

“RYA”

.1636.



MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SPRING
1951

"RYA"

No. 19

Spring 1951

Vol. 7

*The Magazine of
Rye Grammar School*

New Series

Editors :

Barbara Wilson

Rosemary Peirce

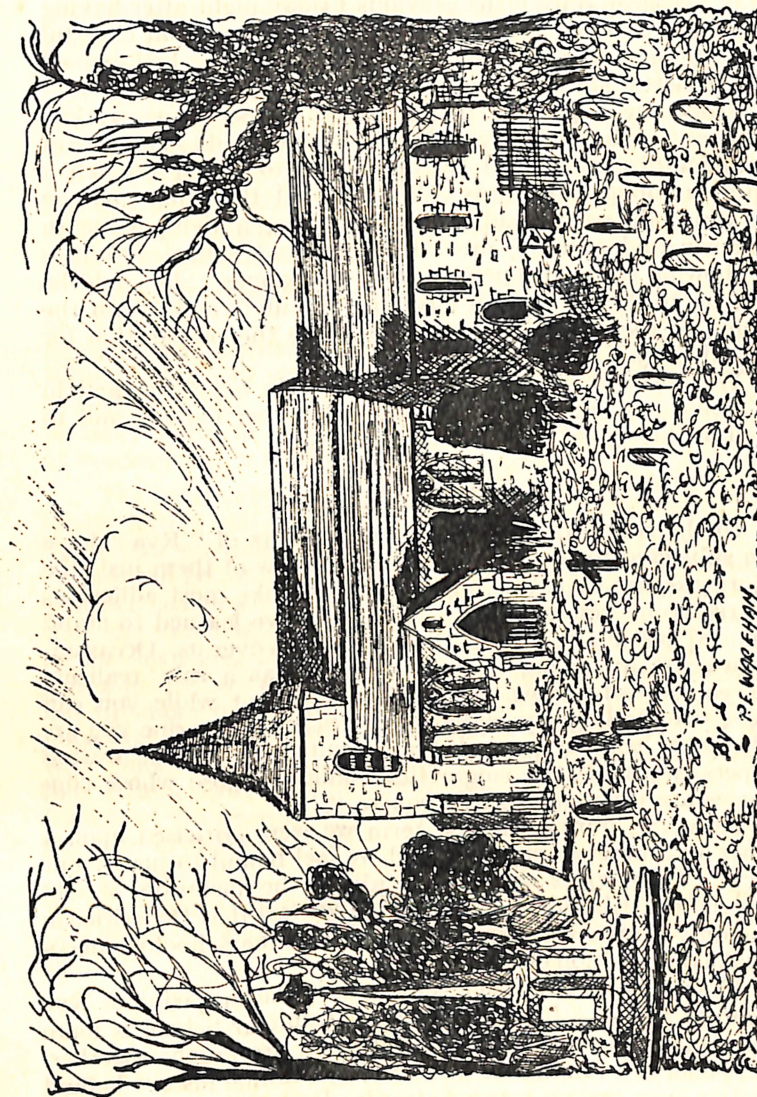
Olga Clark

D. Monk

D. A. H. Thomas

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Illustration : Peasmarsh Church, by P. E. Wareham..	3
Obituary	4
Editorial	4
School Diary	5
Obiter Dicta	6
Saltcote Place	7
Football Report	8
Hockey Report	9
Cross-Country Running	11
Netball Reports	11
Summary of House Competitions	12
School Committee Report	12
Dramatic Society Report	13
Upper School Debate	13
Music Competition	15
Lewes Music Festival, 1951	16
Scout Concert	18
School Play : "The Rivals"	19
Original Contributions :—	
"The Storm," by J. M. Mason	22
"A Short Visit to Florence," by P. J. Doust	22
"Riddle-me-ree," by P. Greenhalgh	23
"Birdsong," by P. Stone	23
"The Last Voyage," by M. E. Stoodley	24
"Nature," by D. Smith	25
"Early Attempts in the Art of Writing Sonnets,"	25
Old Scholars' News	26



PEASMARSH CHURCH.

OBITUARY

June Gill, 1947 - 1951

It was with deep sorrow that the School heard from the Head Master, in Assembly on Monday, February 26th, of the loss which we had suffered by the passing of June Gill, who had died in her sleep during the previous Friday night after having finished up her week at school as usual in her quiet but cheerful way. The news was a sad shock to all of us as June had seemed so much better since the summer holidays.

From the beginning of her school career June worked quietly and conscientiously and she continued to do so in spite of the difficulties occasioned by the illness to which she fell a victim not long afterwards. We admired the quiet courage with which she went steadily on, maintaining a high position in her Form and entering into all House and School activities and showing equal keenness in work and games. She could be relied on to do her best in anything she undertook, from the keeping of the Form Homework Book to the preparation for her Red Cross Examinations.

We miss her gentle, happy presence in her Form and in her House and our sympathy goes out to her parents and to Helen in their great and sudden loss.

EDITORIAL

In the course of years, the many editors of "Rya" have been subjected to so many complaints, a few of them just, the majority either unjust or misplaced, that, like most adherents to a righteous but unpopular cause, we have learned to stand unmoved and unafraid while the waters pass over us. Occasionally we rise up in our own defence, but as a rule, realising that you already know our answers and that while you can relieve your feelings by criticising the School Magazine you are unlikely to look for a more drastic outlet for your thwarted tempers, we smile the enigmatical smile of those whose consciences are clear—and leave you to it!

However, during the last term we were criticised upon a deeper and more serious issue and we feel bound to justify our policy. Complaints were made about the inclusion of Old Scholars' contributions, and although we feel that the criticism came only from a very small proportion of the School we mean to make our position clear.

'Rya' as its title page tells you, is the magazine of Rye Grammar School. In our view Rye Grammar School is more than a place where a number of children are taught together. The School is a foundation with a long and fine history behind it and an even greater future before it. It is a fellowship of staff, pupils, scholars who have left, and scholars who are to come. The rules, privileges and traditions that are ours today have been handed down to us by those who have left and must be

handed on to those who come after us. 'Rya' is representative of the School. We who edit it today took over from friends who left and will in time hand over to friends who remain when we have gone. But we do not claim that 'Rya' is any more our magazine than it was or will be theirs. Just as the editing and production of it form an interest that links all editors past and present, so the articles in it serve to link the members, past and present, of the School.

Moreover, as editors, we are concerned with selecting the best articles for publication. We would not reject the better of two articles because it came from an Old Scholar any more than we should do it if it came from a present scholar.

We hope that the position is now quite clear to all of you, but at the same time we welcome and will print letters either agreeing or disagreeing with our policy, if they contain valid arguments for or against it.

