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MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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The Magazine of Rye Grammar School

New Series

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EDITORIAL

When, one chill Monday morning, the Junior Editor made the usual soulless appeal for contributions, he little dreamt that into two hundred small minds he had introduced the spark of realisation that articles for the School Magazine may be produced without resulting in Mental Aberration. Those who had hitherto regarded writing as an unnecessary evil blossomed out into T.S.Es. and G.B.Ss. The small box outside Room I was crammed with papers and as the Editors looked at it, a glow of exultation, not unmixed with awe, lit up their honest brows. From a score of hearts pulsating odes to Autumn had been wrenched and, from a dozen breasts, cunningly worded guides to Saltcote Place had been drawn. A Second Renaissance, an Awakening of the Masses! The Spirit of Culture was abroad in the land. Keep it up, my children! Keep it up! Go on writing articles and poems until your little fingers ache and your little brains are weary of the unaccustomed toil.

Apart from this minor revelation the term has been much the same as any other Christmas term. We welcomed Miss Harvey, Miss How and Miss Higginson to the teaching staff, the first two to act as House Mistress and Assistant House Mistress at the newly opened Saltcote Place, and the last named to take Mrs. Elliott's place as Games Mistress. In addition to these, Mr. May joined us in October to take charge of music.

To many the snow is regarded as a major tragedy while to others it is paradise. When it came it revealed, as indeed it always does, the more primitive instincts of the School. Even the Sixth, with reckless abandon, sallied forth to do battle with the rest. A few minutes later the greater part returned—besnowed, bothered and bewildered. Even the sight of the Headmaster, seated upon the ground as a result of his inadvertent slide, did not restore their spirits. The last straw came when the A.T.C. party had to be postponed, owing to the condition of the roads.

In conclusion, please let us know what you readers think of this magazine. Is it better or worse than its predecessors, do the articles appeal to you and do you want illustrations? The only way you will get a better magazine is by suggesting improvements, so do not be afraid to write and tell us what you would like.

Although when you receive the magazine Christmas will have passed, the Editors wish you all “Happy New Year”—and keep writing.

THE EDITORS.

SCHOOL DIARY

AUTUMN TERM, 1950

September		
Thursday,	7.	Term began.
Friday,	15.	Meeting of Sixth.
Friday,	22.	School Committee.
October		
Thursday,	5.	Conference on the Colour Bar.
Friday,	6.	Commemoration Service.
Wednesday,	11.	First Interim Order.
Thursday,	12.	Field Day.
Saturday,	21.	Annual General Meeting of Parents' Association.
Tuesday,	24.	Music Recital—Dobson and Young.
Friday,	27.	Debates and Meeting of Sixth.
Monday,	30.	Half Term.
Tuesday,	31.	
November		
Thursday,	2.	Speech Competition.
Wednesday,	8.	Meeting of Sixth.
Friday,	10.	Speech Day.
Friday,	24.	Meeting of Sixth.
Wednesday,	29.	S. C. began. Middle School examinations began.
December		
Tuesday,	12.	Carol Concert.
Friday,	15.	Music Competition (Junior).
Monday,	18.	School Committee.
Wednesday,	20.	End of Term—Carol Service.

OBITER DICTA

We were very sorry to discover on our return that Miss Merry was no longer with us, having taken on full-time teaching at the Modern School. We shall always remember with gratitude the patient help and encouragement that Miss Merry gave us, not only in our lessons but in our Choirs, Music Competitions and other musical activities, and we feel sure that though no longer working with us, Miss Merry will always remain a friend of the School.

In Miss Merry's place we welcomed Mr. May who will teach Music and help with Art.

We have also welcomed Miss Harvey who, besides being House Mistress at Saltcote Place, teaches Divinity and English and Miss How, the Assistant House Mistress, who teaches Science and Mathematics, and who, together with Miss Higginson, is taking over the Guides.

Another newcomer, less well-known to the majority is Miss Walling who is Matron at Saltcote Place. (All Saltcote girls will testify to her unfailing care and patience even when she is rudely awakened for the fourth time in the night by a small voice calling: "Please, Matron, Jean's fallen out of bed again! Shall we wake her up, or leave her on the floor?")

A fourth new member of Staff is Miss Higginson who has come to take Mrs. Elliot's place as Games Mistress.

We wish all these newcomers a very long and happy stay with us.

The Editors were pleased to receive letters from B. Y. Baker who is studying music at Birmingham University, and from Edwin Sutton who is in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and is at present taking a course in riding and horse management. We also acknowledge magazines from Hove County Grammar School for Boys; Varndean School, Brighton; and Ashford Grammar School.

Towards the end of term we said goodbye to June Terry who is now working in France. We all wish her the best of luck and success in the future.

Congratulations to:—

Barbara Wilson and Olga Clark on being made Girls' School Captain and Vice-Captain respectively, and to Godden who is now in his second year as Boys' School Captain;

Audrey Chamberlain, Margaret Crowther, Rosemary Peirce, Betty Rainton, Christine Weeks, D. Cook, Farrow, C. Godden, Hatter, G. Hickman, Thomas, and R. Wood on being made prefects;

B. Y. Baker, D. F. Clayson, N. Godden, W. Hartill, G. Pratt, D. White, B. Wilson and W. Wilson on gaining their Higher School Certificates;

P. R. J. Barry, A. F. Britt, R. G. Curtis, C. R. Dent, M. J. Doust, H. S. Freeland, W. H. Goodwin, M. Hackman, D. Marchant, N. D. Monk, E. C. Pye, N. R. Saville, K. G. Standen, P. R. Stone, E. Sutton, M. H. Tiltman, Audrey Chamberlain, Margaret Crowther, June Fellows, Hazel Godden, Rosemary Peirce, Betty Rainton, Deirdre Saunders, Barbara Swaine, Joy Traynor, on gaining their School Certificates;

M. Doust, Caister, and D. A. H. Thomas, in the A.T.C., on being promoted Flight Sergeant, Sergeant, and Corporal respectively ;
Barry, Milham, Stone, and Laurance on passing their A.T.C. Proficiency Examination.

