, but when they had scored 221—3 they made a sporting declaration, leaving Westminster ample time to get the runs if they could. For Westminster Davies, Henry, and Hillyard all batted well and the runs were made for the loss of eight wickets.

Against Lancing on 21st June Westminster were sent in to field first. Lancing batted poorly. They never settled down against the aggressive bowling of Davies and Blume, and the subtle spin and flight of Jones and Garcia. The fielding also was first rate, but honours here must go to wicket-keeper Hornsby, whose catch off Davies, and whose running out of Howe, the only Lancing bat who looked like making runs, were both incomparable.

Westminster started as disastrously as Lancing, losing two wickets for only three runs, but Higgins and Hillyard took the score to 53, and when Hillyard was out, Higgins and Davies knocked off the remaining runs for no further loss. Both Higgins and Hillyard batted with efficiency, and did not allow themselves to be worried by the ring of close in fieldsmen which surrounded them off the fast bowling. The match was altogether a very satisfactory win for the School.

SCORE CARD

Westminster 158 for 5 dec. (Davies 63, Tourlmain 44); Eton Ramblers 120 for 6 (Davies 5 for 35).

Westminster 160 for 6 dec. (Higgins 91); Wimbledon 90 for 6.

Westminster 152 for 6 dec.; Buccaneers 156 for 7.

Westminster 169 (Higgins 67); Radley 170 for 1.

Sherborne 110 and 208 for 8 (Davies 5—20); Westminster 228 for 9 (Davies 67, Hillyard 42, Tourlmain 40).

XL Club 168 for 7 declared; Westminster 133 for 8.

M.C.C. 221 for 3 dec. (Bushby 61, Boston 56*, Sheppard 52, Somerville 51); Westminster 225 for 8 (Davies 72).

Lancing 94 (Davies 5—25, Jones 3—23); Westminster 95 for 3 (Higgins 60*).

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

At the end of last term, at a general meeting of the Society, J. I. Hyam was elected secretary, and J. M. T. Willoughby and R. A. C. Norrington were elected as new members of the committee.

It was decided that, in spite of the small attendances usual during the Election Term, at least a few debates would be held. The Society therefore duly met for the first meeting of the term to debate the motion "that this House would rather see Shakespeare banned in this country, than cricket abolished".

The proposer, R. M. Barker, made, to say the least, a challenging and controversial speech, condemning with that immense, almost hysterical fervour that the Society has grown to expect from him, the stage, actors, and Shakespeare, which, he said, were all bound up with insincerity and unreality. He astonished the Society by concluding his speech with the statement that cricket had all the reality of life, which Shakespeare lacked.

G. Wordsworth, opposing, spoke first in a rather obvious vein, upholding the lasting value of poetry and the unique quality of Shakespeare. He continued facetiously to suggest marbles and croquet as a suitable and adequate substitute for

cricket. Only one part of his speech really held and entertained the House, a well-timed delivery of one of the more sentimental speeches about cricket taken from his part in *Badger's Green*, the play which Grant's produced two terms ago.

R. Q. Yeatman, seconding the motion, followed Mr. Barker closely, vehemently denouncing what he called "the Myth of Shakespeare". J. L. Speaight replied to this, saying that as cricket was already superseded by football as the national game, the remarks of the proposers were valueless.

From the floor, the speeches were uniformly dull. Only D. van Rest rose above the average, with a maiden speech deploring the immorality of cricket. It was composed largely of puns upon cricketing terms. Some of these were not new, but the better ones were, and their well-timed introduction gave the Society the entertainment that it so thirsted for.

That the motion was lost by seventeen votes to four, tells its own story. The part of the Society that might have given its support to the motion was already up Fields listening to "the chock of leather against willow", while in the Scott Library the members that were left, floundered on, devoid of inspiration, in their one-sided debate.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- July 4th. M. René Varin at Political and Literary Society.
" 5th. 1st XI v Tonbridge.
" 10th. Ashburton Shield at Bisley.
" 14th. School Regatta begins.
" 1st XI v. Lords and Commons.
" 19th. 1st XI v. Charterhouse.
" 1st VI v. Lancing.
" 26th. School Regatta Finals.
" 1st XI v. O.W.W.
Barnes Cup Final.
" 27th. Election Sunday.
" 28th. Election Monday.
" 29th. Term ends.
C.C.F. Camp begins at Fingringhoe.
Scout Camp begins in Wensleydale.
Sept. 24th. Play Term begins.

