

DEVONPORT
High School
MAGAZINE

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The Devonport High School Magazine.

No. 96.

DECEMBER, 1948

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(All contributions for publication should be addressed to the Editors, Devonport High School Magazine, c/o the Headmaster, Devonport High School, ; and should be written legibly, and on one side of foolscap paper only).

Editorial.

By the time this edition of the Magazine is in print even the most junior member of the first form will have realised that a great change is taking place in the school. An era in the School's history is now drawing to its close and a new one is about to commence. The retirement of the present Headmaster and the appointment of his successor mark a stage in the history of the School as a change of government marks a stage in the history of the country.

At such times it is impossible to avoid certain recapitulations. A more detailed appreciation of the great work performed by Mr. Buckley will follow, but it will perhaps not be out of place to consider here some of the outstanding events in his eventful term of office. Some of those which have taken place during the last seven years have been such as must be accepted as unavoidable in a school of the standing of Devonport High School. Other changes have been far from usual. The reference of course is to the complete transfer of a school from Penzance to Plymouth, and the welding of this School and a half of the Emergency High School into a homogenous whole.

This transfer has not been rendered any easier by the fact that the School did not even return to its old buildings but to new quarters, which, during the war, had been used, not as a school, but as a hospital. Senior members of the School will remember days when only a certain proportion of the windows of any one form-room could be paned with glass, and the large notices of "Dormitory" and "Sick Quarters" at the entrances to the classrooms, which, noticed for the first time, produced many witty comments.

Not only did such physical difficulties have to be overcome by Mr. Buckley and his staff, but they also had to revive and rejustify the high reputation which Devonport High School had previously held amongst all Plymouth schools. This task has been most successfully performed as may be seen from the School reports given by the Headmaster at our Speech Days. Even more valuable evidence is furnished by the very fine results obtained by the School in the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations, in the gaining of University Scholarships, and Posts in the Civil Service and other spheres of public life; in the Rugger, Soccer, Cricket and Athletic spheres, and in such cultural activities as the Dramatic Society's well-appreciated performance of last year.

The School has now gained for itself a most enviable position in the educational world of Plymouth. As has been often remarked, the high reputation which the School enjoys is obvious from the eagerness of boys from the Primary schools to come to D.H.S.

Besides this great achievement, of establishing the School again, almost from scratch, the School has, under the guidance of Mr. Buckley, weathered the usual storms which attend the progress of any Grammar School.

Boys have become men, and Prefects have come and gone; more than one School Captain also has served the School and then left for the larger world of life. The Staff, too, has changed from time to time, as might be expected. New members of the Staff have been welcomed, but the School has continued to build up a permanent tradition in all spheres.

The work of the School Magazine during this period has been to produce, for outsiders and for us, a true and reliable record of the School's varied activities, and to publish the best of the School's literary compositions. The School Magazine as a public record has been aided by its sister publication—the "New Writing" which, as a more private journal, created primarily for the School, has founded a most praiseworthy literary tradition.

Thus it can be seen that, in Mr. Buckley's period of office, great things have been done by the School even while going through one of the most difficult periods of its development.

School Notes

By the time these notes appear in print Christmas will be near and we shall be looking forward to all that that means to us. The first term of a new school year will be nearly over. We must take stock of our position. Those who have examinations at the end of the year should ask themselves whether they are as far on the road as they should be, and what they propose to do about it.

The appointment this term of D. Miles of Upper 6 Sc. as the new School Captain was undoubtedly wise and popular. It is a post calling for grip and dignity, tact and drive; and we feel more and more as the term progresses that Miles will fill the bill. He must be backed by all the loyalty that the School can give. We wish him everything good for his term of office.

We welcome the new boys who have now settled down as Forms I., while we point out that they have three duties to do—to their homes, to their School, and to themselves. The last is bound up in the other two. A boy who is loyal to his School and his home will be loyal to himself; by working for them he will be working for himself. We remind them too that they have an obligation to be honest and courteous, mannerly and well-spoken. They owe that to the School and to the citizens of Plymouth. Bearing those things in mind and acting upon them, they should—and we hope they will—have a happy and useful period of school life, work hard all the time they are with us, and leave behind a memory of glory won for self and school academically and on the sports field.

Many Old Boys have been in to see us this term, and we are glad to see them and to know what they are doing. Courtesy demands that they should first contact the Headmaster, who will be equally pleased to see them. To all boys who left us last term we wish the best of luck.

There used to be a tradition that boys leaving us should present a book to the School Library. It was a commendable practice linking the donor to the School and providing a useful amenity to those yet to leave. We suggest that its revival would not be misunderstood.

The Inter-Schools Debate at Plymouth College was rather disappointing as we could hear less than one word in six. Ten seconds seemed too many. The subject was not open to discussion by the general audience, and we feel sure that there were many who wanted to speak. What we did hear gave us the impression that the speeches were good. We thank the Plymouth College Society for our opportunity of being there.

By the time you read this many of us will have been to the Shakespere Society's presentation of "The Merchant of Venice" at the Globe Theatre. All enlightened citizens of Plymouth must be grateful to the authorities at the Marine Barracks for their readiness to grant the use of one of the few good stages available to amateurs. We, as a school, are grateful to the Shakespere Society for their continued and successful efforts to present the plays to the general public and to the younger generation. Until we have seen him acted we know very little of Shakespere's greatness. Acting makes the whole thing real. Bravo! Shakespere Society!

Matches between the Staff and the boys are always exciting affairs, and those already played have proved to be no exception. *Anno domini does tell.* The importance of it all is the preservation of that spirit between Staff and boys that has done so much to make the School so good. An account of the matches appears in this issue.

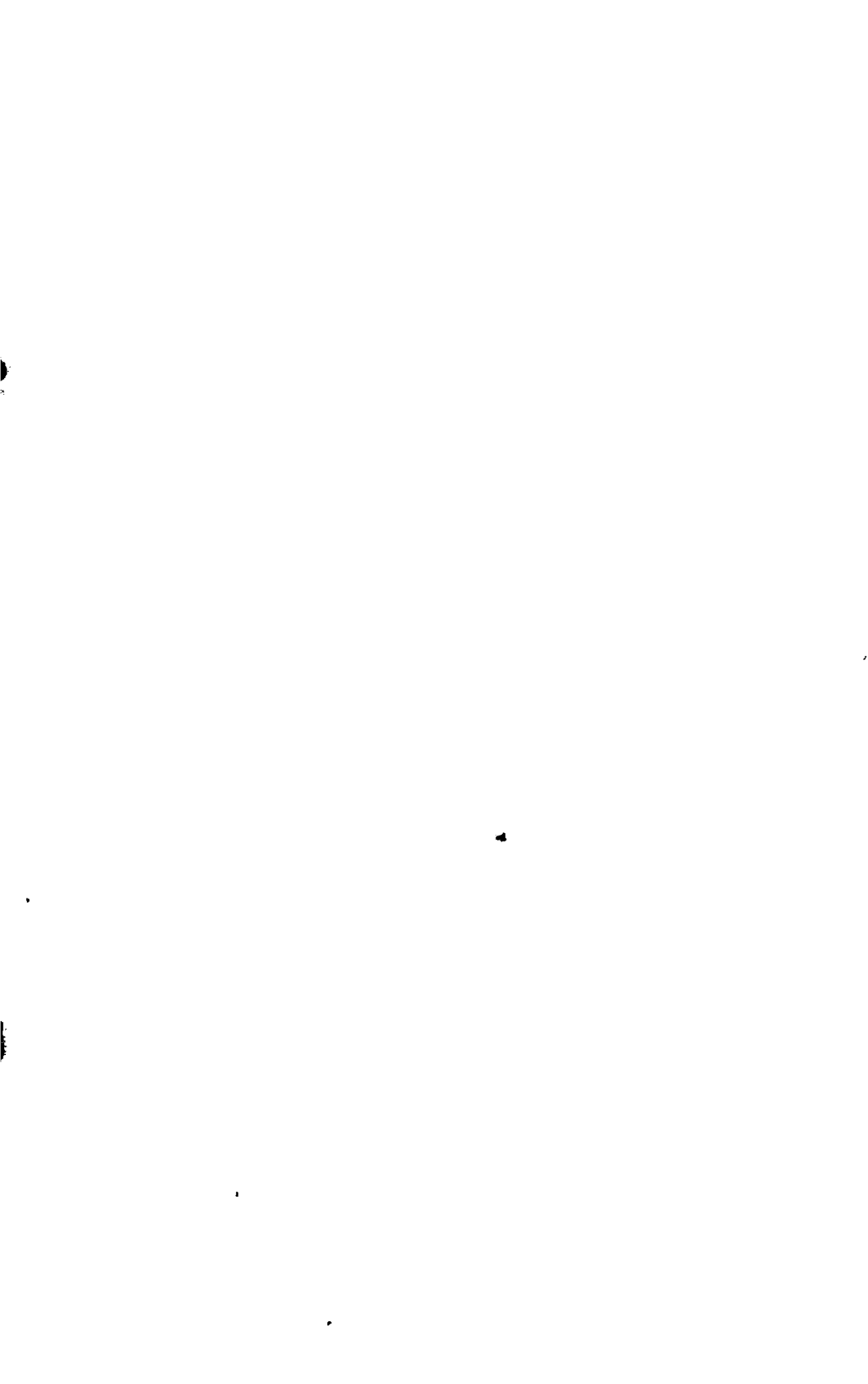
There appears too an account of Lady Astor's visit to us to present the Astor Prize for a second time in two years. She comes in like a breath of fresh air, almost whips us off our feet, blows away many of the cobwebs that we may have allowed to gather round our ideas, stirs us to frequent laughter, but leaves us like a house that has been spring-cleaned. She directs the fresh air of her wit against the clatter of convention that the sun may pierce the ways of life and that we may see in them much of their moral significance. The Headmaster expressed what we feel more gracefully than we can. We thank her for her visit and hope she may come to us again for the same purpose next year.

At last many of our big rooms have been adequately divided, not that that will give us more room, but we shall have more comfortable and more easily-worked quarters. We have not gained in accommodation as we have had to relinquish two more rooms in Block B.

The new Headmaster, Mr. Barker, was appointed this term, and we had the pleasure of meeting him at Assembly. He thanked Mr. Buckley for giving him the opportunity of seeing us, and for giving to us the almost unique experience of seeing two appointed Headmasters in the School at the same time.

It is not our place here to write a eulogy of the Headmaster. We wish him all he would wish himself and "then some," as the Americans say, and hope that he will live long in happy retirement, sampling with Mrs. Buckley the joys of freedom.