SALTCOTE PLACE

The first term at Saltcote Place was a pioneer venture not only for the School, which became a boarding as well as a day school, but also for the pupils, most of whom had never been boarders before. As must be expected by all pioneers, difficulties of various kinds arose, but the way in which they have been overcome, speaks well for the ultimate success of the plan.

At the beginning of the term there were twenty-five girls in the care of Miss Harvey, as House Mistress, Miss How, as Assistant House Mistress, and Miss Walling, as Matron. The arrival of three more girls in the course of the term brought numbers up to twenty-eight. Barbara Wilson has been Head Girl during this first term, and Ann Bunkin was made a House Prefect. Unfortunately, owing to illness, Ann has not been with us during the latter half of the term and Glenwyn White and Ondree White were made sub-prefects to help in her absence.

The dormitories, each shared by from two to six girls, have been named after Sussex castles, Bramber, Bodiam, Lewes, Rye, Hastings, Pevensey, Amberley, Arundel, and Chichester, the last being used at present as an extra sitting room.

Evenings vary little one from another with prep. for up to an hour and a half after tea, and general noise until supper at seven. Prayers follow and then a last chance to let off steam before bed at 8.15 or 8.30.

Weekends give more scope for various occupations. Saturday morning is given up generally to shopping and such tasks as hair washing, and after dinner parties set out to go walking or cycling, while others paint or read or indulge in riotous games of hide-and-seek all over the house.

Sunday mornings we attend Church in Rye, and Sunday afternoons are again left free for various activities. During the first half of the term, during the warmer weather, we had picnics at Camber or Winchelsea Beach, until the cold and the end of Summer Time, made it necessary to be in for four o'clock tea.

We were pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs (and Coster) to our end-of-term Christmas party where fancy dress was the order of the day. The standard of ingenuity was surprisingly high, since a limit of one and sixpence was imposed on our outlay, with Anne Lovell's scarecrow and Angela Rattigan's Christmas tree among the most original.

During the last weeks of term Miss Harvey was taken ill and we were very sorry when the hospital authorities decided to send for her on the very morning of our party which she had planned so enthusiastically. We all join in wishing her a speedy recovery and in hoping that she will soon be back once again in better health.

During Miss Harvey's absence we welcomed Miss Higginson who came to help Miss How and Matron.

When the new term begins, the girls will return with the studied casualness of experienced boarders ; but the lessons of give-and-take, of sacrifice and compromise learnt during this first term, will remain as foundations of a long and happy tradition of boarding-school life at Saltcote Place.

NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY

This term the Needlework Society has had a variety of jobs to do. At the beginning of the term we made bags for all the new pupils for their sports clothes. These, owing to the large number, took several weeks to make. The majority of the younger members then started some feltwork. They worked hard so that their articles should be finished by Christmas. Other members, not engaged in this work, made the urgently-needed cover for the piano in the Hall. Throughout the term we have done many household repairs. While the younger members continued their feltwork, the older ones did a great deal of knitting and embroidery. Owing to many practices on Thursday afternoons some Society periods have been missed, and we have consequently been unable to do as much work as we had hoped to do.

S. SAUNDERS.

LIBRARY REPORT

The Library has been rearranged and the books have been put in the right order. They have been kept in order fairly well, but most of the Lower School girls and some of the boys do not seem to be able to put them back in the right places.

We have a new set of shelves on which the biography section has been arranged.

The Library Guild still meets on Thursday afternoons to enter new books, etc. and a Junior Branch has been formed, consisting of half-a-dozen members who meet on Friday afternoons, and tidy up the books and periodicals in the Library. The Bookbinding Society has been very helpful throughout the term, rebinding damaged books. Unfortunately, owing to reasons outside our control, we shall not be having so many books added to the Library this year as in past years. However the following books, with many others, have been presented ;

"The Senior Scout Handbook," presented by K. Thompson ; some books on diesel engines, presented by G. S. Crosbie-Hill ; and other useful and interesting books have been presented by Cook, R. Curtis and M. A. Wimble.

P. S. HOLE.

SCHOOL CHOIRS

This term we welcomed Mr. May as our new Music Master, and we wish him a long and happy stay with us. As he did not arrive until the middle of October, little work was done by the School Choir. The remnant of last year's Senior Choir continued to take the lead at morning services, and this has now become an established procedure.

Upon Mr. May's arrival, the two choirs were re-formed. The Junior Choir is drawn from most of the members of I, II and III. The Senior Choir now consists of volunteers from the Upper and Middle School. Meetings have been held at Long Break on Thursdays, and on Thursday afternoons in place of Music Society. The Junior Choir has been practising in music lessons. Both choirs have been practising for the Carol Concert held on December 14th and the end of term Carol Service. Besides reviving old favourites, six new carols have been learnt.

O.E.C.

SCOUT REPORT

We started off the year with the newly formed Senior Patrol and with four new patrol leaders. During the past year we have devoted meetings alternately to patrol activities and general meetings arranged by the G.S.M. In patrol activities, each patrol leader arranges a stunt and instructs his patrol in tests. In the general meetings the G.S.M. arranges a stunt to help with the First-Class Tests.

At the beginning of the year all the meetings were devoted to rehearsals for the Scout Concert which was produced early in February. The profit from this concert went to the H.Q. Fund.

During the year several field days have been held. Some were on the farm of a cycling guest. Others have been held at Pickham Farm at Fairlight, which took the form of a wide game.

During the Summer Term we tried to get as many outdoor activities as possible such as signalling, tracking and stalking. As usual the annual Summer Camp was held this year near Wareham, in Dorset, where we visited Corfe Castle, Poole and Swanage. Towards the end of the term, work has been concentrated on the new H.Q. which is a converted air-raid shelter. Also rehearsals have been held for this year's concert.

At the end of this term we lost three of our Troop's greatest scouts. They were K. Howlett, E. Sutton and K. Thompson. One of them was promoted to A.S.M. and two reached their First Class.

