

"Nova Rya"

No. 8



"Aut Disce, Aut Discede"

Spring Term, 1943

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NOVA RYA

(Founders: A. W. J. AMBROSE, R. G. BURNETT, G. G. SMITH, A. J. W. THIRD)

THE MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NO. 8

SPRING TERM, 1943

VOL. 3

Editors:

J. S. L. PULFORD

T. G. H. POLLARD HELEN METIANU

B. DAWSON JEAN POPE

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EDITORIAL

People often ask us questions concerning the School Magazine, whether it is the first, or if not, what were the previous ones, or why it is called NOVA RYA, etc. In order to answer these questions it is necessary to travel back many years, and because of that it is sometimes difficult to answer them adequately. The first School Magazine which is known to have existed was founded in the last century, and the best authority giving information concerning it is Mr. L. A. Vidler, who says in his *History of Rye Grammar School*: "In April, 1895, Mr. Jenkins had started a School Magazine, entitled the R.G.S.R., or the Rye Grammar School Record, with an illustration of Peacocke's Schoolhouse on the cover . . . Later, the name of the Magazine was changed to the Rye Grammar School Magazine, and it was enlarged by an insertion of general interest. In 1912, the Head Master, who was the Editor and had issued it at a personal loss for seventeen years, handed it over to the School and its cost was provided out of the School Library and Sports Fund. Also, a sub-editor was appointed out of the School, the first one being W. Harmer. The last number we have seen was for the Winter Term, 1916-7."

So much for our first School Magazine, but a few years later, in July, 1923, after the difficult war period had been passed, the first copy of RYA appears. In her Editorial, D. H. Curtis comments: "with this, the first number of our School Magazine, we start what will,

we hope, be a very successful venture. We have for some time felt the need of some written record of our School life and, simultaneously, of an outlet for our literary talent. We understand that the School issued a Magazine in the past, and we hope to revive what is, therefore, one of our old traditions." The Magazine consisted of about twenty pages, with a white cover containing the School badge and motto. This Magazine continued to be published until 1940 (generally with the help of Mr. Broome), but at some moment in that period, the cover was changed to blue and Peacocke's School-house substituted for the badge and motto.

Soon after arriving in Bedford, A. W. J. Ambrose, R. G. Burnett, G. G. Smith and A. J. W. Third decided to produce a School Magazine which should be *different* from previous ones. It was to be composed almost entirely of free articles, poems, etc., but extended reflection advised them to combine literary material with a comprehensive record of School activities, and thus the present termly NOVA RYA was born. Our Magazine has constantly been reviled, but if all copies of previous magazines were extant, the Editors pride themselves that NOVA RYA has not disgraced them. This confidence reflects upon the School and it seems an established fact that the literary talent of its pupils has increased considerably.

As to why the new Magazine was named NOVA RYA in preference to retaining the old name, the answer is self-evident. A great war somehow produces in people the sense that things are undergoing a vast change, and it was this that prompted the first editors to make a completely fresh start.

THE EDITORS.

MR. PERUGINI

It was with great regret that the School heard of the sudden death of Mr. L. Perugini, a former Art Master of the School (1931 to 1936). Mr. Perugini had a real regard for young people and their needs and never spared himself in his work for his pupils. He founded an Art Society (which gave a memorable fancy dress dance and which many Old Scholars will remember) and also inaugurated a cycle of lectures on general art topics, which he lavishly illustrated with the aid of the epidiascope.

For many years Mr. Perugini devoted himself to supplying a long-felt want in Rye—a children's library. He went to infinite trouble in collecting books and many young men and women in

Rye must look back with gratitude to one who helped to satisfy their early cravings for literature. It was natural, therefore, that when a new library was wanted at the Grammar School, Mr. Perugini should take a great interest in the scheme. He designed and presented to us our magnificent book-plate, the original of which, hanging in our war-time temporary library at Ixworth Court, is a constant reminder of home. He also presented many fine books to the library at its time of greatest need, including a splendid complete set of Kipling's works, containing several first editions.

The Grammar School naturally looks to what Mr Perugini did for young people, but it is not out of place to mention his adult art classes which he carried on for many years at a time when no other facilities for adult education were available in Rye. When war became imminent Mr. Perugini threw himself whole-heartedly into A.R.P. work. Always ready to satisfy any need in the causes he had at heart, Mr. Perugini had refreshing originality in all he undertook and his vigorous personality and enterprising mind will be sadly missed in Rye after the war. The Grammar School remembers him with gratitude and our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Perugini in her sudden and grievous loss.

OBITER DICTA

When a great friend suffers a loss, we also feel his sorrow, and it is in this frame of mind that the School expresses its very sincere sympathy with the Head Master and Mr. Allnutt upon the deaths of their mothers.

Having been informed at Speech Day that Miss Tunstall is returning to Bedford for the Summer Term, the School wishes to extend its greetings and best wishes to this very popular mistress, and hopes that she will remain in good health during her stay in Bedford.

We send our best wishes for her new sphere to Miss Macklen, who, although she has been only two terms with us, has earned our respect and gratitude.

Although known to only a few members of Staff and School personally, Mr. Perugini has been recognised as a friend and

benefactor of the School by all of its pupils, mainly through the evidences of his stay with us. His death caused regret in the School, and our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Perugini.

We congratulate M. S. Lansky who, it was announced on Speech Day, had been accepted for a University Short Course, after which he would enter the Royal Navy. He is now at Balliol College, Oxford.

It has been decided that the Art Prize, which was formerly given for the best Prize Book Label, will now be offered for the best lino-cut produced in the Magazine.

The School wishes success to Rex Cowper, who has been awarded an Engineering Cadetship and is now training at Brighton.

A HISTORY OF THE EVACUATION

This term, usually the most miserable of the year in Bedford, because of the inclement weather, has been, on the whole, an enjoyable one. Balmy weather certainly makes a difference to an evacuee's state of mind during the day and this, combined with a certain *joie de vie* (at least in the sober Sixth) has, as I have said, made this term quite an enjoyment. The latter emotion is increased by the various activities indulged in, the chief being entertainments at Russell Park Hall, which I mentioned in the last issue. Do not imagine, parents and friends, that all our spare time is spent in gleeful festivity, but that we indulge only in that amount of pleasure requisite for the successful mitigation of evacuation. This term there have been the usual number of socials and dances, a "Progressive Games" evening organised by the Rangers, some plays performed by Forms IIIA and IIIB, and a successful concert produced by the Scouts, accounts of which will be found in the Magazine. These activities have been well supported and appreciated by all, and some, moreover, yearning for higher things, would like to attend, with the support of the Sports Fund, one or

two of the concerts given by the B.B.C. Orchestra in the town. Perhaps somebody would like to raise this question at the next School Committee meeting?

Indulgence in leisure activities is only equalled by indulgence in House activities. Some wreckers wish to create two new houses from a shuffle of the present three because they fear House loyalty is declining, but I think I can still detect traces of House enthusiasm when I see Sanders wresting the much-coveted Football Shield from Meryon's grasp, and the neck-to-neck race of those two Houses towards the Cock House and Work and Merit Shields. No! House partisanship is not dead by a long way yet.

Over half of the School visited the exhibition in support of the "Aid-to-China Fund." The wealth of ancient culture and art in Chinese history was ably represented in this display. Exhibits dating from two thousand years ago, from the Wang and Ming dynasties at the time of the Western Middle Ages, and from there up to the last few years were shown. Cracked and grotesque-looking statuettes, intricately-painted vases, meticulously-carved ornaments, and Bibles printed in Chinese (one of which copies had been badly ripped about in the revolution of 1906) were situated upon different sides of the room. But it was the beautiful gowns of all colours and of all materials which impressed me most. From the shimmering silk gown, with its highly variegated pattern of colours, to the gown embroidered with a hundred familiar Chinese scenes and objects, this was the choicest section of the exhibition to me.

Turning to a rather less transcendental side of life, those of us who attended Sgt. Cox's informative and useful lectures on the latest types of incendiary bombs, wish to express our gratitude to him. Not a very absorbing subject to some, he made it interesting for all. Upon one occasion some of us also took practical lessons in dealing with exploded or ignited incendiary bombs, having to crawl into a straw-filled hut and extinguish the flames.

A pleasing event of this term was when the new consignment of a hundred loaned books from Bedford County Library arrived. These extra books in the Library are much patronised and the latest quota, besides fiction, includes books on zoology, mathematics, physics, astronomy, farming, aviation, birds, psychoanalysis, English and history, etc.

J.S.L.P.