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By courtesy of "The Western Independent"

W. H. BUCKLEY, Esq., B.A., B.Sc., F.R.ECON.S.

Our Retiring Headmaster

Mr. W. H. BUCKLEY

A Tribute

Mr. Buckley came to Devonport High School in January, 1942, during the period of evacuation to Penzance, when organisation was difficult, and was made even more so by the bombing of a hostel, and by the fact that we were working in no less than nine buildings. Over three years later we returned to our present premises in Devonport, took to ourselves those elements of the School that had remained in Plymouth, and fused them into a new whole that not only retained the old traditional spirit of D.H.S., but absorbed and made positive a fresh and more tolerant outlook.

It was a long process calling for tact and patience. There were changes of staff when good men were difficult to get. The present spirit of camaraderie and co-operation is due to Mr. Buckley's wise choice of men who would fit into a preconceived scheme, and who at the same time were prepared to see that the school lost none of its academic desire or keenness for out-of-school activities.

Our sports records, our honours boards, and School Certificate, Higher School, and other successes are evidence of the vitality and quality of the School. Only those who have been intimately concerned with these things know to what extent we are indebted to our retiring Headmaster; and only he really knows what our continued success has cost him in energy, anxiety and organizing ability.

He is a man of wide experience and knowledge, tactful, fore-bearing, tenacious when necessary, tolerant at all times, loath to inflict pain of any sort; and if he has a fault it is a tendency to be too kind and to give the culprit the benefit of the doubt. He forced no issue as long as things were going in the right way as he conceived it, but was prepared to let them develop naturally, to progress slowly perhaps but surely towards the goal that he had set.

No member of the staff, no boy, ever went to him in trouble and came away frustrated. Many of us have been cheered by his practical sympathy in our hours of need; none has asked in vain. The apparent simplicity of his character was a cloak for a shrewdness and a knowledge of the ways of life that became evident to the onlooker only on contemplation. He looked for the best in others, expected it of them, and was rarely disappointed, because of a faith in human nature and a trust in a sense of duty in most men; so he rarely interfered unless asked for advice, was not fussy,

provoked no dissension and suffered none ; yet when he thought fit he acted with a speed and a shrewdness that surprised and confounded. The happiness and efficiency of the School was a measure of its Headmaster.

How much he owed to Mrs. Buckley he alone can say. We know her as one who played her part in the social life of the School ; quiet, unobtrusive, sweet yet graceful, gracing our functions with an easy dignity and a charm born of sincerity and friendliness. She had no desire to be in the picture but was always there when the occasion demanded her presence. She made a fitting counterpart to the Headmaster's natural grace and dignity.

Always at his best on public occasions, he was a master of the apposite word and of the telling phrase that were aesthetically satisfying to the discriminating, and he rounded the whole with a subtle story on a touch of humour. Not until he has left us shall we know what we have lost. He goes to a retirement that will, we are sure, be but a continuation of earlier activities. To him and to Mrs. Buckley we wish a long, healthy and happy future.

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“TWELVE CENTS ” or “WHAT GOODWILL ?”

(With apologies to William Shakespeare).

If dollars be the price of love, pay on,
 Give us excess of them, that surfeiting
 The markets sure may sicken, and so die—
 That drain again ! it was a fatal fall—
 O, it comes o'er our land from the sweet West,
 Breathes upon our bank and sterling notes,
 Stealing while giving credit—enough, no more—
 'Tis not so sure now as it was before.
 O Spirit of Love, how slow and stale art thou !
 But notwithstanding thy capacity—
 We take it, like a sponge—nought enters here
 But what is swallowed up in bills and credit,
 And falls into abatement through high price,
 Even in a minute ! So full of debts is England
 That thoughts of Plenty now are high fantastical.

D. SHARE, Form 6 Arts.

Garden Party and School Display

JULY, 1948

The weather on Saturday, 17th July, was, unfortunately, very wet, and so the School Garden Party had to be held under cover. An encouragingly large number of visitors, however, braved the elements and helped to make the function a success.

The Headmaster addressed the visitors in the Assembly Hall and introduced Mrs. E. L. Winnicott, J.P., who was to perform the opening ceremony.

Mrs. Winnicott spoke of the high reputation of the School in all spheres and of the great influence of so many scholars. She also praised the work the Parents' Association was doing and declared the "indoor garden party" open.

Mrs. F. M. Kenshole, Secretary of the Parents' Association, spoke of the need for increased membership, particularly in the winter months.

In the gymnasium there was a Physical Education Display, organised by Mr. Nash, which included free-standing exercises, vaulting and a tumbling act.

The various scientific displays were, as usual, both interesting and informative. The chemistry display consisted of demonstrations of organic chemistry and of the methods used for the recovery of valuable materials from laboratory waste. The physics demonstration comprised experiments in general physics, heat, light, sound and electricity. In the biology laboratory were many examples of the different forms of life to be found in the world. A film of the school sports was also on view.

Another most intriguing display was that of models on the ground floor of Block D. Examples of modelling in a wide range of mediums were displayed.

A display of great interest to the younger visitors (though its appeal was not limited to the young) was the "Punch & Judy" show run by the brothers Cross. This was a most polished performance of the old comedy with a few additions in the traditional manner.

Side shows were ably organised by the Men's Committee, and light refreshments were served in the cloisters.

The climax of the afternoon's proceedings was the concert (by members of the Staff and boys) held in the evening. The choir was directed by Mr. R. H. Symons (whose departure is much regretted), and reached its usual high standard. Individual items were also excellent, and the whole formed a most entertaining performance.

Once again the School Garden Party had helped to maintain the all-important contact between parent and School.

The Staff Match

It was a very tired Staff XI which gave three cheers to the victorious School team after this year's match. The School had won 3—1, but it would have been a larger margin had it not been for Mr. Adams in the Staff goal.

The teams were :

Staff—Mr. Adams ; Mr. Carter, Mr. Tamblin ; Mr. May, Mr. Warne Mr. Poole ; Mr. Mallinson, Mr. Barkell (Capt.), Mr. Reynish, Mr. Wayne, Mr. Vanstone.

School—Hitchens ; Watson, Bossom ; Tremeer, Letcher (Capt.), Boyce ; Bramich, Cottrell, Townsend, Davis, Thompson.

Letcher won the toss and soon after the kick-off the Staff were on the attack. A shot from Mr. Barkell forced Hitchens to fall on the ball at Mr. Reynish's feet. When the School attacked Cottrell shot over the bar following a corner from the right. The School got the ball into the net but the goal was disallowed for offside. After eleven minutes' play the Staff took the lead through Mr. Reynish, who was allowed to score whilst the School defence waited for each other to clear ; but the School were soon on level terms. Townsend found the ball at his feet and the goal a yard or so away from him and made no mistake. So half-time saw the scores level 1—1.

Soon after the restart Davis forced Mr. Adams to dive full length to divert the ball round the post. After four minutes' play in this half, Bramich, who had been finding the left wing position a bit difficult, gave Townsend a perfect opening, and the School were in the lead. Soon after this Mr. Wayne hit the foot of the post with a great shot from outside the penalty area. The School were having the most of the play now, and Cottrell went near with a header. The same player put the School two up after 50 minutes' play. Davis rattled the cross-bar, and from the rebound Townsend headed into Mr. Adams' arms. Play was suddenly switched to the other end by means of a great dribble by Mr. Barkell, but his final pass to Mr. Vanstone was just a little too far ahead. This roused the Staff, and at one time all the Staff XI (with one exception !) were in the School half. Cottrell had bad luck four minutes from the end when a left-foot shot taken on the run struck the post.

The Staff attack was well led by Mr. Barkell, and Mr. Wayne proved a very capable inside left. In defence, Mr. Adams kept goal exceptionally well and Mr. Warn got through a lot of work at centre-half.

In the School team, Cottrell fitted in well, and the shooting of the inside trio gave no cause for complaint. The wing-halves, Tremeer and Boyce, were grand both in attack and defence, and Letcher, who held the defence together, was well backed up by Bossom and Watson.

“SOCCERATES.”

An Article for the School Magazine

I think that every boy at one stage during his school career is called upon to contribute something for the school magazine. His reaction to the problem depends mainly on his disposition. Some boys write for the pleasure it gives them, others for personal gain, and some under compulsion, and needless to say, I come under the latter category.

I suppose that the main function of a school magazine is to prove that the school is still in existence and still has an occasional pupil or two, although at times I feel thoroughly convinced that it is only to show the Old Boys that we are capable of writing equally drab articles as were printed in their days. Of course, I hasten to add that this is merely my opinion, just in case any reader has an idea of executing the present editor and placing me on the editor's pedestal. Magazine articles are a necessity, because there are always a few blank pages which have to be filled, and preference should be shown to articles contributed by the Juniors. Not only would this encourage the growth of literature throughout the School but it would relieve the already overworked Seniors of this distasteful task.

When a boy wishes to write an article for the School Magazine he is given a completely free hand in his choice of subject and style. His effort may be witty or sarcastic, historically true, or dealing with some modern topic, but it must be good literature. There are a few boys who consider themselves poets, and in my opinion even a few are too many. Without underestimating the skill required to write a poem, I think it is most humiliating after patiently plodding through the editorial and the report on School activities to be confronted with a few lines of meaningless verse. A magazine article is usually about seven hundred and fifty words in length, and of course there are various conditions of entry, such as writing on only one side of the paper, and so on.

The amusing side of writing an article is when it is passed back by some harrassed schoolmaster who considers it unsuitable. Being a great believer in giving credit where credit is due, I readily praise them on their diplomacy. They rarely say that the article is unsuitable, but adopt other tactics. The old favourite is to say that although the effort is good it is too short and must be rewritten, knowing all the time that the magazine must go to print that day, and that there isn't time.

I have previously written that a magazine article should contain humour and have a style, so there are at least two reasons why this article will never go to print (That is one reason for printing it.—Editor), but since I haven't the time to write another one I will pass it in as an example of how an ideal school magazine article should not be written.

W. STARKS, Form 6 Science.

Lady Astor's Visit

This year the School once again welcomed Lady Astor, who, on 19th October, came to present the Astor Essay prize to J. D. Hoskin for his essay on Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Headmaster, in welcoming Lady Astor, said that there were three reasons why he was glad that the prize had once again come to the School ; he was proud that we had won it against keen competition ; it meant that Lady Astor would visit the School again ; and lastly, as he was retiring at Christmas, she would probably be his last official distinguished visitor, and he could desire no better one.