At the end of the year we had twenty-three Second Class Scouts.

AIR TRAINING CORPS

The School has every reason to be proud of No. 3 Flight of 304 Squadron (Hastings) A.T.C. and to be grateful for the work put in by F/O Mitchell and those members of staff, in particular Mr. Robinson and Mr. Elliot, who help with the instruction. We must not forget the help and encouragement we get from Headquarters at Hastings and especially from the Commanding Officer, S/L Prevelt.

I wish to call special attention to the careful thought given by the leaders to the selection of N.C.O's. Great care is taken to select those who have the qualities which are vitally necessary for leadership and ultimate success, not only in the Services but in all walks of life. How successful the leaders have been in this important part of their work is seen by looking at the after-careers of recent Flight-Sergeants.

T. Saunders, after having completed eighteen months intensive air-crew training in South Africa has been successful in qualifying as a Pilot. A. Law passed the Entrance examination to Cranwell College and is now in his third term as an officer cadet training for the Secretarial Branch, with the possibility of re-mustering later as air-crew. P. Lewis, who followed Law as Flt./Sgt., also qualified for Cranwell and is now an officer cadet training for his wings. D. Tickner has passed the necessary tests to study and train as a Navigator in the R.A.F. with excellent prospects of being commissioned in the very near future. J. Shearer has been accepted for the Fleet Air Arm to train as an Observer. At the end of his nine months' training, he will take the rank Midshipman (Snotty!), eventually gaining promotion to Sub.-Lt. R.N.V.R.

This is a very fine record for a small flight and I am sure that not only the A.T.C. (on whom they reflect much honour) but the whole School wishes them the best of good fortune.

We are glad to welcome members of the Modern School in the Flight and it is good to be able to congratulate one of them, Kenneth Coleman, who by determined study has passed his examination for admission as an apprentice into the R.A.F. Good luck to you, Coleman, from all of us here!

A.R.J.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

There have been three meetings of the School Committee this term, and a great deal of useful business has been completed.

At the first meeting of the session the suggestion which met with the unanimous approval of the Committee came from Thomas, that bread be served at dinner, and it is to be hoped that this will soon materialise. Other business was formal.

A second meeting was held on December 4th, 1950, to discuss a number of important matters that had arisen. One was the revision of the School Rules, which had been neglected at the first meeting. Almost every rule was vigorously overhauled, and many constructive suggestions were agreed upon.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss means of raising money for the payment of the lost County Library books. In compliance with the recommendations of the Headmaster, the Committee agreed to raise the money with the proceeds of a film show, to be held some time next term. It was thought that in this way the whole School would appreciate the importance of the matter.

The third point under discussion was a proposal by Mr. Mitchell that the Gymnastics Competition be revised to abolish outside judging, to enable a longer training period for the annual Sports Day. The proposal met with hearty approval from the boys, but the girls disagreed and a separate vote was taken. The boys carried the proposal by a large majority, but the girls agreed upon a suggestion to run one team for each House to compete for the Shield.

The final meeting of the session, held on Monday, 18th December, was largely a formal meeting, with Sub-Committee Reports, etc.

Meetings have been very lively this term, with members showing interest and willingness to debate with constructive arguments. Another very promising factor has been the increasing number of spokesmen in the Lower School, and although their remarks often provoke more humour than anything, this is a very encouraging sign, and augurs well for the future.

CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES

Forms M. 1 and 2 have this year continued the Regional Survey started last year by their predecessors. One group which intends to write a short history of Rye, has collected dates and notes on different things in the Town Hall and the Church and has found useful information in Leopold Vidler's book, "A New History of Rye." Another group has confined its

activities to a study of the agriculture of the district and has been finding the amount of humus in the soil near the School. Fish are being studied by two groups, one dealing with the rivers and the other with ponds and ditches. Another group of boys have been investigating the water supply of the district. Two groups have devoted their research to the bugs and insects found in the fields and on the hillside near the School. The pupils in these groups have brought in various specimens and have been shown by Mr. Douglas how to preserve them. Another group of girls have turned their attention to the flowers and other plant life of the district and have brought back specimens for study. One day early in the term Mr. Douglas and Mr. Robinson took us to the foot of Cadborough Hill and gave us a lecture on the formation of the cliff and the catching of fish in the dykes.

On Open Day, in the Summer Term, we hope to have an exhibition of the work we have done during the year.

J. M. SOUTHERDEN.

UPPER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The subject chosen for the first Upper School Conference was 'The Colour Bar in Africa.' The object of the conferences is to give the members of the Upper School an opportunity to discuss subjects of topical and controversial interest, after hearing several well-informed speakers on the subject, and then to put to the speakers questions on points which they feel are not clear to them. It is hoped that, as a result, they will gain a clearer and more authoritative knowledge of important issues.

The Headmaster, as Chairman, opened the conference explaining its aim and the programme for the day, and then introduced the first speaker, Mr. B. L. Bowers from Kenya. Mr. Bowers explained to the conference how the Colour Bar began. The primary cause, he said, was class distinction arising from man's natural desire to dominate. Class distinction gave rise to slavery, at first with slaves of all races, and gradually became narrowed by the African Slave Trade to black slavery. Since all slaves were black and all masters white, and since slaves were inferior to their masters, it became accepted, even after the emancipation of the slaves, that blacks were inferior to whites, and so the Colour Bar arose.

After the first talk the conference was divided into discussion groups to give the members an opportunity to discuss the talk and to suggest questions to be put to the brains trust.

The second speaker, the Rev. R. C. Salmon, from the Belgian Congo, told the conference what the Colour Bar means to the native. He told of the many unfair distinctions and

injustices which the negroes are forced to endure in Africa, and proposed that, since the word 'race' is a biological term and the African is capable of equal education and development, each race should have equal opportunities with only the distinctions of education and culture.

