

"Nova Rya"

No. 10



"Hut Disce, Hut Discede"

Autumn Term, 1943

NOVA RYA

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

THE MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NO. 10

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EDITORIAL

The House Competitions have been contested perhaps more keenly than ever this year, so we thought that a brief history of the House system would not be out of place.

Until 1923, when Mr. H. H. Wallis succeeded Mr. Jenkins as Headmaster, there were no Houses, but in his first year the new Head started several novel ventures. The Old Scholars' Association was formed and the School magazine re-founded under the title of *Rya*. Besides these, the School was divided into four Houses, Peacocke, with Mr. Pigrome as Housemaster, Sanders, under Mr. Tighe, Meryon, under Mr. Broome, and School House, with the Headmaster in charge. At the same time, two House Competitions, one for Work and Merit, and the other, the Games Championship contest, were inaugurated and a shield was presented for each. These trophies were first awarded for the School year 1923-24, when Peacocke House won the Work and Merit and School House carried off the Games Championship trophy.

This state of affairs continued until ten years ago when Mr. Jacobs became Headmaster. He, because of the small numbers in each House, decided that it would be in the best interest of the School as a whole if one of the existing Houses was abolished and the members of that House distributed to the remaining three. (It is interesting to note here that in a School Committee meeting during last Easter Term, it was suggested that the present three-House system should be replaced by two Houses as a temporary measure while the numbers of the School were so low. House loyalty, however, was so great that this suggestion was heavily out-voted.) However, having decided that one House must go the problem was to decide which was to be the unfortunate one. Mr. Jacobs arrived at the conclusion that the Peacocke, Sanders and Meryon combination must not be destroyed and so, at the end of the Summer Term, 1933, School House was no more. Naturally, there was a great deal of heart-burning at the time, but the passing of years has blotted out the memory.

In the same year there were presented for inter-House competition in addition to the two main trophies, shields for hockey, athletics and football, of which the two former were won for the first time in 1934 by Sanders, and the other by Meryon, who retained it from then until 1942. The shields for swimming,

gymnasium, cricket, tennis, netball and the Speech and Music Competition were presented from 1936 onwards, but although the competition for each of these has been hard, the keenest rivalry has been, and still is, for the major trophies. In the twenty years since the House system started the Games Championship Shield has been awarded to Meryon twelve times, to Sanders four times, to School House thrice, and to Peacocke once. Meryon House has won the Work and Merit Competition nine times, Sanders six, and Peacocke five times. Thus, Meryon has set up a fine record.

So this brief survey is brought up to date and we hope that our readers, especially the younger ones, are better informed about the House system than before.

THE EDITORS.

OBITER DICTA

The School extends a heart-felt welcome to Miss Stevens, who has taken the place of Miss Thomas as Gymnasium and Games Mistress. We hope that her stay with us will be a long and happy one.

E. A. Fellows and Helen Metianu were appointed School Captains for the year, and the following were made Prefects: J. Bull, P. Caister, B. Jones, C. Webb, L. Wood, Kathleen Batehup, Daphne Breeds, Maureen Samaden and Pamela Whiting.

Two Rangers, Kathleen Batehup and Pamela Whiting, are to be congratulated on passing their final tests and obtaining their Home Emergency Service Armlets. These armlets are awarded for a high standard of efficiency in all subjects likely to be needed in case of emergency. Five of the Rye Grammar School Company have now reached this standard.

We congratulate Corporal E. A. Fellows and Leading Cadet B. Dawson on their promotion to Sergeant and Corporal respectively in the Air Training Corps.

W. Colvin is to be congratulated on being accepted for an R.A.F. Short Course. Acceptance for this course demands both a high physical and high intellectual standard. He is now at New College, Oxford.

P. J. Mead, another of last year's Sixth Form, gained a County Senior Scholarship for his good result in the Higher School Certificate Examination.

We were sorry to say farewell to C. J. Webb during the last week of term. Webb, who is now in the R.A.F., was the first scholar to be called up for National Service while still at School.

The School was glad to hear of the increase in the membership of the Parents' Association and that it has obtained representation on the governing body of the School. This augurs a really democratic organisation of the School in the near future.

As paper economy prevents us from publishing a sufficient number of magazines to send to parents as well as give to pupils, envelopes are provided with magazines so that each scholar can send his *Nova Rya* to his parents when he has read it.

In spite of the offer of prizes for the best poem, the best piece of prose and the best lino-cut of the year, there have been very few contributions handed in to the Editors. Please do not forget that the Editors' work is to organise, not to write the magazine. The success or failure of a school magazine depends greatly on the co-operation of the school. Therefore, for future numbers of *Nova Rya* will you all make an effort to contribute towards it.

Rosalie Green has kindly consented to become an Editor and has already proved herself to be a most useful member of the magazine staff.

A HISTORY OF THE EVACUATION

It seems hardly possible that this is the beginning of our fourth year away from Rye and that only the Fifth and Sixth Form have experienced school life in the Grammar School itself. Nevertheless, the many pessimists who did not think that the School would survive a second year in Bedford have been proved wrong, for this term began with the attendance of the greatest number of pupils since the evacuation. Very few of the Upper School left at the end of the Summer Term and the increased numbers of new pupils

was more than enough to maintain our standard. It is interesting to notice that, for the first time in several years, there were many more new girls than new boys. This makes us wonder where the young males of Rye have gone.

The result of the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations, printed elsewhere in the magazine, showed that the standard of work has not deteriorated during the past three years. Out of the sixteen pupils who obtained their School Certificate, eight obtained Matriculation Exemption, and altogether fifteen "Very Good" marks were achieved.

On the first day of term Miss Stevens was welcomed. Miss Stevens has taken the place of Miss Thomas, and the improved standard of hockey this term is due to her trouble in arranging practices and in coaching the teams.

The Commemoration Service was celebrated at St. Cuthbert's Church, Bedford, on October 7th. The Rev. L. Towers, of Bunyan Meeting, Bedford, gave the address, which contained many stimulating ideas. The School has been well represented at St. Cuthbert's Church every Sunday morning, but unfortunately, the Corporate Communion have not been attended with the same enthusiasm. The morning service at Assembly on week-days is still held, but the reading of the lesson has not been especially stimulating and the singing of the Psalms has been handicapped because, as the psalters were being rebound, many of the younger people did not know the words. Now that the strongly bound psalters have arrived and greater effort has been made with speech training recently, it is hoped that the morning services will be a help and encouragement to all in their daily work.

The greater part of the Speech and Music Competition has taken place but, owing to the absence of many younger pupils the Second Form competition is held over until next term. The music part of the contest was divided into two parts, choral and solo. In the former, the whole of each House sang "The Girl I left behind me," and Meryon, who made up for its lack of numbers by better singing, were first. The solo part was "Sleep, Holy Babe." Three girls represented Meryon and Sanders but, owing to absence, only two sang for Peacocke. The marking was very close, but the Sanders trio were best and the Peacocke couple second. The Speech competition for the Junior forms consisted of a choral recitation and individual reading, while the Seniors offered individual

recitation and reading. The Sixth Form, however, had a different and more advanced subject. A subject for a debate was given 'That a supply of trained scientists is of paramount importance to the Community,' and each House had to provide a person to speak for and one to speak against the motion. Each speaker had to make up his or her own speech and deliver it from the platform at Russell Park Hall. In spite of many pessimistic grumblings on the part of those chosen to represent their Houses, the new idea proved a success and some of the speakers were so pleased with their efforts that they are eager to start a parliamentary career. We would warn them that unless they are confirmed Conservatives they will stand no chance of success in the constituency of Rye.

Pupils interested in government have their chance of experience and participation in committee meetings if they are members of the School Committee. This Committee, now a year old in its new form, has been sparsely attended during the two meetings this term. Pupils often complain that School affairs are not to their liking and it is in the School Committee that they can voice their complaints and their suggestions for improvement. Is, then, everybody so contented that he can suggest nothing which would facilitate the running of the School? So, next term, will every one take a more active interest in this matter and so assist his fellows, the Staff and the Headmaster. Of course some of the suggestions will for reasons of discipline or impracticability perhaps not be enacted, but there will be some for which the School will be thankful.

One of the problems raised in a meeting this term was that of School dinner duties. It was suggested that boys should take part in washing-up and that girls should help to tidy the Hall. After a debate the Committee decided to pass on this for the consideration of the Headmaster. All those who have school dinners know that all dinner duties are shared by boys and girls.