Lady Astor said that even if Mr. Buckley had not forgotten her previous speech, she had. In his welcome he had made her sound like an "ancient historic monument"—she was thirty two and intended to stay that age for the rest of her life ! She remarked that she was definitely not a "refined" lady, but belonged rather to the Elizabethan era, believing in God, in spiritual and moral values, and in England. She begged the boys not to leave England, which, with its honesty and justice, would always hold a place among the great powers of the world, and which, because of its democracy, would always be linked with America. Lady Astor said that if, in both war and peace, people could sacrifice their lives to save others, surely we should try to live to serve others. In this matter we should all study the life of that great General Robert E. Lee. Lastly, Lady Astor envied the teachers their "patience and kindness." She would not spare the rod on any children, and it had not been spared on her. Spoilt children, she said, would ruin the world.

Councillor Bradley, Chairman of the Education Committee, thanked Lady Astor both for the subject matter of the speech and for its delivery. He also congratulated the School on its examination results.

THE LOCAL REGATTA

That something out of the ordinary was taking place at St. Mawes was obvious from the string of weather-worn and smoke-stained buntings, probably at one time brightly coloured, which stretched between the masts of the ferry-boat. The general impression was heightened by the large number of craft—yachts, pulling-boats and motor-boats, which were heading in the direction of St. Mawes, or manoeuvring a short distance outside the harbour. Rumours of a regatta there had led us to make this voyage, and now that we had paid, there was no turning back. On our arrival at the little fishing village, the sight of a thick cable stretched across the harbour, to mark out the course for the intended aquatic sports and to provide anchorage for those boats whose occupants wished to witness them at close hand, confirmed the truth of the rumours.

Because of the excellent vista of the yacht racing that could be obtained from it, it was decided to pay a visit to the castle. A ten-minutes' walk and an admission charge of three-pence brought us to the battlements of that celebrated fortification, which commands a view of Falmouth harbour and a large part of Carrick Roads. A yacht-race was now in progress, and the competitors, having swept into the bay on the outward lap before a fair wind, were now tacking back towards the harbour and the finish of the race. A large green fishing craft was fairly close in, heeled well over and travelling fast. She came up into the wind, a momentary fluttering of white canvas and her sails filled on the other tack as she went about. The second boat was a good three hundred yards behind ; a few minutes and the leader had passed beyond the wall of the harbour, and the report of a gun, followed by an outburst of sound from the town band, which was apparently stationed there, confirmed her victory. The rest of the afternoon we spent at the castle, either watching the races or inspecting the armoury of the castle, consisting of some two dozen Tudor muskets and many pieces of armour and weapons of the same period. It was nearly six before a return to the town was suggested.

The scene at the harbour had undergone a considerable change ; over half the population of St. Mawes, the great majority of it in fact, had crowded into the immediate vicinity of the harbour. A long line of boats of various types were moored alongside the cable, and in the space thus left inside the harbour a swimming race was taking place ; amid loud cheers the winner was hauled aboard the large motor-boat which contained the judges and organisers of the sports. The swimming ran fairly smoothly to the accompaniment of rousing tunes from the town band stationed about half-way along the jetty. The butterfly stroke was apparently an innovation here, and was not well-received. Looks of blank amazement were the first reaction and then ironical cheers and laughter as the competitors employing it were hauled aboard at the finishing line. Whatever the merit of that stroke may be, they did not make themselves evident, as those employing it were invariably well to the rear when the race ended.

A pause in the proceedings after the swimming events had terminated allowed a brief opportunity to obtain refreshments. All the public-houses being unfortunately shut the refreshments mostly took the form of fish and chips, which only served to work up a raging thirst, ensuring a good patronage for those establishments when they did eventually open.

The next item on the programme was plate diving ; about two dozen large china plates were hurled into the water from the committee launch, and the competitors for this event dived for them. There was a breathless and expectant hush as each man emerged, and the whole crowd counted the plates he had retrieved

as they were thrown back into the water—fourteen being the largest number gathered by any single competitor. Two plates were broken during this event, but everyone nevertheless enjoyed it.

The number of persons (myself included) who cannot keep a rowing-boat on a straight course was made evident by the next event—the pulling races. Some competitors swerved in one direction, becoming entangled with the cable marking the course, others swerved in the opposite direction, cannoning against the harbour wall—the majority however kept more or less to a straight line, and there were some exciting finishes. The programme of the town band was eventually brought to an end by a number of juvenile spectators sucking oranges near the bandstand, so that the sports were concluded in comparative silence.

Last on the programme was perhaps the most amusing event of all—the shovel race. For the purpose of this event the oars of several boats were removed, and squares piece of three-ply, fixed to wooden handles substituted, the rowlocks were also removed, and four competitors equipped with these makeshift "shovels" boarded each boat. The outward lap ran fairly smoothly once the competitors had grasped the elementary principles of this mode of propulsion—namely, to dig vigorously at the water as if paddling an Eskimo kayak. The trouble came when it became necessary to round the buoy, in order to return to the finishing line. In executing this manoeuvre all the occupants of a boat tended to slip over to the same side of it—with dire results. Peals of laughter greeted any boat which capsized. After this event the public houses opened their doors, and the crowd seemed to melt away as if by magic. There was no point in staying any longer, as the last ferry was just coming alongside, accordingly we boarded it and soon drew away from St. Mawes.

The ferry-boat was about half-way on the return journey when the sun set, and the skipper consequently ordered the colours to be lowered. This was easier said than done. In default of proper facilities for hoisting them the decorative flags had been roughly lashed in position, and the first attempt to lower them ended in an almost unbelievable tangle of cordage. Nothing daunted, one member of the crew seized a boat-hook and endeavoured to solve the problem by brute force. He made a wild slash with his unwieldy weapon at the line of flags. Their height about the deck was too much however, and he was unable to maintain his grip on the boathook, however, and the elasticity of the flag-rope took it out of his hands, and left it suspended. He made a wild leap to retrieve it. The sudden jerk was too much for the rope, however. It parted and the gaudy string of bunting trailed drunkenly out astern of the ferry-boat. The flags were eventually retrieved by one of the crew climbing the mast, and the rest of the voyage passed uneventfully.

W. A. DRAKE, Form U6 Arts.

House Notes

DRAKE.

The House Rugger teams have had a very successful start to their season. The Seniors have beaten Gilbert by 10 points to 3, and Raleigh by 6 points to 3. A real effort was made by the team to play rugby as it should be played. The Juniors also did well for the House by over-running Gilbert Juniors and winning by 46 points to nil. Wanstall, Durston, Allin and Curtice have all brought honour to the House by gaining their positions in the School 1st XV.

The Soccer teams have also tried hard, but they have been beaten twice; the Seniors losing by 3 goals to 1 to Grenville Seniors, and the Juniors losing to the same House by 3 goals to 2. Bossom and Hitchens are to be congratulated on retaining their places in the 1st XI.

Of the one hundred non-playing members of our House, very few line the touches to cheer their House teams. A little more House-spirit and Drake would soon be proud holders of the School Shield. So back up your teams, Drake.

G. R. WATTLEY. (*House Captain*).

* * * * *

GRENVILLE.

Well done, Grenville! Once again we have come out on top of the House Championship with a clear margin over the runners-up, Gilbert. On behalf of the House I should like to extend our thanks to Mr. Mallison and his colleagues for their invaluable help and advice. The cricket teams, both senior and junior, are also worthy of special mention since it was their whole-hearted effort that decided the issue in our favour.

As is usual at the beginning of a new School year, there have been many changes in the ranks of the House. Several Seniors have left us, but the lapse in numbers caused by their departure has been more than recompensed by a large influx of new boys; on these new boys we impress the importance of maintaining the high standard set by previous members of the House.

So far this term the House football teams have been very successful; both the rugger and soccer teams have won all the matches they have played. If this standard is maintained throughout the year a repetition of last year's success will be assured.

J. D. PEAKALL (*House Captain*).

GILBERT.

These are the last notes before next year's Sports Day. The nearness of that day should be a signal for us to redouble last year's efforts, and climb from second place to the only position which Gilbert should occupy. Now is the time to start training for standards. The importance of these points cannot be overstressed, for if everyone does his best in this direction the House could pile up a hundred points! This is no dream, for with more than one hundred and fifty boys getting a point each we see what could be achieved. Go to it, Gilbert!

The Soccer teams have already earned honour for Gilbert. The Senior XI, under Stander's captaincy, beat Raleigh 2—0, and the Junior XI also took points from Raleigh, winning 4—2. This last result is really encouraging, for with this win, the Juniors have already topped last year's tally of points.

The Rugger teams have shown improvement but not quite enough to gain that elusive victory. The Senior XV, enthusiastic but inexperienced, fell to Drake and to Grenville, despite McKenzie's valiant effort. The Junior XV have, as yet, lost only one match—that to Drake, but it is to be hoped that the final matches will prove more profitable.

The House has been honoured by having the School Captain chosen from its midst. We congratulate D. P. Miles in this respect.

The St. Levan Shield will be Gilbert's this time if the House "does its duty" and each and every member backs up the House masters who have always been the foundation of our successes.

K. BLUNDELL (*House Captain*).

* * * * *

RALEIGH.

So far this season the House teams have not done too well. The senior rugger team has lost both its matches, while the soccer team has lost its only game. The junior soccer team has lost its only match, whereas the rugger team has not yet played one.

As a result of the House efforts in last year's championships, we obtained a first in the sports, and in the chess championships, a third in both rugger and soccer, and we were last in the cricket championships. With the points obtained we were bottom in the final placings.

I hope that all members of the House will pull their weight in the future and will turn out for the teams when wanted.

R. GEORGE (*House Captain*).

Cricket Club

President: THE HEADMASTER.

Master-in-Charge: Mr. Nash.

Captain: B. Holliday. *Vice-Captain*: K. Blundell.

Secretary: G. A. F. Hitchens.

The four School cricket teams enjoyed a reasonably successful season. All the teams played the game whole-heartedly, with spirit and zest, and they played to win, but irrespective of the outcome their opponents were treated with respect. Cricket was played in the fullest meaning of the term.

A very notable feature of the School teams generally was the tendency to play defensive rather than attacking cricket. This attitude is reflected in the results achieved. Perhaps this kind of cricket is rather slow, and the teams should try to eradicate this fault next season.

The standard of bowling was not very high, although individuals were brilliant. Holliday and Blundell, upon whom most of the First XI bowling fell, did exceptionally well.

The House matches provided many exciting games. The standard of play was high, although the Junior House teams seemed to lack batting ability.

The 1st XI enjoyed reasonable success, achieving notable successes over Kingsbridge and Totnes. Batting tended to be rather erratic, as did the bowling, but both never seemed to be off together, apart from an unaccountable collapse against Tavistock; the rain soaked pitch not being to the liking of either batsmen or bowlers. An exciting win over Plymouth College by two runs gave the School victory for the first time ever against our rivals. Highlight of the season was the Staff v. Boys match played at Peverell Park, by permission of Plymouth Cricket Club, which resulted in a draw—a fitting result.