In this connection 'Rya' has decided to follow the example of the *Times* (and what better example could any editors follow?) and institute a feature consisting of 'Letters to the Editor.' We will welcome letters of general interest upon all subjects: 'Rya' (constructive, not destructive, criticism, please!), world affairs, school discipline, politics, the delights of bee-keeping, or anything else.

The letters should not be more than 150 words in length; longer letters will be liable to be cut, and no promise can be made that all those submitted will be printed. However, the editors will be influenced in their choice solely by consideration of which letters will be of greatest interest. We would also stress that the opinions expressed in the letters will not necessarily be our own and that letters of contradiction will be equally welcome. Letters will be printed under *noms de plume* if desired, but the name of the writer must be known to the editors. We hope that this feature will prove popular and that many of those who cannot rise to an article will manage a letter. We should like letters from pupils, staff, Old Scholars, parents, and friends of the School and we will endeavour to print a fair selection of those received.

In conclusion, may we express a hope for more interest in the magazine on the part of past and present scholars, and if you do have a good reason for your lack of interest—write and tell us!

THE EDITORS.

SCHOOL DIARY

January

Thursday,	11.	Term began.
Friday,	12.	House Meetings.
Saturday,	20.	Guide Party.
Wednesday,	24.	Upper School Examinations began.

February

- Saturday, 3. Parents' Association Meeting.
Thursday, 8. } Half Term.
Friday, 9. }
Tuesday, 13. Debates.
14. First Interim.
Friday, 16. Form Meetings.
Saturday, 17. Scout Concert.
Wednesday, 21. Governors' Meeting.

March

- Tuesday, 6. U I, U II, M III and M IV Art Lecture.
Thursday, 8. Field Day.
Monday, 12. School closed for Annual Schools Exam.
Wednesday, 14. Second Interim.
Thursday, 15. }
Friday, 16. } School Play, "The Rivals."
Saturday, 17. }
Monday, 19. Cross-Country Run.
Tuesday, 20. School Committee Meeting.
Wednesday, 21. Films.
Thursday, 22. End of Term.

OBITER DICTA

On Thursday, March 15th, some members of the A.T.C. held a Field Day at West Malling, when they received shooting and general instruction.

The same day, 25 members from the School Choir went to Lewes to take part in the Music Festival. They had a very interesting and instructive time. A full report on the Festival can be found later in the magazine.

A film show was held at School on Wednesday, March 21st. Its object, other than that of providing entertainment, was to raise money to pay for County Library Books which had been lost by members of the School. The films shown were "Quiet Weekend," "March of the Movies," "Rye and the Fifth," and a cartoon, "Molly Moo-Cow and the Butterflies."

We were very sorry to have to say goodbye to Miss Fairbanks, who is leaving us to teach at Eastbourne High School. She has given us invaluable aid with our French and Latin. She was presented with a writing set by the School and a handbag by Peacocke House, whose House Mistress she has been. We hope she will be happy in her new school. The Editors in particular thank her for all the help and encouragement she has given us as our treasurer and adviser.

Following the Speech and Music Competitions a Concert of selected items was given to an audience of appreciative parents after the Parents' Association meeting on Saturday, 3rd February. Two praiseworthy performances were Gray's 'On the Death of a Favourite Cat Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes' by Annette Fenlon, and Stella Benson's 'The Humour of the Elephant' by Laurance. Apart from the items chosen from the Music Competition there were some additional items. Mr. May played a piano solo by Granados 'The Lover and the Nightingale,' Small sang Boughton's 'Fairy Song' and Olga Clark Ireland's 'If there were Dreams to Sell.' The School Choir sang three songs from their Lewes Festival syllabus: 'Alpine Song' by John Ireland, 'Non Nobis Domine' by Quilter, and 'England' by Parry.

Congratulations to :—

D. Caister, D. A. H. Thomas and P. L. Stone in the A.T.C., for being promoted to Flight Sergeant, Sergeant and Corporal respectively, and to Mr. Mitchell on being promoted to Flight Lieutenant ;

June Fellows on being made a prefect ;

Pye and Hickman G. on obtaining their Football Colours, and to Simmons, Godden N., Godden C., Farrow and Batehup to whom Colours were renewed ;

Dawn Baker, Pat Crouch and Monica Smith on obtaining their Hockey Colours.

We offer special congratulations to Bernard Baker for obtaining the Festival Gold Medal at the Hastings Music Festival, 1951, in the organ class. This is the highest award made.

SALTCOTE PLACE

Saltcote's second term has not been quite as successful as the first, as many of the girls have been ill and had to return home to convalesce. At the end of term there were only eleven left, eight of whom were in bed, suffering from various complaints.

We were sorry to lose June Gill, one of our most popular girls, who died on March 3rd. We have always admired her for her courage and cheerfulness in spite of her illness.

Miss How has been acting as House Mistress during Miss Harvey's absence, with Miss Higginson assisting her. We still have Miss Walling as our Matron, who continues to lend a sympathetic ear to all complaints.

We are looking forward next term to the return of the others, so that we can continue with our various activities.

C. ALLEN.

FOOTBALL REPORT

FIRST XI

The School Football 1st XI has had the most successful season for several years. We have gone through the season without defeat, playing eight matches in all. This is a great achievement, as it must be remembered that most schools we play are very much larger than our own.

The number of matches played was greatly reduced by bad weather, which caused the cancellation of no less than six matches. We were very disappointed when our match with Ashford Grammar School was cancelled as we were only able to arrange one match for the season, whereas we were able to play the rest of the schools at least once.

The most noticeable of our victories was that against Hastings Grammar School when we won 9-nil. Aided by first-time ground passing from the halves, the forwards were able to beat a rather shaky defence.

Both our matches with Bexhill Grammar School were fairly even, with the defences generally on top of the forwards.

The defence, consisting of D. Batehup, K. Cornwall, J. Larkin, J. Farrow, C. Godden and D. Cooke, has remained the same all through the season and has thus been able to combine very successfully in most matches. Playing consistently throughout the season the defence has conceded only two goals in four First XI matches.

D. Batehup has developed into one of the best goalkeepers the School has had for several years. He plays equally well on hard or soft ground and is very safe when saving high or ground shots. J. Larkin like most defenders plays better on hard ground. His first-time tackling and his safe kicking with both feet have proved very valuable to the defence. He is also brilliant with his head and recovers quickly when beaten in the tackle.

C. Godden although generally regarded as an inside forward, was given the task of holding the defence together at centre half, at the beginning of the season. He has played well throughout the season and much of the success of the team has been due to his ability in starting attacking movements as well as defending soundly.

