

THE THORNBURIAN

THE THORNBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MAGAZINE

JULY, 1953

Editors

J. P. BLENKINSOPP
C. J. RADFORD

No. 19

SCHOOL OFFICERS, 1952-53

School Captains:

Molly Willis (C), E. J. Locke (C), G. D. Watts (H)

(Summer Term).

School Vice-Captains:

Pat Timbrell (H), Muriel James (C), J. P. Blenkinsopp (C).

School Prefects:

Valerie Harding (C)	C. J. Radford (S)
Merle Nicholas (H)	J. E. Smith (H)
Heather Thomas (S)	A. C. Darby (C)
Jeannette Loveridge (S)	R. A. Sharpe (C)
Elizabeth Nash (S)	R. P. Schjele (H)
Rhona Ewins (H)	J. E. Riddle (S)
Betty Bridgeman (H)	D. D. Watts (S)
Marion Davies (H)	A. J. Fowell (H)
Barbara Bidwell (H)	L. G. Griffiths (H)
B. D. Thompson (S)	C. Shearing (H)
W. J. Rudledge (H)	

House Captains:

CLARE: Molly Willis and J. P. Blenkinsopp

HOWARD: Pat Timbrell and W. J. Rudledge

STAFFORD: Heather Thomas and B. D. Thompson

Games Captains:

HOCKEY: Pat Timbrell

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL: W. J. Rudledge

RUGBY FOOTBALL: J. E. Riddle

TENNIS: Pat Timbrell

CRICKET: B. D. Thompson

ATHLETICS: K. G. Rowley

ROUNDERS: Mary McIntyre

SWIMMING: Mary Dibble

Games Secretaries:

Josephine Hurcombe, R. P. Schiele and J. M. Walters

Magazine Editorial Staff:

EDITORS: J. P. Blenkinsopp, C. J. Radford

SUB-EDITOR: Joy Cox

COMMITTEE: Monica Wyatt, Mary Wilson, R. A. Sharpe.

R. Schiele

THE THORNBURIAN

EDITORIAL

As this year's Editors of the "Thornburian," we find it our happy task to express on behalf of the School our loyal greetings to our Queen. We are, moreover, pleased to record that the school has given practical expression to this feeling by the acquisition of three new Coronation seats for the school field. These, appropriately inscribed, have been purchased by voluntary contribution from the pupils over the recent year.

Marked progress has also been made in other directions. We are now able to announce the completion of the new buildings on the Orchard Spur site, which include a new form-room, biology laboratory, and, perhaps the most welcome of all, a new library.

As the school population continues to grow, however, corresponding development of existing facilities and construction of new ones must take place. There remains, as ever, much to be done, but with the "spirit of adventure," advocated by Sir Olaf Caroe on Speech Day, to animate our efforts, all these difficulties can be removed. It is, therefore, with confidence inspired by past achievements, that we look forward to the further progress of the School during the reign of Elizabeth II.

J.P.B.: C.J.R.

OBITUARY

MR. C. P. TAYLOR and MR. G. R. MILLARD, M.B.E.

The School has lost, through death, two of its most valued friends and helpers, Mr. C. P. Taylor, the Clerk to the Governors, and Mr. G. R. Millard, the Vice-Chairman of the Governors.

Mr. Taylor had shown his keen interest in the School by presenting us with a Rugby Shield for House Competition, and was at all times ready with helpful advice, both legal and otherwise. Mr. Millard was also a member of the Education Committee, and his assistance during a difficult period of expansion was of great value to the School.

The School owes a debt of gratitude to them both.

GENERAL NOTES

Changes in staff always bring regrets, and we are very sorry to be losing Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Copley, Mr. Dawson and Mr. Joiner at the end of this term. Mr. Carpenter, besides being in charge of the History Department, has also done a great amount of work for athletics, and, since its foundation, he has also been the spirit behind the Photographic Society. Mr. Copley came to us after a difficult period when we had no permanent musical instructor, and has rapidly brought new life to the School's musical activities. He will also be remembered by many for his individual piano tuition. Mr. Dawson has been a member of the French Department and has made two very welcome innovations: the "fete francaise" at the end of the Spring Term, and the School trip to Paris,

which is reported at length elsewhere. He has also given coaching to the violin class, and has done most valuable work as Careers Master. Mr. Joiner, who has taught English, was responsible for the foundation of the Junior Dramatic Society, and also for the excellent performance of "Thirty Minutes in a Street," put on by 5-D in the Spring Term. The best wishes of the School go with them, and with Mrs. Remington, who taught Needlework, assisting Miss Storey, and who left us last summer.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Mr. Pedlar to take charge of the boys' physical education, Mr. Hill to be head of the Science Department. Mr. Birtles for Physics, and Mrs. Hutber, Domestic Science. The return of Mr. Johnson from the R.A.F. to take charge again of the school games (boys) was also hailed with pleasure.

The addition to the School of a new Biology laboratory, library and form-room has relieved to some extent our congested conditions. While it cannot be claimed that, externally, these buildings are entirely beautiful, they are certainly appreciated as being, inside, most agreeably conducive to study.

Out-of-school activities continue to play as great a part as ever in our routine. Mr. Cudmore organises hit Geographical excursions with customary efficiency, and accounts of some of the more important of these will be found later on in this issue. A break in tradition has been sealed again with this year's Sixth form visit to Westward Ho!

For the second year in succession, a party visited the World Citizenship Conference in London during the Christmas holidays. There can be no doubt that they enjoyed this experience and would recommend it to any who might wish to go next year.

A notable out-of-school achievement was that of Elizabeth Nash, of the VI-m form, who won a cookery prize in a local competition organised by the South Western Gas Board. The entries were judged by the French team who competed in the International Kitchens Exhibition held in London last November.

The Bristol Exploration Club have this year given invaluable help to some hardy Sixth-formers who made a valiant effort to scale Churchill Rocks. Mr. Pedlar led the expedition and has now purchased a rope for the use of the School. It is hoped that next year more Sixth-formers will join in pot-holing and more climbing in the Cheddar district and other Mendip country. The group now includes: L. I. Griffiths, J. A. Harbinson, A. G. P. Hobkirk, K. G. Rowley and D. D. Watts.

Dancing classes were held regularly during the Autumn and Spring Terms and proved as popular as ever. Two classes were held each week, one for American Square and Country Dancing, the other for Ballroom Dancing. The thanks of all concerned are due to Miss Richardson and Mr. Wright, who organised these classes.

Out-of-school Societies have included the Art Club, Photographic and Senior and Junior Dramatic Societies. Mr. Hill has founded a Scientific Society and Mr. Pedlar a Fencing Club, both of which have had a wide appeal. Friday afternoon society meetings have unfortunately been rather infrequent, but nevertheless successful. Recently a film on "The British Monarchy" was shown and introduced by Mr. Carpenter by way of a society meeting. This excellent film had the object of bringing home some of the significance of the Coronation and the wonderful tradition which lies behind it. During the Spring Term, Mr. R. Perkins, the Member of Parliament for our constituency, kindly came to give us a most entertaining talk on Parliamentary procedure.

On another occasion Mr. Frere, the Careers Officer from the Bristol section of the South Western Careers Advisory Service, came to give the seniors information and advice concerning their future.

Mr. Carpenter also has again organised the Whitsun "How good is your History?" competition. Prizes were awarded as follows: first, Jennifer Morse, 4-W; second, Diana Watkins, 3-W; third, B. Lippiatt, 4-1. The History Department also held an exhibition, arranged by the fourth forms, of "Life in the time of Elizabeth I," which was displayed on Speech Day. Form 5-H visited Bristol, where they were shown around the Georgian House and the Red Lodge. and all the fifth forms heard a talk by Dr. Griffiths of Bristol University, who visited the school to speak on "The Coronation of Henry III at Gloucester."

The School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Copley, continues to take a leading part in School functions. In this year's Founders' Service they sang Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," and they led the School's singing in both the Christmas Carol Service and the recent short Coronation Service. A notable musical addition this year has been the re-introduction of T. H. Malotte's setting of the Lord's Prayer for use at morning assembly.

Important events still include Parents' Evenings, which prove to be of great value. The successful Prefects' Party and House Parties held during the Autumn Term are now recognised as essential annual functions.

Each form continues to keep up a regular fund, and this year efforts have been devoted to the purchase of the three Coronation seats already mentioned, which now stand at the lower edge of the School field.

This year quite a number of the Sixth form have been accepted by Universities. E. I. Locke, who was School Captain for two terms, is going to Durham, and the present Captains, Molly Willis and G. D. Watts, to Bristol and Manchester respectively. R. A. Sharpe has been accepted by Manchester, Valerie Harding by Bristol, and C. J. Radford and J. P. Blenkinsopp both by London, where they have been awarded scholarships. W. I. Rudledge is to go to Loughborough Training College.

Finally, the Editors wish to thank all those who have in any way assisted in the compiling of this issue of the "Thornburian."

ANNUAL EVENTS

FOUNDERS' SERVICE 1952

The service was held at Thornbury Parish Church on Tuesday, October 21st, being well attended by both Old Thornburians and parents. It was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. O. Rawstone, who is also Chairman of the School Governors, and the lesson was read by the Headmaster. This year the choir sang Bach's chorale "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," in full four-part harmony, which has not been done for some years.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Rupert Davies, M A D.D., a lecturer at Didsbury Methodist Ministers' Training College.

Mr. Davies spoke of the value of a Christian outlook both in home and in school life, and of the close connection between the responsibilities of parents and teachers.

THE SCHOOL PLAY

One might not at first think that the gentleness and subtlety of Jane Austen's novels would lend themselves well to the stage, and indeed, though much may be preserved, much is necessarily lost. However, the production, in November, of Thea Holme's dramatisation of "Northanger Abbey" proved as great a success as any performance previously staged in the school. Unlike our recent productions, "Jonah and the Whale" and "The Miser," "Northanger Abbey" is not entirely dependent on one central character, and consequently greater opportunities were given to more actors. An outstanding performance this year was that of Elizabeth

Cannock in the role of Catherine Morland, the heroine of Jane Austen's novel: the vivacious and insincere Isabella of Molly Willis, and Muriel James's gentle and dignified Eleanor, also deserve mention

As always, the play was enjoyed as much by the cast as by the audience, and Mr. Hodge, the producer, must be thanked for organising it with such efficiency and good humour.

This year three performances were given and enthusiastically received. The following week the now established party for the cast was held, and an "adaptation" of the play, entitled "Catherine's Nightmare," by Mr. Hodge, was produced with much hilarity.

Finally, thanks are due to Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Jaques for the scenery, and to the many staff and pupils who assisted with lighting, sound effects, make-up, and other valuable work. A high standard has been set up, which the School expects to maintain, if not exceed, in the future.

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

This year's Competition, held on March 31st, was a memorable one, as the Harwood Music Shield, for the first time since its presentation, was lost by Clare.