N.B.—The School Concert, at which selected items from the music competitions will be performed, together with Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music*, will take place up School on Friday, July 25th, at 7.45 p.m.

O.W.W. wanting tickets are asked to apply to
The Concert Secretary,
3 Little Dean's Yard, S.W.1
not later than July 17th.

CONTEMPORARIES

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following contemporaries:—

The Aldenhamian, The Alleynian, The Ardingly Annals, The Beaumont Review, The Berkhamstedian, The Blundellian, The Brentwoodian, The Brighton College Magazine, The Brightonian, The Britannia Magazine, The Bryanston Saga, The Cantuarian, The Carthusian, The Chicago Latin School News, The Cholmeleian, The Christ's College Register, The City of London School Magazine, The Crimson Comet, The Deerfield Literary Magazine, The Deerfield Scroll, The Dunelmian, The Edinburgh Academy Chronicle, The Elizabethan, The English Public Schools Association Journal, The Eton College Chronicle, Etomiana, The Felstedian, The Fettesian, The Fish and Pumpkin, The Folio, The Forest School Magazine.

FENCING



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Championships were fought off on April 17th, 18th and 19th at the Examination Schools of the Imperial Institute. As in previous years they were organized by Mr. E. B. Christie, O.W., and to him must go the credit for the large number of entries. In the Senior Foil alone there were ninety-four boys representing twenty-nine schools.

C. J. Croft, I. R. Cameron, N. D. Deakin and M. S. Makower represented the School in the Junior Foil. They all did exceptionally well to get through the first three rounds and into the semi-final. It is some time since four of the last twelve competitors in the Junior Foil were from Westminster. Croft was the only one to reach the final and he came fifth, winning two of his five fights.

The efforts of the Colts made up for a sad display in the Senior Foil. J. L. Lee and R. S. Clarke were the only two to reach the third round, and neither of them managed to get through to the semi-final.

There were sixty-one entries for the *Épée*. E. A. Bower, D. J. D. Miller and J. K. Oliver reached the third round, but got no further. Lee and R. M. Barker graduated fairly easily to the semi-final, but Lee was the only one to reach the last six. When the last fight of the final was called, five of the competitors had won two fights

each and, provided there was not a double loss, the winner of this fight would win the competition. The fight was between Lee and D. A. Austin of St. Paul's. Three minutes later, amidst clapping and fluttering copies of the A.F.A. Rules, Lee became the *Épée* Champion.

Fifty-nine boys in all entered for the Sabre. Lee, Clarke and A. G. S. Mackeown reached the last twelve, and once again Lee was the only one to be promoted to the final. The final of the Sabre was the best pool of the whole competition for the fighting was of a very high standard. Lee won two of his five fights and was placed fourth. He is to be congratulated on the high standard of fencing that he has maintained over the last three years. The fact that he was unsupported in any of the Senior finals was due, in large measure, to bad luck, but it accounted for Westminster gaining only fourth place for the Graham-Bartlett Cup.

It was unfortunate that some of the younger O.W. fencers were unable to be present at the Championships, for their presence on juries in the earlier rounds is invaluable. As in past years the presiding and judging in the final pools was excellent, but in all the earlier pools, including some of the semi-finals, it was very weak. The best presidents in the earlier rounds were those who had recently left Westminster's rival schools.

THE TEAM IN PARIS

IMMEDIATELY after the Public Schools Championships, the team, together with Dr. Sanger, departed for Paris. Four evenings' fencing had been arranged, at four of the city's leading clubs, with the possibility of having a match at each of them.

The first night we spent at the Racing Club de France, the best appointed club most of us had ever seen, or are ever likely to see. The fencing was of an extremely high standard, and the only team they could raise to meet us was one of three sabreurs, two of whom were internationals and left-handers. Needless to say we lost, but not without a number of hits being scored by all members of the team, the final score being 2—7.

The following evening we visited the Cercle Volney, where we fenced in a crypt-like salle punctuated with arches. The fencing was good

but not remarkable, except in the case of Grisoni, the French foil champion, who in the match was undefeated at foil and sabre. The foil we lost 3—6, but won the *épée* convincingly by eight fights to one. In the sabre we held our own, winning that weapon 5—4, and the match 16—11.