HOUSE NOTES

PEACOCKE HOUSE

House Master : MR. MORGAN
House Mistress : MISS LETCHER
Boys' Captain : P. J. MEAD
Girls' Captain : HELEN METIANU
Prefects : P. J. MEAD, J. HOAD, HELEN METIANU,
JEAN POPE

This term has not been such a successful one for Peacocke House, perhaps because of the loss of our former captains, P. Metianu and Cowper. However, next term we hope to be more successful both in work and games.

Our work keeps a fairly high standard, especially in the Senior part of the House. Games, however, have not been so successful. In hockey, Peacocke took second place and remained at third in football. In spite of a fine performance by Mead, who came second, our House came last in the Cross Country Competition, in which a better result was expected. We hope that, under the guidance of Miss Letcher, we shall gain the Speech and Music Shield in the competition next term, but serious work by all concerned will be necessary to accomplish this. However, Peacocke girls have won the Netball Shield after a particularly hard game against Sanders, which is some consolation for the failure of the boys to gain any first positions.

The House collection money has been sent to the Royal East Sussex Hospital again this term and a total of thirty shillings was raised.
R.A.

SANDERS HOUSE

House Master : MR. DOUGLAS
House Mistress : MISS SEED
Boys' Captain : E. A. FELLOWS
Girls' Captain : MAUREEN SAMADEN
Prefects : ROSALIE GREEN, EILEEN MUNDAY, E. A. FELLOWS, M. S. LANSKY, T. G. H. POLLARD, J. S. L. PULFORD

At the beginning of the term the meetings were enlivened by the re-election of the Boys' House Captain owing to the mis-interpretation of the Head Master's suggestions. For the rest the meetings

consisted only of the minutes, the collection and sometimes games or work reports, until the last one, when there was a heated discussion over the destination of this term's collection which, it was at length decided, should go to the Red Cross Prisoners' of War Fund.

The games record has shown a rise in the fortunes of Sanders House. The girls did not lose a hockey match and so won the shield. The cross-country runs, both Senior and Junior, were won by Sanders, so that the trophy was won by our House for the first time since evacuation. The greatest triumph was the winning of the Football Shield which, ever since it was given to the School, has been claimed by Meryon. Had that House won it this year it would have been the tenth successive year.

In the Work and Merit Competition we have kept the middle position. We have, however, greatly improved since last term and now the positions are Meryon, 170 points, Sanders, 157 points, and Peacocke, 135 points.

The collections have been steady if not outstanding and two pounds have been collected.

We were sorry to lose Lansky towards the end of the term. As House Captain and Secretary, 1941-42, he worked hard to enliven House meetings. His work in the Fifth Form was an asset in the Work and Merit Competition and although he held places in all the games teams, swimming was his outstanding performance. In 1940 and onwards he won the breast-stroke and back-stroke competitions. His departure has left vacant the position of boys' swimming captain.

P.I.M.W.

MERYON HOUSE

House Master : MR. BROOME

House Mistress : MISS MACKLEN

Boys' Captain : C. WEBB

Girls' Captain : DAPHNE BREEDS

Prefects : W. COLVIN, B. DAWSON

The standard of work in Meryon has been maintained and improved upon, as can be shown by the points in the Work and Merit Competition, which amount to 170, thus making a lead of thirteen points over Sanders.

The Senior boys were quite successful at football, but the lack of players in the Junior School prevented us from winning the

Shield, which Sanders have wrested from us for the first time in ten years. The girls have not been successful at hockey, coming third in the competition. Meryon came second in the running and first in the Competition for the Boys' Physical Training.

J. Jury and Ruth Oyler were elected as House representatives for the Middle School on the School Committee and I. Smith for the Junior School.

The collection for charity continues and although a guinea has been sent to the "Aid-to-China Week," much more substantial support is needed.

J.O.B.

SPEECH DAY

The School was fortunate in having the Mayor and Mrs. Rickard to attend the third Speech Day in Bedford.

The Head Master reported that the year's (1941-42) work had been successful. Five Higher School Certificates and fourteen School Certificates had been gained in spite of the general difficulties and the cramped atmosphere of the buildings. Four of the Higher School Certificate winners were now at the University.

The games, although the small numbers made first eleven matches infrequent, had been carried on and House competitions especially were held enthusiastically. Peacocke House was Cock House for the first time in many years. An innovation had been the instruction given in life-saving at the Modern School Baths. As a result ten bronze medallions and seven intermediate certificates were gained in the examination of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The various School activities, Guides, Scouts and A.T.C., were thriving and numbers were kept to a high percentage.

During the year the School heard numerous musical items, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, a septet from the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, and a musical recital by Miss Marchant and Mr. Taylor of the B.B.C. The School had helped in the Food Office, War Savings and farming, and the Guides and Scouts had both run entertainments for Red Cross Funds. Mr. Jacobs concluded his report by thanking the staff, captains and prefects, senior pupils and the foster-parents.

The Mayor, Alderman Rickard, said that he was glad that the scholars had made themselves at home and that he was glad to welcome the parents who had come up.

Mr. Dibley, of Winchelsea, Chairman of Rye Grammar School Parents' Association, expressed his personal thanks and those on behalf of all the parents to the people of Bedford.

The Rev. W. E. Lane thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for their kindness in accepting the invitation to the Speech Day.

Mrs. Rickard presented the prizes which were as follows :

FORM II.

R. Roberts.

FORM II REMOVE.

A. Shearer, Mary Frostick, Barbara Catt.

FORM IIIB.

L. Allen, Irene Farrant, Doreen Standen, Sheila Houlston.

FORM IIIA.

J. Jury, Julia Smith, Ruth Morris, Betty Ford.

FORM IV.

B. Dawson, Daphne Breeds, Jean Pope, Rosalie Green.

FORM V.

Social Studies, T. G. H. Pollard ; English and Architecture, Helen Metianu ; French and Art, Gloria Bray ; French, Jean Austen ; Mathematics, F. Foster ; Science, A. E. Marson, W. Colvin ; Domestic Science, Eileen Munday.

FORM VI.

English, G. G. Smith ; History, J. S. L. Pulford ; History and English, Olive Paine ; Science, Paulina Metianu.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Divinity, B. Dawson ; Mathematics, W. Colvin ; Old Scholars' Prize, T. G. H. Pollard ; Mathematics, A. W. J. Ambrose ; Trollope Award, Paulina Metianu.

Senior County Scholarships : Olive Paine, G. G. Smith.

Scout Patrol Shield : Hawks.

Guide Patrol Cup : Swallows.

Sports and Inter-House Competitions.

Football, Meryon ; Hockey, Peacocke ; Netball, Peacocke ; Cricket, Peacocke ; Tennis, Sanders ; Swimming, Meryon ; Gymnasium, Meryon ; Athletics, Peacocke.

Cross-country Cup : Meryon.

Speech and Music Shield : Meryon and Sanders.

Work and Merit : Peacocke.

House Championship : Meryon.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, 28th March, a Confirmation Service was held at St. Cuthbert's Church. The ceremony started with a hymn, after which the Assistant Bishop of St. Albans blessed the priests who had prepared the candidates for Confirmation. The Bishop subsequently addressed the large congregation, telling them that they were there to perform a duty, not just to see some particular person confirmed. They must take a part in the proceedings by praying for the candidates.

The hymn "Come, Holy Ghost" was sung and then came the laying on of hands. The following members of Rye Grammar School were confirmed: Kathleen Batehup, Daphne Breeds, Cynthia Cade, Frehner, Rosalie Green, Iris Leeds-George, Philippa Turner and S. Wood.

After this solemn ceremony the congregation sang the "Pilgrim's Hymn," and the Bishop gave his address. He regretted that at his own Confirmation no text for the sermon had been given, for he thought that a text was an excellent thing as it was always present to remind one of the vows made at Confirmation. The text he gave was in Acts I, viii, "You shall receive power." No gift of God is so valuable as that of spiritual power, as, although we have knowledge of right and wrong we need the will to distinguish between the two in action because we are naturally weak and therefore go astray. The power received at Confirmation equips us for the rest of the fight, but we must keep it efficient by coming to Communion regularly. The Bishop denounced those who gradually leave off partaking of Communion, for breaking their promise to God, and also those who do not pray daily at home. He advocated the saying of prayers in the morning, when one is going out to face temptations, and declared that a good Christian reads his Bible properly and finds it interesting, encouraging and sometimes admonitory. Comparing the Christian life to a long walk on a winter's night, the Bishop said that God does not work in the way that would cause a motorist to come and give one a lift, but in the providing of a friend to accompany one on the difficult journey and share its troubles. God helps those who help themselves.

