

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 11 No. 1.

December, 1956.

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Vol. 11 No. 1

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SCHOOL DIARY.

Summer Term, 1956.

- May 2 - Term began.
May 12 - 1st XI v. Cirencester Grammar School.
Under 15 XI v. Cirencester Grammar School.
May 17 - 2nd XI v. Burford Grammar School 1st XI.
Under 14 XI v. Burford Grammar School.
Lecture in Big School on the Royal Navy.
May 19 - 1st XI v. Cheltenham 2nd XI.
May 23 - 1st XI v. Cheltenham Grammar School.
Under 16 XI v. Cheltenham Grammar School Colts.
May 26 - 1st XI v. Marling Grammar School.
Under 15 XI v. Marling Grammar School Under 15 XI.
May 29 - 'A' XI v. Kingham Hill 1st XI.
Under 14 XI v. Kingham Hill.
June 1 - Commemoration Day.
June 2 - 1st XI v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI.
2nd XI v. Dean Close 3rd XI.
Under 15 XI v. Cheltenham College Junior Colts.
June 7 - 1st XI v. Cheltenham College 'A' XI.
June 9 - 'A' XI v. Dean Close 2nd XI.
June 11 - G.C.E. Advanced and Scholarship level began.
June 14 - Gloucester Cathedral, Public Schools' Festival Evensong,
College Choir took part.
June 16 - Under 14 XI v. King's School.
June 20 - 'A' XI v. Kings School 1st XI.
June 21 - A party attends Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concert
at Cheltenham.
June 26 - Visit to Cirencester to see the film "Court Jester" (Danny
Kaye).
June 27 - 1st XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's.
Junior XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's Under 15 XI.
June 28 - Party from the Senior School visits Bristol "Old Vic" to see
"Major Barbara".
Junior party went to Cheltenham Opera House to see the
Lanchester Puppets.
June 29 - Patronal Festival Rendcomb Church. College Choir sang
Evensong.
July 4 - Tennis Match with Wycliffe College.
July 5 - "O" Level G.C.E. began.
July 7 - Founder's Day.
July 9 - London Philharmonic Orchestra (Sir Adrian Boult), Chelten-
ham Town Hall. Party attended one of the concerts of this
year's Festival of British Contemporary Music.
July 16 - Second visit to Cheltenham Festival. Allegri Quartet with
Peter Katin (piano).

- July 17 - Cheltenham : Hallé Orchestra, conducted by Sir John Barbi-
rolli.
July 18 - 1st XI v. North Cerney Cricket Club.
July 19 - Halle Orchestra.
July 21 - Two plays : "For Want of a Key" and "Thread O' Scarlet".
Big School.
July 22. - Informal School Concert, Music Room.
July 25 - Term ends.

OBITUARY

Edward Brian Smith, O.R.

Rendcomb : 1937-40.

We deeply regret to record the death of Edward Brian Smith in a tragic mid-air collision over Nailsworth on August 24th. He was a skilled and reliable test-pilot for Gloster Aircraft and at the inquest no rational explanation could be found of why his machine and a small light aeroplane that happened to be in the area should have come into contact. He left school almost immediately to enter the R.A.F., in which he served until the end of the war. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow and three young children.

J. F. S. Meiklejohn, O.R.

Rendcomb : 1930-32.

We also record with regret the death of J. F. S. Meiklejohn on September the 18th, 1954, as a result of injuries received after a fall from the gangway of his ship. He was a Marine Engineer employed by the British Channel Islands Shipping Company. He had been with the firm since 1938 and served with distinction on a number of their vessels during the war. We extend our sympathy to his relations.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Christmas Term, 1956.

Senior Prefect—J. R. Ellis.
Group Leaders—H. A. Gough, R. J. Lawson, R. F. Stimson.
Prefect—J. A. Richards.
College Workman—M. G. Cooper.
§Public Workman C. H. Thomason.
Music Warden—J. A. Richards.
Librarians—J. R. Ellis, S. R. Merrett, I. A. N. Campbell, J. B. Gooch.
Manual Foremen—M. A. B. Forster, J. R. Ellis, R. D. Comley, B. R. Paish, D. R. G. Griffiths.
Poultrymen—G. H. G. Herbert, M. R. Horton, J. F. W. Beard.

§Furniture Committee—D. R. G. Griffiths, D. R. Poole, M. Whittering.
 Stagemen—M. A. B. Forster, G.H. G. Herbert, P. G. Auden,
 I. A. N. Campbell, P. G. S. Airey, R. F. Stebbing.
 Music Librarian—R. F. Stimson.
 Choir Librarians—G. S. Bartlett, P. K. Dale.
 Pictureman—Vacant.
 Collections and Deck Chairs—P. G. S. Airey.
 Lampmen—I. A. N. Campbell, D. R. G. Griffiths.
 Q.P. Concerts—J. R. Alder.
 Notices—C. H. Thomason, R. D. White.
 Church Ushers—A. P. Hayes, G. H. G. Herbert.

§ General Meeting Elections.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Summer Term, 1956.