J. Farrow and D. Cooke, the wing halves, have worked hard in all matches, and although they both hold the ball too long on occasions, it has only been due to over-eagerness in getting the forwards moving together. Although handicapped in the past because they have been one-footed, they rapidly developed into two-footed players.

Of the forwards, the two inside forwards, N. Godden and E. Pye, should be commended for their constructiveness and hard work.

This term, colours have been renewed to D. Batehup, J. Larkin, J. Farrow, C. Godden, D. Cooke, N. Godden and G. Simmons, and awarded to E. Pye and G. Hickman.

Results :

Goudhurst School	Away.	Won	9—0
Hastings G.S.	Home.	Won	4—0
Bexhill G.S.	Away.	Won	3—1
Eastbourne G.S.	Home.	Won	5—1
Goudhurst School.	Home.	Won	6—0
Bexhill G.S.	Home.	Won	3—0
Hastings G.S.	Home.	Won	9—0
A XI, Eastbourne T.S.	Away.	Won	3—2

Once again our thanks are due to Mr. Allnutt who has worked tirelessly to make our team a success, and to Mr. Bagley who has always been willing to help us in any way.

The team was chosen from : R. Cornwall, J. Larkin, J. Farrow, C. Godden, D. Cooke, G. Hickman, N. Godden, G. Simmons, E. Pye, D. Caister, P. Stone.

G. SIMMONS.

G. Simmons has again captained the team well and besides being the main goal-scorer, has proved a real leader of the forwards.

SECOND XI

Goudhurst School 2nd XI.	Away.	Won	3—2
Goudhurst School 2nd XI.	Home.	Lost	0—1
Ashford North School.	Home.	Drew	1—1

JUNIOR XI

Hastings G.S.	Away.	Lost	1—2
Bexhill G.S.	Home.	Won	3—2
Southlands School.	Away.	Won	2—0
Ashford North School.	Home.	Lost	1—2
Bexhill G.S.	Away.	Lost	1—6
Hastings G.S.	Home.	Lost	1—6
Hastings G.S.	Away.	Lost	1—6
Hastings G.S.	Home.	Won	2—1
Southlands School.	Home.	Drew	2—2

The Junior XI was chosen from : Fuggle (P.), (Captain), Griffin, Swann, Smith (K.), Tubbs, Barnes, Hickman (N.), Morris, Bellhouse, Mills, Fuggle (O.), Allpress, Small (P.), Weeks, Tidy, Monk (B.).

HOCKEY REPORT

We were all sorry to part with Mrs. Elliott at the end of the School Year and feel it is impossible to thank her enough for her great help and enthusiasm in all our games activities. In her place we welcome Miss Higginson and hope she will enjoy her stay with us and thank her for her help during the past season.

The First XI has been handicapped this season by the extremely bad weather which has allowed very few matches and practices. The short season and illnesses have also contributed to make this a season of few matches. When practices were possible there could have been a greater enthusiasm

displayed by many members of the Upper School, and on no occasion were there two complete elevens.

Ann Lloyd and June Fellows have been reliable defence players and Dawn Baker, Margaret Crowther and Pat Crouch have played with determination in the forward line.

After Christmas, Christine Weeks, a keen inner, left, and her place was ably filled by Jane Clarke who was promoted from the Junior XI and who is quick and forceful.

The team played four matches, winning two, drawing one, and losing one. It consisted of A. Lloyd, R. Peirce, J. Baker, J. Fellows, S. Saunders, J. Smith, M. Smith, C. Weeks, J. Clarke, D. Baker, M. Crowther, P. Crouch, G. Care, B. Stallard and O. White.

Hockey Colours were renewed to A. Lloyd, M. Crowther and J. Smith and awarded to P. Crouch, D. Baker and M. Smith.

The Junior XI have also been handicapped by the weather, but have played two matches, winning one and losing the other. They have made good progress and Elizabeth Dobbie has played well in the defence and Pat Greenhalgh and Marjorie Wise played well as forwards. Marjorie has been a very keen Captain and has played ably both in the forward line and in the defence.

The team consisted of M. Wells, E. Dobbie, H. Webb, E. Jempson, A. Doust, S. Swaine, P. Greenhalgh, E. Diaper, M. Wise, J. Clarke and B. Wing.

The House Matches were a close struggle resulting in a win for Meryon by one point over Peacocke and Sanders who tied.

Two coachloads have been to two women's matches, one to Worthing to see the match between England and The Rest, and one to Wembley for the match between England and Ireland. Both trips were interesting and enjoyable and provided an incentive for all keen hockey players.

The First XI with five reserves visited the Hockey Tournament at Bexhill and played four schools, winning once, drawing once, and losing twice. Beehive School and the Convent of The Holy Child, St. Leonards, tied for first place in the Tournament.

The Junior XI visited the Under-fifteen Tournament at Southlands Modern School at the end of term. The field was in a terrible state, covered with mud and water. Our team was placed second, Southlands winning the shield. Hilary Webb played extraordinarily well diverting many goal-shots from our goal-mouth.

J.M.S.

AUTUMN TERM

First XI v. Ashford Grammar School.	Won	4—0
v. Bexhill Grammar School.	Drew	1—1
v. Hastings High School.	Lost	1—2
Junior XI v. Ashford Grammar School.	Lost	0—7

SPRING TERM

First XI v. Bexhill Grammar School.	Won	4—1
Junior XI v. Southlands Modern School.	Won	4—3

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

This year, as last year, it was decided that the final Cross-Country Run should be between teams of six from each House in each section. As there had been so much rain during the term the courses were in very bad condition and running was made difficult. The times required for obtaining standards were eased by one minute in the Junior and Middle sections and two minutes in the Senior. On the standards previously gained Meryon had a lead of 34 points over Peacocke and 41 over Sanders.

On the day of the final, Monday, 19th March, the weather did not look very fine but the rain held off and the runners started out at about 11.15 a.m., juniors first, then middle and seniors. In spite of the heavy going the times were quite good. The senior run was won by Caister who won the middle run last year. Standen surprised many, and pleased his House, by coming second. In the Middle School, N. Hickman and Emary came home first together, and in the juniors Pellett and Fitzhugh ran well to finish first and second in their first year at the School.

When the points were added up it was found that Meryon had won by 54 points over Peacocke with Sanders third.

SENIOR: 1 Caister—P. 2 Standen—P. 3 Pye—M. 4 Farrow—S. 5 Hickman, G.—M. 6 Godden, N.—S.

Time 34 mins. 25 secs. (Record 30 mins. 11 secs.).

MIDDLE: 1 Hickman, N. and Emary—M. 3 Tidy—P. 4 Small, P.—P. 5 Allpress—P. 6 Fuggle, P.—S.