Another of the Christian duties was to bear witness to Christ by a good life. The Bishop said that other people had helped him in his life, not by words but by the way in which they lived. He

gave the example of a crippled woman who suffered, yet was always cheerful and uncomplaining, thus unconsciously helping those more fortunate than herself. This was the way to forget self and to bear witness to a good Christian life.

The Bishop summed up by declaring that if we know of an evil we must not ignore it, but denounce the evil-doers. They might laugh, but that would show that they had taken notice of the rebuke. The more faint-hearted ones would side with the spokesman for good. The means to perform all this are expressed in the text; therefore having received power, the candidates might go forth, strengthened to begin the struggle against evil and to bear witness to God by their endeavours.

J.M.P.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Sports Committee which had functioned in Bedford since June 20th, 1942, dissolved itself on January 29th, 1943, in order that a School Committee might be formed.

The constitution of this School Committee was drawn up on February 5th by a Convention which consisted of the old Games Committee and a few additional members. The members of the Committee were decided upon, sub-committees were nominated and their composition set up. Mr. Broome was appointed chairman for one term and the Committee was to meet at least twice a term.

The first School Committee, which met a week later, drew up its standing orders. These consisted of the ordinary rules of an assembly. The Entertainments Committee was to be the whole School Committee. The Magazine Committee was to be the five editors, who were given power to add to their numbers. Colvin was made secretary.

The second meeting of the term was attended by only fourteen members. The reports of the hockey, running and football sub-committees were read and carried as correct records. The question of the running cups was raised and a proposal to bring them to Bedford was amended so that the matter would be left to a fuller meeting. Another matter was referred, owing to the small number of persons present, to the next meeting when more people were present. This was that it should be suggested to the Head Master that the three-House system should be abolished, and two Houses set up, until the end of the war should cause an increase in the

numbers of the School. A suggestion was carried that the Head Master should be approached so that the ban on Russell Park might be lifted so that Juniors, etc., would have somewhere to spend the long summer evenings.

A DAY AT MASCALLS RESIDENTIAL NURSERY

Mascalls is a nursery run by the Kent County Council for children under five, whose mothers are employed in war-work and are at a loss to know where to send their little ones. Those who come to Mascalls are well cared for in the large old country-house, with its heavy iron gate and broad gravel drive, where Richard Murdock once lived, just outside the village of Paddock Wood.

A typical day in the life of the nursery begins at half-past six, when the cook goes upstairs to knock loudly on the bedroom door of the five probationers and rouse them in time to be on duty at seven o'clock, when they make their way down three short flights of stairs to the ground floor and the night nursery. This is a pleasant room with French windows, brown rubber flooring, and a big open fireplace with a wide, marble mantelpiece. In this room the younger children have just wakened up, and having had a drink of orange juice, are ready for the probationers to dress them. In the night nursery upstairs are the older children, commonly known as the "toughs." When the children are dressed some probationers make their cots, while others take them to the ablution rooms to be washed and made ready for breakfast, which is served at a long, low table in the day nursery. This room is similar to the night nursery, but larger. The children drink their cocoa and eat porridge and marmalade sandwiches from brightly-coloured bakelite mugs and plates, but before they begin a short grace is said, as at all other meals. The children take turns in waiting at table, under the supervision of usually two nurses, who are in charge during the meal. When they have finished the children help to clear their table and then the toys are brought out for them to play with, while, with the exception of one nurse left in charge, the staff assembles in the dining-room. The latter is over three hundred years old and has a finely-carved wooden fireplace contrasting with modern windows which have been installed.

After breakfast two probationers help with the children's laundry, of which there is a goodly pile every day, while another

takes charge of the children, and the remaining two tidy the nurseries and ablution rooms. The older nurses bath and feed the tiny babies, but occasionally a probationer has the privilege of assisting in this. At ten o'clock cocoa and either biscuits or bread and butter are served in the nursery, and the probationers take lunch in the dining-room half-an-hour later. If the weather is fine the children are taken in the garden until dinner-time, and the babies' cots placed outside the French windows. There is plenty of room to play on the broad expanse of green turf shaded with shrubs and trees of various kinds, but care must be taken that no one wanders too near the pond, which is not yet fenced off.

At the back of the house is the kitchen-garden, where all the vegetables for the establishment are grown. Plenty are always served for the children's dinner, at the end of which they are each given cod liver oil and a sweet or piece of chocolate, and then lie down to rest for an hour or two. Some of them fall quietly asleep, but others are very rebellious and refuse even to rest. When one little boy was heard running about overhead in the "toughs" nursery and a nurse enquired who it was, he immediately gave his usual reply of "I never." Upon the nurse's insisting that she had heard someone running, he added, "I only crept."

While the children are more or less resting quietly the staff have their dinner and can then mend and sew for the children, until it is time for the latter to get up and play in the nursery or garden. Sometimes a probationer who has her daily two hours off duty in the morning or afternoon may give one of the children a special treat and take him out for a walk or a ride in the pram, to the envy of all the others.

Tea-time soon rolls round and after that comes the lengthy task of bathing and putting to bed eleven children, two at a time, each child having a bathroom and the attention of one probationer to himself. The bathrooms are delightful rooms to be in, with their rubber floorings, tiles, paint and the porcelain of the baths and basins all worked into colour-schemes, which are pink and mauve in one room and blue and cream in the other. When the last child is in bed and the bathrooms and nurseries are quite tidy there may be time to do a little sewing or knitting for the children, but it is generally time for supper, which is served at half-past seven. One can then sit down with the satisfied feeling which comes of doing a good day's work. After supper the nurses all help to wash-up, and

are then free for the rest of the evening. The probationers retire to their bed-sitting-room, where they sometimes sit by the fire for a short while, but are often glad to pop straight into bed and do their writing, sewing, knitting or reading there. As one probationer owns a gramophone and a box of records we often have a musical evening. At ten o'clock, if not before then, lights are put out and everyone is soon sound asleep, except for the night nurse, keeping her lonely vigil through the hours of darkness. J. AUSTEN.

SALVAGE TO WIN THE WAR

Get out that old broken chair,
Fetch me my old Teddy bear,
Any old letters, any old books,
Never mind their faded looks,
Never mind if they are torn,
Never mind if they look worn.
Of salvage we need more and more—
If we mean to win this war.
Paper and rag, wool and tin—
Fetch the sack and put it in.
Search in every nook and cranny,
Run along and visit granny,
Ask her if she has in store
Anything to win the war.
In times of peace we used to hear
These sounds coming to our ear:
"Any old rags, bottles or bones,"
Sid Walker said in dreary tones.
Blue skies soon will now appear,
For the end of the war is near.
If everyone helps including you,
These last few lines will soon come true.
P. M. BARFOOT (late of II Remove)

THE GUIDES

RANGER REPORT

This term we have been improving our all-round standard of work and practising flag signalling in Morse and semaphore. We have polished up our knowledge of Morse from Guide days and

accelerated our sending and receiving on a buzzer. Some Rangers have experimented with Morse by tapping but have found it difficult.

During the term we have had two Field Days, which are very useful for doing outdoor work. On the first of these, about half the Rangers split into groups of two and were given sketch maps to follow, so that each couple went by a different road and arrived at Stagsden at about half-past twelve. "Sealed instructions" were also handed to the Rangers, which were to be opened at eleven o'clock, read twice, destroyed, and then acted upon according to the discretion of the Rangers.

The messages informed the groups that two of the School Guides (imaginary) were lost, believed arrested by the military or the police; and would the Rangers endeavour to find out any useful information and inform the Senior Mistress. They therefore pedalled to the nearest telephone and rang up the School, giving the police telephone number. In return, Miss Turner gave us the missing girls' Identity Numbers, her own telephone number, and the times at which she would be at home. We were to tell Miss Thomas this information when we reached our destination.

The Rangers therefore hastened to Stagsden, where they arrived in relays at about the same time. In the field of the farm where we were kindly allowed to go we made a communal camp-fire and had water boiling for the potatoes in about a quarter-of-an-hour. We had a dinner of savoury dishes of our own cooking. After dinner some of the Rangers went for a walk round the village, while others rested in the shade of an enormous oak. We cleared up and then cycled back to Bedford together by the nearest route. The next Field Day was not such a success as the weather was unsettled, but we went out in groups and practised signalling.

During the term the Rangers have held two entertainments for the School (at which refreshments were provided). The first was a "beetle drive" and dance, the proceeds going to the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund. The second was a Progressive Games Evening and dance, proceeds going to the B.-P. Fund and the Sussex Prisoners of War Fund.