We offer our good wishes to Mr. R. T. Nebbs, who left at the end of the term to take up a full-time teaching post at Chatham, and to the following boys who also left : R. W. Alder, B. Glastonbury, M. V. Harley, R. N. Home, M. G. Richards, R. O. G. Hayter, A. Harrison, T. W. Rowley, T. D. A. Semple, J. M. Astill, G. H. Richards, D. A. Godfrey, J. K. Walter, D. T. Hart, A. T. Brooks, P. F. Barter, P. C. R. Burns and D. Rawcliffe.

* * * *

During the Easter Holidays workmen began the lengthy operation of repainting the outside of the College. Work was completed on classroom windows before term began, but has continued elsewhere right up until the time of writing (November).

* * * *

One of the features of Rendcomb is the flowers. Often when one lives with "a feature", it is accepted and only its loss is noticed. This spring the display was particularly good and we should like to thank Mrs. Lee-Browne for the work she puts into the planning year after year (plans are drawn in detail and to scale), and to Mr. Telling and the gardeners.

* * * *

Most of the school went to Cirencester on the 26th of June to see Danny Kaye in "The Court Jester". Parties also went to four concerts of the Cheltenham Festival of British Contemporary Music, two by the Hallé Orchestra under Sir John Barbirolli, one by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, and a Chamber Music Concert given by the Allegri String Quartette, with Peter Katin (piano).

Parties also went to the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra concert on May 17th, and to see the Lanchester Puppets (both in Cheltenham), and to the Bristol Old Vic production of "Major Barbara" by Bernard Shaw.

* * * *

We are most grateful to Mr. B. W. Paine for the gift of £10 towards the purchase of a musical instrument. With this contribution an "A" Clarinet has been bought, and the College now has a pair of clarinets. Previously boys learning this instrument were very restricted in what they could play as their music is written for either "A" or "B flat" clarinets, and we had only the latter.

* * * *

After their G.C.E. Examinations, certain members of the Sixth Form did some "repairs and maintenance" work. The two main jobs were the redecoration of their Studies by the Prefects, and the rebuilding of the bridge over the "ha ! ha !".

* * * *

On Sunday the 21st of July an informal concert was given by boys in the Music Room. J. M. Webb played the first movement of Mozart's Sonata for piano in C major (the famous one which at one time became very popular with dance bands under the title "In an Eighteenth Century Drawing-Room"!). J. D. R. Paine, D. R. G. Griffiths (flutes), with G. H. Richards (oboe), played a Trio Sonata by Thomas Hook, originally written for three flutes, but on this occasion played with an oboe substituted for the third flute. M. G. Richards and M. V. Harley played a Sonata for two violins by Handel, and with G. H. Richards and J. R. Ellis they sang a group of madrigals and unaccompanied part-songs. G. H. Richards also played an oboe solo "Rondelay" by Alan Richardson. Perhaps the most interesting item we have heard at Rendcomb for some time was "Rhapsody for Harmonica" by Vaughan Williams, played by R. O. G. Hayter. Mr. Tooze was the accompanist.

* * * *

On Thursday the 14th of June the College Choir went to Gloucester Cathedral to take part in the annual Festival Evensong by Public School Choirs, organised by the Royal School of English Church Music. The Canticles were sung to Wood in C minor and the three anthems were : "Praise Thou the Lord" by Heathcote Statham ; "How goodly are Thy tents" by Gore-Ouseley, and "All from the sun's uprise" by Phillip Tomblings. The service was recorded by the B.B.C. and extracts were broadcast in the Midland Home Service on 20th June, 1956.

Although this was a most enjoyable service, artistically it was not so successful as it has been in the past. On the whole, choirs did not know their parts well enough to keep an eye on the conductor and they did not always keep in time with one another. This, in turn caused a certain nervousness and the pitch did not remain steady. These faults showed up all too clearly in the broadcast, which judged as a normal B.B.C. transmission was far from good for other reasons in no way the fault of the singers. It

was badly edited, the extracts played were by no means among the best music of the afternoon, and the last few bars of the anthem chosen for illustration were cut. The commentary was rather inappropriate: it ended with the pious hope that all the four hundred boys taking part would one day become ordained. Among the schools taking part were Marlborough, Malvern, Rugby and Cheltenham.

* * * *

The following gained the General Certificate of Education in one or more subjects :

At Advanced or Scholarship Levels: J. M. Astill, J. B. R. Browne, J. R. Ellis, P. Gilbert, D. A. Godfrey, H. A. Gough, R. O. G. Hayter, R. N. Home, R. J. Lawson, G. H. Richards, *T. W. Rowley, *T. D. A. Semple, R. F. Stimson, J. K. Walter.

* County Major Scholarship.

At Ordinary Level: J. R. Alder, P. G. Auden, J. F. W. Beard, R. Bolton King, A. J. Brooks, D. W. Brown, I. A. N. Campbell, J. B. Gooch, D. R. G. Griffiths, A. Harrison, M. R. Horton, R. C. Pilkington, J. G. Scudamore, R. W. Taylor.