For the purpose of arranging entertainments for the School, the Entertainments Committee was formed as a sub-committee to the School Committee. The members of this are four pupils and three teachers. A programme was drawn up so that for every Saturday evening a dance, social or lecture was arranged. There were two lectures, one by an old friend, Captain W. Heaton, who talked to us of his sojourn in South Russia and the Caucasus. The talk was illustrated by some fine lantern slides, many of which photographs Mr. Heaton had taken himself. The other was by

Mr. Lewis, of Bedford Modern School. His subject was Everest expeditions and his slides showed the mountain and the approach to it from many angles. After seeing these pictures we can well imagine not only the difficulties experienced, but also the beautiful sights seen by Himalayan mountaineers.

On one afternoon in the term some of the string section of the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, known as the Colonial Players, visited us. Incidentally, the first time this combination had played together was when it visited us in December, 1941; they were so successful then that they formed themselves into a sextet under the leadership of Mr. O'Donnell. The programme, which was a selection of light music, including "Jealousy," "The Blue Danube" and "The Carnival of Animals," was enjoyed by the whole School and a number of foster-parents who had been invited. A collection taken during the interval was sent to the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund.

Later in the term Mr. Broome gave a programme of gramophone records. This recital was suited to all tastes, as we heard all kind of recordings from grand opera to Stanley Holloway's monologues. Although it might be said in defence of such a programme that "variety is the spice of life," we do not think that it is fair to mix Wagner and Stanley Holloway. Would it be possible in the future to have a programme of classical music unadulterated by music hall comedians?

Twice this term we have seen films, once at Russell Park Hall, when Major Wallis, of the Eighth Army, showed us "Nine Men" on an improvised screen, and once at the Granada, when we saw "Four Feathers." Both of these shows were greatly enjoyed, but the latter more so, both as a better film and because the upholstered seats of the Granada are more comfortable than the hard wooden chairs upon which we work daily.

There have been several socials and dances during the three months. Unfortunately, several have been interrupted by the radiogram's breaking down, but most have been successful. Some Seniors attended the International Youth Social at half-term at the Modern School Hall, where games and dancing went on until eleven o'clock. The last dance of term was easily the most successful. The Bedford Rhythmics Dance Band was engaged to play the music. Whether it was the Christmas feeling or simply the psychological influence of the dance band instead of the radiogram is not known,

but, whatever the cause, every one danced, so that for the first time since we started dances in Bedford all the chairs were empty.

Term ended on 15th December and the majority of pupils travelled home on the following day. There were, however, two Juniors who could not go home for Christmas because of illness. They were Betty Bannister and Geoff Simmons, with whom the more fortunate majority sympathised. The School did its best by a generous collection to give them a more cheerful Christmas, to help them forget their disappointment. T.G.H.P.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATES GAINED IN JULY, 1943

- P. J. Mead—Principal Subjects: Zoology, Botany; Subsidiary Subjects: Geography, Handicraft, Economics.
T. G. H. Pollard—Principal Subjects: History, Geography; Subsidiary Subject: Economics.
J. S. L. Pulford—Principal Subjects: History, English; Subsidiary Subjects: French, Economics.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATES GAINED IN JULY, 1943

- J. Bull—"Very Good" in English Language, General Science, 5 credits (Matriculation).
P. Caister—"Very Good" in General Science, 6 credits (Matriculation).
B. Dawson—"Very Good" in French, General Science, English Language, 5 credits (Matriculation).
B. Jones—3 credits.
R. Marshall—"Very Good" in Art.
C. Webb—"Very Good" in Geography, 3 credits.
L. S. Wood—6 credits (Matriculation).
Kathleen Batehup—5 credits (Matriculation).
Daphne Breeds—"Very Good" in Biology, English Literature, French, 4 credits (Matriculation).
Rosalie Green—7 credits (Matriculation).
Joan Hoad—2 credits.
Eileen Munday—4 credits.
Jean Pope—"Very Good" in English Literature, History, Latin, French, 4 credits.
Maureen Samaden—6 credits (Matriculation).
Pamela Whiting—5 credits.

HOUSE NOTES

PEACOCKE

- House Master*: MR. MORGAN.
House Mistress: MISS LETCHER.
House Captains: L. S. WOOD, HELEN METIANU.
Prefects: KATHLEEN BATEHUP, HELEN METIANU, JEAN POPE, S. WOOD.

At the first House meeting of the term we welcomed a large number of new members who have greatly increased the Junior part of the House.

The football and hockey matches have been played. We were not very successful in the former, but we have won the hockey.

House collections have been of the average standard, we sent thirty shillings to the Royal East Sussex Hospital at Christmas.

In the Speech and Music Competition, Peacocke came tie with Sanders for first place in the Music, the results of the Speech section are unknown at the time of writing.

The House Christmas Party was held on December 11th. It started at 5 p.m. with a tea, including tarts and jelly. Nearly all the Staff were present. Until seven o'clock we played games and then the Seniors came to a dance, which was fairly successful in spite of the failure of the radiogram. Every one enjoyed this year's House Party and thanks are due to all those who helped to run and arrange it and to Mrs. Pigrome and Miss Letcher, who provided the dance music on the piano.

Next term there are more House matches in which we hope to be successful.

In the Interim Orders we have improved our standard this term, so we still have hopes of winning the Work and Merit Competition, although the House must work harder than it has been doing if these hopes are to be realised. J.M.P.

SANDERS HOUSE

- House Master*: MR. DOUGLAS.
House Mistress: MISS SEED.
Boys' Captain: T. G. H. POLLARD.
Girls' Captain: MAUREEN SAMADEN.
Prefects: ROSALIE GREEN, MAUREEN SAMADEN, PAMELA WHITING, E. A. FELLOWS, P. CAISTER, B. JONES, T. G. H. POLLARD

Sanders has been successful in neither sport nor work this term. In hockey we are last and in football second, while in the race for the Work and Merit Shield we are behind both Peacocke and Meryon. Next term, when the remainder of the hockey and football matches are played, when the cross-country is run and the athletic sports held, we must regain the fighting spirit of last year when we won easily the House Championship Shield. There is still a chance to carry off the Work and Merit Competition if every one tries his or her hardest to gain a higher position, to obtain merit marks and, above all, to avoid black marks, for it is these, especially, which have prevented us from reaching the highest place in the Work and Merit Competition.

Nevertheless, in spite of these disappointments we can still boast that our House is the most generous in its collections. In connection with this Sanders House arranged a social for both Juniors and Seniors, to raise money for Lord Southwood's appeal to provide Christmas gifts for sick children. The sum thus raised, together with the total of the fortnightly collections of the Autumn Term, amounted to over four pounds and was duly sent to Lord Southwood. The success of the collection is due to Paine, who has managed a difficult job very capably.

Unfortunately, we must say farewell this term to our Girls' Captain, Maureen Samaden, and to Caister. Maureen, who was elected House Captain in September, 1942, has worked hard for the House in general organisation and has taken a full share in games, especially hockey. Caister, too, has played a valuable part in spheres of work and sport. He was House Cricket Captain, played both cricket and football and ran both in the cross-country race and the athletic sports. To both, the House is grateful and wishes them the best for the future.

T.G.H.P.

MERYON HOUSE

House Master : MR. BROOME.
House Mistress : MISS TUNSTALL.
Boys' Captain : J. JURY.
Girls' Captain : DAPHNE BREEDS.
Prefects : DAPHNE BREEDS, J. O. BULL, B. DAWSON.

Meryon has improved its standard in games, but the standard of work and merit has deteriorated. The Senior boys have won both their football matches and the Juniors have won the match they

played against Peacocke. The Senior girls have been more successful than usual in Hockey, having drawn with Sanders and only losing their game to Peacocke by one goal. The Junior girls have won both their matches and thus we have a very good chance of gaining the lead next term as we are only one point behind Peacocke.

The Christmas party was a great success and those who took part in "Old Moore's Almanac" are to be congratulated on their fine acting.

We were very sorry to lose our House Captain, C. J. Webb, as he has always taken a leading part in all House matters, especially in running. His place has been taken by J. Jury and we are sure that he will lead the House successfully.

There has been an improvement in the contributions to charity, on the election of J. O. Bull as treasurer, as we have been able to send thirty shillings to the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund.

R.C.F.

THE COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The School Commemoration Service was held on Thursday, October 7th, at St. Cuthbert's Church. We were pleased to see the interest taken in the School demonstrated by the large number of foster-parents and friends who were there.