For our third evening we went to the Cercle d'Éscrime de Paris, where we were well entertained in a salle that closely resembled a hall of mirrors. Again we started badly by losing the foil, this time 1—8, but we nearly made up for this in the *épée* by a victory of 7—2. This was clearly going to be an exciting finish, and indeed the match was not decided until the last two fights of the sabre, which we won, thus gaining the match by fourteen fights to thirteen, after being 10—1 down at the beginning of the *épée*.

On the last night of the four, we went to the

Salle d'Armes Gardère, Prof. Gardère himself being an old friend of our foil instructor, Prof. Leon Bertrand. The fencing space here was somewhat cramped, so we were unable to arrange a match, but the free play was of a high standard, though the absence of any épéeists was noticeable.

The scores at the various weapons may prove interesting. They show our weakness at foil, at which weapon we only won four fights, and our strength at épée, where, of the eighteen fights, we only lost three. No immediate reason can be found for this, but it is strange that wherever we went very few épéeists were found, the emphasis

being always upon foil, where an extremely high standard was reached in most cases. Épée was generally regarded as a weapon requiring much the same technique as foil, and most of our opponents tended to hold their guard too high. It is also perhaps significant that the épée presidents we met were inclined to award the hit to the attack in any case of doubt.

Thus ended a memorable and interesting visit to Paris. The experience gained should stand us in good stead, and we shall not forget the hospitable welcome that was extended to us by all we met.

ATHLETICS A MAJOR SPORT

RUNNING MADE COMPULSORY

ATHLETICS at Westminster have changed considerably since the war, but this year provided the greatest change; Athletics was made a major station. There are now opportunities for promising athletes, who do not distinguish themselves at other stations, to do full-time running in the Play term, and so really having a chance of getting better training and coaching. Coaching is always a problem, but it was noticeable this year that thanks to the co-operation of many of the masters and Mr. Eastman, who devoted much of his time to coaching those entered for the field events, that the standard of athletics has improved.

The Junior and Senior Long Distance Races were held on a fine day at Putney. N. A. Phelps-Brown (G) ran very well and won the Junior Race in a good time. In the Senior, C. R. Hayes (G) and M. P. Gasper (A) ran together until they reached Beverley Brook, when Hayes went ahead to win by a few yards.

For the first week in March there was compulsory training for nearly the whole School. This gave everyone a chance to train for House Athletics, which worked on a points basis, efficiently organized by Mr. Brock.

For the first time since the war the Finals Day was a social occasion, with loudspeakers and gay clothes to give Vincent Square a Bank Holiday air. The races were well worth watching but the times were disappointing. The only outstanding performance was by T. J. Davies (G), who won four events and received the George By Henderson Cup from Mrs. Hamilton, who kindly presented the cups and medals. The medals were introduced for the first time, but perhaps it would be fairer to give them to those who came second, instead of the winners.

The Relays were run on March 25th, far too close to the Finals and the Eastbourne match to be of any significance. The Relay Cup was won by Wren's, who must be congratulated on winning it for the first time. Busby's came a very close second. Rigaud's and Grant's were very disappointing, considering that the latter won the House Athletic Cup.

On the last Thursday of term a match against Eastbourne was held up Fields for the first time since the war. The first race was the mile, which did not promise well for Westminster, as Hayes was not running and Gasper was hurt. The race was dominated by Eastbourne, but Gasper ran an excellent last lap to finish second. T. J. Davies competed in four field events and won two. The javelin, competed for the first time, was won by Eastbourne, although Storey and Tester showed promise. The Seniors, despite the fact that they were not at full strength, gave a very good performance, especially Carmichael, Crook and Green. But the Juniors showed little promise for next year, especially in the field events and middle distances. Most of them were not up to standard except for Holland, S. J. H. Gray, and the sprinters. The Seniors' match was only lost on the last race; the Juniors never looked like beating Eastbourne.

Symbolic of the new status of Athletics among Westminster stations was the right given to the Captain of Athletics to award colours. Pinks went to Hayes (the Captain), T. J. Davies, and Crook. It may not have been an outstanding year but certainly the old sense of futility has disappeared and a new interest and enthusiasm taken its place.

CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

It had been my intention to take no part at all in the rather acrimonious correspondence which has arisen over two articles that I wrote for *The Elizabethan* in the distant past. In a letter in your last issue, however, Mr. A. M. Allchin shows that he has so mistaken my meaning that I have no alternative but to pluck up my courage and enter the lists.

So far as I understood him, your correspondent is attacking me because he thinks that I suggested that to have to create one's own interests and amusements is a dull proceeding. If Mr. Allchin will read through the article entitled "Dramatics at Westminster, 1930-1950", he will, I am sure, own that there is no suggestion of that kind contained in it; indeed, one of the principal purposes behind the writing of the article was to show that when, during evacuation, school societies and organized games collapsed, the School did not just crumple up, but put its undoubted energies into other channels—one of these being the producing of plays. What I was in fact seeking to point out was that if this had not happened, that is if the School had made no effort to acclimatize itself to its conditions, life would have been very tedious indeed. Exactly the same thesis can be found in the second article that has been criticized—the article on *The Clarion* entitled "Mirror of Westminster".

Mr. Breem's letter in your issue of last November I have no desire to answer. I should like, however, to point out that I can attach no importance whatever to arguments (if so they may be called) which are based on remarks that have been taken out of their context. His misrepresentation was astonishingly pronounced. I am only sorry that the Secretary of the Old Westminsters Football Club found it necessary to use his criticism of my articles as a vehicle for a much broader and more objectionable attack, which it is impossible to justify.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. HOWARD (B. 1946-52),
Chafyn Grove School, Salisbury.

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.

DAWNAY, Denys (G. 1934-38).
DAWSON, Robert Graham (A. 1937-39).
DEMPSTER, Charles Ian (A. 1939).
DODD, Francis Sherwood (R. 1921-24).
DORMER, Richard Geoffrey Patrick Egerton (B. 1931-35).
DUNNING, James Edmund (A. 1919-23).
DUTTON, Geoffrey Frederic Charles (R. 1923-25).
EDWARDS, Richard Arthur (B. 1926-30).
ELLIS, Cuthbert Hamilton (G. 1922-25).
EPSTEIN, Edward (H. and B. 1927-30).
EVANS, Raymond Criswick (H. 1920-25).
FITZHUGH, Peter (G. 1934-39).
FORMAN, Patrick William (G. 1920-22).

FOURACRE, Lt.-Col. John Leighton (B. 1925-30).
FOX, John Victor (A. 1930-34).
FOXWELL, Peter Burford (H. 1939-40).
GAWTHORNE, Peter Patrick (H. 1932-38).
GIBSON, John (H. 1923-27).
GIBSON, Peter (H. 1925-28).
GIFFORD, Eric Claude (1921-24).
GILES, Roland Lewis (G. 1922-24).
GLADSTON, Godfrey (H. 1928-31).
GODDARD, Philip Wilton (B. and R. 1925-27).
GODSAL, Charles Philip Lloyd (R. 1922-24).
GORER, Richard Benjamin (R. 1926-31).
GRAHAM, John Barron (R. 1939).
GREENWOOD, Robert (R. 1936-38).
GRIFFITHS, Joseph Walter (C. 1933-37).
GRIFFITHS, Walter Ace (1919-20).
GRUMITT, Henry Thomas McAuliffe (G. 1938-40).
HARDING, Charles Alvar (H. 1929-30).
HARRIS, Norman Francis (R. 1920-21).
HARRIS, Owen Francis (A. 1928-29).
HEMMANT, William Anthony (R. 1920-24).
HENDERSON-ROE, Peter Gordon (R. 1932-34).
HIGGS, Eustace Crompton (H. 1924-27).
HOARE, Rodney Lester (R. 1924-26).
HOBMAN, James Linacre (G. 1924-28).
HOLLAND, Denys Arthur (H. 1928-32).
HOLLOWAY, David Richard (H. 1937-39).
HOWLETT, Maurice Dalziel Drummond (H. 1927-31).
HUGHES, Francis Hamilton (G. 1936-37).