The 2nd XI were a team lacking experience, and early lapses were remedied only towards the latter half of the season. They achieved a great win by 58 runs and two wickets over Sutton High School.

Both the Colts and Junior elevens have much talent which promises well for the future.

The high standard which the School hopes to achieve is reflected in the award of only one new Cricket colour.

RESULTS.

1st XI.—Played 11, Won, 5 Drawn 3, Lost 3.

2nd XI.—Played 8, Won 2, Drawn 2, Lost 3, Tied 1.

Colts XI.—Played 9, Won 2, Drawn 4, Lost 3.

Junior XI.—Played 8, Won 5, Drawn 0, Lost 3.

AVERAGES.

1ST XI. BATTING.

	<i>Innings.</i>	<i>Not out.</i>	<i>Runs.</i>	<i>Highest Innings.</i>	<i>Averages.</i>
Hitchens	11	0	141	45	12.8
Williams	7	1	73	26	12.2
Kelly	5	1	43	18	11.75
Nicholls	10	2	73	19	9.1
Townsend	5	1	29	10	7.3

BOWLING.

	<i>Overs.</i>	<i>Maidens.</i>	<i>Runs.</i>	<i>Wickets.</i>	<i>Average.</i>
Coakley	26.7	10	78	9	8.66
Blundell	121.0	38	319	38	9.4
Holliday	122.6	45	251	25	10.04
Nicholls	28.0	6	105	7	15.00

TEAMS.

1st XI: Holliday (Captain), Blundell, Hitchens, Letcher, Wattle, Ham, Williams, Nicholls, Coakley, Townsend, Kelly.
Scorer: Cotton.

2nd XI: Lakeman (Captain), March, Southern, Gilbert, Woodfield, Taylor, Davis, Davies, Weatherdon, Hugo, Downing, Peakall.

Colts XI: Reid (Captain), Watson, Dewdney, Quantick, Pike, Quick, Thurston, Selley, March, Middleton, Metters, Thorne.

Junior XI: Goswell (Captain), Bray, Atkins, Ede, Yates, Joint, Burrows, Cotter, Green, Ralph, Sainsbury, Scorer: Warren.

COLOURS AWARDED 1948.

Reawards—1st XI., full colours: Holliday, Hitchens.

Awards, 1st XI full colours: Blundell.

Awards, half full colours: Wattle, Letcher, Nicholls, Williams, Kelly, Townsend, Ham, Coakley.

Our thanks are due to all those masters who umpire our matches and coach the teams, especially Messrs. Nash, Way, May, Warne and Barkell.

G. A. F. HITCHENS (*Hon. Secretary*)

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THE STAFF MATCH

STAFF, 205 for 5 declared ; D.H.S. 1st XI., 83 for 7.

The outstanding performance in this match, which proved to be one of great excitement, was a really fine forceful innings of 101 by Mr. Wayne. In an innings which was full of attractive shots, the feature was his fine driving, especially three lofty sixes ; his innings also included 10 fours.

Winning the toss, the School put the Staff in to bat. Some good bowling put the School on top until Mr. Wayne and Mr. Barkell came together. This pair put on 131 runs, Mr. Barkell scoring 53. The Staff declared at 205 for 5 wickets.

The School opening pair, Hitchens and Letcher started scoring freely, but the fall of four quick wickets changed the game quickly. A fine defensive innings of 31 not out by Holliday the School Captain enabled the School to score 83 for 7 wickets before stumps were drawn.

THE SCOREBOARD.

STAFF XI.

Mr. Mallinson, c. Blundell, b. Holliday	11
Mr. Poole, c. Kelly, b. Blundell	14
Mr. Warn, b. Blundell	6
Mr. Wayne, run out	101
Mr. Barkell, c. Nicholls, b. Blundell	53
Mr. Nash, not out	15
Mr. Carter, Mr. Truman, Mr. Vanstone, Mr. May, Mr. Warren did not bat	
Extras	4
	205
Total for 5 wickets	205

SCHOOL XI.

Hitchens, c. and b. Poole	10
Letcher, b. Poole	7
Townsend, c. Warn, b. Carter	1
Ham, b. Vanstone	0
Wattley, c. Mallinson, b. Vanstone	12
Kelly, c. Poole, b. Vanstone	0
Holliday, not out	31
Williams, b. Carter	11
Nicholls, not out	1
Blundell, Coakley, did not bat	
Extras	10
	83
Total for 7 wickets	83

Soccer Club

President : The Headmaster.
Master-in-Charge : Mr. H. G. Warren.
Captain : D. A. C. Letcher.
Vice-Captain : G. Thompson.
Secretary : G. A. F. Hitchens.

From the beginning of the season, which commenced with very keenly contested House matches, it was clear that much soccer talent was present in the School. A potential 1st XI played a potential 2nd XI, and after the match the selection committee chose the teams.

The enthusiasm shown by both boys and Staff is reflected in the fact that frequently the School is fielding six teams.

The 1st XI is a young team, but lack of weight is made up for by craft, though the tendency to hold on to the ball too long still exists among the forwards, who need to shoot harder and more often. Two good wins over R.N.E.C. 2nd XI by six goals to two, and over the Staff XI by three to one, were followed by defeat from a powerful Seale Hayne Agricultural College team, but there is promise of a really good season.

The 2nd XI has begun the season in grand form, beating Kingsbridge and the Technical Secondary School, whilst the Colts XI had a fine win against a much bigger and stronger Tamar Second 1st XI.

The League XI and Junior XI have many young players of promise, whilst the Under 13 XI provides boys unable to get into the Junior XI. a chance to play for the School.

RECORD TO DATE.

	<i>Played.</i>	<i>Won.</i>	<i>Drawn.</i>	<i>Lost.</i>	<i>Goals.</i>	
					<i>For</i>	<i>Agst.</i>
1st XI.	3	2	0	1	10	6
2nd XI.	4	3	0	1	19	6
Colts XI.	3	2	0	1	8	5
League XI.	5	2	0	3	9	11
Junior XI.	2	1	0	1	5	12
Under 13 XI.	5	2	3	0	12	5

Our thanks are due to all those masters who give up their free time to referee our matches, especially Messrs. Warren, Way, Vanstone, Berry, Tamplin, Barkell, Adams and Wayne, and to other masters who accompany teams on away matches.

G. A. F. HITCHENS, *Hon. Sec.*

Rugby Club

President : The Headmaster.
Rugby Master : Mr. Mallison.
Capt. 1st XV. : K. Blundell.
Vice-Capt. 1st XV. : R. P. George.
Hon. Secretary : G. R. Wattley.

The annual meeting of the Club was held in July, and after a talk on the previous season's successes the committee members were elected. During the latter part of the summer holidays members of the Club were able to train at Ham Fields.

The season commenced with a practice match and House matches, the latter providing very vigorous and exciting rugby. As usual, unknown talent came to light which has helped to strengthen the teams. The attractive fixture list contains two matches with Hele's School, Exeter.

The First XV has not yet played against any stiff opposition, but they can congratulate themselves on beating the Old Boys XV. by 17 points to 11.

An unsettled Second XV. has not started the season well, winning only one out of three matches. Being a little inexperienced, however, it is to be hoped that they will settle down later. If the forwards were to heel the ball more quickly and the backs were to line back to the corner flag and run straight, a decided improvement would be obtained.

The Colts and Junior XV's are under the tuition of Messrs. Poole and Nicholas respectively, and it is hoped that they will have a successful season.

. G. R. WATTLEY, *Hon. Secretary.*

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AN APPRECIATION OF AN IDEAL

I expect, indeed, I firmly believe, that within a few years Ambrose Sinclair will be a vague memory ; a pair of hazel eyes and expressive hands are all that will be remembered of him. That is all that could be expected when in all his life, short as it was, he made only a few friends and no acquaintances.

The most delightful of his characteristics was that he always made, I shall say, me, because I am naturally writing of how I was affected by him, he always made me feel that nothing mattered so much as the subject of my conversation ; subtly flattering, but not to the extent of offending. He himself was a magnetic talker ;

that is, his pleasant voice was aided by refined gestures of his hands, while his gold-flecked eyes never wandered from my face. He had white hands with carefully rounded, pink nails, completely uncalloused by manual labour. He had no need to work; his father was a hard, blustering soap manufacturer who provided him with a useful income; no father and son were ever so different in outlook and personality; needless to say he inherited his mother's characteristics. The rest of him was suitably arresting; tall and slim, always easily dressed, with fair hair swept back, he fitted perfectly into the surroundings of his house in Kent.

Ambrose had artistic leanings. He painted a little, seemed to have read almost every book, and played the piano. His special line of art was etching. The walls of his cosy study were hung with etchings by Legros, and even one or two of his own. I would sit for hours watching his slender fingers at work and listening to his fascinating talk, which rambled from one subject to another as brambles over a garden, bristling with intriguing ideas like thorns. He had two sets of bookshelves, containing books such as Mallory's "Mort d'Arthur," and the most cynical of Aldous Huxley's output. He used to say that Huxley both shocked and intrigued him when he could understand him; and I knew that this was because it was utterly foreign to his nature to be as cynical and as coldly superior as Huxley could be, and he was slightly puzzled by such an outlook. We always sat by firelight in his study, the glow flickering yellow on the shining ebony surface of his piano. I loved to sit so that he was between me and the fire, which turned his hair golden with its light and cast his shadow distorted on the wall as he played the Delius and Chopin that he loved.

Normally Ambrose was a gay character with a soft laugh; when his eyes began to twinkle with suppressed glee, I felt that I had to laugh or burst with pleasure. His rather impish mirth was tempered with a fine sense of humour, and no wit ever escaped him, however subtle. But, at times, he would suddenly forget everything his eyes became dreamy and his hands would cease their wanderings and be still. This was rather disconcerting to one who did not know him as I did, but this too was accepted in time as being something of his own; many persons had tried in vain to pierce this reserve and fathom his thoughts.

Now he is dead. A blunt statement no doubt, but there is nothing else to say. It is rather ironic that such an unworldly creature should be attacked by the most worldly of ills, rather ironic that he should die of pneumonia. Some persons would have said that he led a worthless life in his pursuit of what is best in life, but I merely pity them for their insensitiveness in not recognising a personality that is met only once in a lifetime.

T. M. BOSSOM, Form L 6 Arts.

Out of School Activities

BOXING CLUB.

President : The Headmaster.

Master-in-Charge : Mr. J. P. Reynish.

Captain : A. V. Porter.

Vice-Captain : R. G. Collings.

The Boxing Club came to life last Summer Term, and the interest shown in its activities can be gauged from the fact that over forty members so far have enrolled. These represent all levels in the School, and one dominating feature has been the keenness shown by the younger members. Mr. Reynish took charge and a committee was appointed to help in the administration.