Stafford, however, did not have it all their own way, in spite of an initial lead gained by essays and sheer numbers of entries. It seemed as if Clare might still be within range of winning, but, in spite of three sets of competitors who each gained ten marks, the Shield went to Stafford, with 376 points. Clare followed with 3~4, and Howard came third with 242.

The School was pleased to welcome again as adjudicator Mr. Kenneth Mobbs, lecturer in music at Bristol University, and thanks are due to him for the vital part he played in what has come to be one of our most eagerly-awaited functions.

Finally, thanks must also be given to Mr. Copley, who organised the occasion, and to all the other members of staff who kindly gave up their valuable time to assist in the preliminary adjudications.

HOUSE READING COMPETITION

Mr. Ian Michael, of the Bristol Institute of Education, again consented to judge the Reading Competition this year, and gave advice to the readers upon the following points. First, their approach to the audience should be deliberate, giving their hearers time to adapt themselves to a new voice and fresh matter. Second, the variation of tone and pace could be used with more effect, and thirdly, breathing must not be allowed to interfere with interpretation. Clare House again won the competition.

SPEECH DAY, 1953

For yet another year, the number of parents who attended Speech Day emphasised the inadequate accommodation offered by the hall for a school with so large an attendance, and again second and third form pupils, and even several from the fourth form, had to be excluded, and the quadrangle utilised for extra space.

The Chairman of the Governors, the Rev. R. G. Rawstone, M.A., opened the proceedings with a welcome to Sir Olaf Caroe, K.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., former Governor-General of the North West Frontier Provinces of India, and to Lady Caroe.

The Headmaster then made his annual report, in which he drew attention to the time and energy spent Out of school hours, voluntarily by the Members of Staff for the benefit of the pupils. He also said that although the new library, biology laboratory, and form-room were welcome relief for the congestion in the school, there was still a great and increasing need for yet more accommodation, especially for a new canteen, since

the number of pupils would be likely to exceed five hundred after the following September.

Sir Olaf Caroe then presented the prizes. In his subsequent interesting and witty address to the school, he advised young people that although they might sit back and take life in comparative ease during their school-days, the success of their careers and the realization of their ambitions, in adult life, depended solely on their own individual effort. He also expressed his belief that the most outstanding problem of the next halfcentury would be that of the colour-bar. After his speech, the School Captain, Molly Willis, proposed a Vote of thanks.

The visitors then enjoyed an excellent tea prepared by Miss Storey and her helpers, after which they watched displays of girls' national dancing, boys' physical training, and a demonstration from Mr. Pedlar's newly-introduced fencing club, which was greatly appreciated. There were also other exhibitions open for inspection in the French, Geography and History rooms, and in the Chemistry and Biology laboratories, and displays of Art, Handicraft and Photography.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

THE LONDON EXCURSION, 1952

Very early on the morning of Saturday, October 25th, a coach set off carrying a party from the Upper Fifth and Sixth Forms, together with members of staff, en route for London.

After a long, but interesting journey we arrived at South Kensington where we ate a somewhat belated lunch before touring the Museums. The time spent here was all too short however, for at five o'clock the whole party went to the Highgate Hostel to deposit their luggage and have tea. Soon after this we set off to see a performance of "Madam Butterfly" at Sadler's Wells. This was a new experience for most of the party, and so impressive was it that most of them returned expecting a "fine day" soon!

On Sunday morning, having done the chores, we left the hostel and walked through the shopping centre to Madame Tussaud's Waxworks. Here many members of the party viewed with awe a policeman on the landing, but the Chamber of Horrors was not popular.

From here we went to one of the many Lyons' restaurants for lunch before travelling out to Hampton Court Palace where the maze proved a great attraction! After an enjoyable afternoon here we returned to the city to have tea before going to Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral. After this the more energetic people of the party went for a walk to see the lights of London, and then returned to the hostel.

On the following morning the weather was very doubtful. However, we set off in good spirits to see the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately it did rain, but this did not mar our enjoyment of the colourful scene before us. Our next stop was at the Houses of Parliament where we spent about an hour and a half. This visit had been arranged by our Member of Parliament.

After lunch we explored Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral, including the Galleries, from which we looked down over the rooftops. That evening we saw and heard Emyln Williams reading "Bleak House," a Dickens novel. I think that the whole party was deeply impressed by his splendid performance.

On Tuesday morning we left the hostel for the last time and made our way to the Tower of London. We were disappointed to hear that the Crown Jewels had been removed for cleaning, but the short time spent there proved to be very interesting all the same, for we saw many of

the ancient towers, and, of course, the beefeaters. We then explored “the City,” Fleet Street and the Strand.

We collected our luggage which we had deposited at Charing Cross Station. and set off to join the coach. The return journey was made by way of Windsor, and we saw the famous Castle and St. George’s Chapel.

We finally arrived back at Thornbury one and a half hours later than our scheduled time. We had a very enjoyable week-end and were very grateful indeed to Mr. Cudmore for organising the trip and to the other members of staff who helped to keep a very high-spirited party in order

THEATRE VISITS: AUTUMN TERM. 1952

In the Autumn Term of last year several visits to theatres were arranged.

Early in the term, Mr. Gunn took a party of Sixth-formers to the Theatre Royal, where the Bristol Old Vic Company gave a brilliant performance of one of Shakespeare’s less popular plays, “Measure for Measure.” The standard of performance may be judged from the later success of the company in London.

After the terminal examinations in December. Miss Cook, Mr. Gunn and Mr. Joiner Went with a party of Sixth-formers and Certificate-formers on a coach trip to Stratford-on-Avon. where, after visiting such places of interest as Anne Hathaway’s Cottage and Shakespeare’s birthplace, we attended a performance of Henry IV, Part I, which fulfilled our highest expectations. After tea, we returned in the coach, arriving at Thornbury at 8.30.

Two days later, Miss Cook and Mr. Gunn, together with a number of Sixth-formers, visited the Bristol Grammar School Dramatic Society’s production of “Hamlet” at the Victoria Rooms, Bristol. This was an enjoyable but not a brilliant production, in that the depth of interpretation needed for such a play was beyond the reach of most of the boy actors. However, the evening was made memorable by the achievements of the Ghost, certainly one of the most original interpretations ever to reach the stage.

Our thanks are due to the members of staff, who made the term’s out-of-school visits so pleasant. The innovation of the Stratford trip, for which Mr. Gunn is especially to be thanked, was so successful that a further visit, to King Lear,” is planned for Saturday, July 25th.

BRISTOL – BORDEAUX EXCHANGE, 1953

At the dead hour of 3.30 a.m. on March 18th some two hundred and twenty children, among them eight Thornburians, set out from Bristol on the long journey to Bordeaux. We arrived in London early, about 6.0 am., and caught a train to Newhaven, where we all went safely through the Customs.

We had a rough crossing over to Dieppe, and several of us were sick. On arriving, we climbed up into a noisy French train to Paris, where we spent our first night, in a boys’ boarding school. Next day was spent in sight-seeing Paris. We visited Notre Dame, that truly magnificent Cathedral, drove down the Champs Elysées to L’Arc de Triomphe, saw the Place de La Concorde, the Louvre and the Tuileries, Sacré-Coeur and the tomb of Napoleon. We also climbed to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, where I nearly lost my school beret!

Next morning, we started on our seven and a half hour journey to Bordeaux, where, on arriving, greatly fatigued, we were met by our French families.

The following day, Sunday, I went with my French friend to le "Grand Théâtre" in Bordeaux, the most beautiful in France, to see an opera sung in German. The following Thursday, a trip was organised to Lascaux, where there are wonderfully preserved pre-historic paintings in caves. On Easter Sunday morning, I went with my family to church, and in the afternoon to Arcachon, a lovely seaside resort about 50 miles away from Bordeaux. Here, we climbed the highest sand-dune in Europe, which was indeed hard work! On Easter Monday, we visited Soulac-sur-mer, where we spent an enjoyable afternoon and evening.

We went to school for a week, broke up for a fortnight, and returned for our last week. Two of my friends went to the same school as I did in Bordeaux, but as there are two thousand pupils in the school, I rarely saw them. The school day starts at 8.0 am. (I was awakened at 6.0 a.m.) and finishes at 5.0 p.m. But the pupils have two hours for dinner, Monday mornings, Thursday afternoons and week-ends off. The girls are in much smaller classes and wear no official school uniform.

On our last Wednesday there, we went to the reception given by the Mayor of Bordeaux. He spoke excellent English and gave us a marvellous tea, which the French boys developed into a "good old bun-fight." On Thursday, we went by river to Pauillac, where wine is stored in the cellar of a large castle. This proved to be a most interesting trip, and we were all allowed to taste the special wine made there.

We left Bordeaux on April 19th, after saying good-bye to our hosts, and commenced our homeward journey.

After having a good meal in London, on Monday night, what a hilarious train journey to Bristol, and what joy at seeing our parents again! We were home again in England after our thoroughly happy month's holiday. Now we look forward to seeing our French guests again in July.

PARIS EXCURSION, 1953

On Wednesday, April 8th, 1953, a party of Thornbury boys and girls, under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and Miss Walker, left Stapleton Road Station, Bristol, at 5.45 p.m., for Southampton.

We sailed on the "Normannia" at 11 p.m. for Le Havre and had a very calm crossing. Customs formalities having been abbreviated for us as a school party, we went by coach to the station, where we caught the train to the Gare St. Lazare, Paris. Following the unforgettable experience of the "Metro," we walked through the strange new streets of Paris to the Hotel de Flandre, in the Rue Cujas, where we were to spend the next ten days.

We had our first French meal at a restaurant for students, our hotel being in the "Latin quarter." In the afternoon we rested at the hotel for a while, and then walked through the Jardin du Luxembourg and saw the round pond where the little French boys sail their yachts. Later we had supper, in the somewhat hilarious atmosphere of a crowded cellar— at this restaurant we became known as "la famille"—and thus ended a very tiring day.

The next day we breakfasted at the hotel and later visited Notre Dame, which greatly impressed us with its sombre beauty. We saw the treasures and relics connected with the church and climbed up to the bell tower to see the great bell which weighs thirteen tons. A special structure of oak has been built around it to prevent the vibrations from cracking the stone. We then climbed on up to the very top, where we had the first of many magnificent views of Paris. During the afternoon we visited the Madeleine, a neo-classical building, erected by Napoleon as a war memorial, which is now a Roman Catholic Church.

Saturday was a most beautiful day on which to appreciate Paris in the spring. We visited the Sainte Chapelle and the Conciergerie in the morning, then, after a quiet picnic lunch in the shadow of the Tour St. Jacques, we walked out into the bustle of traffic once more, and took a 'bus along the Rue de Rivoli. and the broad tree-lined "Avenue des Champs Elysees," which culminates in the Arc de Tromphe. Our next objective was the Tour Eiffel which most of us ascended (in a lift, of course) to the topmost floor. In spite of numerous warnings, we did not regret it; the view from 1,000 feet up is a unique experience.