* * * *

It has been thought for some time that a change in the afternoon Time-table would be profitable. Up to the end of last Easter Term, afternoon school had been on Wednesdays and Fridays and it was becoming increasingly difficult to arrange matches on our games day, Thursday, as so many other schools have theirs on Wednesday, and Friday was a heavy day for a large number of boys. The afternoon Time-table was therefore revised as follows : Monday, School; Tuesday, Public Work; Wednesday, Games; Thursday, Activities; Friday, School. This arrangement was followed until the end of term, when it was decided to inter-change Thursday and Friday afternoons from the beginning of September.

* * * *

We are grateful to Wing Commander and Mrs. Huntley M. Sinclair for arranging for the levelling of the site of the old air-raid shelter on the athletic pitch. Even those who remember the toilsome hours of digging it will have no regret at its final passing. For those of us who were there in 1939 the old shelter and its nettles call the war too vividly to mind—even though we can remember and now smile, at the incredible escape of the boy who received the point of a pickaxe squarely on his backbone from the boy working behind him.

* * * *

We welcome M. Whittering who came to Rendcomb at the beginning of the Summer Term.

* * * *

We are most grateful to Mrs. Glastonbury for a further gift of things valuable to the “acting cupboard”—material from a dress, lace, a gaily embroidered coatee and a delightful collection of varied sets of but-

tons. In addition there is a perfect example of a Victorian evening cloak trimmed with swansdown. With her approval, this has been presented in her name to the Museum of Costume at Eridge Castle, Kent.

* * * *

On June the 29th, St. Peter’s Day, the College Choir sang Choral Even-song in Rendcomb Church on the occasion of the Patronal Festival. The music was that sung at Gloucester Cathedral on the 14th of June. We are very grateful to Mr. Eric Suddrick, the deputy Director of Music at Cheltenham College, for coming out to play the organ so that Mr. Tooze could conduct.

* * * *

It has been decided to resume the practice, in abeyance for many years, of including notes on the General Meeting in each issue of this journal. The first of these articles appears on page 8.

MEETING OFFICERS. Meeting Term, 1956.

Chairman—J. R. Ellis.
 Secretary—D. W. Brown.
 Games Captain—H. A. Gough.
 Games Committee—M. G. Cooper, C. H. Thomason.
 Field Secretary—R. J. Lawson.
 Boys’ Banker—P. G. Auden.
 Meeting Banker—M. R. Horton.
 Senior Shopman—R. D. Comley.
 Auditors—J. R. Ellis, P. Gilbert.
 Games Committee Treasurer—J. R. Alder.
 House Committee Treasurer—J. R. Windsor.
 Finance Committee Treasurer—G. Harrison.
 Finance Committee—J. Shaw, N. J. Price.
 Shopmen—S. D. Hicks, D. R. Poole.
 Breakages Man—R. F. Stebbing.
 Entertainments Committee—J. A. Richards, J. D. R. Paine,
 R. F. Stimson, R. W. Taylor, M. C. Jones.
 Record Committee (Classical)—J. A. Richards, J. R. Alder, C. Handoll.
 (Light)—M. G. Cooper, H. A. Gough.
 Cycle Committee—R. Bolton King, M. van den Driessche, M. Whittering.
 Investigation Committee—J. E. Gooding, R. F. Stimson, P. G. Auden.
 Paperman—R. A. Cockrell.
 Drying Room Committee—M. D. Naish, P. G. S. Airey, J. G. Scudamore.
 Rugby Games Wardens—I. A. N. Campbell, M. van den Driessche.
 Cricket Games Warden—R. F. Stebbing.

Tennis Games Warden—M. D. Naish.
Cricket Groundsman—M. R. Horton.
Tennis Groundsman—J. F. W. Beard.
Senior Rugger Groundsman—S. R. Merrett, P. G. S. Airey.
Junior Rugger Groundsman—J. Shaw.
Cricket Secretary, 1957—D. W. Brown.
Council—J. R. Ellis, R. J. Lawson, J. A. Richards, R. F. Stimson,
H. A. Gough, M. G. Cooper, C. H. Thomason.
End of Term Entertainments Committee—A. P. Hayes, M. A. Forster,
R. W. Taylor, G. H. G. Herbert, B. R. Paish.
Record Committee Treasurer—T. L. H. Benbow.
Rule Committee—J. R. Ellis, J. B. R. Browne, S. R. Merrett.
Amplifier Technicians—M. A. Forster, J. R. Windsor.
Selection Committee—J. R. Ellis, R. F. Stimson, R. J. Lawson,
H. A. Gough, S. R. Merrett.

THE GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

There was a marked tendency this term to devote more time to unimportant business. This situation arose partly from the lack of major proposals. Meetings on the whole were rather shorter than usual and discussion tended to be confined more to the most senior boys. There was, however, no lack of spirit and much healthy discussion took place.

The most important proposal of the term was that the Lecture Committee should be abolished, that the Lecture Fund should be transferred to the Meeting Reserve and that future shop profit should automatically be transferred to the Meeting Reserve. The Lecture Committee, which had only been re-formed in October, 1955, consisted of three people who recommended lectures to the College. Money from profit made in the shop went into the Lecture Fund account, out of which the lecturers were paid. The reasons for abolishing this committee were that the standard of lectures had not been very high and the money in the Meeting Reserve was static, except for interest, while money was now continually being withdrawn. The proposal was passed by a majority of only one vote.