Training takes place twice a week after School in the Gymnasium and the training consists of general exercises such as skipping and then sparring with suitable partners. Mr. Reynish is chief trainer and also acts as a sparring partner to the older members of the Club. The Club is fortunate in having such a large amount of space in which to operate, and in possessing twenty pairs of boxing gloves. It is hoped that other equipment will be forthcoming soon.

The Club has joined the Plymouth Schools' Boxing Association, which is affiliated to the British Amateur Boxing Association.

Matches against other schools and clubs have been arranged for this year. New members are always welcome.

A. WILMOT, *Hon. Secretary.*

SCHOOL CHOIR.

Last term, the activities of the Choir were severely curtailed owing to the examinations. In spite of this, however, the Choir participated with customary vigour in the School Concert at the Garden Party, under the able guidance of Mr. Symons, who has now unfortunately left us.

Mr. Barkell has very kindly consented to take charge in the future, and we hope that under his auspices the Choir will continue to be the great success it has always been in the past. When it has organised itself a definite programme will be embarked upon. We hope that things will be under way by the time these notes are in print.

All members of the Sixth Forms are cordially invited to join as our ranks have become rather depleted. Later there will be need for sopranos and altos, and we hope all the old members will return to us, and bring their friends.

D. MILES.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB.

President : The Headmaster.

After a short period of hibernation the table tennis club has got going again with a swing. This term so many boys have wanted to join that it was found necessary, as we have only one table, to limit membership to the second and third year sixth forms.

At the end of last term a large audience of boys watched the Club team beat the Staff by four games to one. Recently we have played the Technical Secondary School and lost by three games to two after a keenly contested match. With a little more practice we should be able to improve on this performance in ensuing matches.

M. S. WARREN.

CHESS CLUB.

President : The Headmaster.

The Club has a full programme of work before it during the coming year.

The ladder tournament continues, the leading positions being occupied at the moment by 1, L. W. Pillar, 6Sc ; 2, A. Taylor, 4A ; 3, A. P. B. Wilmot, 6Sc ; 4, B. Hutchins, 5L ; 5, G. Allin, 5G ; 6, K. Blundell, U 6Sc ; 7, R. Prowse, 5L ; 8, K. Jemmett, 4L.

House matches, which form an important contribution to the St. Levan Shield, are to take place shortly.

A number of Inter-school matches will take place during the winter season. Two have already been played, the School winning against Sutton High School by six points to two points, and our Junior team losing to the latter by three points to five points.

We welcome Mr. Adams to the Chess Club. He is an expert at the game, and his keen interest in it has already been shown by his part in the arrangement of a School Chess Championship, in two sections, both of which are in progress at present.

Our congratulations go to G. Allin, who obtained second place in the Junior Section of the Plymouth Chess Congress in August.

We shall welcome any newcomers to the Club, and instruction in the most elementary principles of the game will willingly be given.

L. W. PILLAR, *Sec.*

THE MUSIC CLUB.

President : The Headmaster.

The start of the School year is always notable for a reawakened interest in the various School societies, and this year a fresh field of interest has been opened by the formation of the Music Club. The difficulties which usually accompany new venture have been remarkably few, and this is due, no doubt, to the ideal conditions

with which the Club has been favoured. Attendances at the concerts have been encouraging, and the Committee has kept in touch with the trend of popular taste by the election of Form representatives to help in the arrangement of programmes. It is hoped that the Club will take its rightful place in the varied array of School societies, but support must be forthcoming from both sixth and fifth forms if its success is to be assured. We are grateful to Mr. May for the formation of the Club and for his unstinted effort and expert guidance, and to Mr. Hull for the help he has given us.

Bossom, L.6A.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

President : The Headmaster.

After the usual summer recess, the Debating Society has entered on its 1948-9 session. A committee has been appointed and a provisional programme has been arranged.

In the first half of this term there has been a talk by Mr. Crossley, an Old Boy of the School, on his Christian experiences. We have also had two debates in which it has been a pleasure to hear from some of the newer members of the Society.

The first debate was on the motion that : " In the present state of the world conscription is inevitable and indispensable." This motion was defeated by eight votes to seven. The other debate : " That in their present state, Youth Clubs are not an asset to the community," was carried by nine votes to seven.

Outstanding among forthcoming events is the Inter-School debate at the College : " That this house has full confidence in the domestic policy of the Government and in its ability successfully to conduct our domestic affairs." Our major speaker on this occasion will be D. Miles of Upper Sixth Science (School Captain), and we anticipate a most pleasant evening.

Other future items apart from debates include talks by M. Cooke of 5B on " Sleight of Hand " and on " The Progress of Indian History " by W. Drake, U.6.A. We also hope to have a Brains Trust.

As mentioned before, it has been extremely gratifying to see and even more so to hear new members of the Society, particularly those of the Lower Sixth.

To all members of the Sixth Form a cordial invitation to any and all of our meetings is issued. Not only are some interesting and entertaining evenings had, but Debating provides invaluable training in self-confidence and expression.

D. A. PINCHES, *Hon. Secretary.*

D.H.S. DRAMATIC SOCIETY NOTES.

After last year's successful production the Society is determined to uphold that standard. Various difficulties, such as too small casts or too many female parts, had to be overcome before a choice of play could be made. However, the final decision was a One Act Play, D. G. Bridson's "Aaron's Field," and a comedy in Three Acts "Badger's Green" by R. C. Sherriff. Provisional casting has been completed and members are working hard on the preliminary stages of production. "Badger's Green" will be performed at the Globe Theatre during the week February 7th—12th, and the one act play will probably be entered for the Drama League competition. In March the Junior Dramatic Society will compete in the Plymouth Youth Drama Festival with Act II of "The Torchbearers."

We extend a hearty welcome to all new members who have come forward to fill the gaps left by the many departing members of last year's cast.

D' M. MARCH (*Hon. Secretary*).

E. COY. D.H.S. ARMY CADET FORCE.

The summer camp this year was held at Penhole near Newquay, and was such a success that it will be held there again next year. We would like to thank the Newquay Youth Club, especially the female section, for its generous hospitality. Two dances were held at the Youth Club and two at the Camp, and cadets were always sure of a welcome in the Club itself. The welfare side of the Camp was a great success with the dances, a camp concert, film shows; a demonstration of Cornish wrestling by the champions—the Chapman brothers, and sporting activities. We must not forget the training side of the camp, which included a large scale manoeuvre.

No less than six cadets qualified as signallers during the summer holidays. Cert. A training has started again this term. The company will welcome new recruits.

C.S.M. HONEY.

SCOUT LOG.

Since the last edition of the Magazine much progress has been made in connection with the Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class Badges. Although the Troop is at present composed mainly of new members, they are settling down to work. Three more First Class Badges have been gained, by March (B.), Mills and Gill, and we offer them our congratulations and wish them the best of luck in their future Scouting.

The most important feature in the Troop's history has been its division into Senior Scouts and Boy Scouts. Mr. Austin has very kindly taken the latter under his wing for their Troop nights. It is hoped that table-tennis teams will be started in both Troops.

Many week-end camps have been held at the 12th Plymouth (St. Peter's) camp-site, and many useful hints have been learnt by those attending, which helped them in their Summer Camp at Harford. Although the weather was rather wet everybody had a very enjoyable time. Unlike the previous Summer Camp, this one was run on a Troop system. Each of the Junior patrols—Peewits, Falcons, and Badgers—did its specific duties by rota, whilst the Scott Patrol forged ahead on its own. The three out-casts—the S.M. and the Rover Squires, Wattle and Renton—struggled along with the Junior members. Despite the weather daily hikes were held and enjoyed, and on the Wednesday evening the 1st Ivybridge Troop was invited to a camp fire. Previous to this both Troops had participated in a cricket match—played under very amateur conditions—which resulted in a “tie.” Camp activity was not confined to games, but much invaluable practice was obtained in lighting fires and cooking in inclement weather. We are all awaiting the next camp, however, hoping for an equally good time.

SCRIBE (18th Devonport D.H.S.).

SCIENCE SOCIETY.

President: The Headmaster.

The 1947-48 session closed with two exhibitions of the Society's work. One was the showing of the documentary film of the Annual Athletic Sports meeting. This film, taken by the “ciné” section was witnessed by over two hundred visitors at the Garden Party. The other exhibit comprised numerous examples of enlargements produced by the “still” photographers of the Society.

Early this term a general meeting of present and future members was held to discuss the formation of the committee for the new session. It was decided to elect a panel of eleven members in order to ensure that all scientific subjects and all forms eligible for membership shall be represented. One result of this development has been the decision to form a Field Section primarily for the Biologists and the Geographers, but available, of course, to all members.

The committee has made an early start with the programme of lectures and excursions. Requests had been received for a lecture on “How to use a Ciné Camera,” and this was the subject of the first lecture of the session, delivered by Mr. Coombe. Subsequent activities already arranged include lectures, some illustrated by films or exhibits, on birds of prey, insect migration, inshore fisheries, nickel, photography and radio, and visits to local installations with a scientific background.

We extend our sincere thanks to those gentlemen who have so willingly helped us by talking to us and offering facilities for our excursions.

J. D. PEAKALL, *Hon. Secretary.*

A CYCLING HOLIDAY

We started off on a Sunday, three short-clad, laden figures, and spent our first night under canvas in a field near Taunton, sharing the field with two heifers.

The next night we spent in the New Forest with the donkeys, the third night was passed in the presence of a cow and three horses.

On the Wednesday we crossed the Channel. The English customs were confusion, the French chaos, and we emerged on to the platform at Calais with the realisation that we had forgotten to obtain road licences for our cycles. We confronted the three burly gendarmes on duty outside the Customs House three times, and were thrown out again exactly three times, so we went on our way without one. This incident seemed to start a chapter of misfortunes.

Outside Calais we greeted two typical French cyclists with a cordial "bon jour," and they replied in broad Yorkshire. We then lost our only map of France and its Youth Hostels, and discovered that we had gone six miles in the wrong direction.

As evening came in we found ourselves less than ten miles from Calais, looking for somewhere to camp. We had not encountered one hedge all the way, and wondered where we could pitch a tent; however, we came upon a stretch of moorland, and pitched it there. Later, inspecting our camping ground, we discovered that it was a battlefield, and so eerie that we would not have been surprised to see a ghost emerge from the barbed-wire tangles.

The next day we reached Frevent Youth Hostel, a quiet place by an old mill. We spent a pleasant evening chatting to some Dutch boys and listening to the Light programme of the B.B.C.

On the Friday we had scarcely pitched our tent before a terrific thunderstorm broke. At the end of the three hours it lasted everything we possessed was wet through. It was midnight when we reached the nearest village, and its hotel was full. However, a sympathetic farmer let us sleep in his stables, and his wife brought out hot coffee and lit a stove for us. The next morning we gave the farmer a hundred francs, took his photograph, and promised to try to send him some coffee from England.