The Service began with the National Anthem, followed by prayers offered by Mr. A. R. Jacobs, the Headmaster. Then we sang Bunyan's hymn, "To be a Pilgrim." The first lesson was Epistle to the Ephesians, chapter four, verses one to thirteen. The anthem between the readings was Psalm xv, followed by the second lesson, which was Ecclesiasticus, chapter forty-four, verses one to fourteen. This was followed by the hymn "Now thank we all our God." The address which followed was given by Rev. L. T. Towers of the Bunyan Meeting.

Mr. Towers took for his text chapter fourteen of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, verses 45-46: "The Kingdom of God is like unto a man that is a merchant seeking goodly pearls: and having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." Mr. Towers said that you had to be a collector to realise the full meaning of those words. It was when you found a precious addition to your collection that you were tempted to sell all you had to buy it. Here, Mr. Towers took an illustration from

his own school days, when the whole of his pocket money was spent on a set of stamps he particularly wanted. That was speculation. All people tended to gamble, which was an evil because all is often risked for the wrong things.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was what we should give our all to obtain. Many people made money their heart's desire, but money had its limitations, for it did not float, neither could its owner take it with him when he left this earth. Other people had knowledge as their heart's desire, but although education was a priceless possession and provided a background to life and a standard of values by which to judge life, it was not the perfect heart's desire, however, because it did not sweep away all evils or solve all problems.

Jesus represented the Kingdom of God. As likenesses to it he suggested a pearl of great price, a grain of mustard seed, leaven hidden in meal, treasure hidden in a field. It could be gained by any one who wanted it; it could not be bought with money, but a price must be paid by the man who desired it. Jesus believed in that Kingdom of God and He was its King. He lived our early life and died for His Kingdom when worldly power had threatened to shatter it. Thus, the words which the lead casket bore in Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," "who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath," could be applied to the Kingdom of God. In life every one was confronted with a choice and every one had his reward. To him who hazarded all and sought the will of God came the greatest reward of all—the reign and rule of God, in heart and in life, the real Kingdom of Heaven.

After the address we sang the School Commemoration Hymn and the blessing was given by the Rector, the Reverend W. E. Lane.
R.E.L.G.

HOCKEY REPORT

This term has shown a marked improvement in the standard of hockey in both Seniors and Juniors, thanks to Miss Stevens, who has shown us how to practice to the best advantage. We now have regular practices after school on Friday afternoon.

The First Eleven have only been able to play three matches as others have been cancelled due to weather. The first, against Parkside, we won 3—2; the second, against Telephone House, we

lost 9—3. The play was up to standard, but the other side were very fortunate in having a fast and clever centre-forward, who scored eight of their nine goals.

The last match was a return one against Parkside, which we won 1—0, after a hard and enjoyable struggle. Every one agreed that it was the fastest and most even match of the season.

In the earlier part of the term the forwards were inclined to hang back and more goals could have been scored if they had rushed more. However, they are much improved now and some are quite adept at stickwork.

The backs have played very well all the term and have also benefited by the practice as they come forward and tackle more now.

Three House matches have been played. The results were as follows: Peacocke 6 points, Meryon 5 points, Sanders 1 point. These are not the final results as there will be some more matches next term.

On the whole this term has been very successful and a greater enthusiasm for hockey has arisen. There are several promising players in Form II who are proving very useful to their Houses.

P.I.M.W.

FOOTBALL REPORT

FIRST ELEVEN

This season has been the most successful since we have been in Bedford. We were very fortunate in having, at the beginning of term, the whole of last year's eleven, although in October we lost Colvin, the centre half. Although we had rather a shaky start and suffered some early defeats the team was re-arranged with successful results.

The first match of the season was at Wootton on September 25th, when we played Wootton Blue Cross Reserves. The School team played together well against a side whose strength lay in an experienced centre-half, who not only prevented our forwards from attacking, but who also materially assisted his own forwards. Nevertheless, despite our losing 4—1 we had a good share of the play, but the forwards did not finish well and several opportunities of scoring were missed.

On the following Wednesday we entertained Owen's School First Eleven in Bedford Park. We were faced by an older and more

experienced team, but the School showed plenty of spirit and at half-time was losing only by the odd goal in three. In the second half, however, we were tired, but the defence played well to prevent the Owen's School forwards from finding the goal more than thrice. The final score was 5—1 in our opponent's favour.

On October 2nd we played Shiners' United in Bedford Park, but our opponents proved too strong for us. In the first half we managed to hold our opponents to 3—1 in their favour, but after half-time the defence was too tired to keep out Shiners' forwards, who scored six further goals to win 9—1.

Despite these early defeats against stronger teams we gained valuable match experience and fielded a re-arranged team against Owen's School Second Eleven at the Meltis ground. Play was very even in the first half and both sides scored once but throughout the latter half we continually attacked our opponent's goal, although it was not until the last five minutes that we managed to increase our score. During those last minutes we scored three times to obtain our first victory of the season by four goals to one.

The following Saturday we again went to the Meltis ground to play a return match with Shiners' United. Both teams were handicapped by the small pitch, but the match proved to be a keen struggle. By half-time Shiners' had scored three goals to our one, but in the second half we fought back and about fifteen minutes before the final whistle Jury scored from a penalty. We were unable to equalise, however, so we lost by the odd goal in five.

In our next game, against a Boys' Club Eleven, we proved to be the stronger side and good combination and accurate shooting enabled us to win 8—1. Fuggle scored four times for the School.

We played a return game with Wootton Blue Cross Reserves on the first Saturday in November at the Meltis ground. The match was very even and extremely keen but Wootton finished to greater advantage and by netting once in each half, they defeated us 2—0.

On the following Saturday we met Queen's Works Colts in Bedford Park, where the whole team combined well and the forwards were able to shoot accurately. We scored five times in each half and our opponents replied but twice in all, so the final result was 10—2 in our favour. Fuggle, who was again our top scorer, found the net five times.

Two weeks later we played a return match with Queen's Works Colts and won the easiest victory of the season. Our forwards, by

good combination and improved centring by the wings, showed themselves too clever for the Queen's defence, and by scoring eight goals in the first half and nine in the second, we won 17—0. This score set up a record for our three years of evacuation and cancels our defeat of 18—1 inflicted on us two years ago by the Igranic Junior team.

The last game of the term was played at the Meltis ground against a team of local Army Cadets. The first half was very even and both sides attacked vigorously, but the School eleven entered the second half leading by the odd goal in three. Towards the end of the game the School forwards did most of the attacking and added three more goals to our score, which gave us a victory of 5—1.

Thus, so far this season we have played ten games, of which five have been won and the remainder lost. Forty-nine goals, of which Fuggle obtained eighteen, Fellows twelve and Hargrove seven, were scored for and twenty-eight against us.

The regular players were: L. Simpson, J. Jury, P. Wood; T. Pollard, B. Dawson, G. Roberts; P. Gutsell, K. Bullen, E. Fellows, L. Fuggle and G. Hargrove. G. Paine, J. Pritchard and A. Shearer have played on different occasions and have given useful service.

For this term's successes many thanks are due to Mr. Allnutt who has given up his Saturday afternoons to referee our home matches and who has given much valuable advice and coaching.

Several of our matches could not have been played but for the generosity of Mr. Dare of Owen's School, who has loaned us a pitch at the Meltis ground when we have been unable to obtain one elsewhere.

B.D.

UNDER FIFTEEN ELEVEN

The under fifteen team has played two matches this term. Both were in Bedford Park and both against Owen's School under fifteen eleven. In the first match the School had much the better of the play and won 4—0, but the second was more keenly contested and Rye could win only by the odd goal in three.

The whole eleven, many of whom are also members of the First Eleven, played well and show promise of making the First Eleven of the future unbeatable.

JUNIOR ELEVEN

The Junior football team, captained by Morris, has had a very successful term, winning all the matches played. Teamwork has

been good and the skill and enthusiasm shown are a good augury for the future of School football.

Sinden has again proved a very sound and plucky goalkeeper, while the backs, chosen from Shearer, Burt and Bryant, have been most reliable. A great deal of the success of the team has been due to the fine play of the halves, Roberts, Sexton and Beeching, all of whom have shown marked improvement in their passing.

Morris has led the forwards cleverly and been the main goal-scorer. Chappell, at outside left, has shown plenty of dash and has improved his finishing, while Franklin has given him good support. Parks has shown neat and clever footwork and two members of the Second Form, D. Boyce and Simmons, possess much ability and have proved very useful acquisitions.