On Sunday we went to the English Church at the Embassy, where the congregation included several other English school parties. After the service we hired some horse-drawn "fiacres" and rode somewhat self-consciously 'in state" along the spacious boulevards to the Eiffel Tower, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch by the river. Our destination on this occasion was the Palais de Chaillot, where the first U.N.O. meetings were held. It was in the huge and elaborate theatre, which forms merely one part of this vast building, that we were later to see a production of "L'Avare." with Jean Vilar. one of the most outstanding French actors of to-day, in the title role. We had supper in "Le Cujas" restaurant, near the hotel, and supposed that it was on our account that records of "Too Young" and "Roll out the Barrel" were repeatedly played.

On Monday we visited the "March aux Puces" in North Paris, and later climbed to the Sacre Coeur, which looked like a fairy-tale palace of white stone outlined against the blue sky. Walking back through the cobbled, picturesque streets of Montmartre. pausing to watch artists working at their easels, we made our way to the Musée Grévin where we made the acquaintance of many notable personalities (in wax!), and saw some vivid waxwork tableaux of famous historical scenes, and it was in the tiny theatre there that David Thompson assisted in a conjuring act.

On Tuesday we went through the flower markets to the Musee Pédagogique. Here we saw a most impressive exhibition on the history, geography and culture of Normandy and also work by French and German school children. Rain brought a change of plan in the afternoon—we visited the "Cineac" news theatre for an hour. and later, when the skies cleared. we visited a zoo where the cages and runs for the animals appeared to be carved from natural rock. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and many of us tasted "Gauffrettes." known to us as "waffles," for the first time.

On Wednesday we visited the "Palais de Versailles" where we enjoyed trying to understand the French guides. Unfortunately, heavy rain forced us to miss several items of interest in the grounds, but we did see the "Galerie des Glaces." In the evening a cinema gave amusement even to junior members of the party, whose French was limited.

On Thursday we visited the Louvre and saw the "Venus de MiIo." and of course the "Mona Lisa," which was rather disappointing, as the glass protection reflected the light. In the afternoon we went to the marionette theatre in the Jardin du Luxembourg and saw an instalment of "Snow White." The superiority of the production to any English puppet show surprised and delighted us.

On Friday we visited the Pantheon, where in a setting of awe-inspiring splendour we saw monuments and memorials to many famous French people. Later on we did some shopping; in fact, we made a tour of the "grands magasins." The Galeries Lafayette. The Printemps, and so on. We managed quite well on our own, although we aroused considerable interest. One member of the party was found sitting on a chair surrounded by chattering, gesticulating assistants, who supposed he was lost.

We had our last supper at "Le Cujas" restaurant, where Mr. Dawson was persuaded to accept the services of an enterprising photographer for

a snap of the entire party, including our favourite waiter. We again visited the cinema to see Louis Jouvet in "Le Docteur Knock," and on returning to the hotel we presented our "Thank you" gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and Miss Walker, and incidentally opened a bottle of wine which had been intended as a gift to take home.

We spent Saturday doing last-minute shopping, taking photographs, packing, and saying farewell to our rooms, the Hotel and Monsieur and Madame, until 9.30 p.m.. when we walked, rather sadly, for the last time, along the Boulevard St. Michel, on the first stage of our journey home. I am sure that the rest of the party will join with me in expressing our most grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and Miss Walker for giving us such a wonderful time

WESTWARD HO!, 1953

Returning to our usual custom of spending the Easter holiday at Westward Ho!, the Sixth Form Geography and Biology departments and several extra pupils, including two members of the upper fifth, left Thornbury on Friday, April 10th, to study various aspects of North Devon.

Travelling via Bridgewater, Minehead, Lynmouth, Barnstaple and Bideford, we were offered a splendid opportunity of seeing various types of scenery, which were equally new to many of us: the steep, concordant Channel coastline, the rugged, tortuous beauty of Exmoor, and the breathtaking promontories and bays of the Atlantic. However, our senses were not so overwhelmed by the loveliness of the surrounding country that we were not moved by the devastation and disaster which had submerged Lynmouth during the flooding of the River Lyn last August. Even amid this devastation, we were all gladdened by the enormous amount of work which had already been done in recovering and repairing everything possible.

Several hours later we arrived at Westward Ho!, and breaking with the tradition of staying in chalets, we made our way to the Ennisfarn Hotel, overlooking the bay. We were joined at dinner by Mr. Smith, foreman of the jury at the Manor Court of Bideford, who came to instruct us on the history of the Manor Court ceremony which we were to see on the following day. Both he and his daughter, Miss Mabel Smith, offered prizes for the best essays on our impressions of the Court. These impressions varied from the enthusiastic to the banal, but we all felt that the Court had been more enjoyable because of our previous meeting with Mr. Smith. and also because Mrs. Cox, the Mayor of Bideford. is Mr. Cudmore's sister-in-law.

On Sunday morning all members of the party attended the Manor Court service in Bideford Church. where the Bishop of Exeter preached the sermon, but in the evening we separated according to denomination, and Mr. Beynon and his campanologists went to Northam, where they were accorded the privilege of ringing the bells.

During the week we were particularly lucky in being able to complete all our plans without any intervention on the part of the weather. Thus on Tuesday we all enjoyed the visit to Saunton and the walk along the beach and cliffs to Saunton Headland and Baggy Point. One of the more enterprising biologists climbed down the cliff-side and found a dead sheep, but her delicate sense of smell prevented her from performing any dissecting operations.

Further visits were made during the week to Appledore and Clovelly. What a contrast these two towns presented: Appledore. a town with narrow, cobbled streets and shipbuilding yards where "old salts" willingly answered our questions, and Clovelly. the crowded. over-commercialised

holiday centre! However, the highlight of the visit to Clovelly was not the town itself, but the walk back to Westward Ho! Former visitors to Westward Ho! who have attempted this walk may be interested to know that no casualties were suffered.

Another memorable day was that on which we visited Dartmoor by coach. Our first stop was at Lydford Gorge, when we walked along the bank of the Lyd and several members of the party took photographs of the magnificent waterfall. We went on to visit Dartmeet and its Clapperbridge, Buckfast Abbey, which has been restored by monks, and the Celtic site at Grimspound. But here at Grimspound our usual luck failed us, and before we had left the pound a heavy mist enshrouded the bleak, granite moorland, and within a very short time we were 'Singing in the Rain'! But the rain had not, fortunately, prevented us from fulfilling our programme for the day.

On Saturday and on Monday evening we were visited by Mr. Vernon Boyle, a local artist, and Mr. Sim, the Divisional Planning Officer for North Devon, who spoke to us about "Sailing Days on the Torridge" and the "Background to North Devon" respectively. Both speakers, although widely different in character and approach, were most entertaining.

We are all very grateful to Mr. Wright, for the social evenings which he planned for us in the Ennisfarné Café, to Miss Rees, who was ever the kind, motherly nurse, prepared for all our ailments, and to Miss Taylor. Our thanks are also extended to Mr. Beynon and Mr. Cudmore who must have spent many busy hours planning the ten days that were to give us so much knowledge, pleasure and valuable experience. To all, then, we would say thank you very much.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, 1953

This was the first school trip to Stow-on-the-Wold, and replaced, this year, the weekend at Batheaston. We left school by coach on Friday, the 24th April, reached the hostel at 7.30, and went for a short walk before supper. When we heard the church clock strike seven next morning, we noticed that it was distinctly flat, and this continued to bother some members of the party. By the time we had done our jobs and collected our sandwiches, it was about 10.30, and the sky was rather overcast, but it brightened up later.

First of all we went down a steep hill out of Stow, along a road leading to a dog-show, as we realised from the many dogs in the backs of passing cars. Our first destination was Bourton-on-the-Water, a lovely little Cotswold village, with a river called the Windrush flowing through its well-kept centre. The banks of the little river are covered with smooth lawns; here and there a weeping willow drapes its feathery plumes gracefully over the water, and ducks swim against or float with the current, which was quite strong on that day. Through Bourton we followed the road by the river until we came to an Inn directing us to the Model Village. This is a wonderful model of Bourton-on-the-Water, all of Cotswold stone, and covering about the same area as our school hall. Later we met on one of the three graceful little bridges over the Windrush and went on to Lower Slaughter, a pretty village with a river. (Most Cotswold villages seem to have a river.) After lunch we wandered on through Upper Slaughter and Lower Swell, to Upper Swell, which has an interesting mill race or pond, and small lake, and so back to Stow. Stow is quite a large town (without a river) and was once the centre of a flourishing wool trade.

The next day was fine and warm, and we walked to Chedworth, through some of the loveliest hills and valleys of the Cotswolds, in one of which Mr. Cudmore spotted a heron. The Headmaster joined us on the

way. At Chedworth we saw the remains of the villa, and visited the museum; especially interesting were some good examples of Roman mosaic and hypocausts and the traces of the fulling processes which took place there. Then we retraced our steps to the cross-roads where we met the coach which took us back to Thornbury, arriving about 6.30 p.m. In all, we walked thirty-two miles and had a highly enjoyable time.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the members of the school who went, Mr. Cudmore, Miss Cook, Miss Rees, and all those members of staff who helped to give us such a successful week-end.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

President: C. M. Browning

Secretary: J. A. Harbinson

Treasurer: Rosemary Green

Despite the loss of our President, S. J. Cutts. in the Autumn Term, the Society has continued to progress. During the course of the year, many short talks on Photography have been given by members; owing to the lack of a dark-room, our practical work has been curtailed, but we have held some interesting, if not entirely perfect experiments on table-top and portrait photography.

An event of great interest was the visit to Thornbury Picture House, where the members were taken over the projection room. We would like to thank Mr. Carter for his kind invitation and his explanations.

The members are grateful to Mr. Carpenter for his support and encouragement during his period in the school, and we are very sorry that he is leaving.

In this year's competition, first prize was won by J. A. Harbinson, the second by B. Lloyd. and the third by C. M. Browning.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

This year has seen the refounding of the Scientific Society, which has not been active for some years.

Mr. Hill has, however, obtained several interesting sets of films, and the Society will now meet regularly. It is hoped that next year many more will join a society that gives zest and meaning to the study of the sciences in school.

A most successful meeting was held this term, when about thirty boys and girls visited Thornbury Gas Works, and looked into the inner workings.

The members of the Committee are:—C. Shearing, P. Fox, T. M. Walters and L. J. Griffiths.

SENIOR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

President: J. P. Blenkinsopp

Secretary: Muriel James

Treasurer: P. Fowell

In the third School year of its life, the Senior Dramatic Society can still claim to be one of our most popular and profitable activities, and it has, during the last three terms, kept up regularly its varied and well-supported meetings. Play readings have contributed much to these, as is to be expected, the most important perhaps being a reading of Jean Anouilh's

"Ring Round the Moon," which for many served as an introduction to this most entertaining and penetrating French writer. On another occasion members of the fifth forms read two short plays entitled, "The Boy Came Home." and "The Grand Chain's Diamond."

With the Theatre Royal and the Bristol Old Vic Company so close at hand, theatre visits were easily arranged. and parties went to performances of "The River Line." and Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment." the latter being presented by the Old Vic Theatre School.