Time 27 mins. 5 secs. (Record 22 mins. 15 secs.).

JUNIOR: 1 Pellett—S. 2 Fitzhugh—P. 3 Barnes—M. 4 Mills—P. 5 Elkins—P. 6 Bruder—M.

Time 17 mins. (Record 15 mins. 36 secs.).

		M.	P.	S.
Points:	Standards	.. 110	76	59
	Senior	.. 59	50	62
	Middle	.. 73	57	41
	Junior	.. 54	61	56
	Total	.. 296	244	218

G.E.H.

JUNIOR NETBALL REPORT

The Junior Netball team has only played one match this term, and that was against Southlands. The team consisted of Julia Mercer, Janet Houchin, Shirley Bourn, Pauline Luxford,

Gillian Hewett-Taylor, Ann Griffin, and Coral Hartill (Capt.). Owing to lack of practice the team was not at its best, but on the whole it played well. We lost 7-20.

HOUSE NETBALL REPORT (PEACOCKE)

The Peacocke Senior Netball team has played two matches this term. When we played Meryon we were handicapped by the absence of several members of the House and we lost 13-6. When we played Sanders the game was keenly contested and Peacocke won 11-9. The shooters, Judith Bateman and Ann Pares, who were not used to these positions, played well.

E.J.

The Peacocke Junior Netball team played two reserves against Meryon, because of one absentee and one injury. The whole team played very well and at half-time the score was 10-2. Meryon recovered somewhat in the second half, and the final score was 15-9 in Peacocke's favour. When we played Sanders we had our normal team, and we won 8-7.

P.L.

Unfortunately we have received no information to the time of going to print of the matches played between Meryon and Sanders.

THE EDITORS.

SUMMARY OF HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Hockey :	Meryon	5	Peacocke	4	Sanders	4
Netball :	Peacocke	6	Meryon	4	Sanders	2
Football :	Sanders	5	Meryon	5	Peacocke	2

(Sanders won the Football Shield on goal average).

Running : Meryon 296, Peacocke 244, Sanders 218.

Speech and Music : Meryon 1497, Sanders 1476, Peacocke 1419.

Work and Merit (to date) : Meryon 135½, Peacocke 128½, Sanders 114.

Cock House Shield : Meryon 10, Peacocke 7½, Sanders 6½.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Although the first meeting of the term was held late in February, owing to more academic pursuits, the Committee settled down to business with unusual vigour and dexterity. Under the stern but democratic guidance of Thomas, who has filled the Chair ably, business proceeded smoothly. The work of the Editors in producing the Autumn Term magazine was criticized to some extent, and that illustrious body did not come through a trying ordeal unscathed.

The most important suggestion, which met with the unanimous approval of the Committee, was for the renewal of dancing classes at the School.

The second meeting of the term was held on March 20th. It was carried unanimously that the School should visit the

Festival of Britain on the date set aside for Educational Visits, and, after pointing out to the less experienced of the Lower School the gravity of "losing" important papers, the Committee decided to submit a suggestion that pupils carry their own reports home.

The Editors again experienced rough weather, this time from a suggestion that photographs be reinstated in the magazine.

There has been an agitation in the Committee for some time demanding the serving of bread at dinner, and this was renewed, despite a certain Dr. Coghlan, at the final session. The eagle eye of one Committee member had not failed to notice that there would be one penny per person per week above the actual cost.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

After the successful production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the end of the Easter Term last year, the Dramatic Society confined its summer activities to the production of two one-act plays which were performed at the Parents' Association Fête in July. These plays showed that among the younger members of the Society talent was certainly not lacking. When the School resumed normal working after the summer vacation the Society got down to the business of producing the School Play. The first proposal "Tobias and the Angel" was obviously unpopular and after two weeks it was dropped as unsuitable. The happy suggestion of producing "The Rivals" met with unanimous approval and so it was settled that Sheridan's best-known comedy should be presented in this festival year, which is also the bicentenary of his death. After preliminary auditions the casting was completed and those members fortunate enough to obtain parts started rehearsing in earnest. Under Mrs. Curran's able production the play progressed by leaps and bounds and the final standard may be judged from the reception it received. Mrs. Curran had valuable help from Miss Turner and Mr. Elliott and these three have worked as an untiring team to make the play a success. Mr. Thompson and the Art and Handicraft Societies provided the excellent scenery and the Needlework Society the curtains. The electricians, scene shifters, programme sellers, ushers and countless others who have sold tickets deserve our thanks and last but by no means least, Mr. Bagley, our business manager, who successfully wrestles with the accounts and pays the many bills which come in. As the Dramatic Society's year ends, many veterans are leaving and to one and all we wish the very best of luck in their future lives.

UPPER SCHOOL DEBATE

The motion before the House in the Upper School Debate was 'That this Age suffers from too much Science,' N. Godden,

the Chairman, opened the Debate and called upon the first speaker to propose the motion. Wood's speech was to some extent spoiled by poor delivery. All four main speakers read their speeches from previously prepared scripts. This is a fault that should be corrected in the Upper School. The idea of debating is to deliver a speech with the aid of short notes, which serve as a memorandum of main points, or better still without even the aid of notes if the speakers' memory is sufficiently reliable.

Wood defined the meaning of the words 'too much,' and argued that the unnecessary surplus of Science was that involved in the production and invention of weapons of destruction.

Jary, who opposed the motion, defined Science as knowledge for its own sake and not for profit. He argued that even weapons such as the atomic bomb are of use if they prevent war, and listed some of the benefits of Science.

Sheila Saunders, who seconded the proposition said that Science provided weapons to gratify the greed of powerful countries. She pointed out how the development of Science had resulted in the industries which disfigure the countryside, especially in the North of England, and claimed that people have become too dependent upon Science and expect everything to be done for them.

Jackson then rose to second the opposition. This speaker had obviously spent a great deal of time and effort in the preparation of his speech, but unfortunately it was rather irrelevant, laying too much stress upon the history and achievements of Science and too little upon the moral issues involved.

The debate was then declared open to the House and after some initial hesitation a lively discussion followed. As usual the Staff took a large part in the debate and there were many members of the School who made no contribution at all. After most other aspects of the problem had been discussed the Headmaster rose to stress the moral issue, and this might have resulted in much further discussion had there been time. However, it was necessary at this point for the Chairman to stop the debate and call upon the main speakers to sum up. After this the vote was taken and the motion was defeated by twenty-five votes to seven.

COMMENT ON DEBATE

In the Senior Debate on whether we had a surfeit of Science or not, I do not personally feel that the last word was spoken, and the number of abstentions when the vote was taken, was significant.