Others who have played are M. Boyce, Godden, Wigg, Streeter, Dunster (2), Barham and Law, and all have shown great firmness and promise.

RESULTS

Clapham Road School	Won	5—0
Rushmoor School	Won	5—2
Goldington Road School	Won	3—0
London Bunyan School	Won	2—0
Rushmoor School	Won	5—1
London Bunyan School	Won	7—0
Goldington Road School (under 13)	Won	4—0

RANGER REPORT

When Miss Thomas left the School Company united with the 1st Bedford Divisional Rangers under Miss Hewetson and so formed a joint Company. The meetings were held at Russell Park Hall on Thursday evenings.

During the term we heard lectures on Home Nursing by Mrs. Candy, an experienced member of the Red Cross, and Dr. Anderson visited us for the last three meetings to talk about the medical side of this subject. To the last meeting he brought several medical instruments, whose use he explained, and he also collected germs from a person's clean hands to grow a culture and to demonstrate how germs multiply. These lectures were in preparation for the examination in Home Nursing which all the Rangers must take next term.

In the middle of the term those Rangers who had failed in only one or two subjects in the examination for the Home Emergency Service Armlet last term were given the opportunity of retaking those parts. Pamela Whiting and Kathleen Batehup were successful and recently were presented with their armlets. Their successes make up the number of Rangers from the School Company who have obtained the armlets to five.

K.M.B.

GUIDE REPORT

This term has been rather uneventful for the Guides except for Field Day and Enrolment.

The Field Day was spent collecting rose hips. It was the first spent by many Junior Guides, but they joined in the picking with great zest. In the afternoon there was a sing-song on the lawn at Ixworth Court.

Miss Hewetson enrolled several new members of the Company at Russell Park Hall and afterwards talked about the great organisation of the Guides.

The training of the Guides has continued steadily throughout the term. Those who have already obtained Second Class badges are now working hard for the First Class test and the new members have made a keen start.

B.C.

THE SCOUT CAMP

On Thursday, July 22nd, after the last Assembly was over and good-byes had been said to those going to Sussex (not, I believe, without some regrets), the Scouts divided into two parties—those 'busing and those cycling. The former set off with Mr. Allnutt and caught the 10 a.m. bus, while the latter assembled at Ixworth Court. They were due to start at 10.30 a.m., but it was not until 11.45 that the S.M. (Mr. Douglas) mounted his famous bike (with his equally famous haversack on his back) and announced that we were off. The ride was uneventful and soon after we had rattled through Newport Pagnell we reached "Hill Farm" and our camp site, which was in a large field covered by undergrowth, which showed plenty of promise of good firewood.

The camp equipment had to be transported from the farm on trolleys similar to those on a railway station. This was no easy

job as at every step the luggage fell off, but it was at last accomplished and then we had our first meal of bread and golden syrup. The tents were put up without much difficulty and after tea we went for a bathe in the river. Luckily, only those who could swim went in, as the banks dropped almost sheer, giving the river a depth in the middle of fifteen feet. After prayers and cocoa we went to bed.

I will now try to give you an account of a typical day at the camp. At seven-thirty it was foggy, but remembering I had got to start the engine (which pumps the water from the farm) I got up. Outside was a bowl of water for the purpose of washing in, but I decided to wait until it was warmer. When Douglas turned up I decided to be brave, washed hurriedly, and we set off to start the engine. When we got back the camp was astir and breakfast was ready, which we joined in after parade. Kit inspection followed. Everything had to be laid outside the tent in a regular pattern and the brailing rolled up. After this the troop split up, some walking with Mr. Allnutt to Newport Pagnell, collecting specimens for the camp museum on the way, and some staying in camp. After dinner, which consisted of potato cheese and custard, we welcomed three Scouts from Rushmoor School. Then came the hour's rest in which some of us rehearsed plays for the camp fire, some read, some let down their neighbour's guy ropes, and some tried to do all three. After this came bridge-building which was watched by a considerable collection of villagers to whom it proved amusing as well as instructive. After much effort the river was spanned by a structure over which one could walk with moderate safety.

After tea there came the "Great Trek." Each patrol was given a map and told to follow it. On the way we were to collect specimens. The "Trek" was very successful, as was the supper after it.

As the night began to draw in a game of rugby was played very unscientifically, but nevertheless proved great fun. There was just time for a camp fire before black-out time and then every one was ready for bed.

One outstanding event of the camp was a visit by Sir Walter Carlyle, the District Commissioner for Buckinghamshire. He was pleased with the camp, but declined the invitation to supper. On Saturday Troop Leader Jury left us, but his place was ably filled by Douglas. The following day we visited Haversham Church, where we formed the majority of the congregation. As the organist was

ill we were asked to sing lustily to support the vicar who played a harmonium and we may well be proud of our effort.

We struck camp on Wednesday, July 27th. Those Scouts who stayed behind to pack up had a hard task but, to quote the camp report, "the job was heavy but all was finished by four o'clock and the last lowered the flag with due ceremony in the sun-parched field—it certainly felt like, if it did not look like, the Libyan Desert." The farmer in whose field we had camped was not forgotten but was presented with cigarettes for himself and a bunch of flowers for his wife.

This term has seen the printing of a Scout Report. This was presented to the campers, to whom it will be a valuable souvenir of an enjoyable camp. Other work of the term has included helping new members to pass their Tenderfoot and more Second Class tests have also been successfully attempted. There was a good attendance at a parade of Bedford Scouts, which was inspected by Lord Somers, the Chief Scout. Altogether the work of the troop during the term has been most satisfactory and the Scoutmaster, Mr. Douglas, and Mr. Allnutt are to be thanked for their untiring enthusiasm.

L. ALLEN.

A.T.C. REPORT

This term's training began with a general lecture by the Commanding Officer, who reviewed last year's work and outlined the general scheme for this year. He congratulated the unit on its progress, saying that a very high standard of efficiency had been attained. This standard, he hoped, would be maintained during the coming year and he looked to the thirty new recruits to assist in this aim. He congratulated Pilot Officers Pigrome and Olphin on their promotions to the rank of Flying Officer, and welcomed Flying Officer Lenin as a supernumary officer to the unit. The two Corporals were promoted to Sergeants.

The first public event for the unit was a parade in commemoration of the Battle of Britain. The Flight selected a party of fifteen Cadets to form part of the A.T.C. contingent parading with the R.A.F. The party formed up at Bedford School and marched to the Goldington Road Rugby Ground for a Drumhead Service.

On 6th October a party of twenty-four Cadets had the opportunity of flying at a neighbouring air station. The weather was not

very good for flying as there was a very low cloud base and a high wind, but soon an aeroplane arrived to take us in parties of six. There were no mishaps and every one enjoyed himself.

The Flight was inspected by the Commandant of A.T.C. in Eastern Command on October 22nd. After the inspection the Air Vice-Marshal took the salute at the march-past, after which he gave a short talk. He congratulated the unit on its records and was pleased with the inspection. He was glad to see so many proficiency badges and to hear that the majority of the Cadets wished to be trained for air-crew, but he told the Cadets not to be disappointed if they were not accepted for air-crew because the ground staff's work is just as important.

During the following training period the Commandant visited the different classes and saw the Flight at work. It was learnt afterwards that the unit was well in the running for the Eastern Command Trophy, which is awarded to the most efficient unit.

During November six new Corporals were congratulated. Corporal Dawson was the Rye promotion.

Towards the end of term tests for the First Class badge were taken. The Cadets to take the test were No. 2 Section and it is hoped that they have kept up the standard set by Cadets in previous examinations. Next term a number of proficient Cadets will take advanced examinations in Navigation, Meteorology, Hygiene and Sanitation and Law and Administration.

Recently, Corporal Dawson, Cadet Bull and Cadet Hargrove were among the representatives of 691 Flight in an aircraft identification contest in Bedford. Our Flight won the contest by one point from the Bedford School Flight. SGT. E. A. FELLOWS.

A FIELD DAY

On Tuesday, 21st September, the Senior Patrol, consisting of Jury, Simpson, Fuggle, Douglas and Saunders, assembled for the first Field Day of the term. During the previous week many heated discussions had taken place between the five Scouts as to which direction we should take. We decided on Ampthill, although Douglas, who had lived there and disliked the town, opposed the suggestion so fiercely that a physical struggle ensued.