Following the success of the Hallowe'en meeting last year, a similar one was arranged this year, when members read ghost stories and acted ghostly sketches in a room whose only illumination consisted of candles placed inside hollowed-out turnips.

Last term a novel experiment took place, when, with the aid of the School tape-recorder, a "broadcast" performance of Melville's "Moby Dick," in an abridged version, was arranged. with a view to acquainting members of both cast and audience with the difficulties facing B.B.C. producers. In spite of very limited resources and lack of proper acoustics. quite a creditable performance was obtained, and very much learnt. We are now much more aware of the technique in the broadcasting of drama, which most listeners easily overlook,

On one occasion. at the end of term, a miscellaneous programme was organised and carried through with great success.- This included dumb-show charades, a dramatic quiz, and a series of radio signature tunes, played on the invaluable tape-recorder, for the audience to identify. Prizes, in the form of free theatre tickets, were awarded to winners.

Another most interesting hour was provided by a film version of a scene from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," in which such actors as Felix Aylmer and Leo Genn took part. Although on the whole a good presentation, the film was subject to a certain amount of criticism with regard to the crowd, which seemed too well organised for a Roman mob.

Finally, a word of appreciation must be given to Mr. Hodge, whose enthusiasm founded the society and who still keeps it running smoothly by arranging outside speakers, sending away for copies of plays, booking theatre tickets. and doing other vital work.

JUNIOR DRAMATIC ACTIVITIES

The Junior Dramatic Society has, continued to lead an active existence. Prepared and unprepared "performances" have been given of many one-act plays, including such old favourites as "The Grand Chain's Diamond" and "The Bishop's Candlesticks." Charades, introduced from time to time by way of variety, have been found to give valuable scope for uninhibited acting, with entertaining if not moving results. J.D.S. members will not soon forget the anguish of Ulysses at the mast as he heard the mellifluous moanings of the Sirens or the tender solicitude of the lady with the lamp for the pitiful charges of army surgeons so heartless that everyone took them to be cannibals carving up their victims.

At the end of the Spring Term a group of Junior Plays was performed in front of the School.

The first item on the programme was Beatrice Mayor's "Thirty Minutes in a Street," produced by Mm-. Joiner and acted by members of 5-D. It is obviously impossible to mention all who took the twenty-three parts in this tragi-comic farce, but notable performances included those of J. Smith as the "Stray Man." pathetic, pleading and forever misunderstood; of Sylvia Smith as a very flustered old lady, and of C. Blenkinsopp as her all-too-attentive escort; of I. Sparrow as a curate, whose beatific smile faded as, with open umbrella, he shielded defenceless females from the

attacks of an- actor dressed as a gorilla (R. Cornelius); of N. Short as a most impressive professor; of Mary Westcott as the Naughty Rich Lady; and of Barbara Hollier as the little girl living in a world of make-believe.

After this play, some members of 3-J, dressed as eighteenth century villagers, gave a semi-dramatic rendering of "The Highwayman," by Alfred Noyes.

A performance by some 4-W boys of Lord Dunsany's ~'A Night at the Opera" was produced by Mr. Gunn. In this macabre piece suspense grew as the suavely aristocratic jewel thief (M. Challenger) waited with his somewhat naive and socially inferior henchmen (R. Wells, A. Slade, I. McTavish) to deal with the vengeful priests of the Indian idol, whose ruby eye they had stolen, little expecting to be eventually confronted by the hideous idol itself.

Finally, members of 5-H presented the scenes from Sheridan's "School for Scandal" in which Charles Surface "sells his ancestors," Produced by Miss Cook, the scenes owed much of their success to the most convincing "masculine" swagger and acting of Elaine Pullin and Diane Watts as the gallants who horrified Sir Oliver (Sally Adams) by their sale of their ancestors' portraits—painted in the best period style by Mr. Jaques.

The producers and casts of the plays were indeed most grateful to Mr. Jaques for the scenery he painted, to Mr. Jenkins for erecting the stage, to Mr. Birtles and G. D. Watts for providing the lighting, and to Mr. I-lodge for the sound effects, including the eerily moaning wind that accompanied the Highwayman's moonlight rides,

BELL-RINGING

At the beginning of the Autumn Term members of Forms 3-W and 4-1 were invited to learn how to ring handbells. With the help of Miss Taylor and Marion Davies, considerable progress was made, and by Christmas reasonably well-struck rounds and set-changes were being rung on tin bells, as well as some well-known carols—we hope that the School recognised the tunes as they sounded from 4-J almost every lunch-time!

After Christmas these carols were replaced by some popular airs and many attempts to encourage the ringing of changes were made but, with the onset of other activities, the interest of the juniors waned. However, some members of the Upper 5th and 6th forms from Thornbury and Tortworth had become interested in the ringing of church bells and were learning how to handle them. We began meeting as a separate group and concentrated our attention on change>ringing proper, where the aim is to start from rounds, i.e.. 123456 on six bells. 6 being the heaviest and deepest toned bell, and finish in rounds. each change being made according to a definite routine or "method" and no change being repeated during the sequence or "touch." On six bells it is p9ssihle to produce 720 different changes and it takes about 25 minutes to ring them. Progress was made, hut we are still a long way from perfection and are, of course, still in the very elementary stages of change>ringing. During this time corresponding progress has been made in the tower, where the methods of forming the changes are the same, but the techniques of ringing them are different.

In the School there are eight. four of them girls, who regularly take their places in their home towers on Sundays. Betty Bridgeman and Exell have rung their first quarter-peal, Betty ringing the Cromhall tenor behind in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on Coronation Day. While staying at Westward Ho! at Easter, two of us joined the Bideford ringers on the Sunday morning and again on their practice night. We also chimed the bells of Northam and were watched by Marion Davies who, however, could not be persuaded to "have a pull"!

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE CORONATION

Joan Gingell, 2-R

C for the Crown, for the Queen we adore,
O for the Orb which she carries before.
R for her Reign which we hope will be long.
O for her Officers, so noble and strong.
N for the Nation, full homage will pay,
A the Archbishop who crowns her that day.
T for the Tributes the whole world will send,
I for the Island our forces defend.
O the occasion, when all bells will ring.
N National Anthem, all England will sing.
May the sun shine bright,
And the world shout with glee,
On that great happy day,
June—one, nine. five, three.

“THE BITER BIT”

Penelope McMillan, 3-W.

A man stole Out on a moonlight night,
To give his neighbour an awful fright;
To appear as a ghost was in his mind.
To cast a shadow on the window blind.

This you'll agree was a very foul plot,
And you'll laugh when you hear what this biter got;
He was stung by a nettle, which gave him great pain.
And to make matters worse, it came on to rain.

He turned in his tracks and started to run.
Having decided that joking was not such good fun,
He made for his fire, but found his way blocked.
For the door he had come through was now firmly locked.

Came a night in the rain, a cold in the head,
Bronchitis, pneumonia, and soon he was dead.

THE CAPTAIN OF A CORVETTE

A. Jenkins, 2-R

I wish a were a Captain of a Corvette (fifty guns).
I would take it with a convoy on the long Jamaica runs,
And be beating round Cape Biscay as the steady trade wind runs,
And go sailing past old Malta with salute of twenty guns.

With a squealing of the pipes I would send aloft each hand,
To reef in royals and t' gallants as my Corvette nears the land,
And as soon as we embark again I'll be quickly on the roam,
For Napoleon's ships to fight now the convoy's been seen home.

One day I'll have a detachment of Marines about to land,
I'll be standing on the bulwarks with my sword held in my hand,
And then I'll be a KB. with a full Marine band,
To pipe me o'er the side when I embark from land.

With sideboys and ship's company to attention stiffly stood.
All my under officers will look like living blocks of wood,
And the pennant of a KB. will flutter at the head,
And instead of in a hammock. I'll be sleeping in a bed.

A SPRING MORNING

Pauline Stitt, 4-W

The Spring morning was fresh and clear;
The diamond dewdrop, like a tear.
Suspended from the oak leaf end,
So light, it did not even bend;
A daffodil danced in the orchard glade— Soon the yellow flower will
fade;
A violet peeps under a wayside hedge,
A pimpernel shines from its rocky ledge;
The sky was cloudless, a sapphire blue.
The grass be-jewelled with morning dew;
The may-buds are swaying to and fro.
Covering the bushes, like soft white snow.

ON A MAN WHO SHOT A FOX

P. Williams, 5-H

The wily fox, though wounded, crept away
To lick the hurt, and live another day.
The shot so truly aimed, no easy task,
Deflected, merely scarred that vicious mask,
Yet filled the stalking hunter with dismay.

He knew that, having failed to kill the fox
The shot exposed his hunt unorthodox,
And followers of the ordered hunt would cry.
"It is not seemly Reynard thus should die."
Their venom so transferred, a paradox.

Thus then the cunning thief, his freedom gained,
His dark and wicked influence retained
To laugh at man's continued trust in locks,
Defended by the fact that he's a fox.
And for that reason hard to be arraigned.

THE GREEN OINTMENT

D. Marshall, Upper 5-C

At precisely four minutes after two, on the morning of the sixth of December, fifteen hundred and nine, Herr Clausius, the much-respected physician of Brauman, was summoned from his bed by a hastily written message from his friend, Herr Weissman, imploring him to come at once

to his laboratory. Herr Weissman was a strange person, rarely seen by the good inhabitants of Brauman. He lived in a sombre house of forbidding aspect, where he would work far into the night among his retorts, furnaces, tubes and bottles, occasionally producing startling flashes and explosions which led people to believe he was conjuring up the devil. The physician dressed hurriedly and left his house, thinking his friend must have sustained some injury as the result of one of his experiments, and was in need of medical aid. A brisk walk through the empty streets brought him to the door of the alchemist's house, where he stopped, and listened intently. From within came the tinkling of glass and the roar of bellows blowing the coals in a furnace, while in the background was to be heard a continual rattling and hissing, proceeding from a source unknown.

Herr Clausius knocked loudly on the door, which was opened by the alchemist himself. He was indeed a strange figure, clad in a dark, ankle-length grey gown, over which flowed a long white beard. His eyes, deep sunken in his head, glittered strangely in the violet light that filled the room, proceeding from some metals that were burning over a candle flame. The laboratory was gloomy and high-ceilinged, the unusual apparatus casting weird shadows on to the wall and floor. The ruddy furnace glowed under a raised hearth set into the wall, and by its light, the physician saw the numerous flasks and stills that cluttered the room, especially a huge alembic, reaching to the roof, that produced the strange rattling and hissing he had noticed before entering. The floor was littered with trays, tubes and jars, and various cauldrons, containing liquids, bubbled and frothed on their stands. The room was filled with a haze of smoke that failed to escape up the chimney over the hearth.

"Come in, Clausius, come!" whispered Weissman, "enter and share my Secret."

Clausius obeyed and shut the door. The alchemist resumed his seat on a low stool before the furnace and gazed proudly at a dish of green plastic-like substance that stood cooling on the hearth. "Mein Herr," he said, turning his eyes from the dish to look at his friend, "the dead shall live."