Even amongst the most primitive peoples, we find much concern with abstract matters, evil spirits and the like and the progress of civilization is not solely an increase of things material. The stretching forth into the unknown becomes more conscious and more organised and Man devotes great energy to the search for Truth.

Knowledge is indivisible but unfortunately has become departmentalised into a host of "subjects" roughly grouped into Science and Arts. Whilst the Scientist may express some new discovery in a formula readily comprehended by the initiated, the poet, painter, sculptor and composer are equally capable of expressing their own vision of some aspect of Truth in ways not readily appreciated by the many.

Progress in both physics and chemistry on one hand, and anthropology and psychology, on the other, show that their particular fields overlap, whilst men of outstanding merit like Einstein have shown that fundamental truths in various "subjects" popularly unrelated, can be welded into working hypotheses.

In religion the approach may perhaps be said to be a more direct one to the Fountain of all Truth, and we seek to know God Himself, His Mind and Purpose. Whilst in the 19th Century it was widely accepted that Science and Religion were utterly incompatible, the more Science reveals in its own specialised approach to Truth, the more we stand in awe and purpose of the Universe.

It would seem that only by an Upper School course in Philosophy would it be possible to put Science in its proper perspective.

E. E. ROBINSON.

MUSIC COMPETITION

Owing to the vagaries of the weather and other complications, the Music Competition this year was held in two sections, the Junior section on Friday, December 15th. Miss Merry adjudicated vocal and piano items from pupils under 14. In making her general remarks, Miss Merry said the standard of singing was much higher than last year, and diction was on the whole good; but the songs, except in one case, needed more cohesion and sparkle. She found the piano class interesting and of a quite high standard. The results were as follows:—

Girls' Vocal Solo: "Where the Bee Sucks," *Arne*.
Doreen Smith, Meryon; Rosemary Carter, Peacocke; Bridget Wing, Sanders.

Result—M.P.S.

Boys' Vocal Solo: "Who Is Sylvia," *Schubert*.
Barnes, Meryon; Fitzhugh, Peacocke; Small, J., Sanders.

Result—M.S.P.

Vocal Duet: "Winter."
D. Smith and Barnes, Meryon; P. Forster and A. Rattigan, Peacocke; B. Wing and A. Doust, Sanders.

Result—M.S.P.

Piano Solo—Own choice.
J. Smith, Meryon, "Peasant Dance" by Goss.
Hackman, Peacocke, "Sonata."
G. Bellhouse, Sanders, "Dancing on the Lawn."

Result—P.M.S.

The Senior half of the Competition was held on Wednesday, January 17th, when Mr. Peter Temple was adjudicator. He too said the standard was much improved, particularly in the singing of the choirs. Articulation was clear and intonation was generally much better. In the piano class he asked the pianists to adapt their style to fit in with the mood of the composer. Two soloists played Chopin "Valse," and played them well technically, but too loudly and not sensitively enough.

The results were :—

House Choirs (a) "The Seekers," *Dyson* (Unison).

(b) "John Cook's Grey Mare" (Two-part).

Result—1st, Sanders—Meryon ; 3rd, Peacocke.

Vocal Solo : "Häiden Röslein," *Schubert*.

S. Stevens, Meryon ; C. Carter, Peacocke ; O. Clarke, Sanders.

Result—S.P.M.

Vocal Duet : "A Shepherd Kept Sheep," *Thiman*.

E. Dobbie and E. Diaper, Meryon ; V. Symonds and C. Carter' Peacocke ; M. Smith and O. Clarke, Sanders.

Result—S.P.M.

Piano Solo—Own choice.

V. Jupp, Meryon, "Valse in B flat," *Chopin*.

M. Smith, Sanders, "Valse in F," *Chopin*.

Saville, M., Peacocke, 1st Movement "Sonata Pathétique," *Beethoven*.

Result—M.S.P.

Open Piano Duet—Own Choice.

J. Smith and R. Peirce, Meryon, "Rose-Marie," *Gustav*.

M. Wood and M. Jempson, Peacocke, "Barcarolle," *Offenbach*.

D. Saunders and O. Clarke, Sanders, "Galop," *Bizet*.

Result—S.P.M.

The final result for the whole Competition plus the results of the heats was :—

Sanders, 770 points ; Meryon 732 ; Peacocke 694.

O.E.C.

LEWES MUSICAL FESTIVAL, 1951

Never has there been such keen and widespread interest in music among young people as at the present time, when the movement to forward the position of music in English schools is at a peak hitherto unattained. This is being said on all sides by experienced teachers and musicians and such interest is still growing. Proof of this was shown recently at the Lewes Festival organised by the Rural Schools' Music Council. This is a non-competitive Festival instituted for the appreciation and enjoyment of practical music by children from Sussex schools. It has been re-organised and this was the first of these re-formed Festivals. The venture proved a great success. Eighteen schools were represented, each sending a choir of twenty-five members to take part.

The Grammar and Modern Schools from Rye went on Thursday, March 15th, for the Seniors' Day. We set off in high spirits and in spite of nearly embarking on the wrong train at one station, we arrived without incident at Lewes Town Hall just in time to take part with eight other choirs in a rehearsal of our first group of four set songs. We were rehearsed by Antony Hopkins, a young conductor whose infectious enthusiasm carried us along with him. There was a break at 12.15 for lunch after which we split into groups and explored the Town Hall.

At 1.30 p.m. we went to the Corn Exchange, a hall with really excellent resonance and acoustics. Here we had the first of our classes which was the singing of a folk song and a carol. Rye Grammar School Choir's choice was "Sweet Nightingale" which we sang unaccompanied, and then the Waits' Carol "Past Three o'clock." The adjudicator was Antony Hopkins ; unfortunately only two members were able to hear his criticism in which he stressed the need for more variety and contrast between verses in both songs. He said our articulation and tonality, and that of most of the choirs, was very good ; we had good rhythmic balance and intonation, but we lacked imagination in treatment and interpretation.

After this we went to our sight-singing test, which did not prove quite such an ordeal as was expected. The adjudicator, Mrs. Fawcett, said that although there were inclined to be some "passengers," the choir was, on the whole, quite proficient and should improve with practice and experience.

We returned with considerably lighter hearts and steps to the Town Hall for our performance of the set song, "Orpheus with his Lute," by Sullivan, and our own choice, a two-part song "The King's Men," by Sarson. The adjudicator here was Dr. Leslie Russell. He liked our rhythm and pace particularly in the second song which he said was a happy choice ; we had a good grasp of both songs.

This class was followed by a second rehearsal of three other songs, with nine other choirs, under the baton of Dr. Russell who assured us he was used to conducting schoolchildren—he taught 3,500 in London ! He proved a painstaking and exacting conductor, and gradually the choirs began to find, under his guidance, points in the songs which we never thought existed. Such was his magnetic personality that not one member there failed to follow and respond to every flicker of his baton. We began to realize what Choral singing really means—perfect unity between composer, conductor and choir.