About half-term we held an "open house" one Tuesday evening for the Rangers of Bedford. After "ice-breaking" games we practised drill for the benefit of small companies which cannot do it at their own meetings. Then we had an "emergency bee," where some of the

answers saying what to do in a certain emergency were humorous, such as fetching a doctor before switching off the current in a case of electric shock; but most of the answers showed good training and sensible thought, and that the Rangers would prove their worth in an emergency. After this, we had a discussion on the Guide Movement and its uses in groups. At the end each group gave the points it had found out and upon which it had decided. It was a very useful and enjoyable evening for all of us.

Most of our Company have had to register for Youth National Service this term, and felt we could say that without a shadow of a doubt we belonged to a worth-while youth organisation, for all of us except three have been enrolled at the two ceremonies held during the term.

J.M.P.

GUIDE REPORT

The Guides have been going as strong as ever this term and have still been working for the B.-P. Fund. At the first Court of Honour Doreen Standen was elected leader of Shamrock Patrol, in place of Elizabeth Ellis, who has left. Robin Patrol was now without a second, so when Doreen Smart returned to School she chose Rosemary Ray, who is a very keen Second Class Guide.

The Head Master kindly arranged two Field Days for us this term, on February 9th and March 9th, but owing to bad weather the first of these was postponed until April 6th.

Thinking Day this term was rather spectacular, because it was also the Founder's birthday, and the end of the fourth and final target month. It was decided to have a ceremony to which the Guides invited the Rangers and Scouts on the 22nd February. A large map and trefoil were drawn on the floor of Russell Hall, and the ceremony began by Miss Thomas lighting a candle on the trefoil and Miss Letcher lighting one on London. From London, routes, which were later lined with pennies for the B.-P. Fund, were drawn to various countries of the world. Each patrol lit a candle on its particular country and the proceedings ended with a sing-song. Miss Turner and Mr. Jacobs were the guests of honour.

A Guide and Scout service was held on Tuesday, 23rd February, at St. Peter's Church. The Guides and Rangers marched to the church with the Union Jack and the World Flag, carried by Ruth Morris and Eileen Munday respectively.

We did not set a target for the last target month, but with the money from the Beetle Drive and that collected on Thinking Day Miss Thomas was able to send 1,000 pennies to Guide Headquarters.

The winners of the patrol competition for the first half of the term were the Kingfishers, for the second half Red Rose and Holly tied, but Red Rose was top for the whole term.

The badges gained by members of the Company during the term are : two Cyclist, four Health, three Friend to Animals, one Booklover, one Friend to Deaf, four Gymnast, five Child Nurse, two Emergency Helper, one Signaller. Seven Second Class badges have been gained, and ten Guides have passed some of their First Class tests.

R. MORRIS.

SCOUT REPORT

This is the second year of our Scout Troop and accordingly, at the end of this term, the first two-year service stars were presented. During this short period the Scout Troop has done much work. Two concerts have already been given with much success and at the end of this term another will be presented which, we hope, will be as successful as the rest. Also, during these two years, much badge work has been done, many proficiency badges having been gained, and already many of the senior Scouts have nearly gained their First Class badge ; but I am not writing a review of the Scout Troop's work during these two years, so I will return to the work of the Troop during this last Spring Term.

At the end of last year and the beginning of this, Scouts and Guides all over the country have been collecting for the B.-P. Memorial Fund, and so, wishing to keep up with the times, the first thing our Scouts did this term was to give a Scout Whist Drive. This went off in fine style and raised £1 2s. 6d. for the B.-P. Fund.

As usual we have had our two Scout Field Days this term. The first was postponed owing to bad weather until the end of term. The second was held at Renhold, the Scouts getting there by means of a map with no names on it, which they attempted to follow. After wading and trying unsuccessfully to jump hundreds of ditches and getting scratched by brambles, every patrol arrived at its destination. Here fires were lighted and Mr. Douglas organised games.

To conclude, the term has been successful for the Troop, and if the coming concert goes well it will be crowned with glory. The Hawks Patrol have won first position in the patrol competition and therefore, following the custom of the Troop, they will get twelve extra points. Next term, it will be up to the other patrols to try to beat this victorious band of Scouts who gained the cup last year and who look like winning it again this year.

L. ALLEN.

THE CRAFT SOCIETY

The Craft Society has continued to take full advantage of the opportunity it enjoys of using the Bedford School workshop on Tuesday afternoons. Field Days have also been profitably spent.

On the morning of Tuesday, March 9th, we were conducted over the printing premises of Messrs. Diemer and Reynolds, Ltd., who, incidentally, have printed our copies of NOVA RYA. Mr. Diemer took a personal interest in our visit and spent much time and trouble in explaining the functions of his many marvellous machines. We were first introduced to the Monotype, a device somewhat similar in appearance to a gigantic typewriter, but instead of reproducing letters on a sheet of paper it makes holes in a roll of paper as the appropriate keys are pressed, the roll then going to a casting machine which produces the letters and assembles them in lines of words spaced to an even length. These lines are assembled one after another in readiness for mounting into iron frames, which are in turn fitted into the printing machines. Another elaborate composing machine was the Linotype. This cast complete rows, or lines, of letters in one piece, thus greatly speeding up and simplifying the task of assembling a page of type. Then we saw the wide range of printing machines, some quite small for label and ticket printing, others very large and elaborate, suitable for printing big sheets at a rapid rate. We were fortunate in seeing a rotary machine in action, and we watched with awe when a power-operated guillotine cut through hundreds of sheets of paper with great accuracy.

We are very grateful to Mr. Diemer for his kindness in allowing us over his works at a time when depletion of staff makes it so difficult for the work to be carried on.

In the afternoon we were very fortunate indeed, for through the kindness of Sergeant-Major Whitelaw of the Bedford School

Gymnasium, we were invited to study another form of craft at close quarters—this time fist craft, for Bedford School were having their yearly contest with Oundle. We saw several exciting fights, and thrill of thrills—a knock-out. I think most of us were pleased to see Bedford victorious.

The last Field Day of term found us at work in the workshop in the morning, many of us being very anxious to finish off our jobs in readiness to take them home at Easter. We had planned to go cycling in the afternoon but in view of the gusty nature of the weather, Mr. Morgan invited us to inspect some of his terra-cotta sculpture. We were surprised to learn that such interesting pieces could be made without a kiln, and we all admired a very large and savage-looking bull's head, his most recent effort.

I. SMITH, IIIb.

HOCKEY REPORT

In the second half of our season we had hoped to obtain a few victories, having found out a few deficiencies last term. The results of our fixtures, however, were again rather disappointing, although play amongst the team has improved.

Our first match was against Park Side Club, in Russell Park. Our team played well and at half-time we were up three goals to two, but after a very hard and enjoyable game the final score was 6-3 in our opponent's favour.

Our next match was against the Modern School 2nd XI, on their pitch. Play was very keen, the forwards combining well and the defence putting up a fine display of tackling and clearing. We were determined to win but after a very close game the result was a draw, 2-2, when the final whistle blew.

On April 8th we played a return match against Park Side Club. The opposing team were much stronger and showed skilful combination amongst their forwards. We played hard but greatly missed the help of our usual left back, Iris Leeds-George, who was unable to play. The opposing team managed to get past our defence many times and by very accurate shooting managed to score nine goals to our one.

During the term a school Under 15 team played a similar Modern School team and after a very close game lost by the odd goal of three.

We also played a hockey match against the boys on Saturday, April 10th, and after a very enjoyable game, which gave us good practice, they won 6-0.

House matches were played with great determination and Sanders has won the shield.

During the season the standard of play has increased a great deal, although it is by no means perfect yet. With continued practice and determination, we should have next year a really good team with the assistance of several promising IIIA players.

For the season 1942-43, hockey colours have been awarded to Eileen Munday (captain) and Joan Hoad (vice-captain).

EILEEN T. D. MUNDAY.

NETBALL REPORT

Three House matches have been played this term. On Wednesday, April 7th, Sanders won a good game against Meryon, the final result being 8-0. On the following Friday a quite exciting match was played against Peacocke. Although Sanders were leading throughout the game, Peacocke shot another goal at last and finally brought the score to 10-9 in their favour. A Peacocke-Meryon game resulted in a win for Peacocke, 13-1. Thus the final result was Peacocke; Sanders; Meryon.

M.K.

FOOTBALL REPORTS

FIRST ELEVEN

Although Jury returned to the team after his absence during the autumn and so strengthened the defence, we were unfortunate to lose Dawson, whose work, both at right-half and inside-right, was a great asset to both the attack and defence. Cowper, outside-left, and Breeze, inside-forward, both left the district and so created two further vacancies. The outside-left position was filled by Hargrove, while Bullen proved himself an inside-forward of promise. Dawson's place was taken by Roberts or Bull.