The physician gazed hurriedly round the room, as though he expected to be confronted with some appalling spectre. But, seeing none, he turned his puzzled countenance to that of the alchemist. "Let me explain," offered the latter, "this is what I mean: death is produced in man by the heart's failing to function. It is parallel to sleep, only more restful; it is a state of complete relaxation. It is my belief that the dead may be aroused from this state of lethargy by the application of certain Ointments, which, distributing their powers through the body, will reach the resting heart and cause it to beat once more. For many years chemists have been striving to produce this ointment of life, and now I, Julius Weissman, have succeeded. There — he pointed to the green substance — "is the substance that will re-animate the heart!"

He stopped on seeing the incredulous smile that covered his friend's face, and his eyes flashed angrily.

"My dear Weissman," reasoned the physician, his face retaining its smile of disbelief, "do you not realise that this is the sixteenth century, and not the middle ages?"

"Is it proof you want?" exclaimed the alchemist.

"Proof of what? There is nought to prove," laughed Clausius. "The dead will remain so until the end of time."

Weissman was silent for a moment, and the only noise in the room came from the alembic, that appeared to have increased its rattling. Finally the alchemist turned towards his friend.

"Promise to come here at six o'clock this morning," he said. "and I will give you proof that what I say is true."

Herr Clausius promised, and left the room shaking his head knowingly.

Weissman, left alone, sat near the furnace, and looked at the green ointment that was cooled to a state of viscosity. He would show the fool that his discovery was genuine. He would procure a corpse from the infirmary and anoint it with the salve. Curiosity made him spread some of it on his Wrist. A faint tingling Sensation ran through his arm and across his chest. The tingling would spread slowly through a dead body, restoring it to life after two hours. But would it last? So engrossed was he in these problems that he failed to notice the increased noise that proceeded from the alembic. The hissing acids in the vessels bubbled and roared until, with a tremendous crash, the apparatus blew apart, hurling the alchemist far across the room, spraying him with its load of boiling acid

The town clock chimed the hour of six as Herr Clausius walked briskly through the streets that gave tokens of life in the tradesmen who already cluttered them. Arriving at Weissman's house, he opened the door and walked in. The room had changed slightly, for the huge alembic had disappeared and a long trestle table stood before the furnace. A crumpled sheet, a crucifix and two candle-sticks stood on the table, but their purpose was hard to understand. The alchemist sat in the shade on his customary stool.

"Well, my friend, mocked the physician, "and may I see your proof?"

For answer the alchemist came forward and Clausius saw that his face was badly burned with acid. He was about to ask a question, but the alchemist, motioning him to silence, said, "The body will come to life but the soul will not return. Life enters the corpse, but soon expires."

He sat looking at the physician for a moment, and then his eyes slowly clouded over and his jaw fell down on to his chest. He was dead.

Clausius walked slowly and sadly from the room, wondering what unfortunate accident had so disfigured his friend as to cause death. He pondered over his friend's last words relating to his experiment and wondered whether he had indeed found proof. In the High Street he met the priest, a venerable old man, who looked at him compassionately.

"My son," he consoled, "be not so despondent. He died swiftly and painlessly."

"You know of his death, then?" exclaimed the physician in surprise.

"Indeed, yes, my son." answered the priest, "he died as the result of an explosion in his laboratory at three o'clock this morning. I myself closed his eyes.

"THE PLAY-ACTOR"

Monica Wyatt, U.V.H.

Yellow and dappled silver, the morning crept in rays through the green curtains on to the coverlet. Without the curtains the birds were chirping harshly, noisily, glad of another day. From below, came minute kitchen sounds; familiar promises of breakfast. The man had been lying motionless, his heart aching and grey; now he turned over abruptly, uncouthly, with ugly anger in him at the unreflecting, unsympathetic surroundings. He buried his face in his hands to shut them out, to show them that he was a man in whose soul was tragedy. Outside the warmth and blackness of his fingers the unseen birds chattered gaily in the sun, unheeding, careless. They could not know——With fury in his throat he sprang from the bed; dashed water on his body——put on his clothes. Before the mirror he stopped, gazed: visage pale and haggard——fever black eyes, red-rimmed, blue-ringed——cheeks

gaunt. He ruffled his hair, scraggy, raven-like. Then he opened his bedroom door carefully, and went slowly, listlessly, down the stairs, step by step.

“Good morning, Mrs. Machin,” he said, low voiced, with a melancholy smile.

“Why, good morning to you, Sir!” replied the woman briskly. “And what would you be wanting for breakfast? Egg and bacon? Or would you prefer

“Nothing, nothing; nothing at all, thank you,” with the brave smile of a sick bed. (Why wouldn’t she notice?)

“I think . . . I feel I need a walk,” he continued; – bad night, you know

He made an attempt to smile bravely yet again, and with a flutter of his white hand, went out. The woman stared after him.

He walked briskly along the dog-cart rut, aching with anger at the cheerful, normal fowls that clucked and crowed in spite of him, in spite of his intention . . . untouched by the despair that filled his being and his world. Afterwards they would know. Even the hens and the stupid strutting cocks would know. Mrs. Machin would know and remember what he had said, how lie had looked – “Sort of wild-looking. sir, and desperate .

He reached the edge of, the pond: deep black water, slimy-coated with green weed. A furtive glance around: he peeled off his coat, folded it neatly on the grass. No—they would find it like that—he picked it up and threw it. down again, the empty arms flung back desperately: a splendid gesture.

He stepped back quickly to the edge: *you must not think; don’t hesitate*: jumped—cold, cold water and breath-taking . . . hands! hands plucking at him, pulling him back, the hands of Mrs. Machin, of the village policeman with the blue eyes, of the farmer and the farm boys dragging him back to hateful life. Wild with panic, he struggled against them, but no hands were there, only the swirling waters above him of inhuman green and black, mortal black. Oh! for the familiar faces that belonged to those earthly hands—the kindness of the blue eyes!

EXAMINATION RESULTS

We congratulate the following on their examination successes:—

HONOURS (OLD THORNBURTANS)

M. L. K. Curtis, Ph.D., Bristol.

W. J. Nicholls, B.A., Hons.. Oxon.

Kathleen D. Pullin, B.A.. 2nd Class I-Ions. (1st Div.), London.

J. B. Pridham, B.Sc., 2nd Class Hans. (1st Div.). Bristol.

Mary M. Rouch, B.A., Hons.. Oxon.

P. J. Winstone, B.A., Hans., Oxon.

SCHOLARSHIPS TENABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

J. P. Blenkinsopp, London School of Oriental and African Studies

C. J. Radford, London School of Economics.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

General Certificate of Education. Advanced Level, 1952: J. P. Blenkinsopp, English, French. Latin; German (“0” Level) (County Major- Scholarship). M. H. Dunn, Mathematics, Physics. Chemistry. Barbara M. Hedges, English, French, Latin; German (“0” Level). E. J. Locke, English, French, History (County Major Scholarship). O. I. Malpass, Geography, Chemistry, Biology (County Major Scholarship). Wendy J. Mogg,

English. French. Art. Mary Nicholls, English. French, History. -0.
Woodward, History, Geography. Latin ("0" Level).

General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level. 1952

(Candidates with passes in three or more subjects):

Marion Ashcroft, Brenda Baxter, R. T. Beard. Frances F. Beauchamp.
Barbara A. Bidwell, Joan Bishop, Betty Bridgeman, Iris D. Carter, Ruth .I.
Case, B. A. Cook. J. S. Cults, 13. J. Davies, j.R. Drewett. Rita K. Ellis,
E. P. Evans. M. L. Fisher. Delga B. Ginn. I. R. Glass. M. H. Green, J. B.
Gregson. C. V. Hawkings, Shirley A. Hawkins. Doris M. Hooper. J.
Howell. Joyce I. Howell, Josephine Jones. Elaine Metton, Margaret A.
Newman. G. E. Osborne. M. H. F. Pontin. W. J. Ranford. Jean W. Redden,
Jenifer M. Snell, R. J. Taylor, T. M. J.. Viner, A. 1. Watts, I. A. Whittingham, Patricia C.
Willis. D. W. M. Wills. D. J. Wintle.

(Proceeding to "A" Level):

C. T. Cooper. Joy Cox. Marion Davies. J. A. Harbinson, A. G. P. Hobkirk, Muriel W.
James, Doreen R. Mills. Elizabeth C. Nash. J. E. Riddle. K. C. Rowley. T. M. Walters. 0.
D. Watts.

COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATES, 1952

Type-writing – Intermediate, Class II: Shirley V. Davies, Rhona J. Ewins, Mary 0.
Hitchings.

Type-writing—Stage I. passed with credit: Margaret A. Baylis, Rosemary **G.**
Edwards. Eileen D. Powell.

Pitman's Shorthand Speed Examinations: Shirley V. Davies, Mary G. Hitchings (80
w.p.m.); Anne Buckley. Rosemary C. Edwards (70 w.p.m.).

SPORTS

BOYS' GYMNASTICS CLUB. 1952-53

The Boys' Gymnastics Club has held its practices on Thursday evenings under the expert coaching of Mr. Pedlar. There has been much keenness shown throughout the year, especially amongst the junior members. A display in which the whole club took part was given at the end of the Easter term, once for the benefit of the lower school, and once for the upper school. On Speech Day, after a display of vaulting and beam work by both junior and senior members of the club, the seniors gave an exhibition of various types of overswings. They concluded with a display of mass vaulting over one box from eight different directions.

The members of the club are as follows:—

Seniors: W. Rudledge. B. Thompson. A. Fowell, P. Fowell. A. Pritchard, J. Narbett,
A. Slade, P. Hawkings, A. Isles. B. Cook.

Juniors: B. Palmer, T. Hayes, S. Grant. J. Richards. A. Bartrum. S. Phillips. A.
Reed, O. Carter. M. Freeman. I. Martin. D. Reardon, P. Entwistle. M. Brown.

THE FENCING CLUB

The proposal to start a fencing club met with much initial enthusiasm, but the discovery that to reach the necessary standard in "the art" required much time and perseverance in the drill cut down the numbers till at present we have only a small nucleus of enthusiasts. With these Mr. Pedlar has put in some valuable coaching. The high-lights of the year were the two Displays, in which the in4er-house "balloon fight" roused

the School to a high pitch of excitement and the mass fencing succeeded in giving the uninitiated a glimpse of the ideas behind attack and defence.

In the Spring Term, a team visited Kingswood School, Bath, and, though losing to Kingswood Juniors, put up a spirited fight. Moreover, our opponents invited the Thornbury side to another visit, so they evidently enjoyed the occasion as much as we did. In future, the activities of the Fencing Club will be restricted to the Winter terms.

SWIMMING. 1952

This year official House practices were held at the Blue Lagoon, Severn Beach. These commenced shortly before the Swimming Sports and Houses attended alternately.