There was a break from 3.30 p.m. till 4.0 p.m., and then came the climax of the day, the Concert of the Massed Choirs. First came a group of three songs conducted by Antony Hopkins: "Alpine Song" by J. Ireland ; "The Bird-Catchers' Song" by Mozart, and "A Sailor's Letter" by Dyson.

Then came a group of violin solos from Margaret Lockhart-Smith: "Air" by Purcell; "Rondino" by Beethoven; "What You Will" by Somervelle; and an exotic piece, brilliantly executed, "Malaguena" by Sarasate.

Next the Choirs sang Dyson's "Reveille" and there were two items from separate choirs chosen by the judges, "Bobby Shaftoe," and "Graceful Swaying Wattle."

Four oboe solos from Pamela Preston followed: "Air" by Le Fleming; "Gavotte" by Rameau; "Le Cygne" by Saint-Saens; and the lovely "Vivace" from Handel's Concerto in B flat.

The Massed Choirs then sang their last group, conducted by Dr. Russell: "Orpheus with his Lute"; "Non Nobis Domine" by Quilter; and lastly there was the thrilling experience of singing with over 400 others Parry's setting of John O' Gaunt's immortal paean of praise, "England."

After this we had to rush to the station to catch our train home. We arrived in Rye at 7.20 p.m., tired but happy after singing most of the way. I think we all echo one member's remark as she stepped off the train: "Well this is one day I shan't forget in a hurry!"

We, the Choir, would like to tender our thanks to Mr. May for his tireless coaching and encouragement in the preceding weeks.

O.E.C.

SCOUT CONCERT

On Saturday, February 17th, the Brainstormers held their third annual concert. At two minutes after half-past seven the curtain rose to a packed house to reveal Bellhouse leaning upon a disguised scout pole and singing a song, the words of which were lost behind his paper. P/L. Jackson entered and his uniform evoked much comment from the singer who finally agreed to accompany the P/L. to a scout meeting. On arriving at the meeting we saw Weekes in the process of being hanged but it was explained that this is the usual method of rescuing an unconscious person from a blazing building. The scouts then sang their troop song with more gusto than usual.

The Snipe Patrol then presented some scenes from history, some of which needed no little imagination to identify them. As a complete contrast, Mark Saville gave an excellent rendering of Beethoven's Sonata in G and after this the Hawk Patrol presented their first sketch, "Corny Canyon," and anything cornier could not be imagined. D. Griffen showed latent talent as the cowardly cowhand and the whole sketch went with admirable swing. David then gave us a new monologue, "Women on Top" and, as always, was warmly applauded. In the Owl Patrol item "An Embarrassing Moment," Emary and Bourne as the furniture removers were highly amusing. Bellhouse and Small next sang a duet accompanied by Mr. May. "I saw it in his Hand," the Kestrel Patrol

item, flavouring of the Hollywood gangster film, showed Hickman Jnr. and Saville to advantage. The Owls' second item showed how a Troop should and should not be run and "Gestapo" and "Murder" were well received. Saville and Hobbs played "American Chopsticks," but this did not come up to expectations. The Hawk Patrol's second item, "The Jolly Roger," was hilarious in the extreme, the patter being excellent and Griffen and Jackson co-starring. The first half ended, as it had begun, with the scout meeting.

After the interval the ever popular shadow play "Etiquette," was presented for the nth time, but it has seldom been presented with more skill, and Griffen and Hickman are to be congratulated on their performances. The play "The Last Up Train," was excellently done, Swan as the Porter and Jackson as an old woman being especially good. Although the plot was weak the setting, make-up and lighting were, as usual, very good.

M. I. David is to be congratulated on his work as producer and he received good support from W. Goodwin and D. Jackson behind scenes. Mr. Thompson, Hackman and Curtis also played their part in make-up and lighting. When the final count was taken over £13 had been raised for a new H.Q. Well done the Scouts!

SCHOOL PLAY: "THE RIVALS"

Where does one begin to praise a play that was so good all round? Where does one finish praising a play that was so good all through? These are the two biggest problems that confront a critic when writing a report on the Dramatic Society's production of "The Rivals." It is easiest to begin where the play began, with the producer. Sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Curran who, handicapped by shortage of time, and in spite of such threats as the loss of two very necessary players and the possibility of no costumes (both of which disasters were averted just in time) produced a play which easily surpassed last year's production and which ranks with "The Admirable Crichton" as one of the Society's best efforts.

In spite of Mrs. Malaprop's request for 'No caparisons, please!' it is by comparison with last year's play that we can most easily see the improvement in the acting of the various members of the cast.

Thomas and Wareham, who last year played the two lovers, Demetrius and Lysander, were again cast as the two lovers—Captain Absolute and Faulkland. Sheridan's lovers, however, give far more scope for good acting and characterisation than do Shakespeare's, and both Thomas and Wareham grasped their greater opportunities. For while we might pardonably have confused Demetrius and Lysander, confusion between Absolute and Faulkland was quite impossible, so well were their opposite characters interpreted. Thomas, whose deft handling

of light comedy was already known to us, proved an equal ability to play a romantic lead and handled most convincingly Sheridan's love-scenes which, like all such scenes, usually present a problem in a school production. Throughout the play his performance was singularly excellent with its highlight perhaps in the short, delightful scene in the streets of Bath when, on his way to the duel, he meets Sir Anthony.

The fretful Faulkland is an unsympathetic character since he exasperates the audience as much as he does his friend, Jack Absolute. Wareham's success in the part is proved by the fact that the audience did indeed come near to losing their tempers with him, and yet were glad to see him reunited with Julia in the end. One fault that Wareham should guard against is a tendency to hurry his lines with insufficient pause before a change of thought. This fault is easily made when playing the part of such an emotional character as Faulkland, but it would be a shame to let such a detail mar an otherwise fine performance.

The other two lovers, Lydia and Julia, did not fail their partners. Pamela Blackhall switched from the capricious but charming Titania of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to the equally capricious and charming Lydia Languish of this year's play. However, she did not fall into the trap of making the resemblance, between two rather similar characters, too great. Titania in her most petulant moments was still regal and faëry; Lydia in her most stubborn and unreasonable moments was always human. Sheridan made Lydia the rather exaggerated type of all the young girls of that period whose primary source of 'education' was the romantic novel. Much credit must go to Pamela for making us believe in her and feel affection for her, in spite of her rather over-emphasised character.