After Assembly we decided that our supply of food would not be great enough for five Scouts, so at the first confectioner's shop

we added buns and cakes to our kit-bags and set off towards Ampthill. As usual, Fuggle was last and on turning we saw London Road strewn with food belonging to Fuggle, who hurried in and out of the traffic retrieving his day's rations. Then, without further incident, we arrived at a field with three trees which Douglas tried to convince us was Ampthill Park. We climbed a steep hill and so descended into Ampthill, where we had a consultation as to whether we should go to the cinema, but as we had all seen the films we decided that it would be against our Scouting principles.

Douglas offered to show us an interesting way out of Ampthill which was also a pleasant ride, but before we had gone far Fuggle's cycle, unable to stand the strain of riding up and down the bank at the edge of the road, broke down. A quick examination showed that the damage was no more than a broken chain so we retraced our steps (or whatever one does retrace when riding a bicycle) in search of a cycle repair shop. Although we thought that this was the shop most used by Douglas, his knowledge of Ampthill did not help us, but at length we managed to buy a new link. Fuggle, aided by Douglas's penknife and hindered by Douglas, mended the damage and we left Ampthill.

Douglas's interesting ride turned out to be to the station and a dead end. After enquiring if it were possible to reach the main road by way of the railway embankment, we were informed that it was if we walked. We set off over the fields until we discovered a suitable place for dinner. Within three quarters of an hour we had started dinner, which consisted chiefly of a tin of sardines supplied by Saunders.

At last we moved on and when we reached the road we began cycling once more and soon reached a very steep hill with a village at the bottom. During our ride down the hill Fuggle made several unexpected descents from his bicycle and finally found himself sprawling in a ditch. At the bottom of the hill it was discovered that Douglas's front tyre had burst, to be followed almost immediately by the discovery of a thorn in Jury's tyre which, when removed, left the tyre hopelessly flat. We managed to buy a puncture outfit and Jury's tyre was soon mended, but Douglas's was hopeless as the puncture was about six inches long. But we solved the problem of returning to Bedford on four bikes by improvising a saddle for Douglas on Simpson's cross-bar. At Kempston we sighted a 'bus, which Douglas chased for about half-a-mile and finally caught.

The rest of us continued to Ixworth Court without further mishaps or incidents. Douglas arrived a few minutes after us and we then began to make our maps as instructed by Mr. Douglas at the beginning of the day. These completed we departed, unanimously agreeing that it had been the best Field Day we had ever had.

J. H. JURY and H. L. H. SIMPSON.

CHESS CLUB REPORT

This term we experienced the loss of Walker, Blackmore and Cook, but were fortunate to welcome three new members, Ashwin, Baker and Bullen. There have been two tournaments, Apps won the first and Robbins was runner-up, while Robbins was victor in the second contest, with Burt second.

There has been great improvement in the play of Robbins, Franklin, Fletcher, Beeching and Simpson, and all of the new members show enthusiasm.

Mr. Broome's work in teaching us the intricacies of the game has proved invaluable, and we all unite in wholehearted appreciation of the trouble he has taken to organise tournaments and help individual members.

G. BURT.

ARE YOU DOING YOUR BIT?

As you sit of a night by the fireside,
While the wind howls and rages without,
Do you think of the gallant Eighth Army
Which has battled through floods and through drought?
Which is now fighting hard in the mountains,
Fighting hard that in peace we may live.
Do you bother to hasten the victory,
By not grudging each gift that you give?
Do you save that last bucket of fuel,
To save coal for munitions of war,
And make the output of the coalmine
Go further, each week, more and more?
Do you constantly save your waste paper
To help bring this war to an end?
Or do you go thriftlessly shopping
With the Squander Bug money to spend?
Do you think of the Russians advancing,

As the Hun they relentlessly rout?
Or do you give thought to our own countrymen
Who for victory are working all out?
Or do you remember the terrors
That German oppression brings,
And realise it might be you yourself next,
Covered by Invasion's dark wings?
So raise up the War Savings Standard,
Economise more and still more!
And by ungrudging help to our forces,
A quick end will be to this war.
And when once more we are all free from strife,
Then again the victorious army
Will settle down in civilian life,
In the peace they have bought so dearly.
And when those glad days are upon us all,
Let each one be able to say,
"By saving and helping the war efforts
We helped our forces to win the day."

R. E. HULBERT, *Form V.*

A DREAM

I wandered hand-in-hand with Sleep
During the tranquil moonlit hours;
We ope'd the gate of the land of Dreams
Where oblivion's bliss was ours.

There, a garden lay before my gaze
Filled with flowers of varied hue,
While my footsteps followed a grassy path
Which was sprinkled by the morning dew.

Sweet music I heard, soft and clear,
Played by one I spied beneath a tree
Who danced to that so gay enchanting air
With only the birds for company.

"Who are you?" I asked; he turned to me
With gallant bow and strange, sad smile,
"My name is Youth," and added with a sigh,
"But I live only for a while."

"For soon grave Manhood takes my place
When days of childish love and joy
Fade into memory, that blessed boon,
Which countless years can ne'er destroy."

Then, all at once while still I looked,
He vanished, and with him that lovely sight,
For the garden had gone; Sleep and my Dream,
Had gently left me, with the night.

R.E.L.G.

REMOVALS SERVICE

After the Original by K. Thompson, Form II.



MODERN ARCHITECTURE

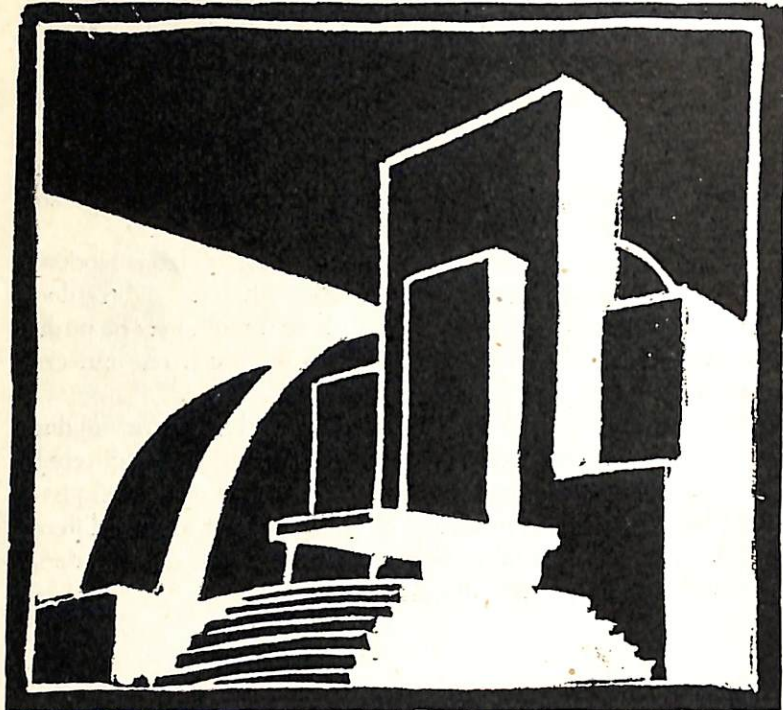
In modern architecture the chief basic material used is concrete cement mixed with gravel and sand, to which colours can be added for different effects and uses. The concrete used for building is strengthened with steel rods and girders; this reinforced concrete is extremely strong, and therefore gives the architect much more scope in his designing—buildings can be very tall, large windows and doors can be easily bridged by steel girders, and homes can be built on three or four pillars, raised into the air, thus leaving room for a garden or a road underneath.

This method of building gives us a way of preventing towns from spreading over the countryside. Tall blocks of flats can be constructed to house hundreds of people, the best ones being built for beauty as well as for convenience. The lifts, central heating, communal restaurants, nurseries and sport facilities incorporated in these buildings make daily life more pleasant and easy.

Concrete is used not only in the building of large blocks of flats, but in that of individual houses—with long sliding doors constructed so that the whole of one side of a room may be pushed aside, and flat roofs and wide balconies on which one can grow plants or sunbathe in warm weather.

Proper use of reinforced concrete has made modern buildings differ much in appearance from the old ones, but they still rely for their beauty on symmetry of line and simplicity of design, just as the old buildings did. The shapes of buildings may soon be different again as architects are already experimenting with novel materials and plastics such as glass, aluminium and bakelite.

A suggestion for the Entrance to a Swimming Bath at Rye.