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<i>Receipts</i>				<i>Expenditure</i>			
1950	£	s.	d.	1951			£ s. d.
To Cash, August 31st	1,212	14	9	By Grants :			
Interest from £5,600 3½ per cent War Loan	196	0	0	Case A	85	0	0
				Case B	50	0	0
				Case C	30	0	0
				Case D	5	7	11
				Case E	150	0	0
				Balance	1,088	6	10
	£1,408	14	9		£1,408	14	9

Note.—Of the amounts expended in grants, the sum of £253 1s. 6d. is recoverable from the 1939-45 War Memorial Fund.

H. ST. J. CARRUTHERS,
Bursar.

THE CHALLENGE 1952



The following have been elected to Resident Scholarships :—

- J. H. SIMPSON—Alley Court School.
- N. BRENCHLEY—Downsend School.
- F. P. DOVE—Westminster and Tormore School.
- J. A. LAND—The Dragon School.
- C. H. BEARD—Hawtreys School.
- S. T. GRAY—Westminster and Tormore School.
- K. G. WAKELY—Chafyn Grove School.
- P. J. DUNLOP—Oxford Cathedral Choir House.
- M. J. HALL—Westminster and Westminster Under School.

D. J. MOUL—Durstons House School.

Honorary Town Boy Scholarships have been awarded to :—

- S. SIMONS—Westminster and Davies' School.
- T. F. RICHTER—Westminster and Arnold House School.

The following gained Exhibitions :—

- S. SIMONS—Westminster and Davies School.
- R. M. JONES—King's College School and Westminster Under School.
- J. C. EDSBERG—Sutton Place School.

OLD WESTMINSTERS



Mr. R. C. S. Stanley, lately Chief Secretary, Northern Rhodesia, has been appointed High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Mr. M. G. Hewins has been appointed as Queen's Counsel.

Rear-Admiral M. Richmond has been appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel.

Mr. G. T. W. Cashell, F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh), has been elected F.R.C.S. of England *ad eundem*.

Mr. Rodney Smith has been awarded the Jacksonian Prize for 1951 by the Royal College of Surgeons.

Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby's *Arabian Jubilee* has recently been published by Messrs. Robert Hale.

Mr. D. M. M. Carey has been appointed to be actuary of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury, and also to be legal secretary to the Bishop of Portsmouth.

The Reverend T. F. W. Wright has been appointed Rector of Holwell, Herts.

The Reverend A. C. P. Ward has been appointed Rector of Louth.

Canon C. B. H. Knight is resigning the rectory of Hutton.

In the University Sports Mr. K. J. S. Brookman was the Cambridge second string in the Javelin Throwing.

Raj. K. Pitamber and Mr. R. T. Robinson played Golf for Oxford against Cambridge, and the former has been elected Captain of the O.U.G.C. for the coming season.

Major R. C. Orpen has been elected as one of the representatives of the Borough of St. Marylebone on the London County Council.

BIRTHS

ASHLEY—On April 15th 1952 at Northampton to Sheila, wife of Colonel J. O. M. Ashley, a son.

BARKER—On April 5th 1952 at Bromley, Kent, to Pamela, wife of C. A. H. Barker, a son.

BOGGIS-ROLFE—On April 21st 1952 in London to Verona, wife of Paul Boggis-Rolfe, a daughter.

BRASHIER—On April 4th 1952 to Rosemary, wife of Michael Brashier, a daughter.

CARDEW—On April 12th 1952 to Yvonne Mary, wife of R. G. Cardew, a daughter.

GIMSON—On May 8th 1952 in London to Ann, wife of P. M. Gimson, a daughter.

HADFIELD—On May 4th 1952 in London to Eileen, wife of Dr. Gordon Hadfield, a daughter.

HUXLEY—On March 12th 1952 at Cambridge to Richenda, wife of A. F. Huxley, a daughter.

JEWELL—On April 7th 1952 at Watford to Elizabeth, wife of D. S. Jewell, a son.

KORDA—On May 1st 1952 in London to Pamela, wife of Peter Korda, a daughter.

PAGAN—On April 13th 1952 at Ditchingham to Annette, wife of Henry Pagan, a daughter.

PIPPETT—On May 3rd 1952 to Charlotte, wife of V. D. Pippett, a son.

TERRY—On March 18th 1952 at Hadley Wood to Elizabeth Mary, wife of J. M. Terry, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

EADY : LEA—On April 26th 1952 at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, J. G. Eady to Meryl Ruth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glover Lea of Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

GUYMER : BIDSTRUP—On April 18th 1952 in London, R. F. Guymer to Patricia Lesley, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Bidstrup of Adelaide.