An important financial event occurred. A proposal that our 2½% Defence Bonds be sold and the money re-invested in 4½% Defence Bonds was passed. This transaction was completed at the beginning of the Autumn Term by the Investigation Committee, a temporary body of financial investigators and advisers.

The Chairman of the Council brought to the Meeting's notice a member's contempt of the Council. The member in question had failed to carry out his punishment properly and it was unanimously decided that he should receive a further punishment. The whole Meeting was asked to

vote on this so that the offender should not feel that the seven members of the Council were prejudiced against him.

The Senior Shopman suggested that as the Shop was selling larger and more varied stocks, it would be a good idea to construct a larger showcase, the present one being quite inadequate. It was decided that the top six inches of the counter should be made of glass, thus ensuring more show room.

It was felt that there was not enough money from taxes to pay Meeting bills and two solutions were suggested. One was that the Headmaster should be approached with a view to obtaining a rise in allowances. The other was that the Meeting should conscientiously cut down its expenditure, particularly the expense of games materials. The Meeting, however, had previously decided not to adopt the former suggestion. It was urged, from the ensuing discussion, that people should be more economical with games materials and should not only be content with the best of everything.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We understand J. M. Murray is married, has two children, and is teaching in a school in Brighton.

J. M. Kirkman is a Warrant Officer (Master Signaller) in the Royal Air Force.

I. M. Bryce is the Eastern District Representative of Messrs. Cooper, McDougall and Robertson, Veterinary Chemists.

P. L. Waite, during the 1955-6 season, played regularly for the Birmingham University Hockey XI and occasionally for the Cricket 1st XI. During his National Service while stationed at Cardington, he played Hockey for Bedfordshire.

J. D. Painter is Master of the Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers this year. With the exception of the Union, this is the oldest University Society.

We congratulate J. C. Waterton on his marriage, in October 1955, to Miss Daphne Verrall of Ipswich. He is working with a firm of electrical and mechanical consulting engineers and has had much to do with the Kariba Hydro-Electric Scheme in Rhodesia.

F. H. Dutton is now working as a Surveyor for a London firm of Consulting Engineers and Architects.

We congratulate John Owen on his appointment as Fellow and Tutor in Physics, Lincoln College, Oxford.

We also congratulate John Gilchrist on having been Captain of Cricket at Trinity College, Cambridge, and on playing regularly for the Crusaders.

FOUNDER'S DAY.

K. A. Statham composed some of the music and played one of the two pianos for the latest Cambridge "Footlights Revue"—"Anything May". It was given first at Cambridge and then came to London for a limited run at the Lyric, Hammersmith.

The following O.R.s visited College during term: G. J. Ash, G. W. Ivens, F. T. Luffman, A. J. Paish, J. D. Painter.

OLD BOYS' DAY AND CRICKET MATCH, 1956.

After the war ended an attempt was made to revive the O.R. Cricket Match, but the event proved to be something of a Cinderella and was finally abandoned. Let there be no misunderstanding, no one was to blame. Yet there is a formidable battery of reasons that make an O.R. cricket fixture difficult to arrange. In the first place, compared with hockey, a relatively much smaller number of O.R.s continue to play cricket after leaving school. In the second place the standard of cricket in the College is much higher than it was in 1939, so that a stronger O.R. side is needed. Then, club and university hockey has a seven months' season and during March few clubs mind a member's absence. Cricket has about four months, players are scarcer, and clubs tend to take a strong line if men absent themselves to play elsewhere. An Old Boys' cricket fixture is always difficult from the angle of the university people—either they are preparing for or in the middle of examinations—or they have gone down and are involved in their Long Vacation activities. The hockey fixture is a good deal easier for them to attend. Expense inevitably comes into the picture and the smaller number of cricketers O.R.s means that almost inevitably more of them have to come from long distances if a good team is to be arranged. It is a thought-provoking fact that the environs of Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham, or Birmingham, could produce a first-rate hockey side, without the slightest chance of being able to do the same thing for cricket.

Knowing all the above, Austen Magor and Roger Kendal nevertheless decided to make a great effort to produce a 1956 side—and they succeeded. Kendal sent off nearly 50 postcards. In the circumstances it was indeed sad that the rain came down in torrents. But for all that it was a pleasure to see the following people and we all offer them our thanks for coming in spite of the fact that for many of them the day looked hopeless from the time they left home.

A. E. A. Brain, I. M. Bryce, G. H. Dye, D. Dakin, S. H. Groves, H. P. Lecky, A. C. Magor, R. Margetts, K. J. Morgan, N. A. Perkins, J. R. Smith, A. R. Tenty, P. L. Waite, J. C. Waterton.

The guest of honour this year was the present Marquess of Exeter, then Lord Burghley, formerly a distinguished athlete and now Chairman of the British Olympic Association.