In the first game after Christmas we were defeated by Shiner's United, on a muddy and, consequently, heavy-going pitch. The first half was even, the defence fighting hard, but after half-time the younger members were tired by the hard game and heavy ball,

with a result that towards the end our opponents were continually menacing our goal. The final score was 3-9.

In February two matches were played against Owen's School. The first, at the Meltis ground, was played amidst hail and mud. Added to these hindrances was the fact that the second-half was played on a small pitch. Our side was without Fellows and we had two Juniors playing, so the result 6-2 in our opponent's favour was not unexpected.

The result was reversed in the return in Bedford Park. The game was much closer but the School managed to win by the odd goal in three.

Queen's Works junior team was played at home and away. Both matches had the same result, a draw—three goals each. At Allen Park, on a fine pitch, we were three goals ahead by half-time, but the determined play of the Queen's attack levelled the score before the final whistle. In Bedford Park the game was harder. Our opponents sent a stronger team and by half-time there was no score. During the second half Queen's first obtained the lead and the School equalised successively. We scored our third goal only one minute before the end.

The result of the whole season's matches is : played 12, won 2, drawn 3, lost 7, goals for : 30, goals against : 69.

The team was : Pollard, Jury, Wood, Bull or Roberts, Colvin, Pritchard, Gutsell, Bullen, Fellows, Fuggle, Hargrove.

Jury and Wood worked well together as backs. Each possesses a strong tackle and kick.

Colvin kicked hard and his weight at centre-half held the defence together. Pritchard, although not so strong this term as last, and Bull have assisted in the defence but have not given sufficient support to the forwards.

Bullen and Gutsell have made the right wing very dangerous in the attack, while Fellows, at centre-forward, does most of the scoring. Fuggle has been the outstanding figure in the forward line and has given many opportunities to the rest of the attack. Hargrove has played steadily.

Colours have been awarded to Colvin, Dawson, Fellows, Fuggle and Pollard.

T.G.H.P.

Pollard has played in goal this term and has proved a great asset to the team in that position, where he has made up for many weak points in the defence in several matches.

W.C.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

The Junior football team has had another very successful term, winning seven of the matches played and drawing the other, thus maintaining an unbeaten record for the whole season.

The opening match, against Owen's School Under 14½ team on their ground, produced some even play, each side scoring once. In the last minute we missed a penalty.

Against Goldington Road School we gained two victories by 10-1 and 8-1, although the play was much more even than the scores suggest.

In our next match, against London Bunyan School, good work by our forwards gave us a lead of 4-1, but towards the close our opponents rallied and reduced the margin to 4-3.

Probably our best display was against a Bedford Modern School team, both sides playing fast and clever football. In an even first half each team scored once, but after the interval we had the better of the play and scored twice more, to win by 3-1.

In the following match we visited the Bedford Guild, whom we defeated by 4-0, after a very enjoyable game in which our defence played very soundly.

Visiting Marston, we won by 5-3, but the result was in doubt until the final minutes, when our fifth goal was scored.

Our last match, a return with a Bedford Modern School team, was played in a strong wind. At half-time we were in arrears of 2-1, but after this had much the better of the play and won by 5-3.

Our full record for the season is : played 18, won 17, drawn 1, lost 0 ; goals for : 82, against : 20.

The following have played in most matches : Sinden, Shearer, Sexton, Roberts, P. Boyce, Gutsell, Bullen, Morris, Chappell.

P. Wood, Burt, Bryant, M. Boyce, Fuggle, Franklin and Parks, have also played according to the age of our opponents.

P.W. and D.M.

A.T.C. REPORT

A.T.C. parades began on the first Tuesday of term and were arranged as follows : all Sections parade at the Modern School at 15.15 hours for roll-call, after which Section 1 have one hour of signalling and then one hour of navigation or meteorology ; Section 2 have one hour of navigation or a lecture, followed by one hour of

P.T. or Morse ; Section 3 have one hour of Morse, half-an-hour of law and administration and then half-an-hour of P.T.

On Saturday mornings all cadets parade at the Riverside Club for roll-call at 10.30 hours. Following this, Section 1 have half-an-hour drill, a one-hour lecture, and half-an-hour of P.T. ; Section 2 have one hour of Morse, half-an-hour of drill, and half-an-hour of P.T. ; Section 3 have half-an-hour of drill, half-an-hour of P.T. and one hour of navigation.

During the term Section 2 have been taking proficiency examinations, and have been examined in calculations, navigation, morse, P.T. and drill. Section 3 have taken efficiency examinations in English, calculations and morse (four words per minute). Full results have not yet come through.

Visits have been made to nearby air stations, Section 2 looking over the Link Trainer and various aircraft on the station. Visits were also made to the Meteorological Office, the Parachute Store and the Signals Office.

Section 2 had a second visit, and arriving too late to do any flying, had to wander over the "drome" to find anything of interest for themselves. They then visited the armoury and the range. Sections 1 and 3 had one morning visit and looked over a very well-known American bomber, and also visited the Dispersal Huts and the Intelligence Room. Several visits to air stations had to be cancelled owing to the fact that we have changed from the Eastern to the Central Command and our new Commandant is re-arranging these visits.

A silver tankard was presented to the Officer in Command of the nearby air station about the middle of the term by the Bedford A.T.C. Squadrons for the interest that the station has taken in the squadrons.

We were sorry to lose the Flight Sergeant before the end of term to a University Short Course for the R.A.F. and I am sure we all wish him every success.

The last parade of term was held on Tuesday, March 30th, after a successful term in work and attendance. The first parade of next term will be held on the first Tuesday of term.

SGT. W. COLVIN.

A SPRING SONG

Spring is here ! the woods are green.
Everything that I have seen
Reminds me of the days gone by,
When I lived at home, near Rye.

Oh, how lovely is the spring !
When little birds all day do sing
And flowers of every hue are seen
And all the world looks bright and green.

Though the Germans come at night,
And our planes go up and fight,
Though the church bells do not ring
Nought prevents the birth of spring.

RITA OYLER, FORM II.

FIELD DAY

March 9th saw promising weather for a Field Day. It was cold but clear and everyone was in high spirits. Some of the patrol leaders and seconds, accompanied by younger Guides, set off intending to do a practice First Class Hike. The other Guides, mostly walkers, walked up to Cleat Hill with Miss Letcher. Those of us who went to Stagsden enjoyed the ride very much. We arrived there just about the right time and dismounting from our bicycles, set off towards the wood. The wood was suited to our needs and we started to collect wood after finding an ideal place for a fire. Some of the juniors had to go back to Mr. Newman's farm in order to get water for cooking. By the time the water-fetchers were back the patrol leaders had laid out their food. Bacon, sausages, and as it was Shrove Tuesday, even pancakes were laid out for cooking. After the fires were burning merrily Miss Thomas inspected our food and we commenced to cook. On the whole, considering it was only a practice, we did not do so badly, but then everything tastes good on a Field Day, even if it is flavoured with grass and leaves.

After dinner, when billy-cans and fire-places had been cleared away, we played games. We started with hide-and-seek which did not prove very successful so we decided to go tracking. Two leaders

led the way and the others, accompanied by a leader and a second, followed. The two leaders led us through extremely thick bushes and we finally arrived at the other end, scratched, puffed, but quite pleased with the expedition.

We were all lying on the grass, idly throwing things at each other, when an inspiration came to us : we would have a fight. We took sides, barricaded our bicycles and the fight commenced. It was great fun and we really got quite dangerous. We stopped only because it had gone as far as throwing chunks of tree at each other. We then just roamed about lazily until it was time to go home. We found our way on to the road and from there hurried back to Bedford. We were hot and tired but had thoroughly enjoyed the Field Day.

The Field Day on April 6th was not so enjoyable as the last ; again leaders and hikers took a practice First Class Hike. It was cold and extremely windy and cycling was difficult. We arrived about half-past ten and this time collected our water on the way. However, this was not much use because by the time we got there it had all spilled over and, as before, the Juniors had to be sent back for more ! Everyone searched for sheltered places and after doing so lit her fire. It was difficult to get the fires to light, and when they did sparks blew all over the place. After a hurriedly-cooked dinner of the things one usually does cook on Field Day, we either practised Morse or indulged in some game and after this, although it was cold, a good many of us picked bunches of primroses and violets. About half-past three the Juniors slowly went home, followed soon by the Seniors, after everyone had enjoyed the Field Day, but we all hoped for better weather next time.