Betty Rainton's Julia, the quiet, reliable, genuinely misused Julia, was a perfect foil for her tempestuous cousin. Betty succeeded in making her noble where she might have been spineless and did well not to overplay the part in an attempt to rival Lydia. Her only fault was that some of her lines were unfortunately lost to part of the audience by too quiet a delivery. This again is a fault due in some measure to the part she played, but it would be worth taking trouble to correct, since her acting is otherwise good and has improved considerably, with increased experience, since her performance as Helena last year.

Last year's Hermia, Sheelagh Curran, was far more at home in 'The Rivals' as Mrs. Malaprop. Sheelagh showed that she can handle an amusing rôle most successfully and, whatever the criticisms of her Hermia, I can find only praise for her performance as Mrs. Malaprop. Quite rightly, Sheelagh took her character very seriously, showing no realisation of how comical she was in the eyes of the other characters and of

the audience, and avoiding the trap of emphasising her malapropisms. She also overcame the problem of age and the audience quite forgot that she was in fact well under fifty.

The same may be said, with equal truth, of Jackson's performance as Sir Anthony Absolute. Jackson, who had only a small part in last year's play astonished all of us by the quality of his performance which was one of the highlights of the play. Whether bad-tempered or affectionate, courteous or unreasonable, he had the sympathy of the audience and deserves as much praise as Thomas for the delightful scene in the streets of Bath which I have already mentioned.

Congratulations also to Stone, who played Sir Lucius O'Trigger, and to Larkin as Bob Acres. (I hope you are not tired of my congratulations but, in all honesty, what else can I do?) Stone gave to Sir Lucius some of the puckish quality of his last year's rôle. This, combined with a delightful Irish accent, gave us a picture of Sir Lucius as Sheridan meant him to be: very Irish, very jealous of his own, and everyone else's honour, and with a true gift of the 'blarney.' Larkin gave his first performance in a School Play and it was one which promises extremely well for the future. His Bob Acres, while vastly amusing, had just the right degree of simplicity and even pathos.

The standard of acting among the servants was generally as good as among their masters but with more small, individual faults. Hickman as Thomas was perhaps the only one in whom I can find no fault, and perhaps the best tribute I can pay him is to voice the general regret that he appeared only once, and that during those trying opening minutes before the audience is really receptive. Fag, played by Doust, and Lucy by Valerie Jupp, were both good but at times indistinct. With a little trouble over voice production they should both prove valuable assets in future School Plays. David, who played David, was very good and very funny and I can sympathise with his temptation to laugh. However, the best clown of all is the one who is perfectly serious, so please, David, leave the smiles to the audience, who gave them readily enough to please any clown. Joy Baker, as Julia's maid, had very little scope for acting and gives me very little scope for criticism, but I think that she only needs more to say, and a louder voice to say it in, to do very well. Small, who already possesses a good carrying voice, only needs more to say!

I could continue with praises in this strain down to the last, least and most insignificant helper (who was, I believe, myself), but time and space will only allow me to say once more 'Congratulations to all concerned' and to end here.

B.W.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE STORM

The blustering wind in stormy gust derides
The waving branch, and cruelly on all sides
Herds, as t'were cattle, broken cloud ; while in
The darkened sky the shreds of storm wear thin,
Torn by the silvery moon. On earth the shades
Of night hide copse and thicket, woodland glades ;
The rugged clouds that sail low overhead
Seem like the Valkyria who are said
To be the chosen handmaids of Odin
And who, o'er noisesome battle, through death's din
Ride, and choose out the bravest who shall fall
Later to rise and dwell in heavenly hall.
The wind abates and on a sudden the light
Of dawn across the fading black of night
Is seen ; first grey, then pink and tinged with blood ;
The sun ascends to light a scene of mud,
Of broken boughs and swollen rivers grey.
So dies the storm and night succumbs to day.

J. M. MASON.

A SHORT VISIT TO FLORENCE

Florence is among the most famous of cities by reason of its history and art, and also because of its lovely situation. My stay there was far too short to allow more than a rapid glance at the things of historic and artistic importance. However, it was long enough to leave a very deep impression of the lovely works, both of man and of nature, that are to be found in that city on the banks of the Arno and to make me feel its fascination so strongly that I determined to return there as soon as possible.

At Florence, as in Pisa and in many other Italian cities, the cathedral, baptistry, and belfry are three separate buildings, but are bound together by the close unity of their architectural style. Here in Florence is found marble which is almost pale pink in colour, with lines of green so dark as to appear black. The cathedral was started in the thirteenth century. The interior is dignified and solemn, because it is almost completely free of ornamentation, but the altar is made of pure silver. The baptistry, where Dante was christened seven centuries ago, is octagonal in plan, and the interior is very ornate with marble and mosaic. The doors were made, in bronze, by Ghiberti and are so beautiful that Michelangelo once said that they were fit to be the Gates of Heaven.

From this religious centre I moved quickly to the historical part of the city, to the picturesque square of the Signoria and from here to the majestic Palazzo Vecchio, which stands

on one side of the square, and to the Loggia. The square is surrounded on three sides by the Uffizi Palace, once destined to be the seat of Government, but to-day, a large museum containing the most important collection of paintings in Italy.

I went under the Loggia at the end of the avenue and came out into Lugarno, a street which runs by the river. Near at hand is the famous Ponte Vecchio, the only one of the original bridges to be left standing over the Arno.

I crossed the river and, climbing up through avenues and country roads, finally reached the Piazzale Michelangelo. From here I could see the whole of Florence encircled by its hills, gently sloping hills, bathed in sunlight, and covered with vineyards and orange groves. Dotted about the landscape were villas, surrounded by trees among which, in places, rose up a tree, taller and darker than the rest, the tree which is so characteristic of the Tuscan landscape, the cypress, standing alone or in a row, marking the line of some fine avenue in a contour of the low hills.

Some day, I mean to return again to this enchanting city of Florence where I found so much true beauty.

P. J. DOUST.

RIDDLE-ME-REE

My first is in song but not in sonnet,
My second in hat but not in bonnet,
My third is in miss but not in taken,
My fourth is in sleep and also in waken,
My fifth is in study but not in homework
My whole is the best subject in all school work !

P. GREENHALGH.

BIRDSONG

The best song that ever was heard
Was the song God composed for a bird ;
It can sadden or cheer,
It is mellow and clear,
It dispels any worry and calms any fear.
Of all gifts that on earth were conferred,
Far the best was the voice of the bird.

Take a walk on a warm Sunday morn,
As you stroll through the fields and the corn
Where flow'rs scent the breeze
To the hum of the bees,
And then hear the birdsong ring clear through the
the trees,
With the descant of bells o'er the corn,
Singing ' Peace, it is God's resting morn.'