In the course of his speech, the Marquess said "Aim high, and don't be disappointed if you don't get there at once." This applied not only to sport but to everything in life. It was this sort of idea which prompted the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896. These were not just a series of world championships, but a gathering of representatives of all nations meeting not only for sport, but also to forge friendship and to get to know one another better. The test of the meeting at Melbourne would be the atmosphere between nations and not the number of medals which were won. "There is no Iron Curtain in sport", he added.

In his annual report the Headmaster mentioned National Service which, he said, gave boys a "breathing space" in which to make up their minds more clearly about their future careers. Mr. Lee-Browne told parents that he knew some of them would be inclined to send their sons to the university or to some other vocational training immediately on leaving school, and in so doing to gamble on National Service being ended during the next few years. "I do beg that those of you who feel this way", he said, "will not be lulled into a false certainty. It is still a gamble, and if it is lost, it may make the boy's National Service less happy than it would have been."

The Chairman of the Governors, Lieutenant-Colonel John Godman presided, and a vote of thanks to Lord Exeter was proposed by Major P. D. Burchall.

* * * *

This year the out-door demonstration of life at Rendcomb was Cricket at the Nets. The traditional sun of Founder's Day, obscured throughout the speeches, came out after tea and the guests gathered on the terraces near the building to watch some attractive and entertaining play.

A cricket demonstration of this kind meant that the marquee could not be placed in its usual place, and contrary to expert opinion, which decided it was not possible, it was found that the large tent and its companion "kitchen" could be comfortably accommodated on the back tennis lawn just below the terraces.

The Manual Exhibition which has become so much a part of the Rendcomb Founder's Day was again a focal point of much interest and discussion. In previous years this display of boy's work has been much commended and, indeed, the high hopes held this year were justified. The diversity of ages among the exhibitors proved that, in all sections of the School, woodwork is still popular. Standards, of course, varied, but there is no doubt that several articles, notable amongst them being a wardrobe, will be remembered as examples of Rendcomb craftsmanship at its best.

An innovation, the Manual Demonstration, was introduced to give the visitors an idea of the work going into the finished products to be seen in Saul's Hall. Here, two shifts of nine boys worked, demonstrating the various techniques, whilst visitors peered at their work and often asked questions. Whilst, of course, the practical consideration of space reduces its effectiveness, this demonstration proved of great interest.

Another feature of Founder's Day is the Art Exhibition. Here, hung around the walls of the Art Room and the New Classroom, some work of the past year was to be found. The junior section was stimulating. The senior section was rather disappointing in that the range of contributors was narrow, but the works on show were of an excellent standard; the sculpture, especially, earning much well-deserved praise.

There was also an Exhibition of Photography. There were some good studies in black and white, but it was the coloured transparencies that attracted most attention. This was not entirely due to their quality, excellent though they were in choice of subject, background and so on, but in the manner of their showing. These small pictures are difficult to display without an elaborate and expensive projector which, for public exhibition has to be continually manned, or be automatic, since it must be working continually. This problem was ingeniously solved by the photographers themselves. They made, in the Workshop, a frame holding two wheels, side by side, large enough to take about twenty-four photographs fixed in slots carefully cut round the rim. An electric bulb was placed at the top of each wheel. Then a flush panel was fixed in front of the "contraption" with two apertures through which pictures could be seen, in turn, simply by turning a handle conveniently placed below.

COMMEMORATION DAY—JUNE 1st, 1956.

This year's Commemoration Day was exceptional in that it was blessed by reasonably fine weather. During the afternoon in particular we saw some of the summer which has been so rare this year.

There were few interesting expeditions and most of these were confined to the VIth form. The great majority of the middle school went out with their parents to Cheltenham. There would seem to be a danger that boys will regard Commemoration Day merely as a chance to see their parents instead of arranging expeditions on their own initiative. The fact that many do go on interesting expeditions with their parents, does not really justify the practice, for they themselves should organise their day.

Several expeditions were arranged, however. A party of VIth formers went to Oxford to watch the Australian Touring Team play the University. The play itself was not particularly interesting although there was a good innings by Harvey. The notorious footdrag of the Australian fast

bowler, Crawford, was well in evidence, but the University fast bowler, Kentish, who comes from the West Indies, was the more impressive. The Australians won by 8 wickets at about three o'clock, but the party had the good fortune to see the young American tennis-players, Richardson and Eisenberg, playing a game. The standard of their play was extraordinarily high and the game fascinating to watch.

A small party also went with Mr. Sells to Bristol to watch part of the Davis Cup match between Great Britain and Chile. The game they saw was the doubles in which the British pair, Barrett and Becker, beat the Chileans, Ayala and Hammersley, in three sets. It was unfortunate that Ayala was not on form, for he is a world-class player, and the game was rather one-sided.

Mr. Hull very kindly took a party to Cambridge in his car. They arrived at about half-past eleven and had lunch in a punt on the river, later they went to the Old Vicarage at Grantchester, immortalised by Rupert Brooke. Here they had tea and some of the famous honey. Afterwards they returned to Cambridge and visited the University Library and King's College Chapel.

Tewkesbury was as popular as usual. Several groups went boating on the river there. Tewkesbury is convenient in that it is a reasonable distance to cycle, and boating is a popular recreation. A sketching party also went there with Mr. Nebbs.

ACTING.