JAGGER : HYNDS—On March 22nd 1952 at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Cedric Jagger to Jane Angela Hynds of Maidenhead.

REID : PARMISIEUX—On April 19th 1952 David Reid to Anna, daughter of Carl Parmisieux of Choiney, France.

ROWLAND : BIGOT—On April 20th 1952 at Mtwara, Tanganyika, H. A. I. Rowland to Madeleine, only daughter of M. and Mme. Maurice Bigot of Chartres.

OBITUARY

The death occurred on April 16th of the Right Honourable WILFRID ARTHUR, Baron GREENE, one of the most distinguished Old Westminsters of his day. A notice of his life will be found elsewhere in this issue. We also deeply regret to record the deaths of the following :

WILLIAM HENRY CHRISTY CLAY was admitted as a Queen's Scholar in 1893. He became a civil engineer, and was Land Agent to the London, Midland and Scottish Railway for many years. He served in the First World War with the Sherwood Foresters and received the O.B.E. and the T.D. He married in 1904 Constance Mary, daughter of L. A. Strange of Edgbaston.

WILFRID BONAVIA HUNT, who died at the age of 77, was at the School from 1885 to 1892, and went up to Keble College. He became an assistant master at Kilburn Grammar School, and was appointed headmaster in 1909.

GEORGE EGLINTON ALSTON DIX (Dom Gregory Dix) was admitted as a King's Scholar in 1915. From Merton College, Oxford, where he took his degree in history, he became lecturer in modern history at Keble College. He was ordained in 1924, and two years later he entered the Benedictine Monastery at Nashdom. There he devoted himself to a study of the liturgies of Christendom in their relation to Christian thought. He was the author of numerous contributions to theological journals and of other publications. His most important work was entitled *The Shape of the Liturgy*, which appeared in 1944, a learned and far-reaching contribution to the study of the history and meaning of the liturgical practices of the Church. He became Prior of Nashdom Abbey in 1948. He was an extreme high churchman, whose utterances on committees and elsewhere were stimulating and often provocative, but neither his genuine piety nor the dignity of office could ever altogether suppress his sense of fun and a certain mischievousness which those who knew him at school remember with affection.

SIR GEORGE BETTESWORTH PIGGOTT was born in 1867 and came to Westminster in 1879. He was called to the bar at the Middle Temple and for a time served on the south-eastern circuit. In 1896 he went out to Central Africa and became Senior Judge at Zanzibar in 1901. Three years later he was transferred to Constantinople, where he was assistant Judge to the Consular Court. After his return to England he acted as Chairman of the Special Military Service Tribunal in the First World War, and later sat on the L.C.C. as a member of the Municipal Reform party. He was three times married.

RONALD RAWSON RAWSON was admitted in 1906 and left in 1911 to go up to Trinity College, Cambridge. He became an engineer. In the First World War he held a commission in the Royal Engineers, and was three times awarded the M.C. He married Freda, daughter of F. M. Justen of Alexandria Road, Hampstead.

FITZ-ROY OWEN JONATHAN ROOSE was born in 1880 and came to the School in 1894. He became an electrical engineer and practised first in England and later in South America. He took a commission in the R.G.A. in 1915, and served in France and at Salonika. He was wounded at Messines, and was twice mentioned in despatches. In 1920 he was appointed Chief Electrical Engineer, P.W.D., Bombay. He married in 1905 Lilian Edith, daughter of Charles Lowe, general manager of the Mashonaland Railways.

JOHN HENRY TITCOMB, the second son of Bishop Titcomb of Rangoon, was at Westminster from 1873 to 1879. He was at one time a member of Lloyd's. He died at St. Ives in April at the age of 89.

Brigadier-General JOHN BAYWORD WELLS, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., entered Westminster in 1894 and became a Queen's Scholar in 1895. He took a commission in the North Lancashire Regiment, and served with distinction in the South African War, being six times mentioned in despatches, and receiving the award of the D.S.O. He was at the War Office from 1911 till 1915, when he went to G.H.Q. in France and afterwards in Egypt. After the war he was for some time colonel in charge of administration of London District. In 1931 he became colonel of the North Lancashire Regiment. He married Arabella, daughter of W. W. Wright of Albury.

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