After further group discussions a film on the subject was shown, followed by a third talk from the Rev. J. Drewett on 'The Colour Bar and Ourselves.' The Rev. Drewett pointed out that the Colour Bar is a very personal as well as national problem. We must each consider how we would feel and act towards a negro, whether, in fact, we should feel any distinction ourselves, before considering the wider aspects of the problem. The Colour Bar is just as active in England as in Africa, the speaker told the conference, and he gave examples of the treatment received by some negroes in English towns.

In the afternoon the conference continued with final group discussions and then a Brains Trust, when the Upper School had an opportunity to ask some of the questions formulated during discussion groups. The speakers coped very successfully with the various difficult points which they were asked to discuss. After the Brains Trust, the Head Boy gave a vote of thanks to all the speakers and the conference ended with a short act of worship.

COMMEMORATION DAY

The annual Commemoration Service was held in Rye Church on the afternoon of Friday, 6th October, at 2.45. The service was conducted by the Rev. Marshall Sargent, an Old Scholar, who also gave the address.

The service opened with the customary responses after which psalm 46 was sung. The first lesson, read by the Boys' Captain, N. Godden, was taken from chapter 44, vv. 1-14, of the book of Ecclesiasticus and was followed by psalm 15. The second lesson, taken from the Epistle to the Ephesians, chap. 4, vv. 1-15, was then read by Barbara Wilson, the Girls' Captain. The hymn, "He who would valiant be," followed. After another prayer and the singing of "Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens adore Him" came the address, followed by the School Hymn. The service ended with the Choir singing "God be in my Head."

The School Choir led the singing with Mr. May at the organ.

SPEECH DAY

On November 10th the annual Speech Day was held for the third year in succession at the Regent Cinema. The Chairman, the Rev. Hilton Wright, rose to deliver a witty introductory speech, as indeed he always does. The Headmaster then gave his annual report. He spoke of the development of the new educational system and said that the School was settling down to the new divisions with commendable speed. He expressed disappointment at the School Certificate results as a whole, but commended a select few on obtaining excellent certificates. As a contrast, the Higher School Certificate results had been unusually good, and on the whole he thought the School was working satisfactorily. The next point was a recent innovation, the conversion of Saltcote Place to a girls' boarding house. The Headmaster said that the only disturbing fact was that the girls were now numerically superior to the boys and he said that an adjustment would be necessary in future years to make the numbers more even. Reporting on the Games teams, he said they had all enjoyed successful seasons, especially the 1st Cricket XI, which had only lost one match.

Reports were then given on behalf of the Guides, Scouts and A.T.C. by Christine Weeks, M. David and D. Thomas respectively, all three speakers creating a good impression.

In the absence, through illness, of Mrs. Cooper-Key, Mrs. Hilton Wright presented the prizes and shields with her characteristic grace. Mr. Cooper-Key, whom the chairman, with sundry witticisms about the New House of Commons, affectionately addressed as "Our Member," then spoke to the assembly. His short, amusing speech, terminating with a request for a day's holiday for the School, was well received. The Mayor, Councillor R. A. Prebble, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Cooper-Key, and County Councillor F. Swan did the same for the Governors. Barbara Wilson, the Head Girl, presented Mrs. Hilton-Wright with a bouquet and Norman Godden made a speech of thanks to Governors and Staff, ending in three hearty cheers. The Commemoration hymn was sung and so ended Speech Day for 1950.

UPPER SCHOOL DEBATE

School Debates were held this term on Friday, October 27th. The Upper School met in the School Hall, and the motion for debate was: "The behaviour of youth in general and the amount of juvenile crime in particular is proof that there is something radically wrong with the modern educational system." The speakers proposing the motion were Morris and Rosemary Peirce, and opposing, David and Thomas. Barbara Wilson was in the chair.

After the main speakers had put forward their views, the motion was declared open for discussion. In spite of appeals on the part of the Chairman there was an obstinate silence, broken only at long intervals by short speeches. Then the Chairman imposed a time limit, after which, unless speeches were forthcoming, individuals were to be called upon to speak. This produced the desired effect, and the expiring debate was brought back to life. Henceforth an interesting discussion was maintained until the debate was drawn to a close. The main speakers summed up, and then the vote was taken. The motion was defeated almost unanimously, only one vote being recorded in its favour.

MUSIC RECITAL — DOBSON AND YOUNG

On the morning of Tuesday, October 24th, the School was visited by the well-known radio personalities, Messrs. Dobson and Young. Rather contrary to general expectations, instead of a recital, Mr. Dobson proceeded to give what proved an extremely amusing and interesting lecture, illustrated by gramophone records, to which his partner Mr. Young attended.

The main theme dealt with the difficult art of listening, as opposed to hearing. Mr. Dobson had the sympathy of his audience from the start, and was able to drive home his points. He emphasized the need really to listen to a piece of music in order to appreciate it, not to let the music just sound on the ear. He illustrated his points with excerpts from such widely diverse records as a Benny Goodman solo, a Chopin Study in E, Saint-Saens "Danse Macabre," and Bizet's Symphony in C.
O.E.C.

POETRY RECITAL

by Patric Dickinson and Sheila Shannon

There are few of us who have never heard of Patric Dickinson and Sheila Shannon, as they are eminent members of the Rye Literary world as well as B.B.C. broadcasters.

In introducing the recital Mr. Darby said that the reason why contemporary arts are not appreciated by the general public is because a living artist is rarely recognised as being great.

Mr. Dickinson was of the same opinion, but he added that as modern art is so little known people have no right to criticise it. He said that the progress of printing has lessened the demand for the spoken word, but that modern broadcasting has done much to revive it. The aim of the recital was to provide us with an idea of modern poetry which would be an incentive for us to read more.

Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson read to us the following poems :—

- "The Tramps," by Robert Bridges.
- "A Young Girl Mourns her Foal," by W. J. Turner.
- "Fern Hill," by Dylan Thomas.
- "The Sheep," by W. H. Davies.
- "The Sleepers," by W. H. Davies.
- "The Irish Airman foresees his Death," by W. B. Yeats.
- "Refugee Blues," by William Auden.
- "Positano," by Paul Dehn.
- "Bats," by D. H. Lawrence.
- "Welsh Incidents," by Robert Graves.
- "Comfort," by Walter De La Mare.
- "The Christmas Tree," by C. Day Lewis.