"FOR WANT OF A KEY" by Michael Brett.

Cast:

Clive Parsons	...	...	A. P. Hayes
Detective Sgt. Learoyd	...	...	R. J. Lawson
Sergeant Prince	...	...	J. A. Richards
James Strang	...	...	R. D. Comley

"THREAD O' SCARLET" by J. J. Bell.

Cast:

Landlord	...	...	...	C. H. Thomason
Breen	...	...	...	H. A. Gough
Migsworth	...	...	...	R. F. Stimson
Smith	...	...	...	G. H. G. Herbert
Butters	...	...	...	J. R. Browne
A Traveller	...	...	...	J. D. R. Paine

Producer : S. R. Merrett.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

These plays reached a high standard for productions done by the boys themselves. The first, in lighter vein about an over-vigilant neighbour watching an owner burgle his house, acting as a perfect foil to the second, a drama about the conflict of emotions when a small group of men in a Public House discover that one of their acquaintances has been wrongly hanged for murder, and that the murderer is, in fact, one of them sitting round the fire at that moment.

This second play was the more impressive of the two, not necessarily because the acting was better, but because it was an altogether better play, and the actors were able to maintain tension throughout. J. B. R. Browne rightly conceived his part as tense and sinister, and he managed to maintain this attitude not only when action and words drew attention to him but throughout the play. H. A. Gough had a small part, and it is no offence to others to say that with his sense of theatre, he tended to dominate the stage. J. D. R. Paine was very much the man of the world on which the solution of the mystery depended, a quick-witted townsman where the countrymen were slow, but he did not sufficiently take charge of the situation in the final few minutes when, except for the climax at the end, lasting but a few seconds, he was the centre of the drama.

“For Want of a Key” is a good play for a school production. It presents no problem of interpretation or heavy characterisation. A business man needs money, stages a burglary, is seen by a neighbour who cannot sleep, but who is not deceived and who, after police enquiries have been satisfied, demands his share of the proceeds. A. P. Hayes was good, his articulation was clear and distinct, as indeed were the casts’ in both plays. R. J. Lawson, as the constable, was perhaps a little too gentle, but his sergeant, played by J. A. Richards, was as amusing as many playwrights demand their coppers should be; his Cockney accent, though, was simulated rather than an imitation. There are Welshmen in the Metropolitan Police, and it might have been more amusing to have had an accent from the Rhondda Valley. The Englishman delights in accents, other than his own. Do they in Tonypany find the Cockney accent as funny as the Londoner does the Welsh, or Lancashire or Devonshire for that matter? Comley as the observant neighbour was suave and assured.

The production was very good, the action flowed smoothly in both plays, even where there was little movement, but the most creditable thing was the way tension was built up and held.

Again in this production, as in almost every public event at Rendcomb within the last few years, the actors conveyed their enjoyment of what they were doing to the audience. This is an essential feature of any amateur production whether it is a play or music, and its continued evidence at Rendcomb is gratifying.

To this high-sounding title we were reduced only after much thought and discussion. We formed a year ago with the idea of increasing our knowledge of literature, and our capacity for enjoying and creating it. We set about doing this by pooling our resources: by reading extracts from English literature which particularly appeal to us, by reading plays together and by submitting our own writing to general comment.

We have met once a month during the past year. We have read six plays, covering a wide dramatic field and including Shakespeare, Sheridan, Wilde, Shaw and Terence Rattigan. Our extracts from literature have also shown a catholic range of tastes, including T. S. Elliot, the “New Statesman”, Dickens, Stephen Spender and Dornford Yates.

In three meetings some twenty pieces of original writing have been read, quite a number of which have been in verse. Again titles have shown a variety of taste—to name a few: “It’s Hell” (a commentary on conventional manners), “Biography of a Modern Terrorist” (Mau Mau), “On the Subject of Atlas”, “On listening to Brahms” and “Trains of Thought in a Schoolboy’s Mind whilst trying to Learn History”. It would not become us to eulogise these pieces, but we have not been ashamed of them. If we are still developing our style, that is only to be expected. We can say that the material has shown originality of thought and often a pleasing vitality in presentation.

Exactly how far our declared aims have been achieved it is still early to say. We can say that we have enjoyed ourselves and that, difficult as it often is to find time for our meetings in the face of other school activities, we think it worth the effort.

D. de G.S.

THE LIBRARY.

What has happened to the novel? Last term a large number of books were added to the library but of these only one was a novel in the real sense of the term. This was “Old Herbaceous” by Reginald Arkell. Mr. Arkell is a firm believer in the “good old days”, in an England happy and prosperous under Victoria and Edward, and never fails to stress this in this life story of an old gardener. As Herbaceous grows up and experiences hope, despair and finally disillusionment, with the passing of the old regime, Mr. Arkell creates a character full of warmth and humanity.

Two excellent stories were added for younger readers; they were “The Heirs of Charlecote” by Mark Dallow and “Stormalong” by Alan Villiers. The former is an adventure story set in Tudor England and Shakespeare is one of the characters. There are good descriptions of Elizabethan life, of thieves and tinkers, of players and of the Court, but the illustrations

are poor. Villier's "Stormalong", now justly famous, is a story of the sea which deserves the epithet "grand". There is a tang of salt on every page, as it were, and no doubt many older boys will enjoy it too.