We entered Paris at five o'clock on the next day and were swept into the chaos of its traffic. Pedestrian crossings and traffic lights are ignored, cyclists tear along the pavements scattering pedestrians, and we found later that we must have gone up at least two "no-entry" streets. We crossed the Seine and pulled up at last outside the Youth Hostel—a small ultra-modern building in front of a plot of waste ground. The hostel was full, so we spent the next four nights in our tent on the waste ground. Camped on our left was an English boy who had hitch-hiked to the Pyrennees

and back. On our right were two French boys. Behind us two Dutch hostellers were camped, and later a Danish tourist arrived. The atmosphere of the common-room was truly cosmopolitan, for besides those camped outside there were Chinese, Flemish and American tourists sleeping in the Hostel.

The next three days passed quickly. We went everywhere, sampled all the French wines, bought presents and souvenirs, and glutted ourselves on grapes, peaches, pears and melons. We all agreed that Paris was unique, and at the end of our stay we vowed to return to its sunny boulevards and cafes with their aroma of coffee whenever the chance offered.

We caught a train back part of the way, and at Calais when the "S.S. Invicta" came in we could almost have kissed the Cockney sailor who welcomed us on board in the King's English.

The journey back was, as it always is, less exciting, as the road is no longer new, but we were split up near Southampton by some means, and I, who had the fabric of the tent, but no poles, was lucky enough to find a deserted prisoner-of-war camp to sleep in one night, and was given a bed, a bath and supper and breakfast by a farmer and his wife the next night. The others were less fortunate, and had to sleep in fields, but we all returned safely; and mean to do the same trip again some time.

A. E. ROBERTS, Form L 6 Science.

COMMENTARY ON THE MILE

On their marks, they're set, they're going;
 One falls headlong, shot by start-gun;
 Other five press on regardless,
 Some not heading, some not knowing;
 Round the corner now they're flashing,
 Inside place is being fought for,
 Number two puts spikes in three's face,
 And the rest go onward dashing.
 On the same field playing cricket
 Hitting balls with strips of willow—
 Youths cry "Look out," make four's head turn;
 His last sight is of the wicket.
 Third lap now; a storm is brewing,
 All the cricket pitch deserted,
 Number five is struck by lightning,
 Both the rest their best are doing,
 Neck and neck—the last two hundred—
 Coming round the final corner,
 Hit 'the taut tape both together—
 One neck broken, one boy strangled—
 Never mind, they got their standard!

A. E. ROBERTS, Form 5 L.

THE PLYMOUTH GUILDHALL

During the past few weeks there have been many debates in the Plymouth Council Chamber on the demolition of the Plymouth Guildhall. There have also been many letters in the local press concerning this building, and many different points of view have been presented. If the Guildhall is saved at the eleventh hour it will have to be used in years to come by the present scholars of the city, who must remember very little about its interior, and know nothing of its history.

The present or "New" Guildhall as it is known, is the fifth Guildhall that the City of Plymouth has had, and it is the first Guildhall to stand on its present site. Before its erection the site was occupied by almshouses, the Orphans Aid Hospital, and the Old Workhouse. These institutions had been standing for over three hundred years, and when the decision to build a new Guildhall was reached it was a great chance to get rid of these dilapidated old buildings. Moreover, the Parish Church of St. Andrew was very close, and the "fathers of the city" were unanimous when the vote was taken. The post of designer was left open and people were invited to submit plans. Twelve firms competed, and after three months of examination of plans the task was given to Messrs. Norman and Hine, of Plymouth. The foundation stone was laid in July, 1870, by the Mayor, William Luscumbe, Esq. The building took four years to build, and was opened by the Prince of Wales (as Lord High Steward of Plymouth) in August, 1874. The original estimate, excluding the £2,500 organ, was £30,000, but when finished the cost exceeded that figure by £20,000.

The structure was typical of the style of building at that time, and was supposed to be the best building in the West. Its style was a poor imitation of Gothic architecture, with very bold and elaborate accessories, and with many foreign characteristics. The stone used for the walls was limestone from the neighbourhood, but granite and Portland stone were also used in the interior. One of the main exterior features was the tower. A hundred and ninety feet in height, it was the highest tower in the west, and the view from the top is unequalled. On a clear day views of the Eddystone Lighthouse to seaward, the Tors of Dartmoor and the Tamar Valley can be had. It may be remarked here that the tower and facade of the Guildhall were designed to fit in with the architecture of St. Andrew's Church without depriving the church of any of its beauty.

The gables of the Guildhall contained life-size statues of Henry V, Queen Victoria, Edward I, and the Black Prince; these famous persons were chosen because of their historic associations with Plymouth. There are also two medallions, one of Frobisher and

one of Hawkins. The great hall was one of the marvels of its time in the Westcountry. One of the main characteristics of this hall, whose measurements are 145 feet by 85 feet wide by 70 feet high, is the polished grey granite pillars. These pillars are about forty feet in height and were brought in from Dartmoor. The cutting, polishing and erection was a great piece of workmanship. This great hall which could seat 3,000 people had one of the best collections of stained-glass windows which could be seen. Fortunately they were removed to a place of safety before the Guildhall was destroyed, and are therefore still intact. These, like the gables, depict scenes from the history of Plymouth. They ranged from the Black Prince embarking for the Battle of Poitiers and the Pilgrim Fathers embarking for the "New World" to Drake inaugurating "Ye Fysshinge Feaste" at Burrator. Most of the money for the windows was given by the descendants of the famous persons, but one window, that commemorating the siege of Plymouth, was given by the descendants of both warring parties.

If this building is demolished a new Guildhall will be built. The city architect has already made temporary plans for the new building, which will be a building that the City of Plymouth should be proud of.

Made of white stone, this new building will be built in the Greek style with pillars supporting the frontice. Although very imposing, the walls will not be marred by excessive decoration. They will be built to fit in with, rather than contrast with, the surrounding shops and blocks of offices which will compose the city centre. Whether this new building is built or not, the City of Plymouth must have a Guildhall which will be the most important building in this important city of ours, so do not think that the controversy which is going on at the present moment will tend to impair the greatness of the Plymouth Guildhall. Indeed, Plymouth may look forward to a new city crowned by a new Guildhall which again will be "The Wonder of the West." A. PORTER, Form 6 Science.

SEVENOAKS

Situated towards the mid-west of Kent, the town, together with Tonbridge, forms one of the county's centres of historic interest. Surrounded by gently sloping land whose roads are bordered by steep banks and lined with trees, Sevenoaks' countryside typifies the setting of that part of England. The result gives it an appearance of a wilderness.

From the station to the town centre is an uphill journey. On the way is passed one of England's oldest cricket-grounds, the Vine. Opposite stands the figure of a soldier—the 1914-18 War Memorial.

The town itself is a busy shopping-centre. Its roads and pavements are narrow, and some of the old cobbled streets still exist to render an uncomfortable passage to the pedestrian. All through the town are to be seen many of the old seventeenth-century houses in the form of cafes, shops and public-houses. They present a very attractive picture to the passer-by.

As with the majority of England's antiquated towns, Sevenoaks retains her "shambles" district. To walk through it is an entertainment, and, in sundry places, quite an achievement. Today the "shambles" is hidden away by the later buildings of the high-street, and can easily be missed.

Perhaps the most well-known spot is Knole Park. The home of many hundreds of deer, this vast piece of land has a circumference of seven miles or more. Within the Park stands Knole House; a great Tudor mansion, the inheritance of the Sackville family. Both the House and Park were handed over to the National Trust about two years ago.

The final spot of interest is to be found outside the town. Solefield's Green, a battlefield of the 1688 Rebellion; it is now a battlefield of a different sort—of rugby football and cricket.

So is left one of Kent's oldest towns; a town whose long history and attractive appearance has made it a familiar landmark; the delight of tourists and the pride of any Kent man.

K. A. GILBERT, FORM 6 ARTS.

IMPRESSIONS GAINED UPON A VISIT TO A SPEEDWAY MEETING

I spent my leave this year at a seaside resort with my old comrade, Major Charles Kowther. Perhaps I should introduce myself before proceeding further in my account of one of the evenings during my stay. The name is Colonel Louis Pritchard of the Mangelshire Regiment. Now Charles, Major Kowther, suggested that we should pass one of our evenings by paying a visit to the local speedway track, where the visitors represented a well known Mangelshire town. Of course, I immediately quashed the idea for it was preposterous that two respectable army officers should entertain the idea, and after all neither of us had even the most elementary knowledge of machines since we were members of the cavalry—the backbone of the British Army at Balaclava and Ondurman. Despite my opposition Kowther was determined to discover the procedure at such an event, and eventually succeeded in persuading me to accompany him.

We left our lodgings and decided to walk to the track. The route was shown by the converging streams of people whose feet were drawn towards the stadium by the intermittent bursts of cheering and the roaring of engines. Nevertheless we arrived

outside the stadium about five minutes after the commencement of the meeting. Reluctantly I joined one of the many queues for the ground, since, to my horror the seats in the stands were already filled. Although there were numerous entrances, each was blocked by a queue of about forty yards in length, so that I was able to survey the scene before my eyes as I moved slowly towards the turnstile. Men were dressed in multi-coloured sport shirts, and the majority of the women in thin cotton dresses for the sun was still high in the sky, which was obscured by no clouds. I remarked to my companion that these people would regret the discarding of their coats and hats before the conclusion of the meeting. Various men were selling speedway magazines and demanding ridiculous prices for ridiculous effigies of the local riders; my friend and I still fail to understand why anyone was foolish enough to part with his money for these useless articles. At intervals our conversation was interrupted by loud bursts of cheering and the deafening roar of exhausts as the riders sped around the track.

Upon reaching the turnstile Kowther paid our admission and bought a programme since I had financed a visit to the theatre on the previous day. We stood for some minutes staring at the mass of wildly cheering people who had lost their senses at the sight of four ordinary men riding four ordinary motor cycles around the spacious oval tracks. These people were in a different world; they had lost touch with those who stood on either side of them, with the ground beneath them and the sky above; they were conscious only of the fact that their champions held a comfortable lead as they entered the last bend. We were surrounded by a mass of hands waving scarves, programmes and flags in acclamation of the victory. Soon afterwards the race ended and the cheers subsided into a loud buzz of conversation as each man discussed the result with his neighbour. At the same time Kowther and I recovered ourselves, and upon finding suitable position we proceeded to view the spectacle before us. There were three concentric rings of activity, on the outside the spectators, then the track, and finally the central plot of grass, where groups of mechanics, stewards and ambulance men were engaged in their various duties. The whole was a mass of colour—the black of the crowd dotted with bright patches of scarlet, yellow and blue engulfed the thin white track which surrounded the solid block of green grass dotted with officials in spotless white overalls.