The distance swimming and preliminaries to the plunge and style swimming took place under severe conditions. The water was both rough and cold. Nevertheless, of the large entry very few failed to finish their set distance. Wendy Mogg and Judith Watkins (Stafford), and Malpass (Clare), each swam one mile.

At the Swimming Sports the weather was much kinder and both spectators and competitors enjoyed themselves, especially during the newly introduced squadron race, which proved most exciting. The Rabley Shield was won by Stafford with 884- points. Clare had 59 points and Howard 464-. The Thurston and Harwood Cups, awarded for distance swimming and squadron races, both went to Stafford.

Thornbury this year became affiliated to the Bristol Schools' Swimming Association. A number of pupils entered for the Swimming Championships, but had little success, the Bristol schools, with their better facilities, having reached a far higher standard than ours. Mary Dibble and Joan Wright, however, reached the finals to gain first and fourth places in their respective races.

During the recent year, Saturday morning swimming lessons at Broad Weir Baths, Bristol, have been given by Mr. Pedlar and Mr. Jenkins. Mr. Pedlar has coached beginners and Mr. Jenkins has given life-saving instruction to more advanced swimmers. Four senior boys, A. J. Fowell, P. S. Fowell, T. M. Walters and P. Edwards have been awarded the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life-Saving Association.

ATHLETICS, 1952-3

Last year the Athletic Sports were held on Wednesday, July 23rd, and again we were blessed with fine weather. The great improvement in athletics can be seen from the fact that fifteen records were broken and two equalled, compared with five new records the previous year. The new features introduced recently, limiting competitors to three events and a relay, and banning the scissors style in high jumping, have become permanent. This has given more people a chance to compete, and has improved the standard of performance.

Howard won the Stephens Challenge Cup for the House Hundreds, and Stafford won the Wilmot Challenge Cup, having the highest number of points in the Relays. Stafford Juniors won the Molton Challenge Cup, and Howard retained the Athletics Shield. We were very grateful to the Right Reverend D. B. Hall, Assistant Bishop of the Niger, for presenting the Shield, Cups and Certificates.

For the first time in the history of the School, colours were awarded for Athletics. Full colours were awarded to Rhona Ewins, and half-colours to O. Exell, A. Fowell and K. G. Rowley.

This year the interest in Athletics has continued to grow, and on Whit Saturday a party of seven boys and eleven girls (taken for the first time) competed at the Gloucester School Sports at Lydney. Four first places, four second places, and three third places were gained: a great improvement on last year. Twelve days later, twenty-five competitors, ten boys and fifteen girls, competed at Bristol. where they gained eight first places, three second places and five third places.

As a result, eight competitors, four boys and four girls, were chosen for County trials at Gloucester. Here the School got five firsts and three seconds, and two girls and one boy were chosen to represent the county in the S.W. Regional Championships at Swindon on the 27th of June.

All these results show how the standard has risen during past years. under the excellent coaching of Miss Richardson, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Pedlar.

The results at Lydney were- as follows,—

Four First Places

Girls' junior hurdles: Maureen Watts.
 Girls' open long jump: Elsie Rice.
 Girls' junior long jump: Mary McIntyre.
 Boys' junior 220 yards: C. Tanner.

Four Second Places

Girls' junior 100 yards: Maureen Watts.
 Boys' open mile: O. Exell.
 Boys' junior 100 yards: C. Tanner.
 Boys' junior weight: C. Bain.

Three Third Places

Girls' junior hurdles: Carole Davies.
 Boys' junior high jump: R. Cornelius.
 Boys' junior 220 yards: O. Foster.

The results at Bristol were as follows:

Eight First Places

Girls' junior 80 yards hurdles: Carole Davies.
 Girls' intermediate 150 yards hurdles: Jennifer Bidwell.
 Girls' intermediate long jump: Mary McIntyre.
 Boys' intermediate (lot) yards: C. Tanner.
 Boys' intermediate 220 yards: C. Tanner.
 Boys' intermediate high jump: R. Cornelius.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING, 1953

The result of this year's House Cross-Country Competition was again a victory for Stafford, who gained 29 points. Howard followed with 20 points and Clare with 6. After various adjustments, the course can now be regarded as standardised. The jump over the Gully Stream still remains compulsory for Intermediates and Seniors on the return.

Individual placings (first ten in each race) were as follows:—

	<i>Seniors (over 15)</i>	<i>Intermediates (under 15)</i>	<i>Juniors (under 13)</i>
O.	Exell (H) (17 mins. 45 secs.)	R. Jackson (C) (19 mins. 30 secs.)	D. Carter (S) (23 mins. 57 secs.)
L.	Griffiths (H)	C. Tanner (H)	K. Maloney (S)

A. Rosser (S)	P. Whittingham (S)	P. Harris (S)
A. Hobkirk (C)	B. Batt (C)	B. Purnell (H)
R. Howell (H)	B. Moorcroft (IS)	A. Lloyd (C)
W. Rudledge (H)		I. Hayes (S)
(S)		A. Davies
T. Everhard (S)	P. Wilson (H)	S. Grant (H)
B. Watts (S)	R. Cornelius (H)	R. Godfrey (C)
D. Dartnall (H)	A. Reed (H)	S. Henderson (C)
E. Locke (C)	A. Slade (C)	D. Cole (C)

An innovation this year was the contest with a Bristol University team. From the start, however, it was evident that their training and consequent powers of endurance were much superior to ours. They work by a very wide margin, hut those members of the School who took part will regard the event as a most valuable and enjoyable experience.

HOCKEY, 1952-53

Captain: Pat Timbrell

Despite certain obvious weaknesses when the season opened, the team has developed a high standard of play, an improvement being particularly marked in defence. Out of the twenty matches played, sixteen were won and four lost, the latter being to Dursley Grammar School, Redland Ladies' Hockey Club, Bristol University 1st XI, and the Staff (by 1—0).

The forwards have shown more determination in tackling back, and their quick passing movements have foiled many defences and made possible an impressive aggregate of goals scored. The half-back line was, at the beginning of the season, causing some anxiety, hut by enthusiasm and determination the players have established themselves and shown a marked improvement, particularly the centre-half. In the back division, we have been fortunate in being able to field the same backs as last year, and, they have been able to establish an understanding which has proved of great value. The goalie, somewhat unexpectedly, produced greatly improved form and frequently saved the side when opposed to some of the strongest teams.

The Juniors, too, have had a very successful season, and in emergencies have found substitutes for the 1st XI who have given a good account of themselves and shown great promise.

Colours: Re-awarded for the first time to R. Ewins, j. Hurcombe and P. Timbrell.

Awarded to M. Davies, I. Bishop and M. Wright.

Half-colours to S. Palmer, R. Poole and W. Slade

RESULTS

Autumn Term, 1952

Fairfield	Won	15—0	Chipping Sodbury	Won	13—0
Dursley G.S.	Lost	2—4	Stroud H.S.	Won	8—1
Badminton	Won	8—1	Fairfield	Won	9—0
Redland Ladies	Won	5—3	Kingswood	Won	5—1
Kingswood	Won	7—4	Bishopston Ladies	Won	16—0

Spring Term, 1953

Stroud H.S.	Won	10—1	Bristol Un. 1st XI	Lost	3—5
Colston	Won	5—0	Dursley G.S.	Won	5—2
			Redland Ladies	Lost	1—2
			Staff	Lost	0—1
			Red Maids' School	Won	3—2
			Old Thornburians	Won	8—0
			Redland H.S.	Won	3—0

In the County Trials, two members were chosen for the junior XI, Rhona Ewins and Pat Timbrell, who captained the team. Both have also played for the West of England junior XI, Rhona being vice-captain.

NETBALL, 1952-53

The formation of a netball club, under the guidance of Mrs Hodge, has led to a re-awakening of interest in the game this year. Several successful meetings were held and we hope that the club will be continued next year.

Although there have been no outside matches, a senior inter-house netball tournament was held at the end of the Spring Term, and there was a noticeable improvement in play. Howard won the tournament after a very close struggle with Stafford.

RUGBY, 1952

First XV

Of the nine matches played this season, three were won and six lost. It is not an impressive record, for although the team played with spirit they too often neglected the basic principles of the game.

The forwards made up a light pack, but what they lacked in weight they made up by good rushes in the loose. The high-light of the forwards' play was the camouflaging of the second row forwards. This new line of defense, which was first used by the team at the beginning of the season, saved countless tries from being scored down the touch-line.

The three-quarters did not come up to expectations this year, for they found it hard to penetrate the opposing defence. The cause of their failure was the slow heeling of the ball in the set pieces, as a consequence of which, the opposing wing forwards were on the fly-half, forcing him to kick, instead of starting a three-quarter movement. The tackling in defence was also poor, for the three-quarters have still to learn that the best and most effective way to tackle a player is to tackle him hard and low. The full-back's handling was safe, and his kicking, although of no great length, was sure.

During the holidays, A. Fowell played for the Bristol and Public Schools' Jr "A" XV against a Bristol Combination XV.

Junior XV

The Juniors had a very successful season, losing only one of their matches. They usually won by clear margins, playing good open Rugby and tackling well. We hope that they will be equally successful when they play for the Senior XV in the next few years.

In the House "seven-a-side" competition the Seniors played some exciting matches, the Shield being won by Stafford House, but here again the Seniors were outshone by the Juniors.

RESULTS

1st XV

Kingswood G.S.	Lost	5—19 H
Cathedral School	Lost	5— 6 A
Q.E.H. "A" XV	Won	18— 0 H
Fairfield G.S.	Lost	3—17 A
Chipping Sodbury G.S.	Won	14— 6 A
Kingswood G.S.	Lost	0— 8 A
Clifton College 3rd XV	Lost	9—23 H
Fairfield G.S.	Lost	3—15 H
Marling "A" XV	Won	6— 5 H

Junior XV

Kingswood GS.	Won	33—0 A
Cathedral School	Won	3—0 A
Q.E.H. "A" XV	Won	15—0 H
Fairfield 0.5.	Won	6—3 A
Chipping Sodbury 0.5.	Won	19—0 A
Kingswood G.S.	Won	50—0 H
St. Brndan's College	Lost	6—8 H
Fairfield G.S.	⁴ on	28—3 H
Marling XV	Won	8—0 H

Colours: Re-awarded for the first time to W. Rudledge, A. Fowell, 3. Riddle, D. Watts.

Awarded for the first time to F. Locke, T. Walters.

Half-colours to L. Griffiths, J. Narbett, C. Shearing.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL, 1953

The Soccer team has achieved only moderate success this season. Of the ten matches played, two were won, seven lost, and one drawn.

Starting the season with an inexperienced and untried side, the School suffered successive defeats. A faulty defence coupled with the absence of a ready-made goalkeeper, was mainly responsible for these reverses. The most creditable performance in the first half of the season was against the R.A.F. Cadets from Yatesbury. In this match, both sides played good, intelligent football, and the result was in doubt up to the last ten minutes. In the closing stages of the game the Cadets attacked a tiring School side and scored three times to win the match by four goals to one.