John Gunther's "Inside Africa" has been bought for the political-geographical section. This ambitious work, of nearly a thousand pages, is the fifth of a series, and the author is at work on a sixth volume; if it is as good as "Inside Africa" it will certainly be welcome, for here is all that one could reasonably want to know about Africa, and it is at once interesting and informative.

"Modern Asia Explained" by W. R. McAncliffe is a short history of the states which comprise present-day Asia. It tells something of their development and also deals with possible reasons for the way it has happened. It accomplishes all it sets out to do but is too small to deal with more than a few aspects of political life in each state. A much longer book is "Struggle for Asia" by Sir Francis Low; its author, a former editor of "The Times of India", succeeds in his attempt to explain to the European developments there. The relevant political, economic and sociological factors are well correlated, and the result is a comprehensive manual for the student of Oriental affairs.

Relations between Communist and Western countries in the years 1945-1953 form the subject of Mr. Kenneth Ingram's "History of the Cold War". This difficult subject is tackled in a penetrating way and the development of "cold-war" tension clearly shown. Mr. Ingram's policy is to give both the Western and Communist views of events and to leave the reader to draw his own conclusions. His book is at all times interesting. Perhaps later he will write another on events in the Communist world since the death of Stalin.

Other new books added to this section include "The British Approach to Politics" by Michael Stewart, "British Policy in the Inter-War Years" by P. R. Reynolds, and "The British Commonwealth of Nations" by Sir Ivor Jennings.

Among books of a scientific nature was "Thomas Young, Natural Philosopher" by the late Dr. Alex Wood, sometime Fellow and Tutor of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. This is the outstanding biography of an eighteenth century man who was remarkable for the range of his scholarship which covered Natural Philosophy, Languages and the deciphering of hieroglyphics. The work is the result of forty years of painstaking research and is a full account of Young's discoveries and of his contributions to science. Yet it lacks an account of the man himself and Young's personality is therefore veiled. This is a great pity.

The reprint of a series of B.B.C. Reith Lectures "Science and the Human Understanding" by Dr. Oppenheimer, and "Frontier to Space" by Hurgess, were the other two books bought in this section.

Several new miniature scores were added to the music section and another volume of the Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia and the "Daily Mail Year Book" were put in the reference section.

NEW RECORDS.

Classical.

A wide selection of records was purchased by the General Meeting this term. The most popular were two seven-inch E.P.s. One has four marches on it, of which "The Grand March" from Verdi's "Aida" has achieved considerable popularity among the Juniors, a very poor orchestration of Schubert's Marche Militaire by Guiraud. The other two marches on this record are the "March of the Little Leaden Soldiers" by Pierné, and the "Funeral March of a Marionette" by Gounod. The sound of this record, which is played by the Boston Promenade Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler, is clear and distinct. The other E.P. has two excerpts from Schubert's "Rosamunde" music, the Third Entracte and the Second Ballet music: both are charming. The recording of the Entracte is, however, poor, getting progressively worse as it approaches the end. It is difficult to find fault with the record of the Academic Festival Overture and Tragic Overture by Brahms. The orchestra is the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and the conductor is Edward van Beinum. The recording is very good and the playing beautiful, particularly that of the strings in the middle of the "Tragic". The tempo in the Academic Festival Overture is, perhaps, a little slow.

The Meeting also purchased a record of Mozart's 21st and 26th piano concerti. This is the first long playing record of pre-Beethoven music that the meeting has bought (the others have been presented). It is played by Joerg Demus and the Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera is conducted by Milan Horvath. This record has not been played very much, a fact which reflects the present attitude to music of this type.

The College bought two records this term; both are very good recordings, one being Rachmaninov's second piano concerto played by Clifford Curzon and the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. The other is of Schumann's first symphony, "the most refreshing piece of music ever written", in the words of one of its admirers.

Jazz.

The 10 inch L.P. of Bob Scobey's Frisco Band purchased by the Meeting this term is a good recording of some interesting work by the San Francisco Revivalist School of Jazz. Bob Scobey leads on trumpet, with a front line of Bob Helm on trombone, and Darnell Howard and Albert Nicholas alternating on clarinet. Powerful but discreet backing is given by the rhythm section of guitar/ bass/drums, and especially by Burt Bales on piano. Bob Scobey, when he was playing with Lu Wafers, was compared with Oliver and Armstrong, and he certainly provides a good example of the crisp phrases of the latter's technique. Darnell Howard and Albert Nicholas both played with Morton in the "twenties". All through the record, only broken by a painful vocal from guitarist Clancy Hayes, "Beale Street Mama", the general pattern is: a trumpet solo, followed by a clarinet

solo, followed by either a trombone or a piano solo, and the band is concluded with an ensemble. Of particular interest among the bands are "Dippermouth Blues", for fine solos by Scobey and Buck, "Pretty Baby", for a fine break by Darnell Howard, and "That's a Plenty" for the clarinet playing of Albert Nicholas.