BETTY FORD, FORM V.

THE MAKING OF OUR SCHOOL MAGAZINE

The very first step in the making of our Magazine begins when the pupil thinks of an article. It is then put down on paper and given to the Editors who, if the article is good enough, correct it, and type it down with the other articles.

It is then sent to the printers and given to the Monotype Department. The keyboard operator then makes holes in a roll of paper. The holes seem unimportant to anyone who knows nothing

about them, but it is the position of the holes that make the actual letter. The roll is taken off the Keyboard and passed to the Casting Department, where, on a complicated machine, molten lead is cast into the words, letter by letter.

From the Caster it is taken into the Composing Department and then to the Reading Department. It is then submitted to the Editors for approval in galley form. On returning it is made up into pages and put in a frame in different positions, according to the number of pages. A print of this is taken and given to the readers, who correct it if necessary. The frame is put into a printing machine, rollers covered in printing-ink are passed over the frame, and a sheet of paper is rolled over the frame on a cylinder, pressed and passed along to a place where the sheets are collected one by one and sprayed with a solution to prevent sticking.

The sheets are folded, collated in order, the cover put on and wire-stitched and then put on the guillotine, where they are cut to size, and, thus completed, the Magazines are packed up and sent to Rye Grammar School.

M. BOYCE, FORM III B.

A DEFENCE OF JAZZ

Has jazz a place in modern music ? Does it really obtain its rhythm from the jungle ? Is there any truth in the allegation that it is an all-American product, and has no place in European culture ? The champion of jazz is inundated with such questions as these, whilst the lay Press baits him from all angles. In this short magazine article I can only hope to answer some of these common criticisms.

The most common of all these is that "jazz is tuneless." Now this is very nearly a technical impossibility, because however much a group of musicians may improvise on a certain tune, that theme is always present. Of course, to the undiscerning listener, the tune may not be quite so obvious as in one of Strauss's waltzes, but normally a second or third hearing will convince the hearer of its existence. Not only is jazz possessed of a tune but is very often tuneful, as is readily apparent in the works of George Gershwin, whose music, such as the universally popular "Rhapsody in Blue," and his numerous lyrics and tunes for American Folk Opera, rank among the most tuneful music of our century.

Fast on the heels of the "no tune" indictment comes the allegation that jazz is devoid of emotion and sentiment, but that

it is always harsh and grating. Even Mr. Compton Mackenzie classifies it as "macabre" in his *Mood Music*. Such critics perhaps have not heard of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Tommy Dorsey or Artie Shaw, four American band conductors, all instrumentalists, and one a successful composer in his own right.

The latter is Ellington, a negro, who has captured the moods and emotions of the negro populace of Harlem in every detail. His well-known "Mood Indigo" portrays a forlorn Negro child looking wistfully into a Harlem shop window. It does not impose a great strain on the imagination to identify the tune with the idea (there is no lyric). Further examples are to be found in Ellington's "Creole Rhapsody," "Dusk," and "Echoes of the Jungle."

Armstrong is representative of the Negroes inhabiting the Southern States of America, such as Tennessee, Virginia or the Carolinas. His trumpet playing and vocalising has an unmistakable sincerity which fills his work with life and character. Perhaps a few words are necessary on Armstrong's unconventional vocal efforts. He sings as he feels, with the full warmth of the South flowering in every note. Any reader who has heard Armstrong's vocal interpretation of the Bible stories of Shadrach, or Jonah and the Whale, will surely agree that here is an unparalleled example of sincerity in music.

So much for two Negro maestri, but do we find white men, such as Shaw and Dorsey lacking in feeling? The author pleads guilty to a prejudice in favour of Shaw, but everyone will appreciate the powerful feeling in his renderings of "Frenesi," "Gloomy Sunday," or "I cover the waterfront."

Dorsey is rather more typical of the new flashy type of jazz and one must be careful to avoid his very superficial "commercial" efforts. His best works, however, such as "Without a Song," and arrangements of commonplace tunes like "Whispering" reveal a Dorsey who plays good jazz well.

These four, and many more, have recorded music which, if played for hours on end, will provide tunes and sentiment and not noise and superficiality as the critics maintain.

The musical pundits are all too ready to declare that jazz is lacking in technique. Perhaps, however, they have not heard the compositions of Raymond Scott. (Here I am in danger of rousing the wrath of some jazz enthusiasts who declare that Scott is a "phoney" or "too clever.") Not all of Scott's works are good, but

"Power House," "Toy Trumpet" and "Penguin," reveal him as a master technician of music.

I suppose I must attempt to give some explanation concerning the jazz arrangement of classics if I am to avoid the bricks from the section of the musical public which revolts against such renderings. A discerning listener will, upon listening to (say) Dorsey's arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakov's "Song of India," or Shaw's experiment with Friml's "Rose Marie," find a new interest in these pieces. The trouble with the critics is, of course, that they make sweeping condemnation of all jazzed classics based on such unfortunate experiences as Harry Roy's "Anvil Chorus," or Harry James' unjustifiable meddlings with "Carnival." The criterion for such performances should be—"Is it good jazz?"

Much ado about B.B.C. programmes has recently appeared in the penny Press, and from a series of Gallup Polls, quizzes, and what have you, it is deduced that (1) the Great British Public wants less jazz; (2) those who do not want less jazz want better jazz. In other words there are those who are fed up to the teeth with Henry Hall and Carrol Gibbons (and I do not blame them), and those who are equally fed up but have sufficient faith to hope the day will dawn when our native bandsmen will play good jazz for its own sake and cease to play "slush" for the publisher's sake and their own pockets.

In fairness, one must mention the Radio Rhythm Club, which has done good work in its weekly half-hour for guidance towards good jazz, although there is a tendency to discuss technicalities or split hairs which are beyond the interest of the ordinary listener.

Next time you hear Joe Loss on the air do not switch off, but ask yourself *why* you dislike this and I imagine your answer will embody some of the following points: lack of originality in tunes played, similarity of arrangements selected for different tunes, bad musicianship and lack of drive.

Having thus disposed of Charlie Shadwell and all, when you hear an Ellington record (unless you are unlucky and fall for one of about six bad ones) give it credit for what it is worth as jazz.

Now for a few suggestions: find out what Constant Lambert and Spike Hughes, both accepted "authorities" in the musical world, have to say about jazz; or read Charlotte Haldane's chapter on jazz in *Music my Love*. At the end of which, I hope I have provided food for thought about a subject which has for so long been the object of far too little thinking.

J.F.

THE SCHOOL PLAYS

Scenes from "Alice in Wonderland," "The Bishop's Candlesticks," and "The Grand Cham's Diamond," composed the entertainment which Forms IIIA and IIIB so worthily performed on Friday and Saturday, April 9th and 10th. There has been no School Play performed since we left Rye, and as a substitute this Junior School attempt is deserving of much praise.

The first scene acted, that of Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee from "Alice in Wonderland," displayed good acting and drew some laughter from the audience. Again in the next scene, "The Mad Hatter's Tea-Party," there was good acting, especially by I. Smith as the Mad Hatter, and Barbara Catt as Alice. The third scene, the Trial, lacked animation, and rather demonstrated the youth of the actors in that the technical skill needed to perform it successfully was absent.

Of the two following plays, acted by pupils of IIIA, it was difficult to see which contained the higher standard of acting. In "The Bishop's Candlesticks," B. Cutting as the Bishop was a great success, and P. Boyce as the Convict acted with much conviction. The poignant passages especially of the play revealed the abilities of these two boys. There was little to choose between Pamela Whiting (Friday night) and Jean Pope (Saturday night) as the Bishop's sister. Both of these Senior girls stepped in to fill a breach and their representations of a difficult role were indeed praiseworthy.

R. Hood, as the philosophizing Mr. Perkins, and Iris Leeds-George, as his ambitious wife, were the most successful actors in "The Grand Cham's Diamond." The domestic intercourse and conversation was "put over" very well and in this, Philippa Turner, as the larconic Polly, played her part successfully.

Congratulations are due to Miss Thomas not only on account of the excellent performance given by her young pupils, but also because of the casting which was particularly good in "The Bishop's Candlesticks" and "The Grand Cham's Diamond." Miss Seed applied make-up with meritorious skill, and Lupton, Allen, Samaden, Catt, Rook and others, are to be praised for their smart stage-managing.

The casts were as follows :

Scenes from "Alice in Wonderland," acted by pupils of Form IIIB.

- (1) Tweedledum and Tweedledee.
- (2) The Mad Hatter's Tea-Party.
- (3) The Trial Scene.