THE SPEECH COMPETITION

At the annual Speech Competition on Thursday, November 2nd, the adjudicator was Mrs. Curran, and she was assisted by Miss Harvey. Contrary to the usual custom, the competition continued into the afternoon.

First of all, the Headmaster asked us to stand for one minute's silence in tribute to the memory of George Bernard Shaw. Then Mr. Darby introduced the competition, saying that animals had been taken as the theme for both prose and verse this year, the only exception being the Senior Speech. He appealed to the competitors to overcome their nervousness and to do their best. The competition then began. The results were as follows :—

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Form L. 1. | Prose—"A picture of the Golden Age" from Isaiah. |
| | Verse—"The Donkey," by Chesterton. |
| | Result : Prose—Hopkins (P). |
| | Verse—C. Saville (P). |
| Form L. 2. | Prose—"The Choir" from "The Wind in the Willows," by Grahame. |
| | Verse—"The Oxen," by Thomas Hardy. |
| | Result : Prose—Maureen Bear (M). |
| | Verse—{ Elsie Clark (M). |
| | { Lee (S). |
| Form L. 3. | Prose—"Extract from "Black Beauty," by Anna Sewell. |
| | Verse—"On the Death of a Favourite Cat Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes," by Thomas Gray. |
| | Result : Prose—Hole (S). |
| | Verse—Annette Fenlon (M). |

- Form M.1. Prose—"Cats," by Topsell.
Verse—"Ducks," by Harvey.
Result: Prose—Doreen Smith (M).
Verse—No places given.
- Form M. 2. Prose—"Rab," by Dr. John Brown.
Verse—Extract from "Paradise Lost," by Milton.
Result: Prose—Wise (P).
Verse—Shirley Bourn (S).
- Form M. 3. Prose—"The Humour of the Elephant," by Stella Benson.
Verse—"The Ice Cart," by Gibson.
Result: Prose—Laurance (S).
Verse—Janice Owen (P).
- Form M. 4. Prose—"The Sea Beast," by Rudyard Kipling.
Verse—"Poor Wat, the Hare" from Venus and Adonis, by Shakespeare.
Result: Prose—Small (S).
Verse—Sheila Burkin (P).
- Form U. 1. Prose—"The Ass," by Sterne.
Verse—"Reynard the Fox," by Masefield.
Result: Prose—Larkin (M).
Verse—Monica Smith (S).
- Form U. 2. Prose—"The Golden Age," extract from Vergil.
Verse—"Camels," by Gibson.
Result: Prose—P. Wareham (P).
Verse—P. Blackhall (P).
- Form U. 3. Speech—"An Address to the Director of Education presenting a Five-Year Plan for Education in Rye."
Verse—"Mountain Lions," by D. H. Lawrence.
Result: Speech—Pye (M).
Verse—Hickman (M).

Mrs. Curran gave a summary after the Lower, Middle and Upper School forms. She criticized the competitors individually, a fairly general criticism being that the pace was still too fast, although we had improved in this respect since last year. Taken as a whole, the Lower School competitors were very good, but those of the Middle School were not so good. Mrs. Curran said that the standard this year was the highest she had ever known us to attain—a great improvement on last year's. She implored us all to speak well. Then Godden proposed a warm vote of thanks to Mrs. Curran for her constructive criticisms.

CAROL CONCERTS

A concert given by the Combined Rye Schools took place on Thursday, December 14th, at the Primary School. There were two performances. The Junior Choir performed in the afternoon, and both Senior and Junior Choirs in the evening. At the afternoon performance, the Junior Choir was conducted by Mr. May and accompanied by Olga Clark. In the evening, Mr. May was unfortunately indisposed, so Miss Merry very kindly accompanied both choirs, and O. Clark conducted.

The concert began with the Primary School Choir singing two carols by T. Dunhill, "Beside the Manger," and "Where is the Silken Pillow," followed by choir and audience singing "The First Nowell."

Next came the Junior Choir of the Secondary Modern School, who sang three carols, "In Bethlehem," by S. Shimmin; "The Grasmere Carol," by Arthur Somerville; and an old Sussex Carol, "On Christmas Night."

Then Rye Grammar School Junior Choir also sang three carols, the 16th Century "Whence Is that Goodly Fragrance"; a Somerset carol, "Come All Ye Worthy"; and "Now Every Child That Dwells on Earth," by Farjeon. In the afternoon, the choir sang "The Holly and the Ivy," with solo verses sung by Fitzhugh and Small. The audience then joined in "Good Christian Men, Rejoice."

This was followed by the Modern School Senior Choir singing another two songs by Dunhill, "A Slumber Song"; "A Lowly Dwelling"; and "At Christmastime," by E. Charles.

Finally the Grammar School Senior Choir sang the London Waits' Carol, "Past Three O'Clock," and the 16th Century Carol, "Ding Dong Merrily."

The Concert ended with everyone singing the tried and trusted "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

O.E.C.

SCHOOL PARTIES

SENIOR PARTY

The Senior Party was held on December 19th. The duties of M.C. were shared by David and Hatter who are to be congratulated on their spirited work in making the party such a success. Popular games such as "Passing the Orange," "Musical Parcel" and "Pub-Crawl," were executed with the utmost vigour. Then an Old-Time Medley brought everyone to their feet and after this it was announced that refreshments were ready. The item which came nearest to rivalling the supper in popularity was the Conga. After several more games and dances the party finished with "Auld Lang Syne" and a tribute was paid to the M.C.'s and their helpers.

JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTIES

The Junior Party took place in the Hall at 2.30 on Wednesday, 13th December. Spirits were high and it took some effort on the part of the M.C., David, before the games were under way. After the first confusion, fun was fast and furious with time-honoured favourites such as Sloss and a Dressing-up Race. Bigamy took rather longer than usual to play, owing to widespread demands for divorces! Other games, including Passing the Matchbox, followed, until the announcement of tea cleared the Hall in a matter of seconds. An excellent tea was then served by Mrs. Hatter and her helpers in the Dining Room and Domestic Science Room and the Juniors were joined by the Middle School. After tea the Middle School took over the Hall and the fun continued. Thomas, as M.C., kept the party going smoothly with games and dancing. Winking was played with a novel twist, which met with general approval, and Forfeits produced a delightful rendering of 'I taut I taw a pudgy tat' from Miss Green. Modern dances were mixed with many old favourites from the Valeta to the Palais Glide, and in spite of a ruling that lights must stay on the mistletoe was not wasted. A last quickstep followed a last waltz and, after a last Palais Glide, Auld Lang Syne brought to a close a very pleasant evening.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A WILD NIGHT

With blustering noise and deafening roar,
The wild wind sweeps the desolate shore;
The waves rise high, the seagulls cry,
The gale speeds by,
Wailing — wailing.

The stinging spray is flung on high;
The white, lashed foam is left to lie;
The billowing clouds reflect the sea
And seem to be
Tossing — tossing.

The trees inland stand gaunt and grim
Their outlines sharp, their shadows dim,
A strange, chill music fills the air,
In treetops bare
Moaning — moaning.

ELISABETH JEMPSON, M. 4.

RIDDLE-MEE-REE (I)

My first is in cow but not in sheep;
My second in shallow but not in deep;
My third is in garment but not in gown;
My fourth is in village but not in town;
My fifth's in soprano and also in base;
My sixth is in satchel but not in case;
My seventh's in merry but not in glad;
My eighth is in crazy and also in mad;
My ninth is in Spanish but not in Dutch;
My whole is a time that you all like so much.

JACQUELINE COLE, L. 2.

1815

The canon roared and thundered on the field of Waterloo,
And a hundred deadly missiles through the smoky air they
threw.

The sun was quickly sinking in the cloudpack in the West
And the armies had been fighting since the morn without a rest.
The French had sent their cavalry to break the British line.
'Gainst the batteries of cannon, through the smoke and thicken-
ing grime,

Like the pagan hosts of old came on those gallant French
hussars;

With their broad ranks straight and steady charged those
worshippers of Mars.

But our cannon bellowed forth again and broke the rising flood,
And the muddy slopes of La Haye Sainte were stained with
Frenchmen's blood.

Again the Emperor's squadrons charged and yet again we fired
Into their seething ranks; they broke, and once more they
retired.

The Emperor now sent forward his beloved Imperial Guard
For he knew their valour was the best and their pride was
fighting hard.

The veterans charged in grand array, their bayonets caught the
light

Of the red and setting sun and they were eager for the fight.
The British lay in wait for them as they topped the grassy
banks:

"Up Guards and at 'em" came the call and a volley tore their
ranks.

The fear of the Frenchmen knew no bounds as they fell beneath
the ball;

They turned and scattered down the hill, deaf to the bugle call.
O glorious was the fray that day and brave the Hearts of Oak
When they beat Napoleon's Grande Armée, and the power of
his Empire broke.

J. MASON.

NOVEMBER

Leaves of russet, gold, and brown
From the tree tops whirling down,
Howling wind and driving rain
Lash against the window pane.

Stark trees against the sky,
Bending branches groan and sigh ;
Hawthorn berries deepen red—
Their fresh, green leaves are long since dead.

Little creatures go to sleep ;
Squirrels winter hoards must keep ;
The migrant birds have flown at last ;
November days are nearly past.

MARGARET WELLS, M. 3.

THE SCOTTISH SHEEPDOG

Here comes the sheepdog, good old Ben,
Who guards the flock in the Scottish glen.
He'd give his life to save a sheep.
A dog of that kind earns his keep.

When the nights are dark and cold
He drives the sheep into the fold,
And when the fox is on the prowl
He wakes his master with a growl.

Once the shearing has begun,
Poor Ben is always on the run,
And even though he's getting old
He has no fear of being sold.

ELSIE CLARK, L. 2.

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Recommended to members of the school this term for their
reading, are the following recent publications:—

"The Big End," by Ford and Morris.

"Publisher's Ballad," by Clark.

"Fourteen Days to Noon," by Both Weeks.
"The Lady in the Iron Mask," by N. Caister.
"Birds of a Feather," by Swan and Fowle.
"The Broken Window," by Payne, Stone, and Hole.
"A Hundred and One Games," by Larkin and Gladman.
"Latest Fashions," by Wareham and Hatter.
"Stalking," by Crouch and Standen.
"Broken Neck," by Stunt.
"Before the Dawn," by Knight.
"Cannibal Habits," by Hackman and Baker.
"Hints on Fishing," by Batehup.

J.E.M.

MUSIC

Do you listen to the Music
That is ringing all around,
The Music of God's orchestra
In every simple sound ?
The harp's melodious cadence
In the rippling of the brooks ;
The castanets and triangles
Of busy, chattering rooks ;
The blackbird with his mellow flute ;
The silver bells of rain
That tinkle on the thirsty leaves
And ring against the pane ;
The singing strings of violins
When all the woodland trees
Are swaying to the rhythm
Of the gentle evening breeze ;
And when the storm wind rises
And the clouds race o'er the moon
Do you hear the deep complaining
Of the plaintive old bassoon ?
Then the thunder joins the chorus
With a splendid roll of drums,
And over all the organ notes
Of rain-filled ditches hum.
Yes, there's melody in plenty
For every listening ear.
The stars above will sing to you
If you'll but stay and hear.

J. OWEN, M. 3.

DISCOVERY

The old white-haired professor sat poring over a file of
papers in his underground laboratory, surrounded by hundreds
of test-tubes and other scientific apparatus.

Suddenly he gave an excited exclamation, seized the top-most paper, and left the room as swiftly as his old age would allow.