It was not until the last two matches of the season that the School XI became coherent in defence and attack, and held a strong Cotham side to a one-all draw at Cotham. Four days later they played well against the Old Boys and were unlucky to lose by the narrow margin of one goal to nil.

For the second year in succession, team changes have had to be made only too frequently. It was not until the very end of the season that a forward was finally converted into a goalkeeper. A centre-forward

completed the season as a full-back, and the centre-half was quite successful as the leader of the attack. In this way, a settled team was at last achieved.

However, a good season is forecast for next year, as only one member of the present side will be leaving at the end of this year. When the team have a season of experience in playing together behind them, the Headmaster should not receive so many unpleasant reports on a Saturday evening!

Colours: Colours have been awarded for the first time to A. J. Pritchard and C. Shearing.

TENNIS, 1953-

Captain: Pat Timbrell

The tennis VI; have proved the value of being able to retain the same players as last year with one exception. The standard of play has steadily improved and the majority of the team have tightened up their game considerably this season. The players show a good knowledge of strokes, and this is beginning to tell, since we rather unexpectedly beat a Bristol University 2nd team for the first time for many years.

In general, service- shows the most marked improvement, hut the use of volleying is becoming more popular with the experienced members of the team. Since we have followed the system of playing couples according to the results of matches, it has stimulated more spirit, although the team has at times shown an inability to fight when in a losing position.

We have started a second VI. which is, as yet, inexperienced, hut the players are all keen and with the excellent coaching available, should prove useful members of the School team in future years.

The teams wish to thank all those who have given up their Saturday afternoons to act as umpires. ballboys. or prepare teas, and Miss Richardson who has spent many hours after school in coaching.

The season's results were as follows:—

Stroud High School	Won	52—29	
Bristol University 2nd VI	Won	56—43	
Colston Girls' School		Won	70—29
Dursley Grammar School		Lost	35—45
Redland High School		Lost	3 sets—6
Kingswood Grammar School		Won	8 sets—1
Parents' VI		Won	51—48
Old Thornburians		Won	53—26
			(abandoned)

ROUNDERS

This is the first season that rounders has been played as an interschool sport, and insufficient games were played for the side to reveal its true form. The captain, Mary McIntyre, proved a promising bat and

several of the team are potentially good players. One match was lost and ~1e match won, the School beating Stroud by 2+ to 2 rounders, and losing t- Dursley, a more experienced side, by 8¹/₂ to 2 rounders.

CRICKET, 1953

With almost all last year's team still amongst us, the prospects at the beginning of the season looked rosy. Possessed of two bowlers, fast by school team standards, a good slow leg-spinner, and with batsmen who looked as if they might conceivably have been at the crease before, the team opened their season at Dursley with high hopes.

These were soon dashed. Reputable batsmen got themselves out playing poor strokes; rank bad running between wickets dismissed Exell and Watts, the latter well set, and the fielding was indifferent. So the season went on; dropped catches, batting failures, and chances lost. One expects every match a good score by at least one of the recognised batsmen. This was never forthcoming. Pritchard swung from being out first ball of the match, to batting through the innings for a modest 30.

We had to wait until we played Kingswood before we reported a victory, and even then it was a bowlers' victory, Riddle taking 6 wickets for 3 runs. At this point we go to press, hoping to add the scalps of Chipping Sodbury, Wycliffe College 2nd XI, the Parents and the Old Boys to our belt before the magazine sees the light of day. We bid farewell to Thompson, our captain, hoping that the next side he skippers will bring out his winning smile more often than this one has.

RESULTS 1st XI

Dursley GS.—lost by 2 wickets. Dursley 58, Thornbury 47.

King's School—won by 77 runs. Thornbury 148 (4 wkts. dec.), King's 71.

Q.E.H.—lost by 6 wickets. Thornbury 72, Q.E.H. 74 (4 wkts.).

K.L.B.G.S.—match drawn. K.L.B.G.S. 102 (for 8 dec.), Thornbury 98 (7 wkts.).

St. Brendan's College—match drawn. St. Brendan's 127 (7 wkts. dec.), Thornbury 83 (6 wkts.).

Cotham G.S.—lost by 55 runs. Cotham 130 (5 wkts.), Thornbury 75. Kingswood 0.5.—won by 23 runs. Thornbury 63, Kingswood 40.

Chipping Sodbury G.S.—match drawn. Thornbury 157 (7 wkts. dec.). Chipping Sodbury 144 (9 wkts.).

Thornbury 0.S. v. A Parents XI:—Thornbury OS. won by 68 runs. ~4 Parents' XI 110. Thornbury G.S. 178 (9 wkts.).

Old Thornburians—Drawn. 139. 5 (0 wkt.).

Junior XI

XIV—won by 3 wickets.

Dursley G.S.—won by 62 runs.

Chipping Sodbury—match cancelled

St. Brendan's College—lost by 4 wickets.

Cotham 0.S.—won by 88 runs.

K.L.B.G.S.—won by 6 wickets.

"A" XI

Redland Hill House—won by 121 runs.

HOUSE NOTES

CLARE

Captains: Molly Willis and J. P. Blenkinsopp

Clare still appears to be the losing House in most activities—an unfortunate situation, but not a disastrous one, so long as the House members are not completely resigned to it.

Our greatest achievement this year was the gaining of the Academic Shield, notable as being the only Shield now in our possession, as, on May 31st, we lost for the first time. Our most coveted treasure, the Music Shield. In spite of our disappointment, however, we would like to congratulate Stafford upon their well deserved success.

Blenkinsopp is also to be congratulated on his success in obtaining a scholarship tenable at the London School of Oriental and African Studies. F. I. Locke, who was House Captain until recently, has been accepted by Durham University, following his award of a County Major Scholarship last year.

On the games side, successes are rare, but we are delighted to be able to announce that our senior cricket team has, at last, won the Cricket Bat. Now, with the Summer Term's Athletic and Swimming activities approaching, hopes are once again high, and we do not intend to be discouraged by previous failures in these fields.

An important function of this last year has been the House Party, which took place in November, and which proved as enjoyable as any held previously. An encouraging feature of this occasion was the fact that a larger percentage of juniors took active parts, a sure sign that potentialities do exist in the House. During the year, too, we have produced our first copy of the "Clarion," the only House Magazine yet founded in the School.

We are happy to welcome to Clare Mr. Hill and Mr. Birtles, who came to us at the beginning of the year, and whose work in many spheres has already been most useful.

It is unfortunate that these notes should have to end with farewells to two of our leading members of staff. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Copley, both of whom are leaving us at the end of term. Both have been with Clare for three years. Mr. Carpenter succeeded Mr. Williams as House Master in 1950, since when he has worked ceaselessly for Clare. not only in supervising house activities, but also in giving valuable athletic coaching to individual members. Mr. Copley has always been present whenever music has been required, and has worked hard every year in organising the House Music Competition. It is to be regretted that he should see Clare lose the Shield during his last year with us. Our best wishes for the future go with them both.

STAFFORD

Captains: Heather Thomas and B. D. Thompson

The past year has been the most pleasant and successful that Stafford has experienced for a long time. We are now in possession of five shields; passing quickly over our few losses, the Academic and Soccer Shields and the Cricket Bat, we shall dwell longer on our numerous achievements. Last July we retained the Swimming Trophy for the fifth year in succession, following a close struggle with Clare. We also won the two cups for distance and relay, the former being an event in which even the slowest swimmer can take part.

The girls, unfortunately, have contributed little in the way of shields, but the boys have won the Rugby. Physical Training and Cross Country.

Last Easter, to our surprise and pleasure, we won the Music Competition for the first time.

One of our juniors, Maureen Watts, has brought us considerable credit by being chosen to represent Gloucestershire in the Western Counties Athletics Championships at Swindon. On the Academic side, we are extremely proud that C. I. Radford has won a scholarship tenable at the London School of Economics.

Last Autumn we were pleased to welcome Mr. Pedlar into the House, but we are very sorry to have to say good-bye to Mr. Dawson at the end of this term.

HOWARD

Captains: Pat Timbrell and W.J. Rudledge

Howard have very little cause to regret the past year's activities. The girls, particularly, have brought us considerable credit in gaining the Hockey and Tennis Shields, as well as winning the Netball Tournament.

Unfortunately, the boys failed to regain the Cricket Bat after a hard struggle. It has now eluded us for two seasons; two seasons too long, and every effort must be made to regain our former prestige with a creditable standard of play.

Last year the House Hundreds Cup and the Athletics Shield once more came into our possession, and this year we have already won the Cup, and, we hope, are well on the way to victory and the Shield.

Our House Party this year was highly successful. Mr. Hodge acted as Master of Ceremonies with his usual vigour and enthusiasm. Mr. Jenkin's conjuring was thoroughly enjoyed and provided a novel feature in the programme.

Mr. Johnson makes a most welcome return from the R.A.F. to give his much needed coaching to our cricketers. We have great pleasure in welcoming Mrs. Huther to the House, and hope her membership will lead only to friendly rivalry with Miss Storey.

On the other hand, we are very sorry to lose Mr. Joiner. His efforts in the organization of the party, and his development of Junior Dramatics, have been greatly appreciated, and we wish him every possible success in the future.

VALETE, 1952-53

School Captains

Molly Willis
F. J. Locke
O. D. Watts

Barbara Bidwell
Doris Cullimore
Doris Hooper

Upper 5-C

Rhoda Poole
Jean Tandy
Shirley Waller
Sandra Harbert
B. Coleman
B. Lloyd
R. Gordon
P. Edwards
R. Barge
J C Ewens
B. L. Riddiford

Prefects

J. P. Blenkinsopp

Upper 5-H

W. J. Rudledge
B. D. Thompson
C. J. Radford
I. F. Smith
A. C. Darby
R. A. Sharpe
R. P. Schiele
Merle Nicholas

B. Powell
Pat Jefferies
Evelyn Edwards
Josephine Bubb

5-H

J. Flunk
Patricia Ball

Commercial Form

Rhona Ewins
Pat Joyce
Betty Bridgeman

T. Everhard
C. Browning
D. Dartnall
B. Lugg
A. R. Stevens

5-D

Barbara Hollier
J. Ellis
G. Parcell

OLD THORNBURIANS

UNIVERSITY LETTERS

King's College,
University of London,
Strand, W.C.2.

Dear Editors,

Having myself been the sender of what I hoped were polite and persuasive requests to old Thornburians for University letters some two years ago, it is doubtless only justice that Nemesis should overtake me this year, and that I, should be a victim of this good-natured conspiracy in my turn, lust or not, however, this is only one of the many occasions when I realise to my cost the gulf that lies between the excellence of theory and the painfulness of practice, my small store of scintillating remarks and witty allusions having flown incontinently up the chimney as your request fluttered through the letter-box!