Characters :

Alice	.....	Barbara Catt
Tweedledum and Tweedledee	....	Sinden, Parks
The Mad Hatter	....	Smith
The March Hare	....	Morris
The Dormouse	....	Apps
The King and Queen of Hearts		Blackmore, Clare Rhind
The Knave of Hearts	....	Funnell
The Herald	....	Franklin
The Cook	....	Betty Chapman
The Jury	....	Angelina Andrews, Stephanie Gain, Metianu
Soldiers	....	Chappell, M. Boyce

"The Bishop's Candlesticks," acted by the pupils of Form IIIA.

Characters :

The Bishop	.....	Cutting
Persomé (the Bishop's sister)	....	Pamela Whiting and Jean Pope
The Convict	....	P. Boyce
Marie	....	Irene Farrant
Gendarmes	....	Fitch, Wood

"The Grand Cham's Diamond."

Characters :

Mrs. Perkins	....	Iris Leeds-George
Mr. Perkins	....	Hood
Miss Perkins	....	Philippa Turner
The Man in Black	....	Allen
Albert Watkins	....	Samaden

J.S.L.P.

THE SCOUT CONCERT

The Scout's Annual Concert, held on the last day of term, Tuesday, April 13th, was attended by the usual large number of foster-parents and friends. It commenced with a sing-song, conducted in a rather original manner. The Court of Honour (Troop

Leader and the four Patrol Leaders) took the stage and called upon a few Scouts, one by one, to contribute a turn. The best of these individual acts was B. Cutting's singing of "How Green was my Valley," and he well deserved the applause he received. While the next scene was being prepared L. Allen made a gallant attempt to induce the audience to sing with him, but it was unwilling and Allen's effort petered out (being due probably to the fact that the refreshments had not yet been taken round).

Lupton then performed his usual conjuring tricks, with Douglas as his assistant. On the whole Lupton's display was creditable, but, just as a suggestion, could Lupton perform some of the tricks of two years ago? Some of his latest efforts, which he produced on Tuesday night were absolutely unintelligible to the audience.

The next scene, in which L. Allen and R. Catt were two friendly comedians, might have been quite a success if the jokes, etc., had not been so stale and weak. These two boys have the making of a Nervo and Knox combine, or what you will, for their cue-taking is good, but it is in the matter of material that they must seek improvement.

Lupton and Douglas then performed a feature which was good as far as it went, and would have been much improved if it had been more detailed. The boys told of a railway journey and gave impressions of the various sounds heard during it. Allen next appeared, apparently determined to wrest a few notes from us, and actually succeeded in persuading us to sing "What shall we do with a Drunken Sailor?" "Roll out the Barrel," and "There is a Tavern in the Town."

A clever shadow-acting show by L. H. Simpson and L. Samaden, with Mr. Douglas (Scout Master) as the narrator, was the next item. The tale told of the social intercourse of two strangers, completely bound up with etiquette, who were shipwrecked on a desert isle. Before the ensuing interval, Allen, feeling in a patriotic mood, led the audience in songs sympathetic to that mood. (By the way, you enthusiasts in the front rows, it is "Britannia! rule the waves!" not "Britannia rules the waves!") While the audience was sipping drinks prepared and served by the Rangers, Mr. Douglas explained what the B.-P. Memorial Fund was—a fund to raise the money to build a Scout Hut in London as a permanent memorial to Lord Baden-Powell. He hoped that the audience would contribute liberally to this fund.

The last item on the programme was the most important and the best. In a play entitled "Banquo's Chair," by Rupert Croft-Cooke, the cast was as follows:

Sir William Brent, a retired chief of police	J. Jury
Mr. Harold Gandy, a famous novelist	Douglas
Mr. Robert Stone	L. Fuggle
Mr. John Bedford	B. Lupton
Lane, a butler	P. Wood
Police Sergeant	L. H. Simpson
Policeman	S. Chappell
The Ghost of Bedford's Aunt	L. Allen

The two outstanding actors were Jury and Lupton, and Wood, with his suave manner, made a very good butler. Jury played his role with an easy grace and deserves praise for his performance. Lupton, with more room for acting than Jury had, regulated very well his hysteria upon seeing his aunt's ghost, and allowed it to rise unhurriedly to an exciting climax. Indeed, the whole play was admirably acted and the Scouts really must be congratulated on producing a play so completely free from stumbling, awkwardness and imperfect articulation. It is hoped that some Senior pupils will think about producing a School play akin to those of yore, now that Forms III B and III A and the Scouts have revealed the potential acting ability of some of our scholars.

After the play Jury (Troop Leader) thanked all the different people who had helped in the planning of the concert, and the Head Master followed this up by thanking the Scouts for providing the entertainment and foster-parents for coming to listen to it. Thanks are also due to Miss Seed, who once again showed her exemplary skill in the application of make-up. There was obviously a great deal of work (mostly out of School hours) behind the concert, and assuredly the Scouts have enhanced their already high reputation for amateur entertainment.

J.S.L.P.

UNIVERSITY LETTER

Balliol College,
Oxford.

Dear Editors,

April, 1943.

The colony of Old Grammarians at Oxford is not so large as the one at Reading, but we hope that it will grow larger in the years

to come—when the war is over, perhaps I should say, for it looks as though there will be little opportunity for academic pursuits until that time. It is difficult for me to say whether the three of us here have become typical Oxford undergrads or not. I hardly know what the term implies to-day, but I think it certainly must have altered in meaning since the days of peace.

If you imagine dreamy-eyed youths wearing their hair too long and clad in strange clothes beneath their caps and gowns (the common impression of the arts student), I give you my word that to-day this is wrong. The strange clothes may still be present (corduroy trousers of varying colours are the vogue at the moment), and the black pieces of rag that once made a short commoners' gown still flutter round the shoulders of many who have been unable or have not wished to buy new ones—for academic gowns are difficult to obtain. But the mortar-board is rarely seen except at the beginning or towards the end of term and when the dons are in the streets. As for the question of long hair, it requires only the most amateur Sherlock Holmes to separate science and arts students, since the latter are forced to be scrupulously tidy about the head (I refer to the undergraduates of course, not the undergraduettes), owing to the uniform parades with the University Naval Division, Senior Training Corps or Air Squadron. In spite of this compulsion, however, remarks by the Sergeant-Major such as "You're studying poetry, I suppose," or "Are you saving up to buy a violin?" are not infrequent. Uniforms are certainly an important part of University life at the time of writing, but what it will be like after Trinity Term of this year I do not know.

Perhaps also, you may have heard and believed that students at Oxford never work until a few weeks before their important exams. are due to take place. This may have resembled the truth before the war, but now it definitely does not. Most people face an examination at the end of each term, and work pretty frantically during that time to make sure that they do not fail. I have heard some grim suggestions as to what the result would be if a candidate failed, but they may not be true. Nevertheless, opportunity to indulge in sports of all kinds is still found, and the numerous University societies and clubs following diverse pursuits still flourish. The University Film Society, which was only formed during Hilary Term this year, has already broken all records for membership.

But I do believe that "ragging" and noisiness in general has vanished from Oxford—temporarily at any rate—if what we learn about life in the past here is not a mere distortion of fact. Perhaps the disappearance of youthful high spirits is yet another reminder that we are a country which has grown steadily more serious-minded during the last three-and-a-half years and will remain so until the day comes to be carefree once again. Then perhaps we shall see yet another change overtaking this ancient seat of learning.

Yours, etc.,

GRAHAM G. SMITH.

A HISTORY OF THE R.A.F.

On the 1st April, 1918, the two Services which had previously been entrusted with the control of operations in the air, namely, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, were amalgamated into an entirely new service—the Royal Air Force. This amalgamation formed one of the most famous and finest Services in the world, the Service which twenty-two years after its formation was to save this island from invasion. Let us look into the history of this Service and look at a few of its many achievements and records.

The R.A.F. partook in only a short part of the last war, but in the seven months that it did see, it did grand work and more than carried on the great and fine examples set by its two ancestors. In these few months the R.A.F. pounded the enemy lines, although the word "pound" cannot be used in quite the same sense as it is used to-day. Famous fighter types, such as the S.E.5, the Sopwith Camel, flying under a new command, continued to shoot the enemy out of the sky and at the Armistice they were in command of the air. When the Armistice was signed the R.A.F. was composed of over twenty thousand machines, of which a number were Handley Page V-1500's, designed for the bombing of Berlin. It is in some respects a pity that Armistice prevented this plan from being put into operation, as it would have really illustrated the power of the bomber to the public and it might have also made the Germans meditate on the chances of it happening again before they plunged into a second conflict.