"Karl," he shouted, and then, in German, "I've got it at last; the English will never have a chance to use it! The secret is ours!"

The old man stood there, trembling with excitement, his eyes blazing. But his companion seemed amazed.

"Surely," he gasped, "you would not use such a terrible weapon against so small and defenceless a country?"

"I would!" replied the professor decisively.

"Then I will have no hand in your vile scheme," snapped the other, turning towards the step which led to the street above.

"You shall not leave here alive," said the professor, slowly and deliberately. His lips were drawn together in a tight line; his cold blue eyes stared straight in front of him. There was a look of mingled terror and cruelty on his pale, drawn face. Swiftly tossing aside the paper, he drew his revolver and with one shot shattered the spine of the unfortunate Karl.

The old man took out a cigarette and lit it. The match fell from his trembling hand. He stood for a moment as if deep in thought. Suddenly he remembered the sheet of paper. He turned to the bench beside him but the vital paper was nowhere to be seen. He fell to his knees, groping frantically among the apparatus. He caught his breath and stared unbelievably. The paper lay on the ground beside the match—in ashes.

P. BARTON, M. 3.

THINGS I LIKE

To D.T.

I like to sit and dream awhile

On sultry afternoons;

I like to see a baby smile;

To polish silver spoons;

I like to smell the new-mown hay;

To hear the crickets sing;

To taste the cakes on baking day;

A sparrow on the wing.

I like to watch small children play,

Or moths fly round a light;

People who smile when days are grey;

And saucepans gleaming bright;

The sunset on an azure sea,

The cloudless sky above;

A quaint collection you'll agree—

These things I love.

FAITH LEVET, M. 3.

ON ASHDOWN FOREST

BY D. G. SOUTHERDEN

An' I trod the heath to Nutley
On that fair September morn,
In the distance were the pine trees
By the winds of heaven torn.

I walked among the heather,
The bracken and the gorse,
But the golden tints of Autumn
Stayed my footsteps in their course.

The downlands on the skyline
Were purple in the haze;
And the sight of Wealden Vistas
Made me stay, and stand and gaze.

I stood and looked at Sussex—
My Sussex by the sea,
The finest and the fairest
Of the counties that there be.

I turned and started walking
On the track all bare and worn;
An' I trod the heath to Nutley
On that fair September morn.

THE INCOMING TIDE

To E. C. J.

As the incoming tide,
Slowly deepening far and wide,
Crept nearer my feet,
With a ripple eddying here and there where the currents meet,
I saw, quite close at hand,
A solitary hoofprint, and then more
Stretching along the shore.

Two horses had been cantering that way
Earlier in the day,
Heads tossed and manes flying,
Nostrils wide and eyes bright,
Their riders, crouched in the saddle low,
Laughing aloud for sheer delight,
And round their heads the seagulls crying;
Sand by the spurning hooves flung high

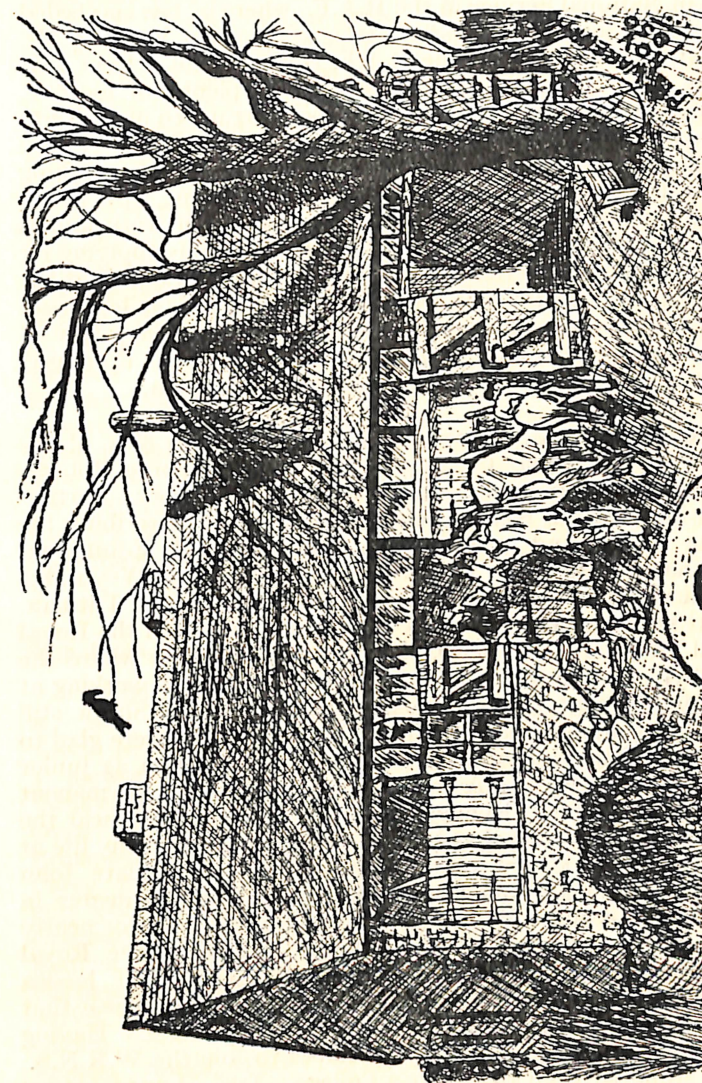
As past and away they go,
 Vanishing out of sight
 Where the lonely, level sands meet the empty sky.

And, somehow, I knew in my heart who had been that way
 On that wild and carefree ride,
 I knew it was we who had ridden by laughing so
 Long, long ago,
 Leaving our marks on the vast, bare, sands of Time ;
 But the Incoming Tide,
 Turning the Page of Life for a new day,
 Washed them away.

RIDDLE-MEE-REE (II)

My first is in ship but not in boat,
 My second in robe but not in coat,
 My third is in game but not in fete,
 My fourth is in cup but not in plate,
 My fifth is in lock but not in key,
 My sixth is in race but not in flee,
 My seventh's in dark but not in light,
 My eighth is in earl but not in knight,
 My whole is my House, for which I shall aim
 To uphold its tradition and add to its fame.