At that moment the riders emerged from the pits for the next heat, and once again the crowd changed from a collection of human beings into a howling mass of madmen. The tapes rose and the riders hurtled towards the first bend. One rider fell, but the others gradually separated until about seventy yards separated the first from the last. Eventually the winner was again a local rider, and after leaping to a peak of excitement the cheering again subsided

to the familiar hum of voices. This procedure was repeated until eventually the last race had been lost and won. Then began a rush to the gates in order to catch the buses.

Kowther and myself remained until the crowd had thinned out and then made our way slowly home. My friend asked me how I had enjoyed myself and whether I had thought that victory had gone to the better side. I had to confess that I was unaware that either had won, but that I could remember only two incidents of the meeting. The first was the roar of the crowd; I am sure that if I were the sole spectator at a speedway match the feats of skill performed by the riders would have no effect upon me. The second was the infernal undignified manner in which some disreputable ruffian brushed me aside and yelled "Up the —! You've got 'em licked."

D. M. MARCH, U6 Arts.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Hurriedly I stepped out into the street. It was a miserable night, the rain was pelting down and the darkness was illuminated only slightly by the yellow light of an occasional street-lamp. Tightly gripping my suitcase I hurried down the street. I must have looked, for I certainly felt, the picture of absolute misery. I turned the corner, and then I saw what I feared most—the figure of a policeman silhouetted against a street lamp. My mind went frantic. My first impulse was to bolt, but I hastily controlled myself, for after all the fact that I was carrying a suitcase didn't mean that—well, he didn't know what it contained anyway. Nevertheless, I did not breathe freely again until I was well clear of him. The whole affair was getting on my nerves—I couldn't go on with it much longer, but what was I to do? This problem was soon solved for my wanderings brought me to a bridge under which flowed a swift-flowing river. I was just going to throw the wretched case into it when a figure suddenly emerged from the shadows and demanded "Light, mate?" I inwardly cursed him, but granted his request, and by the light of the flickering match-flame saw my unwanted companion's lean, rat-like face. "Which way yer goin' mate?" I hesitated for a moment, but at last I mumbled something about going to a popular cinema. "I'll go wiv yer, goin' the same way meself," he replied. I felt like hitting him, but as suspicion was the last thing I wanted to incur I set off with him. After we had gone a short distance he suddenly hit me over the head with a cosh. Everything went black, I was dimly aware that my suitcase was wrenched from me, but then I knew nothing. After a while I managed to raise myself from the ground. For a few seconds I stood there confused, but almost immediately a wave of relief swept over me. After all, I had achieved my object—to get rid of my dead cat.

J. BREALEY, Form L 6 Arts.

A MOORLAND VIEW

One of the best vantage points on the moor is Ryder's Hill, about seven miles from Buckfastleigh. From it the major part of the West Dart valley can be seen, as it winds eastward from Two Bridges, gradually deepening and becoming more wooded, until it disappears from view at the edge of the moor. At Two Bridges the river is already quite wide and the valley well marked. From here until it reaches Hexworthy, about four miles down stream, it passes through typical moorland country. Trees are rare, and on either bank marshes are abundant. Indeed, in many places it is difficult to decide where dry land ends and river begins. From Ryder's Hill the stream itself cannot be seen, only the upper slopes of the valley being visible, on the northern side of which runs the Princetown-Ashburton road. Not far from Dartmeet a turning off this road leads to Hexworthy, a hamlet whose houses are placed at uneven intervals on a very steep hill leading up from the river. This hill is notorious as one of the steepest and most dangerous on the moor, containing a succession of hairpin bends. The road, making its way eastward to Holne and Buckfastleigh, lies a mile or two north of our viewpoint, although obscured from view by the uneven contours. Soon after leaving Hexworthy, the valley and river link with their counterpart, the East Dart, which, on its passage from Postbridge has worn an even deeper course than its sister stream. The meeting place, Dartmeet, typically scattered with boulders, is wooded on either side, and from here onwards trees become more numerous until later the slopes are thickly wooded through their whole height.

From Dartmeet to New Bridge the valley takes the form of a curve facing southward. This portion of the river becomes steep and swiftly-flowing. It is a desolate portion and difficult to reach by anyone but the hiker, both of the roads on either sides keeping to the top of its high and steep banks. At New Bridge the valley is turning north again, and here a glimpse of its lower portions presents itself to the distant observer on Ryder's Hill. The Ashburton road crosses the river at this point, and offers some testing inclines on both sides of the valley. From now on the river is leaving the moor and beginning to enter those woods which make this portion of its course a unique beauty spot.

The valley executes a northward bend between New Bridge and Holne Bridge, enclosing the spacious Holne Chase by a semi-circle. The Chase does not reach a high altitude, and the northern slopes, which stretch up to that most beautiful of villages, Buckland-in-the-Moor, can be seen from our viewpoint.

Having finally departed from its moorland birthplace, the river and its valley disappear from our view.

L. W. PILLAR, Form 6 Science.

D.H.S. Old Boys' Association

President : THE HEADMASTER, W. H. Buckley, Esq.,
B.A., B.Sc.; F.R.Econ.S.

Vice-Presidents : SIR CLIFFORD TOZER, J.P.
H. A. T. SIMMONDS, ESQ., M.A.
H. FERRARO, ESQ., M.A., B.Sc.

Chairman : B. C. J. RICKARD, ESQ., M.B.E.

General Secretary : E. E. COCK, ESQ., The Connaught Guest House,
Connaught Avenue, Plymouth (Ply. 61941).

Treasurer : E. W. R. WARN, ESQ., B.Sc., 114, Fort Austin Avenue,
Crownhill, Plymouth (Plymouth 72271).

Committee Secretary : C. E. GILL, ESQ., F.C.S., 14 Haddington Road,
Stoke, Devonport (Devonport 614).

The London Branch has been active this term and staged a dinner party at which 41 members, including some ladies, attended. Mr. and Mrs. Ferraro represented the Plymouth branch and among those present were Mr. Simmonds. Full details of the occasion are not available in time for this issue, but Old Boys will be amused to know that " Dicky " Brooks deceived the audience with some weird conjuring after dinner.

Boys leaving school to take up appointments in London are urged to contact the London branch as soon as they arrive.

The official Old Boys notes are unfortunately missing, but there are one or two important events which must be mentioned.

The Annual Dinner will take place at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth, when Mr. Michael Foot, M.P., for Devonport, will be the guest of the evening. This occasion will be Mr. Buckley's last dinner as President of the Association. Old Boys will want to present their good wishes to the Headmaster on his retirement and will have an opportunity to do so at this function.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the School on Thursday, 23rd December, at 7 p.m. This change of time to the evening has been made to ensure a large attendance.

Our best wishes for a complete recovery to an Old D.H.Sian—Mr. Gordon Angus, who was shot through the neck and arm while riding a motor cycle on the Yong Peng Estate, Batupahat, Johore, where he is employed as European assistant manager.

Congratulations to Mr. F. W. Kellaway on his appointment as principal of the Letchworth Further Education centre. He is a graduate of Reading and London, and is a member of the Council of the Mathematical Association.

Among former members of staff who have been appointed to Headships recently are: Mr. G. F. Hodgson, B.Sc. from Bedales to become Headmaster of The Thomas Coram School, at Berkhamstead; Mr. Leslie Webb, B.A., from Royal Park School to Headmaster Licensed Victuallers School, Slough; Mr. Werry, B.Sc., from an emergency training college to Headmaster Redcar Secondary School.

Congratulations to Mr. T. E. Irish on being selected for Devon to play against Gloucester at Rugby football.

Lt. A. Simmonds, R.N., and Lt. R. Holgate, R.M., were in the same Portsmouth Services XV to play against Devonport, and Lt. Holgate has been picked for Hampshire.

Our best wishes to Flt.-Lt. I. Salter, R.A.F., and Mrs. Salter (née Josephine Parry) in their married life; also to Mr. and Mrs. George Rooke.

Mr. Bert Hodge has returned to Devonport Dockyard as Assistant Cashier.

The usual goodwill letters from those old-stagers Mr. Bert Mantle of Canada, and Mr. Norman Hughes of Rhodesia have been received.

In Memoriam

Sir William John Gick, late director of Naval Stores, the Admiralty, and a Vice-President of the Association, died in London this term.

Born in Devonport 70 years ago he attended the School in the late Mr. Rider's time. He joined the Admiralty as assistant Naval Stores Officer in 1897, and he served in Hong-kong during the Boxer rebellion.

Sir William was appointed Naval Store Officer, Grand Fleet in 1914. He became Deputy Director of Stores in 1933 and Director in 1934. He retired in 1940 and was knighted in 1941. Sir William introduced central storekeeping into the Navy.

D.H.S. OLD BOYS' R.F.C.

President : THE HEADMASTER.

Vice-Presidents : C. F. AUSTIN, ESQ., M.A., H. FERRARO, ESQ., B.Sc.
H. A. T. SIMMONDS, ESQ., M.A., H. G. WARWICK, ESQ.

Chairman : L. H. T. WARREN, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman : E. W. R. WARN, ESQ., B.Sc.

Captain : J. G. POLKINGHORNE. *Vice-Captain* : J. DOUGLAS.

Hon. Secretary : A. F. WINGETT, 8 West Hoe Terrace, Plymouth
(Tel. Plymouth 60472).

Hon. Asst. Secretary : L. M. TAYLOR, 481 Crownhill Road, St.
Budeaux (Tel. : St. Budeaux 70).

Hon. Treasurer : F. SQUIRES, 47 Wombwell Crescent, Keyham.

Committee : The above together with C. W. Evans and D. Moore.

With an improved fixture list of quite strong opponents it is not unnatural that our record to date is not very impressive. At the time of writing 10 games have been played, of which two have been won, two drawn and six lost, with points for 61, against 110—some of the games were lost only by a narrow margin. Much of the trouble is due to the number and seriousness of injuries sustained to date. One of the games lost was that against the School in which the School obtained their first victory over the Old Boys since pre-war days—we give credit to the School XV. for a well-deserved victory. The game was marred on our side by our Captain (J. G. Polkinghorne) receiving a cut in the head necessitating hospital treatment for stitches to be inserted, and by J. Lakeman sustaining a broken collar bone. It is possible that the latter may not play again this season, but fortunately our Captain is back again with us. The return match will take place on March 12th, 1949.

The annual " Exiles " game will take place on December 27th, 1948, and all those interested in playing for the Exiles XV should get in touch with Mr. Warn.