R. MARSHALL.

OLD SCHOLARS

We are pleased to publish three articles by Old Scholars. The first is from our farthest south Old Scholar, John Smith, who was at School over a decade ago. He sent us a very interesting article about the Falkland Islands, but we can print only part of it, "The Falkland Islands To-day." We will, however, give a summary of his history of the islands.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TO-DAY

The Falkland Islands were discovered in 1592, but the name, after Lord Falkland, who was killed in the Battle of Newbury, was not given until 1690. France, Spain and Britain each had claims to the islands and each disputed those of the others and it was not until 1842 that Britain governed the islands. In 1849 the islands were garrisoned by a detachment of Chelsea pensioners, who were replaced ten years later by thirty-five marines.

The early industry of the Colony was the exploitation, mainly for their hides, of the wild cattle on the East Falkland Island. These were the descendants of the cattle introduced by de Bougainville and of later importations by the Spaniards.

Sheep farming was attempted first by the brothers Whittington on the East Falkland and by 1860 a considerable number of sheep were being run. Between 1870 and 1880 a definite changeover to sheep from cattle took place and subsequently all the wild cattle were killed off and are now extinct.

The Colony enjoyed a steady prosperity from the sale of its wool and in 1885 became entirely self-supporting.

The Islands were, it seems, but little remembered until December 8th, 1914, when they came before the public eye as a result of Sturdee's victory over Graf Von Spee.

Stanley is at once the capital and only town in the Islands and outside it there are about thirty settlements established as the headquarters of the farm stations into which the Colony is divided. Of these latter, Darwin is the principal on East Falkland and Fox Bay the principal centre on West Falkland. Communication between Stanley and the farms is carried out on horseback or by boat, as there are no railways and no roads except in the immediate vicinity of the capital.

On the farm stations sheep are run to the almost total exclusion of other animals. The area of a good-sized property is about 100,000 acres, which will carry 25,000 to 30,000 sheep—a ratio of acres to sheep which will not compare favourably with that in Great Britain. The total sheep population is in the neighbourhood of 500,000. The type of sheep which has been evolved as being most suitable to local conditions is a hardy cross-bred, with a predominant strain of Romney Marsh. No trade in frozen or canned meat exists and the sheep are bred solely for their wool, the production of which is about 4,000,000 pounds annually—being exported to the U.K. Whaling and sealing are the only industries in the Dependencies, South Georgia being the chief centre.

The nature of the soil throughout the greater part of the Islands is peaty and for this reason and because of the constant high winds and lack of sun, no trees grow and the vegetation is generally sparse. No foodstuffs are produced other than meat and vegetables. The only fuel available on the Islands is peat and it will be imagined, with coal costing about £9 per ton, that little else is burnt. The peat is cut during summer months and is stacked in “rickles” to dry, being later carted to where it will be consumed.

There are no extremes in the climate of the islands, but the seasonal changes are less noticeably defined than in Northern Europe. The winters are slightly colder and the summers much cooler, for example, than in London, which is about as far north of the equator as Stanley is south. Snow, sleet and hail may be expected at any time in the year but, even in winter, seldom stay long. The average rainfall is only twenty-six inches per year, although rain falls on two out of every three days. In the severity of their climate the Islands possess a valuable protection against contagious disease; on the other hand a robust constitution is needed to stand up to it and mental depression is readily induced and aggravated by the protracted periods of indoor confinement which are inevitable.

Game is comparatively rare except in certain areas where may be found snipe, teal and hares.

The Colony was constituted a Crown Colony under Letters Patent dated February 25th, 1892. It has no public debt and is entirely self-supporting. Owing to its invested funds taxation is light; Income Tax is 2s. 6d. in the £, and the only Customs Duties are levied upon imports of tobacco and alcoholic liquor and upon the export of wool.

It is the proud boast that it is the most British of all the Colonies; the population, including the Dependencies, numbering about 3,000, being almost exclusively of British descent. The Units of Weights and Measures and the Monetary system are the same as in the U.K., except that the Colony issues its own currency notes. Imperial notes are, however, legal tender.

The foregoing facts are a rough *précis* of the information contained in the *Falkland Islands Centenary Brochure* prepared in 1933 by J. M. Ellis, then Colonial Secretary. I trust I shall be forgiven if I have infringed any copyright held in respect of this publication.

HOLIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Jean Smith, who is nursing in the Middle East, has recently been on leave there and in an air mail letter to the Headmaster she gave an interesting description of her holiday. We have printed below extracts from her letter.

I have been back just three weeks from my second leave. This time I went to Syria and Palestine. Travelling by night we reached Haifa in the morning and went by “Wog” taxi to Beirut, stopping at a café on the shores of the Mediterranean for lunch. We arrived in Beirut at 5.30 p.m. and spent most of the first three days by the sea. The water was very warm and there was plenty of fresh fruit to be eaten. We saw and were greatly impressed by sailing ships running between Port Said and Beirut with nuts and spices. Most nights we danced at some really delightful places. In the day-time we walked through gold and silver markets, and we were amazed at the way the shops were planned in streets—streets of shoe-shops, streets of hat-shops, etc.

We met a Scotch Merchant Navy skipper, who gave a lovely picnic in the Lebanon for us. On Monday we visited Damascus over the Lebanon. We had lunch at the Omyad Hotel and tasted the famous peaches. In the markets we saw the brocade for which the town is famous being woven. We stopped in a place called Chtaura on the return journey, at a hotel surrounded by five trees almost on the top of the Lebanon. Inside were tapestry hangings, huge bowls of mountain flowers and the hotel's own wine press.

We went back to Haifa by car on the Wednesday and into Jerusalem on Thursday. I wish that I could have had a longer time

there, but we toured the old city and markets. We saw the Mount of Olives and went into the Church of All Nations—which impressed me most of all by its vastness and beauty—the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Golden Gate, which will open when Christ returns again. We visited King Solomon's Mines, the Mosque of the Ascension and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the latter we saw the cross and sword of the Crusaders.

On Friday morning we went to Bethlehem, seeing on the way the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Here we saw the famous Church of the Nativity, with the Star of Bethlehem and the Manger, which was unbelievably beautiful.

We returned *via* Haifa on Sunday, wishing the leave had been longer.

TEN DAYS

(*The Story of a Leave*)

I left Inverness at eleven o'clock and set off along the Caledonian Canal tow-path, swerving with the unaccustomed weight of the basket on my handle-bars and battling against a roaring head wind. The weather was grey but clear, in fact it might have been worse. At long last Castle Urquhart appeared, standing out clearly in an isolated shaft of sunlight, and very soon I was free-wheeling into Drumnadrochit valley, where it was such a relief to be sheltered from the gale. I stopped to explore Urquhart Castle, much bigger than it looks and with a well-restored keep.

At Invermoriston the hotel was very comfortable and they soon had a big tea of scones and girdle-cakes ready. After the meal I wandered out, watched a horse being shod and then went along the bank of the River Moriston. It runs in a deep rocky ravine, a brown and creamy raging torrent, with lovely pine and birch trees growing on its dim, mossy, shaded banks.

At 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday I set out on the road to Kyle, fifty-three miles away, in lovely sunny weather. The road ran through woods and heather-covered clearings beside the rushing Moriston, the birds were singing and everything smelt fresh and honey-scented. Soon I was in completely wild country, with no signs of civilisation at all. The further up the glen the narrower became the river and the high blue mountains in the distance loomed nearer and darker on each side of the road.

Dozens of rabbits were scurrying along in front of me and now and then the odd grouse got up with a squawk. At last Loch Cluanie appeared round the bend in the road—a long, narrow loch, with very few trees around and the great, bare, greeny-brown mountains rising from its banks. The road was still uphill and the country was really desolate and wild—not a thing anywhere, but great smooth-looking mountains, dull green grass, a few odd sheep and I. By now there was no river, the rushing Moriston had become a dwindling burn, high up in the mountains, and the road had taken a sudden twist.

Eventually I arrived at Shiel Bridge, but Kyle was twenty miles on; by now it was a gloriously warm sunny evening and Loch Duich, with the Five Sisters guarding the entrance to Glen Shiel at the far end, and the heather-covered hills and the pines reflected on its smooth golden surface, was a beautiful sight. The road by now was beginning to go almost straight up the side of a mountain and, what was a little discouraging, bits of it could be seen winding serenely on its way up above. The road winds capriciously and gaily over another young mountain in a ten-mile arc and you enter Kyle from the north.