M. JEMPSON, L. III.



THE VILLAGE FORGE AT PEASMARSH.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS. CHRISTMAS, 1950

Among recent leavers Derek White writes of his experiences in National Service in the R.A.F., where he has succeeded in the tests for a Pilot Cadet. In a very recent letter to Mr. Allnutt, White says that the R.A.F. is like school, except that lessons start at 7.30. He is also getting plenty of football. Feeling very lost at first he had the good fortune to meet Keith Thompson and Dudley Clayton, both equally lost! Eileen Stoodley writes from Bishop Otter College, where she is taking bookcraft as a special subject. Pauline Orsbourne, now in her second year at Bishop Otter, has started school work and is leader of one of the chapel choirs. Walter Wilson is applying for a job in a library. Bernard Apps, now working in London at the head office of the Phoenix Insurance Company, says he misses Mr. Douglas's helping hand in his 'digs'! Rosemary Ray of New Romney is hoping to fulfil her old wish to take up music, and is applying for an exhibition to study in London.

Somewhat disappointed at failing, along with 88% of the others, before a War Office Selection Board, George Roberts is attempting to become a tradesman in his own work. Further afield in Scotland, Keith Cook writes at length describing life in the R.A.F. and visits to the Trossacks and Edinburgh. Britt has settled down in Weybridge and attends Weybridge Technical School where he has met Mr. Coull. Sidney Tiltman, still at home, is hoping for a post as an apprentice in the Royal Naval Dockyards. Helen Gill writes from London where she is enjoying caring for children. Phyllis Hickman is working at bookbinding with Messrs. Adams in Rye. Ivan Smith still visits us as often as is possible from Shorncliffe. We were glad to hear that Ronald Peacock is happy in his position as junior draughtsman with the Admiralty, and hopes for a permanent appointment. From Kenneth Howlett came the news near the beginning of the term that he was settling down to army life at Winchester, he is now in the A.E.C. We congratulate John Pulford who has obtained a second class Honours degree in History at Oxford. Monica Partleton has now been for nearly three months at the Nurses' Training School at the Royal East Sussex Hospital where she has joined Daphne Gill, Jessica Rendall and Janet Holdstock. After a long silence we hear that Cyril Ansett hopes to go into the printing trade. Having moved to Aldershot, Joy Traynor hopes to join the W.R.N.S., while Anne is to go to Clarke's College. Jack Dunster writes about the start of his army service at Shorncliffe.

Joe Mewse sent an early Christmas card. He is now Captain in the Parachute Regiment stationed at Farnham.

Recent visitors to the School have been Pat Barfoot (now teaching in a Modern School), Joy Bateup, Pamela Wilson, Pauline Orsbourne, all three still at Training College, Rowan Hackman who goes back to the 30s teaching in a Primary School at Ruislip, Victor Apps the old friend of the scouts employed as a research chemist at Northampton and expecting to be sent to Spain by his firm, Pamela Whiting who has her first teaching post at the City Freeman's School (a boarding school) at Ashted, she is teaching both English and History. Recent leavers who have called in after their first term at college are William Harthill, and Phyllis Doel, both enthusiastic about their experiences. A great victory was achieved by getting Rex Cowper to visit us, congratulations on his degree. He has gone back to Reading for a year's research. Bob Burnett called in at the beginning of term before resuming at Reading after his year in France. It was a great pleasure seeing so many recent leavers at Speech Day including B. Y. Baker, who was well received. We were pleased to welcome J. P. Finch Gasson. He has obtained a degree in Engineering and is with a firm of constructional engineers, at present working in Glasgow, and finally a reminder of war days, a long letter from Peter Swaine who is to spend Christmas in Korea. He thinks the Mongolian and Siberian winds colder than even those in March from Romney Marsh and is now to learn how to extract money from the patriotic part of the community.

Stop Press.

Christmas greetings have been received from Elaine Watts, K. Cook, L. and Winnie Allen, Eileen Stoodley, K. Howlett, Joyce Braley, E. Paige, Joan Marsden (Gutsell), P. Lewis, J. Mewse, P. Swaine, B. and Daphne Jones, Rae and Judd Varley, Morton, Marjorie and Julia Smith, Pat Barfoot, Ruth Oyler, Pamela Whiting, Lucy Smeeton (in W.R.N.S.), Beryl Brakefield, Dawn Messeter, Ivan Smith, Joy Bateup, Drusilla Parry, C. Foster, B. Baker, R. Frehner, Helen Gill, Kathleen and John Bull, Janet Holdstock, Pauline Baker, Pauline Orsbourne, J. Pulford, K. Thompson, Monica Partleton, Paulina Metianu, R. Burnett, M. Sargent, Sheila Houlston, Barbara Brett, Muriel Gill, Pat and Rosalie Green, Barbara Jarvis, Kathleen Mitchell (from Bexhill Hospital), A. Law, Gillian Pratt, Doreen, Cecily and K. Standen, Doris Smith, Pamela James, Jean Pope, Trevor Pollard, T. Saunders, Stella Killick, B. Dawson, D. Clayson, Helen Rook, Miss Glenister, Mr. and Mrs. Broome, Mr. Hanlon, Mr. and Mrs. Bolton (going very soon to the Bournemouth School of Art), Mr. and Mrs. Morgan and Gillian.

Very recent visitors have included Clayson, in the army at Cannock Chase and finding it almost as cold as the Headmaster did in the winter of '15-'16. K. Howlett training for the R.A.E.C., R. Peacock a draughtsman at the Admiralty and afraid that he won't have sufficient influence to get into the Navy when call up comes, and Peter Bryant fresh from Rhodesia where he has trained as a Navigator R.A.F. He is already a Sergeant and hopes to get a commission.

Margaret Sands has left her school at Harrow and is now teaching Divinity and English in a technical school at Gravesend.