Last term's School-leavers who have turned out for the Club are : F. Walford, M. King, D. Duddy, and M. Willison, whilst K. Chapman, N. Orchard and R. George have returned from the Services and turn out regularly. K. Sprague is now working in the area and plays. Some of the old stalwarts are still playing, and it is around them we have to build the side. S. Bartlett is at College at Swindon, but turns out when on leave, as also does A. Honey, from Exeter, making a welcome return to the game after last season's injury.

Congratulations to H. Williams, I. Salter and G. Rooke on their recent marriages. Mr. Warren, our Chairman, is leaving the town to take up a business appointment in Launceston. However, we can rest assured that his interest in the Club will not die, particularly as he is already maintaining his connections with Rugby by becoming Secretary of the recently formed Launceston Town R.F.C.

We are sorry that Mr. Nash was "crocked" and look forward to the time when he will be fit again.

Our funds have been sadly depleted by long and expensive away games, so it is hoped that everyone will support our Xmas Draw, and do his best to help swell the coffers. The Rugby Club Dinner will be held as last year, on the Tuesday after Easter, details to be circulated later. There will be a Rugby table at the Old Boys' Association Dinner this year.

The Badminton and Tennis Section are flourishing, and are reported more fully elsewhere. Rugger Club training takes place every Thursday evening at the School Gym, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Attention of Old Boys is drawn to the fact that we are always anxious to welcome new members, either playing or non-playing; if the former, we will always try and fix them up with games, and if the latter, are glad to see them at any of our functions, matches or other activities, such as Badminton or Tennis. The membership subscription is 5/-, which includes membership of the Old Boys' Association. Members are kept well informed of activities through the medium of News Letters circulated from time to time.

It has been decided this year to hold a Children's Christmas Party, probably on 1st January, so members interested please bear this in mind.

D.H.S. OLD BOYS' R.F.C. BADMINTON CLUB.

Hon. Secretary: G. ROOKE, 30 Furneaux Road, Vine Estate, Plymouth.

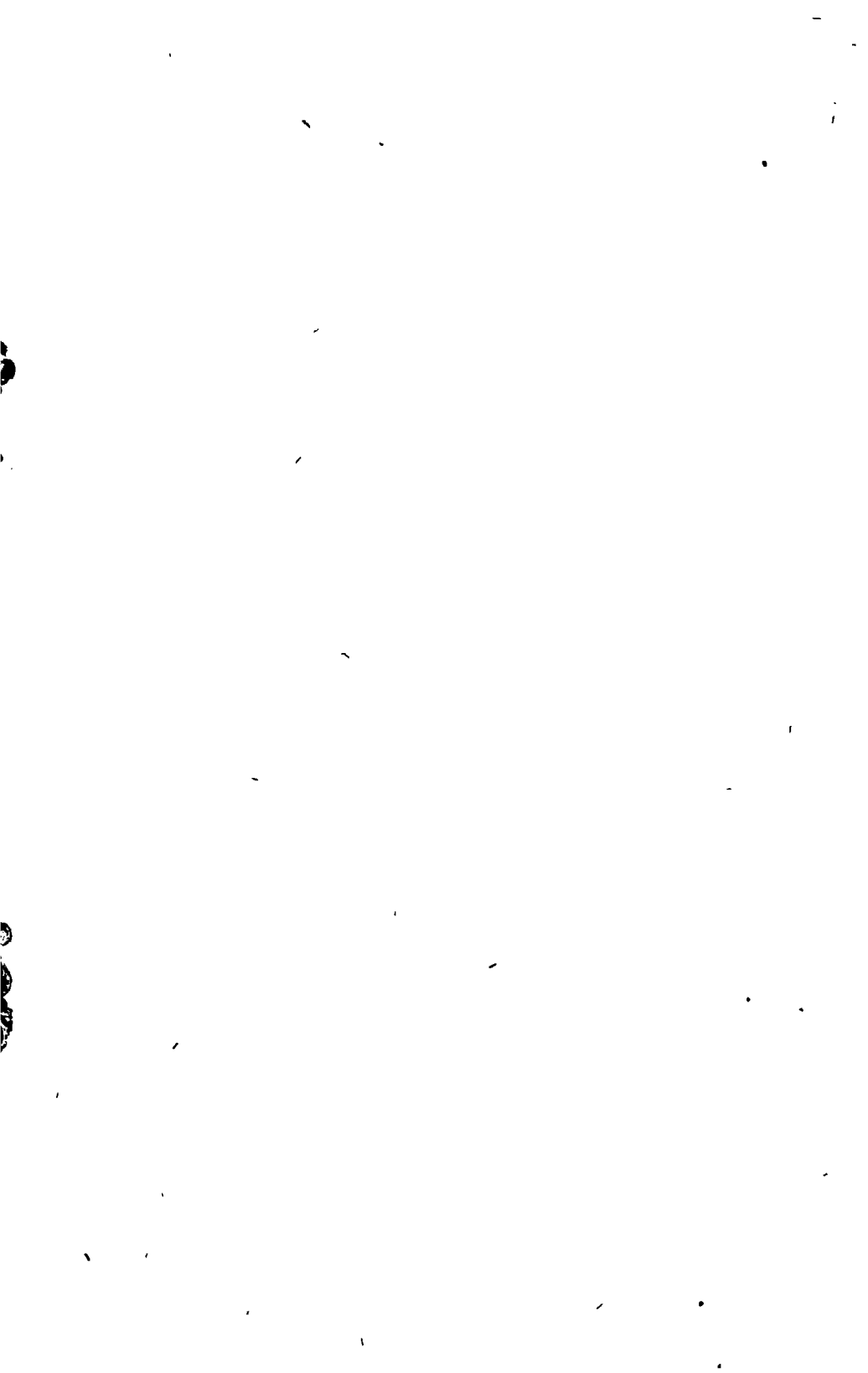
Badminton Committee: F. CHARLES, F. PACKER and R. FURZEMAN.

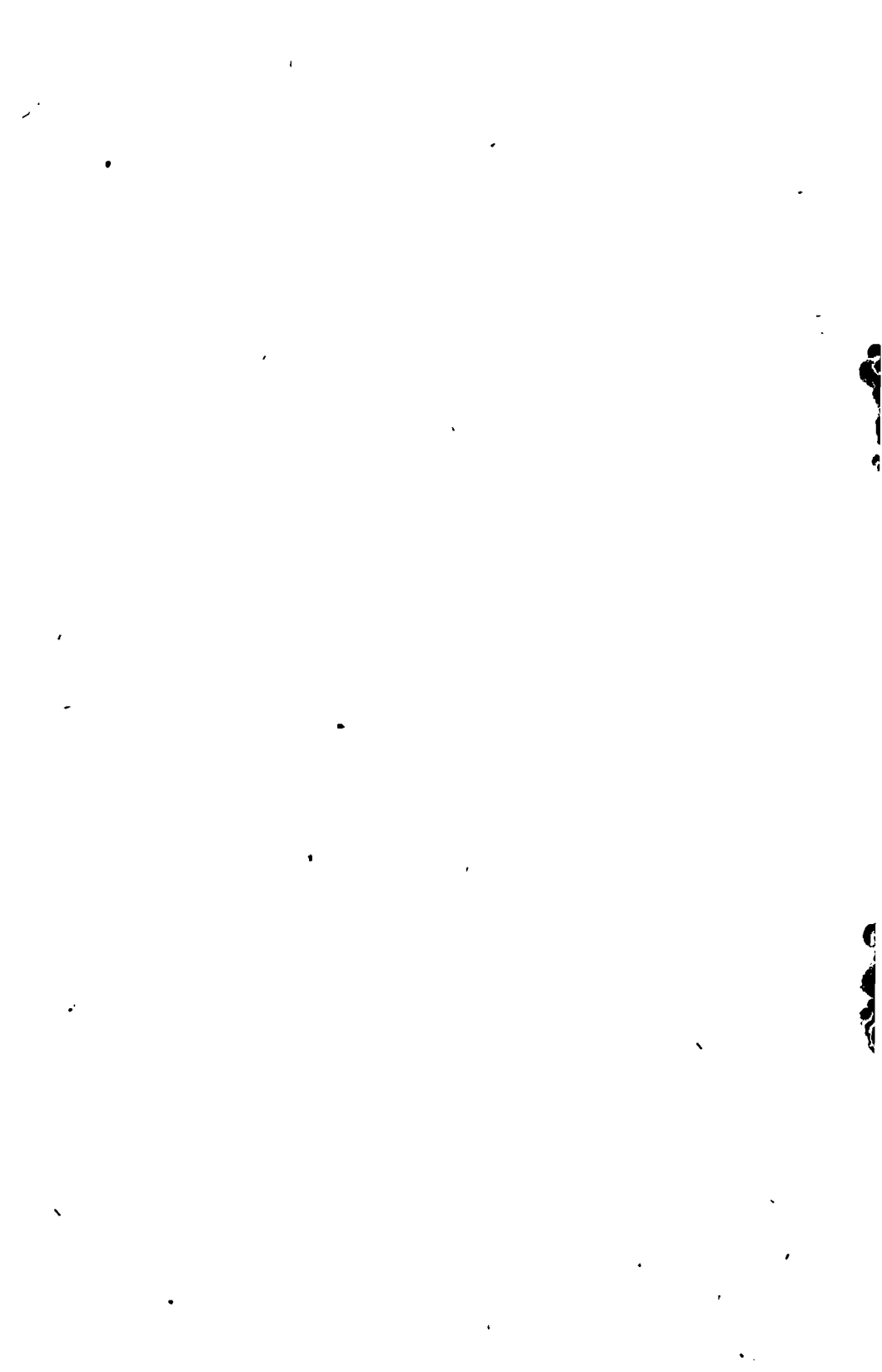
Court: D.H.S. Main Hall, Thursdays and Saturdays, 6.30 to 10 p.m. throughout the winter season.

The Badminton Club, which is an integral part of the Rugby Club, has entered into its second year with an increased membership, with improved facilities for play. In addition to use of the court in the Main Hall on Thursdays, as last year, we now have the use of the court in the Gym after the Rugby training has finished, and have arranged another evening for both courts, namely, the Saturday. We are embarking on a series of matches throughout the

season, and although they are only "friendlies," we hope to do well. A start has already been made in this direction by a win over Old Suttonians in our first match of the season, by five games to four. We welcome to the Club new members in Mr. and Mrs. Frank Charles; Messrs. B. George and K. Morgan. Mr. Pester has now taken up an appointment in London in the Customs and Excise, and so unfortunately will not be with us this season. Facilities are now available for the brewing of tea, and this will facilitate the task of catering for visiting teams.

Enquiries and application for membership will be welcomed.





**The Valletort Press
Plymouth**