At 9.30 on Wednesday I was down at the ferry waiting for a "kenny boat" to "speed" Archibald and myself "over the sea to Skye." The weather was damp and misty, not very inviting, but the sea was a clear green, you could see the dark red ribbons of sea-weed waving on the rocky floor of the harbour. As soon as Archibald and myself landed we were nearly driven back into the sea by a flock of sheep which were being driven out to this ship, but we negotiated them with luck and I pedalled up the bumpy stone jetty to Eyleakin. There is nothing to see here so I set out along the moorland road which follows the coast to Broadford. It began to drizzle so I stopped to get out my mac'—

"If you are a delicate man,

And of wetting your skin you are shy,

I'd have you know, before you go,

You'd better not think of Skye"—

and never a truer word written, for suddenly, without any warning, the gentle, quite pleasant drizzle had become a positive torrent—there were no raindrops at all, just a solid, unbroken sheet of water. All the scenery was blotted out, in fact, it was not a little discouraging, so when I saw a little general store, with a wide open

door, I parked Archibald and went inside, intending to shelter until the storm held off a bit.

At four o'clock it was still raining and I had twenty miles to go to the Sligachan Inn, where I had planned to stay the night, so I decided to take a bus; but there is no set time for buses in Skye—an hour either way is the accepted thing, but at last a bus *did* appear, and Archibald and I, pocketing our cyclist's pride, crept in. It was quite impossible to see any scenery through the rain, so we jolted along the amazingly bumpy road to Sligachan in damp resignation. At last we arrived and we were not disappointed by the attractive name of the Inn which was surrounded on three sides by the pointed, high hills and overlooked Loch Sligachan.

Thursday was clear and blue, with a strong wind, for once, blowing in the right direction! After about nine miles Portree Loch and the harbour came into view, a cluster of bright colours in the morning sun. The entrance to the harbour is guarded by two large, dark cliffs, the southerly one of which rejoices in the name of "the hump," and inside these the water was quite smooth and deep blue, with a few small ships afloat on it. Beyond was the green, red-coasted Island of Raasay.

The town of Portree is very small, built in a large open square, which has a decided Georgian atmosphere about it. There were very few people about and when one did pass two women out for the morning's shopping the odds were that they would be gossiping in Gaelic. I cycled down to the harbour, which was very like a Cornish one, with the little stone houses built along the quay, and decided to have a "cupper." The sea looked so inviting that I asked the waitress if there was any chance of a sail and she sent me down to the quay to find her brother, he was mending nets and said he would take me out at six in the evening. Then he came hopping along on his one leg to say that he had to help unload a ship that evening, but he had arranged for me to go fishing with Mr. Nicolson. This was even better, so we set off in a little motor-boat. The two fishermen who accompanied us spoke Gaelic but very little English. We were out after lythe—large haddock-like fish, which were caught off the coast of Raasay. It was lovely whizzing over the calm water between the two dark sentinel rocks, with their silver-sanded bays, out into the open sea. When we got to Raasay, we cut off the engine and let out a line each, weighted with a large hook, choicely baited with a green or orange rubber worm. Suddenly

my line jerked and I hauled in the first fish, a lythe about eighteen inches long, and two minutes later, another! And so we went on, catching lythe and mackerel until the bottom of the boat was covered with flapping fish. When it was almost dark we wound in our lines and set back for Portree. Mr. Nicolson was very interested to hear of the way we fish in Sussex and said he always thought the only fishermen came from the North.

On Saturday I set out again and was able to see something of the glorious scenery which had been hidden in the rain when I had arrived. At Broadford the road, now a shingled track, branched westward over moors and eventually into a more wooded part. After waiting at Armadale, suddenly the little grey steamer slid round the corner of the cliff, put in at the pier and we all went on board. The short crossing to Mallaig took about half-an-hour, in which time Skye and her rugged Cuillins slid back into the blue mist, the peaks of Rum and the flatter hills of Eigg appeared and the silver sands of Mallaig, a tiny fishing village built on a hill, emerged from the misty distance. Mallaig is the last stop on the traditional "Road to the Isles," so has a good harbour and a railway station out of all proportion to its size. A first class corner seat was a comfort and I settled down for the journey south. I changed at Griendarich and eventually arrived at Killin at 6 p.m.

On Sunday I set out for Rannoch by the road on the south side of Loch Tay. Here the contrast with Skye and the west coast was striking. Gone was the bleak, aloof grandeur and in its place came the rich green of pines, the delicacy of the silver birches and the green grass, all combining to make a mere luxuriant beauty, although both kinds were perfect in their own way.

The road along the lochside passed between birch woods and bracken, with glimpses of Loch Tay, and the foothills of Ben Lawers to be seen now and again through the trees. Suddenly, big splashes of rain began to fall and I was just able to get into the hotel at Lawery Ferry when the torrent started with a vengeance. The rain had obviously come to stay so I set out again, splashing along the hilly little road until I arrived at Kenmore. This was a quaint little village with one street, so wide that it was almost a square, with the church at one end and the stone gates of Taymouth Castle at the other. Low, white, gabled houses, it looked more like a Wiltshire village than a Scottish one.

From there I went on to Loch Rannoch, where I spent the night.

On Monday once again the morning was grey and at eleven o'clock I started along the north road to cycle round the loch. This road was a B classification, the same as those in Skye, but it was Oxford Street in comparison, wide and smooth, with no pot-holes. Silver birch fronds drooped over it and moss-covered banks met the bracken and heather growing in the woods. Standing in the middle of a loch was a dear little castle on a wee island about ten feet square; it was built for the birds and there were dozens roosting on the walls. The road was very pretty and the sun had come out, although now and then there were short showers. When I got back to Rannoch the wind had freshened again, so that it was almost impossible to pedal up the hill to the hotel.

After Tuesday's breakfast I started along the road to Tunnel on the north side of the river. It was a glorious ride, the wide, gushing River Tunnel rushed along the side of the road, hidden in a deep ravine, darkly screened by pines and birches. Each bend of the heather-bordered road revealed some fresh beauty spot. Eventually a gleam of silver appeared through the trees. Loch Tunnel is very different from Loch Rannoch, it has more birches round it and there are wooded islands dotted on its surface, giving a more sheltered, friendly, fertile atmosphere. I asked a farm-boy the way to Loch Bhaec. He had been there only once in his life, but at last, with a slight idea of where it was, I set out to climb the hill in front of the farm. The moor was very undulating, the peaks of blue-grey mountains jutted up above its purple boundary. The black-faced sheep started up in outraged indignation as I pushed on, and now and then a covey of grouse got up with a squawk and a whirring of wings. After a time the track led downhill and suddenly, there was Loch Bhaec, lying in a shallow hollow. Having forded a burn, with great luck I hit the right-of-way track and was able to follow it. Coming over the crest of a rather higher wave of the moor the Pass of Killiecrankie suddenly came into view far below in the valley. The smoke of a train wove in and out of the hills, cows were dotted about like toys and the village looked like a model. At the bottom I covered up my red jersey and, with fingers crossed, started to cross a field full of cows. Half-way across a man appeared and he told me I was at Struan and asked where I had come from. At first he would not believe from Tunnel across the moors, he had known the country all his life, yet a few years ago he had got lost up by Loch Bhaec and had to stay there all night, so how any one

who was a complete stranger could find the way was a mystery.

I went into the big farmhouse kitchen, where a woman was making girdle scones. I had a supper of boiled eggs and was led into the sitting room. Here the lighting was the height of modernity—a large iron cylinder of gas on the floor was connected to the jet by a long lead pipe!

On Wednesday, about half-an-hour after setting out for Pitlochry, along the road I had so wearily tramped the night before, it began to rain. I decided to go straight back to Inverness by the next train and not to wait till the early one next morning.

At Inverness I hurtled through the streets on a dripping Archibald, hoping that nobody would notice me in such a tatty state.

So ended my ten days' leave, in which I was able to see enough of Scot'and to make me determined to go back there one day and see it all again and more besides. There never was better advice to follow than that in the little poem I found in a book in the hotel at Loch Rannoch:

Where hangs the deep blue vault of heaven,
Star-powdered, flashing gold,
Where sing our hills the same sweet song,
The tale is never old;
Where flaming colours spreads the sun,
Where westering shadows glow,
Where everything in nature calls—
Oh! pack your kit and go!

“JULIAN.”

The author of this article is an Old Scholar in the Services who wishes to remain incognito.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Peter Abbott (1942) visited the School recently, after finishing an extensive course in the R.A.F. He arrived just in time to hear the Sixth Form part in the Speech and Music Competition.