When the moon's floating clear through the sky,
 With the wispy grey clouds floating by,
 And the nightingale sings—
 Through the night her voice rings—
 A creature apart as she gives her song wings,
 Hear her empty her heart to the sky
 As her prayer flies to God upon high!

P. STONE.

THE LAST VOYAGE

On Saturday when I had gone as usual to see my Grandfather, I asked him to tell me about one of his voyages and he willingly agreed.

"One day in November," he began, "when there were many storms at sea, our trawler left her dock and sailed out to the whaling grounds. The sailor at the look-out shouted that there was a whale ahead and the boat was lowered into the rough sea. I and some of the others swung ourselves into it with our harpoons and rowed quietly to where the whale lay. Then suddenly a friend of mine called, 'Watch out! She is going to come out by the right side of the boat.' As we steered towards the left the whale came up suddenly right beside us, and our leader gave orders to harpoon it. By this time we had drifted quite a distance from our trawler but we had not noticed this nor that a storm was rising. We fastened the dead whale to the boat and then rowed back the way we thought we had come, but there were no signs of the boat. At last we decided to let the whale go as it was very heavy and as the storm was now raging. Still we rowed on hoping to see our trawler. Then suddenly we saw what looked like great white mountains drifting towards us and we realised that they were icebergs. We turned to go the other way but we were against the wind. The icebergs were slowly creeping upon us. Our leader shouted to us to jump onto them and when they were a few feet from us we jumped for our lives.

I landed safely with some of my companions upon a wide flat ledge, but many of my friends perished in the ice-blue sea.

This was how we began our strange homeward voyage. We clung to the ice but it was slippery and cold. I managed to climb to a crevice in the ice where I could sit more comfortably with some shelter from the icy winds. We were hungry and tired by this time for we had been lost for some time. The icebergs moved slowly through the water while the storm raged around us until after hours of waiting and hoping, to our great joy we sighted a ship. Most of us had bright scarves, and as we waved them frantically, the ship's crew saw us and steered towards us, coming up behind the iceberg. They lowered a boat and rowed towards us. We managed to climb on board but were too weak to help row back to the ship. I do not remember any

more, for I am told I fainted. When I awoke I found myself back at the docks, where we had started from. I left the boat and came home after this my last and strangest voyage."

M. E. STOODLEY.

NATURE

The sky is blue
 But morning dew
 Covers the work of Nature's hand,
 And by the time the sun breaks through
 Will have refreshed the waking land.

The sunlight gleams
 On rippling streams
 That hurry through the meadows cool,
 Or down quiet hills wrapped in their dreams,
 Until they reach a small, clear, pool.

Oh hark! oh hear!
 How sweet and clear
 The blackbird pipes his cheerful song.
 This is a sign that spring is near
 And lambs and flowers will not be long.

The birds will sing
 Of coming spring
 As fast across the heavens they fly;
 This welcome news they'll gladly bring,
 While gentle winds will softly sigh.

D. SMITH.

EARLY ATTEMPTS IN THE ART OF WRITING SONNETS

SONNET ON LIFE AND DEATH

Long had I vexed my troubled mind with thought
 To learn for what high purpose I was made,
 And asked with doubtful wonder, half-afraid,
 'For what great ends am I so dearly bought?'
 Still came no revelation that I sought,
 No understanding light for which I prayed,
 Until, the price of joy and sorrow paid,
 Came the slow lessons that experience taught.
 Yet still my heart was puzzled. As a man
 Who finds the path but knows not where it leads
 Or sees no moral in the book he reads,
 I found that life was sweet, but saw no plan.

Then came the whispered promise, 'Have no fear,
 Believe that Death alone makes all things clear.'

SONNET ON MEMORIES

Memories I have, so sweet they will not bear
Remembrance long, such power of pain they bring ;
The memory of a smile, a word, each thing
That we in happier times rejoiced to share.
All these arouse such longing in my heart
That memories, in which I would seek peace,
Serve in my present sorrow to increase
The loneliness since we have grown apart.
Most cruel by far, the memory of you,
Through trials and joys before, my dearest friend,
Saying in anger that our love must end
Because my heart was shallow and untrue.
Yet see ! my love is deep and changes not
While your heart sings and I am quite forgot.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Perhaps it is because this term has been a short one, we have received fewer letters from Old Scholars than usual. Several girls are nearing the end of their time at training college, and among them are Ruth Arnold, Pauline Orsbourne, Joy Batehup, Pamela Wilson, and we wish them the best of luck in their applications. Congratulations to Marjorie Bailey for having obtained the post at the Public Library in Hastings for which she applied. We were glad to hear from our French pupil, Yveline Letouzé, who sent New Year cards to many of her school friends at Rye. Among older Old Scholars, Winnie Allen writes that she hopes to obtain a post nearer home.

Lest the boys should think they have been forgotten, there have been letters from Stanley Chappell doing National Service, who has been selected as a potential Officer Cadet. Tony Allen writes of his work in an Army Apprentice School. A most interesting letter comes from Norman Glass at the R.A.F. College at Cranwell. He tells of a meeting between himself, Tony Law and Derek White, who has now gone to Canada for his pilot training. He also mentions another old scholar, Peter Kennett, who was with us at Bedford, and who has now joined the College. Lewis is in his third term. Glass adds that he hopes there will be a constant flow of R.G.S. scholars through Cranwell, and that everything possible should be done to encourage them to join the Air Force in this way. He remarks that the A.T.C. is an inestimable help, but few realise it until too late. June Terry, is in France, near Grenoble and the Swiss frontier, looking after two little boys. She enjoys the life there, finds the scenery very beautiful, and her French is becoming good. Peter Webb, now in the R.A.F., finds his course as a wireless fitter very interesting, and hopes to pass out well next October. He has got through the semi-finals of the R.A.F. Championship

in Cross Country Running, and is in the finals this month. His brother John is studying for Intermediate City and Guilds this year.

Old Scholars visiting the school this term were Michael Barclay, Kenneth Howlett, Muriel Gill, Joy Batehup, Bernard Baker, to whom congratulations on winning the Gold Medal for organ playing at the Hastings Musical Festival, Peter Hickman, who is returning to Tripoli, and Terry Saunders, who expects to go to the Far East.

A few words about Alderman A. C. Gafford, who is probably now our oldest Old Scholar, and has a long record of public service in Rye. He is one of the few remaining on the photograph taken in 1880, and has a most interesting link too with the new school. He tells me that he was given the job of filling the bottle with coins, etc., which was placed with the foundation stone of the new building. I very much hope that an article by Alderman Gafford will be in the next number of "Rya."

Will Old Scholars visiting the School please remember to write their names in the Headmaster's Book of Old Scholars' Visits !