Soon after the signing of the Armistice the Government plans for disarmament soon curtailed drastically the number of aircraft

in the R.A.F., and by 1923 it had been reduced to approximately fifty squadrons, all of which were composed chiefly of the old war types. This short-sightedness on behalf of the Government did not prevent the R.A.F. from starting its long list of records and achievements that made it so famous during the period between the two wars. In 1919, a Vickers Vimy bomber, piloted by Captain Alcock and Lieutenant Whitten Brown, made the first successful crossing of the Atlantic by air. They started out from Newfoundland and landed in Ireland after a very anxious trip of over two thousand miles. This in itself was proof of the sound construction of the planes used by the R.A.F. and to the endurance of the engines. In this case, incidentally, the engines were Rolls Royce "Condors," ancestors of the very famous "Merlins" used to-day.

The disarmament policy continued through the 'twenties and very few new types were built. The R.A.F., however, continued to set up world records, especially in the "long range" field. In 1926 four Fairey IIIb's, under the command of Wing-Commander Pulford, flew from Capetown to Cairo non-stop and then back to England, thus constituting a new record. A year later a Hawker Horseley machine broke the world's long distance record by flying from Cranwell to the Persian Gulf non-stop in 34½ hours, once more a great tribute to sound construction and to the engine. In 1928 hostilities again gave the R.A.F. further useful service when risings broke out in Afghanistan. At Kabul some six hundred British subjects were in danger and so several Vickers "Victoria" troop transports made several flights to the city and saved the people from the hands of the rebels. In 1929 a Fairey design flew from Cranwell to Karachi non-stop, thus making the first non-stop flight from England to India. A further machine of the same company, powered by a Rolls Royce engine, broke the world's long-distance record in 1933, when a flight was made from Cranwell to Walvis Bay, a distance of 5,340 miles. Perhaps the most famous long-distance flight was made in 1938, when three Vickers "Wellesleys" once more made England the holder of the world's long-distance record, when over seven thousand miles were covered in a flight from Ismailia in Egypt to Darwin in Australia.

Mention must also be made of the Schneider Trophy Competition, which was won outright for England in 1927-31 by that famous team of pilots, Webster, Waghorn and Boothman. In 1927 Flt.-Lieut. Webster, in a Supermarine S.5, won the trophy from

the Italian team. Two years later, in another Supermarine machine, an S.6, Flying Officer Waghorn again won the trophy, with a speed of over 350 m.p.h. The third successive win in 1931 by Flt.-Lieut. Boothman, in a S.6B, with a speed of over 400 m.p.h. won the trophy outright for Great Britain. These Schneider Trophy designs formed the basis for the "Spitfire" design which, later, was to play such an important part in the defence of this country.

Not only in distance and speed did the R.A.F. make records for the world but also in the sub-stratosphere. In 1936, Squadron Leader Swayne, in a Bristol 138A, reached a height of 50,000 feet, and when this record was beaten by Italy, Flt.-Lieut. Adams, in the same machine, reached 53,000 feet, with the aid of special oxygen apparatus.

In 1936 the Air Ministry began to realise the seriousness of the political situation and issued several new specifications, but the orders given were small owing to the very small amount of money allotted to aircraft building. However, such famous designers as S. Camm and R. J. Mitchell produced the "Hurricane" and the "Spitfire," and after the prototype had proved successful a limited number were put into production. However, as the war clouds began to darken, Hawker Company used their imagination and put a thousand "Hurricanes" into production without Government orders and they proved a godsend in the Battle of Britain. At the same time, "Wellington" and "Blenheim" bombers were designed and constructed and so the R.A.F. entered the war in 1939 with many highly successful designs, which proved to be of a much higher quality than the opposing German types, although heavily outnumbered.

The story of the R.A.F. in this war is so well known that it is unnecessary to repeat it here. In the Battle of Britain, the R.A.F. quality triumphed over German quantity, and so all the hours of careful and accurate work which the designers and builders had put into their machines were not lost. Now that we are in the offensive stage, fighters and bombers of the R.A.F. are carrying on the tradition set up by their ancestors, the R.F.C. and R.N.A.S., and they are playing no small part in the struggle for victory, in the way that they did twenty-five years ago. Let us hope that the R.A.F.'s Jubilee year will be also a Victory year. B. DAWSON.

A VISIT TO WHIPSNADE

On Tuesday, 6th April, four of us decided to spend our Field Day at Whipsnade, and so we set out on our bicycles after Assembly with all the equipment we deemed necessary, along the Ampthill Road, with the wind behind us. Near Ampthill a compass and a survey map were produced from a satchel and with the aid of prominent landmarks our position was found. We continued our journey until Toddington was reached. There we purchased ample supplies of food and drink. At twelve o'clock we arrived at Dunstable, where the tiresome journey over the Downs began. Once more, however, the wind assisted us and by half-past twelve our destination was reached. Our cycles were securely chained and having collected our coats and satchels we entered the Zoo.

We proceeded to inspect the various birds and animals, but a dark cloud loomed up on the horizon so we spent the first half-hour seated in a shelter enjoying our selection of food and drink. At last the strong wind blew away the cloud so we started by inspecting polar bears, lions and tigers. Various herbivorous animals were also seen until we reached the island inhabited by some species of monkey. This caused much amusement. Having seen enough of the antics of our distant brethren we moved to see more animals, including a rhinoceros, giraffes and zebra. Wallabies were seen wandering freely about the Zoo, some with the heads of their young protruding from their maternal pouch. Ming, the Giant Panda, was also seen, he being fully occupied with chewing bamboo shoots.

Having assured ourselves that we had seen everything we wanted to see we began the return journey of twenty-four miles back to Bedford against the wind. However, we pedalled hard and at a quarter-to-seven we reached Bedford, feeling a little tired, although we had fully enjoyed our Field Day.

B.J.

RYE "WINGS FOR VICTORY" WEEK

From 20th-27th March, Rye held its "Wings for Victory" Week with a target of £20,000. The School, though a long way from Rye, set out to do its best for the home town, aiming at £15. The effort was started off with a dance held on the 13th March. This went well, as is the custom with dances, and the sum of 21s. was raised. On the following Saturday a gramophone recital was

given by Mr. Barfoot. There was a large attendance and everybody enjoyed the programme immensely. A collection realising 24s. was taken. A week later a very interesting lecture on Malta was given by Capt. the Rev. Wallace Heaton, who had spent many years in that part of the world. The lecture was illustrated by slides and went off very well except for minor difficulties with the lantern. The collection amounted to 22s. The grand total for these three evenings was £3 7s. od.

In this period two raffles were arranged by Colvin and Fellows, respectively. Colvin raffled a 15s. Savings Certificate and realised 18s. 6d. which, with Fellows' sum of 34s. 6d. from the raffling of one pound of chocolate, raised the total to £6.

Apart from these social activities money was pouring in in the form of Savings Certificates and Defence Bonds. After this splendid effort a total of £44 was raised by the School, exceeding the target by £29. Rye also passed its target by raising £50,407 18s. 6d., thus obtaining its wings.

E. A. FELLOWS.

OLD SCHOLARS

Gordon Hickman, who is with an A.A. battery, visited us at the end of the Autumn Term, and told us that many professional footballers are in his company (much to his delight).

Esmé Kerr (W.A.A.F.) tells us that she is stationed in a Grammar School, which very much reminds her of R.G.S.

Percy Allen is to be congratulated upon obtaining his doctorate. Kitty King, at Avory Hill College, is becoming more Yorkshire every month (to the Head Master's joy!).

Cynthia Breeds is progressing well at Salisbury Training College. John Green is still in Canada with the R.A.F. and is expected home at any time, having just obtained his wings.

C. Bullett is often seen in Bedford, near which he is still working. He expects to enter the Fleet Air Arm shortly.

Noreen Baker gives news of Gordon Braine in her latest letter.

Letters have been received recently from the following: Noreen Baker, Cynthia Breeds, Pat Green, Esmé Kerr, Kitty King, Olive Paine, Jean Smith (airgraph), J. Bannister, R. G. Burnett and J. Mewse (airgraph).

Gloria Bray, Paulina Metianu, Margery Smith, A. W. J. Ambrose, V. Apps, C. Bullett, F. J. Ford, G. Hickman, A. E. Marson and M. Smith have visited us recently at Bedford.

TO FRIENDS AND OLD SCHOLARS

News of Old Scholars is always welcome, especially those who have not figured recently in the *News Bulletin* or NOVA RYA. Copies of back numbers of NOVA RYA are mostly obtainable and will be forwarded to those who desire them.

Our address remains :—

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