Winnie Allen (1941) wrote to the Headmaster from Reading University, where she is in her third year. She gave useful information for intending students at Reading and expressed her desire to help any such students.

Geoff Ashdown (1941) has written again from Yorkshire and his reminiscences of the moors delighted the Headmaster.

Jean Austen (1942) has moved from Pembury Hospital and is now fever nursing at East Malling Hospital, near Maidstone. Jean said with gratitude that her biology lessons and the first-aid learnt at Rangers have proved to be very useful.

Mr. Bagley, who left us in 1941 to take up a position in the Meteorological Department of the Air Ministry, has since joined the Royal Air Force. We congratulate him, and on the birth of a daughter in October.

The Headmaster received a long letter from Joan Beasley (1942), who is still working at the Abbey Building Society at Bath. Joan, who was School Tennis Captain in 1942, has been maintaining the reputation of R.G.S. at tennis in the West Country. She sent an interesting reminiscence of Mr. Broome and cricket at Robertsbridge, and like many other old pupils, Joan enquired after Mr. Biddle. He is still afloat with his destroyer, H.M.S. *Westminster*. His address is c/o G.P.O., London.

Cynthia Breeds has completed her course at Salisbury Training College and is now teaching at Sedlescombe.

We heartily congratulate Jack Carey (1939), who has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. He put out a fire in the 'plane and helped to get his Lancaster home safely.

We are glad to hear that Bob Burnett recovered from appendicitis. Bob visited the School during the first week of the Easter Term and is now at Leighton Buzzard.

Wally Colvin returned to School this term for a few weeks before going to New College, Oxford, to take up an R.A.F. Short Course. He has returned to Bedford twice since then and managed to be present at the Meryon party. Wally has gained a place in his College soccer eleven and we hope to see him in the University eleven before long.

Peter Cooper is abroad in the Royal Navy. His ship was sunk but he is safe.

Will Dunlop, the Secretary of the Old Scholars' Association, has visited the School and recruited promising School footballers to sign on for Icklesham Casuals. As usual Will gave us an interesting account of his travels about England and also several useful hints for successful hitch-hiking.

From Pat Green comes an interesting letter about life in Scotland. She says that the future of education is a widely-discussed topic in the Services. In her letter Pat included news of Winnie Kempton,

who is in the A.T.S. near London and who is hoping to take a commission.

We were sorry to hear that Harry Kennard had fractured his spine in a fifteen feet fall, but glad to know that the injury will not harm him for life. Harry was School Football and Cricket Captain, 1941-42, and will always be remembered for his diving at the first Swimming Sports at Hastings when he was only in Form II. Since he left School in July, 1942, Harry has been working in Rye and has given good service to Icklesham Casuals, both as a player and as treasurer. He was, also, elected as a member of the Committee of the Old Scholars' Association.

A younger Old Scholar, Peter Kennett, from Newhaven, is at school at Workington and doing very well.

Kitty King visited us at half-term. She is teaching in Hastings after a two years' course at Avery Hill.

After a six months' course at Balliol College, Oxford, M. S. Lansky (1943) is in the Navy. He was on H.M.S. *Norfolk* which played a prominent part in the action against the *Scharnhorst*.

Philip Mead (1943) is at Leeds University studying agriculture. He visited the School on the last afternoon of term; from his description, college life consists of Senior Training Corps and dances.

We have heard more than once from Joe Mewse, who is still with his Askaris in the Middle East.

Eileen Munday, Senior Girl, 1942-43, is teaching at Catsfield.

Olive Paine (1942), who is in her second year at Bishop Otter College, has sent the Headmaster a most helpful letter on the possibilities of parents' associations.

John Pulford, School Captain and Editor of *Nova Rya*, is now in the R.A.F. and at the same station as Webb.

Doug. Renville (1941) of Newhaven is stationed at Norwich, where he is training with the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Another Newhaven boy, A. E. Marson (1942), who was, until recently, working in the Inland Revenue Department at Lewes, has taken an Engineering Cadetship at Birmingham.

We have heard again from Margaret Sands who was a very popular girls' captain some years ago. She is thinking of specialising in commercial subjects now that she has had some experience in a Middlesex Central School.

Pete Shearer (1941), who was a popular and promising sportsman at School and who has also played regularly for Icklesham Casuals, hopes to go to an O.C.T.U. shortly.

G. R. Smith, who has been stationed in the Highlands of Scotland and in South Wales, has moved nearer home and is now in Kent.

Elsewhere in this number there is an extract of an article on the Falkland Islands, which was written by John Smith. He is still the farthest south of Old Scholars, but he remembered the School at Christmas and sent a cablegram wishing us a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Jean Smith has sent a Christmas airgraph to the School. Extracts of a letter from Jean are printed elsewhere.

Bruce Simpson has been travelling round the world since he visited us last Whitsun. We hope to hear some interesting stories from him when he returns.

The School was glad to hear that H. R. Spedding, who had been posted as missing, had been made a prisoner of war. He had been loaned by the Fleet Air Arm to the Royal Air Force for night-flying and had made several intruder raids on Europe. During one of these raids his Mosquito was badly damaged, but he managed to come down safely in Holland. Spedding had commanded his Squadron and had recently been seconded for duty at the Admiralty.

Peter Swaine is still in the East.

We have heard that Ken Ellis, who has been with the Royal Air Force in South Africa for three years, is expected home soon.

On the last day of term we heard from Graham Smith, School Captain, 1941, who is training at Maidstone, Kent. He recently spent a few days' leave at the same time as Alan Smith, School Captain, 1939, and was looking forward to another leave soon after Christmas.

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The sympathy of the School is extended to all who knew and loved those Old Scholars who have been reported "missing": C. Austin, D. Baker, R. Bates, T. Montague and K. Williams.

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We are happy and relieved to hear that W. Allen and W. Head are prisoners of war and safe.

The Headmaster was pleased to receive Christmas greetings from: M. S. Lansky, R. Axell, A. Swaine, Pat Green, W. M. Smith, Margery Smith, Joan Beasley, R. V. Burnett, Mr. Metianu, J. Hunstep, Cynthia Breeds, P. J. Mead, John Ford, Mary Foster, W. Colvin, Eileen Munday, Joan Hoad, Marjorie Jezzard, J. Meuse, Mr. Biddle, J. Sweatman, J. Pulford.

MRS. GLENISTER

The School learnt with sorrow of the death of Mrs. Glenister and extends its heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Miss Glenister on their bereavement.

During the first two years of the evacuation Mrs. Glenister readily accepted the responsibility of teaching music in the School and her pupils will remember her patient tuition with gratitude. Both Mr. and Mrs. Glenister took a great interest in the School and especially in those scholars who, having been evacuated from Newhaven and Seaford, were new to R.G.S. Since they returned to Newhaven they have always kept in touch with School affairs.

We wish to express our gratitude to the memory of one of the many friends who have given us service during the difficulties of evacuation.

THE EDITORS.

SCHOLARS OLD AND NEW

Scholars who left between September, 1942 and July, 1943:

FORM VI (Upper)—*T. R. Cowper, *M. S. Lansky, P. J. Mead, J. S. L. Pulford.

FORM VI (Lower)—*Jean Austen, Eileen Munday, *R. Andrews.

FORM V (Remove)—Joan Hoad, G. Green.

FORM V—Helen Mills, *P. Butchers.

FORM IV—*Elizabeth Ellis, *R. Adams.

FORM IIIA—*R. Hood.

FORM IIIB—*P. Kennett, *Sweatman, *J. Suttaby.

**Left before July, 1943.*

Scholars who joined in September, 1943 :

FORM II—Ruth Arnold, Audrey Ashdown, Betty Banister, Barbara Brett, Shiela Crouch, Phyllis Doel, Jill Dunster, Pat Eastwood, Elaine Frostick, Susan Gilbert, Helen Gill, Alison Hilder, Barbara Jarvis, Isobel King, Mary Metianu, Pat Payne, Gillian Pratt, Anne Teasdale, June Terry, Daphne Weeks, B. Baker, D. Boyce, J. Dunster, N. Godden, W. Hartill, Nye, Petherwick, G. Simmons, D. Simpson, A. Smith, E. Sutton, K. Thompson.

FORM IV—A. Watts.

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 *Nova Rya*, Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are available and will be forwarded to those who desire them.

Our address remains :—

Ixworth Court,
41 Kimbolton Road,
Bedford, Beds.