Beginning in the solid, and nonetheless interesting manner of the guide-book, London University is the largest in England, having, as few people realise, some 18,000 undergraduates, more than both Oxford and Cambridge put together. Thus, University life here is often merely College life, since in London the forty-odd colleges, ranging from the artistic Royal College of Music to the severely practical College of Estate Management, are scattered over many miles in the London area, and each has its own Union Society to 'promote and control all social and athletic activities.' The main Colleges are each as large as a small University, and King's has nearly 2,000 regular students.

So huge a University can never be dull. There is room for the most varied Bohemianism and the most rigid conventionality, for young ladies in black slacks and sweaters and elderly gentlemen in pin-striped trousers and clerical collars; and of course there are undergraduates from every part of the world studying at London. Only a very small proportion of students are able to live in College hostels, and apart from what is almost a student settlement in Bloomsbury, where enormous buildings are divided up into innumerable "bed-sitters," and where on a fine Sunday morning, an amazing assortment of people, in various sorts and stages of dress, can be seen preparing breakfast at the open windows of the opposite block, most undergraduates lodge in Outer London, and a journey to College of an hour in the Tube is so usual that at King's lectures do not begin until ten o'clock in the morning.

Much could be said of academic labours, but with Thornbury's motto in mind, "Disce aut Discede," I need not elaborate on these familiar delights! Work is hard, and standards high, but although the race known as "Ten-to-Fivers" is not extinct, it is almost impossible to avoid taking part in some social activities. Indeed, with no less than seventy-three clubs and societies at King's alone, there must be some way in which even the most difficult or outlandish tastes can be satisfied in the College. Even should this not be so, there is always London itself to entertain you, and this it does all the time, and in the most unexpected ways. Within ten minutes' walk from King's are the National Gallery, the Law Courts, the heart of Theatreland, the Festival Hall and Lyons' Corner House—this last being perhaps the most important on my list from the point of view of a student!

Though Londoners cannot rival the Oxford students in their punting ~n the river, a rowing boat on the Serpentine is the best possible substi-

tute. and though we have not the beauty of the Backs at Cambridge, the Embankment Gardens probably provide more interest, whether in the road or river traffic, or in the extraordinary pictures—and Art Students!—of the Embankment Art Exhibition, which has just closed. Although by the unfortunates who face Finals this month, the festivities cannot be fully enjoyed, most students in other Universities must be envying Londoners their chance to see the Coronation this year, and even at other times there are very many ceremonial occasions we can enjoy, including the State opening of Parliament and the Lord Mayor's Show. Incidentally, 'Reggie,' the red lion mascot of King's College. is always introduced, more or less officially, into the Lord Mayor's procession!

Although the large numbers of police make it a somewhat dangerous pastime, there are many good-humoured "Rags" in which London students take part from time to time. On the night of November 5th there is always a long procession of decorated floats from all the colleges, which moves from University College to the Festival Gardens where there is a huge bonfire, followed by thousands of students singing lustily. During my first term, traffic was held up for half an hour while some 2,000 students watched a comic "Camel-race" round the Aldwych, in which a theatrical "camel" raced for the honour of King's against University College's "cow" and Battersea Polytechnic's "horse." On another occasion last term, provocation having been given and offence taken during a Union General Meeting, two members of the college decided that the insult could be wiped out only in blood, and a duel to the death was arranged. The following day fifteen hundred inoffensive-looking students somehow found themselves innocently feeding pigeons in Trafalgar Square at 2.30, and after a clarion blast on a bugle, the battle commenced. One of the combatants having been successfully eliminated by means of the nearest fountain, a long and joyous procession chaired the victor back up the Strand, leaving the bugler to sound the "Last Post" over the "corpse"!

I have never felt lonely from the moment I joined King's College, but I should be very glad to see more Thornburians at London University, and am delighted to hear that two at least are coming up next term. I feel sure that they will find as much to enjoy and interest them as I have, and I look forward to the time when I can welcome someone from Thornbury not only to London, but to King's.

My very best wishes to the School.

Yours sincerely,

P.M.H.

Bristol.

We will not attempt to give you a picture of a place which you have all seen many times, but rather of the people who live or work here.

There are two thousand seven hundred students altogether, half of whom work, while the remainder are in the Arts Faculty. Even for them, the summer term is a period of feverish activity, with everyone endeavouring to complete the work of two years in the space of a few days. It is then that the undergraduate awakens to his sense of responsibility and duty. The library, once a scene of crossword puzzles, student newspapers, and whispered conversations, becomes a hive of industry. Students are

frequently seen abandoning altogether the luxury of food, or hastily devouring a Refectory salad with Homer propped up against the sauce bottle.

There is, however, a lighter side to University life, and a very wide range of social activities it offered by the numerous Societies and clubs which are members of, affiliated to, or sometimes suspended from, the University Union. There is provision both for those who wish to ski in the highlands of Scotland, and for those who wish to pay a social call on the Kremlin as members of a political delegation, although no old Thornburian has so far indulged in the latter activity. There are also adequate facilities for all sporting tastes, and Thornbury has proved itself in this sphere as in all others.

We should like to conclude by saying how proud the Thornbury contingent here is, that an old Thornburian has gained the highest possible distinction, in being elected Lady President of the Union for the coming session. Congratulations. Jennifer!

D.R.C., M.M.H., Bristolianses.

RECENT EVENTS

Young Farmers

Wiltshire Travel Scholarships have been awarded to John Taylor, who spent a fortnight in Luxembourg, and to Dennis Winstone, who went to France.

Edgar Cooksley won the Berkeley Hunt examination, the fifth Old Thornburian to do so.

At the Bath and West Show, Kenneth Spratt and John Taylor won the Lister Challenge Cup for Sheep Shearing.

Michael Spratt won the Olveston Young Farmers' Club Challenge Cup for the champion Hereford calf, and Kenneth Spratt won the champion ploughman's Cup. John Taylor won the Cup awarded to the Club member with the highest number of points for a series of competitions held during the year.

Gerald Spratt obtained his N.D.A. at Cirencester Agricultural College, and was awarded a gold medal for being the best student of his year.

Peter Sandifer is now at Cirencester Agricultural College.

Domestic Science Colleges

Miriam Craik-Smith is now taking her "Finals" at Berridge House Domestic Science Training College, London.

Mary Bishop is also taking "Finals" at Bath Domestic Science Training College.

Rosemary Rosser passed the City and Guilds Examination in Cookery last July at Cheltenham Technical College, and was top of her year.

Marjory Beck was appointed Cookery Demonstrator for the Coal Utilisation Board.

The School's best wishes for a speedy and successful recovery are offered to Joan Willis, who is now in Frenchay Hospital, and to Peter Hardman, who is at Southmead.

OTHER NEWS

S. H. Gayner has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body, and another Old Thornburian, E. Smith, of Filton, has become a School Governor.

Luther Curtis has been awarded the degree of Ph.D. by Bristol University. He has a post in the museum.

Gordon Heath (2-A Hons.), Dunelm, has been appointed to Hurley Grassland Research Station.

Jennifer Rouch has been elected Lady President of the Bristol University Union.

M. L. Summers has a temporary post as an instructor at the Outward Bound Mountain School in the Lake District.

Donald J. Malpass has already distinguished himself in dramatics at Birmingham University.

Mary Rouch has been married, in Toronto, to Malcolm McInnes.

Stella Stephenson is to marry an Army Captain and go to live in Germany.

Betty Crapp, who was here during the war as an evacuee from the Channel islands, called at the School while on her honeymoon. Betty made anxious enquiries about Clare House and any Shields!

Rosemary Wyman is about to go to New Zealand.

Jill Gazzard has joined the W.V.S. and has gone out to Germany.

Engagements.—We have news of the engagements of: Leonard Ford, Bill Carter, Mary Young, Doreen Poole, Stella Stephenson, Dorothy Bud-ledge to Norman Daley, and Jean Duncan.

Marriages.—We wish these Old Thornburians every happiness in their marriages: Mavis Heal, Enid Husher, Robert Harraway, Tony Hayward, Anthony Diment, Barbara Penny, Peggy Mercer, Jack Panes, Gillian Thiery and John Pridham, Ray Watts, Marion Watts, Gerald Spratt, Francis Midwinter, Richard Pearce, Ken Davies, Kathleen Pullin, Mary Totterdell, and Wendy Mogg.

Births.—Sons have been born to: Veronica Grey (née Nicholls), Jean Cullimore (née Gazzard), Betty Lansdowne (nee Hook), John Rugg and Michael Spreag; and daughters to: Vera Cullimore (née Knapp), Joyce Godwin (née Gough), Primrose Grey (née Nicholls), and Peter Dagger.

Commissions.—Michael Teague and Peter J. Ray have been commissioned Pilot Officers, the last-named gaining his “wings” at the Canadian R.A.F. Station at Gimli, Manitoba; so have G. Dicker and R. Rosser.

Betty Rugg has been commissioned Pilot Officer in the secretarial branch of the R.A.F. after a three-month course at the W.R.A.F. Officer Cadet Training Unit at Hawkinge, Kent.

The Editors wish to apologise for any errors or omissions which may have been made in the above notes.

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

As usual, small and enthusiastic groups of Old Thornburians who live in the neighbourhood, have enjoyed the use of School facilities for badminton during the winter, and tennis in the summer months.

A very pleasant Whist Drive and Dance took place early in the Spring Term, and at the time of going to press the tennis and cricket matches, followed by the Old Thornburians' Dinner, are not far distant.

OBITUARY

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT W. J. VIZARD

It was with the deepest regret that the School heard of the death of Wilfred Vizard. He was killed in Malaya, in operations against terrorists, when the Supply plane which he was piloting crashed in the jungle. He leaves a widow and two young children.

Wilfred Vizard entered the School in 1935 and left in 1940 in which year he obtained his School Certificate. He was probably 'the best Soccer player the School has produced, and played in the Eleven while in the lower School. He also gained his Cricket Colours, being a useful bat and a sound wicket keeper. He served as a pilot in the R.A.F. during the war and returned to civilian life on its conclusion. However, the call of the Service was too strong and, on rejoining the R.A.F., he was posted to Malaya. At the time of his death his wife was awaiting instructions to join him in the Far East—instead she received the sharp news of his end. Mrs. Vizard and his family have our deepest sympathy.

OFFICERS FOR 1953

President: The Headmaster.

Vice Presidents: Miss K Dicker, Mr. S. H. Gayner, Mrs. Lanham, Mr. B. S. Morse. Mr. W. G. Rabley, Mr. C. H. Ross. Rev. R. C. Rawstorne.

Chairman: Mr. L. J. Hawkins.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Rugg.

Secretary: Mr. I. A. Keitch.

Assistant Secretary: Miss F. Fenton.

1953 Committee: Miss M. Bennett, Mr. R. Bennett, Mr. C. Exell, Mr. G. Harding, Mr. D Hawkins, Miss B. Kear, Miss V. Heatherington, Mr. A. Knapp. Mr. D. Pearce. Mr. K. Spratt, Miss M. Taylor, Miss A. Vizard. Miss M. Young.

Treasurer: Miss R. Shepherd.

Auditor: Mr. Timbrell.

Staff Representative: Mr. B. H. Cudmore.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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