Edmund Hall's Bluenote Jazzmen, now represented in the Meeting cabinet by a 7-inch E.P. disc, show an exciting blend of "traditional" jazz, with what was "modern" twenty years ago. It is strange to see James P. Johnson and Sidney de Paris in the same group, particularly as it is led by a musician considerably influenced by the Benny Goodman style of clarinet playing, in Edmund Hall. The atmosphere is almost that of a "modern" group 'playing trad'. Sidney de Paris is extremely crisp especially on "Royal Garden Blues". James P. Johnson varies from "hot" jazz to sheer exhibitionism. Among the other members of the band, Vic Dickenson on trombone provides an effective to Sidney de Paris. The whole is somewhat marred by poor recording.

Finally a 78 r.p.m. disc was purchased, "Teddy Buckner in Concert". With the inimitable style of Teddy Buckner on trumpet, aided and abetted by that most underrated musician, Joe Darensbourg, on clarinet and soprano sax, this is a refreshing and exciting breath of New Orleans style jazz. Unfortunately this again is a bad recording.

CRICKET REPORT, JULY, 1956.

In one way it can be said that this was a slightly disappointing season. There seems no real reason which might explain why the cricket did not fulfil all its potentialities. The record of 8 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat for the 1st and A XI matches sounds very impressive, and more so when two of the 1st XI victories were over teams we only just managed to draw with last year, e.g., Cheltenham College 2nd XI and Cheltenham Town 2nd XI. But although we were stronger than last year we were not as good as we should have been. Perhaps one reason why the team did not come up to its full potentialities was that the fixture list did not allow it to. It has been a feature of Rendcomb teams and especially cricket teams, that they do not really settle down until June. The team invariably plays indifferently in May but after the June exams becomes far stronger. This year only one 1st XI match was played after June 7th, and at a time when the team could really be expected to come fully into its own there was either rain or no match. It was no fault of the secretary that this happened but future secretaries should try and arrange more fixtures in June and July and fewer in May.

It need not be assumed from the fact that the season was slightly disappointing, that it has been a bad season, for this was not so. It has been an excellent season. The 1st and 2nd XIs have been very strong (the 1st XI

probably being the strongest for many years). First game was much more pleasant than is usually the case and throughout the school there was more keenness and enthusiasm than usual, especially in the lower forms. This year 25 per cent. more people than last year took advantage of the net and between them they had twice as many nets as the previous year. A reason for the added enthusiasm was the presence of Andy Wilson on Monday and Friday evenings. His most valuable work was the group coaching of the Junior and Middle school. Some effect in the play of Juniors was noticeable even before the end of term, but the real fruits of his work will not appear till next year and the year after.

Turning to the 1st XI it was rather odd to find that the main power of the team changed from the bowling to the batting, since there was virtually the same side as last year. It may be noted that there was no newcomer to 1st XI cricket this year, which is probably a record. Last year the batting was not very dependable and there were many batsmen who should have scored many more runs than they did. This year runs came fairly regularly from the first five batsmen, who all made scores of over 25 on at least two occasions. We were only once dismissed for less than 100 (and that was on a shocking wicket) and we were only all out on two occasions. Yet only once did we fail to dismiss our opponents. There are several reasons why the bowling did not improve compared with last year. One was the illness of C. Handoll which kept him out of two matches and affected his form, another was Alder's preference for the old ball to the new ball which he always had to use this year; he always bowled far better in his second spell when the shine had gone.

On the whole the fielding was not good, the throwing-in being especially bad. While there were no outstanding offenders there was also no one who consistently threw accurately except possibly Handoll. The stopping was usually good but there was a lack of inspired fielding either in making catches or in obtaining a run-out. A feature of the team was the vast number of catches offered. Last year there were only 7 caught and a bare dozen offered. This year 37 were held and many other chances slipped through, though it is only fair to say that very few simple catches were dropped. As most of the catches went to the close fielders, by the end of the term there was a high standard of close fielding. The main experts were T. D. A. Semple at silly mid-off, R. W. Alder and R. J. Lawson in the forward short leg position and J. M. Astill at backward short leg. Between them they caught many excellent catches, although they could have done even better.

Perhaps a reason for the solidarity of the batting was that the order for the first six batsmen was never changed. A constantly changing batting order can only have bad effects and is to be avoided as far as possible. H. A. Gough opened this year with Astill and after he had settled down to his new position and curbed a tendency to have occasional wild swings, he batted very well. His bat was straighter and he improved more and more as the season went on. A feature of his play is that he attacks from the start,

but this can at times lead to an early dismissal. Behind the stumps he had an excellent season as a record of 8 stumpings in to games shows. He was very agile in dealing with inaccurate throws. D. A. Godfrey at No. 3 was excellent on occasions, but lost his form after a brilliant 93 in the first match. This big score may have made him somewhat overconfident for he did not appear to concentrate enough early on and twice was caught close in first ball, not getting right over the ball playing forward. He is really an ideal batsman on a fast true wicket and as such is unsuited to Top which is slow and rough. J. R. Ellis at No. 4 made a great improvement and regained the place he lost last year. At times he was hesitant but he has a sound technique and certainly made more attempt this year to attack. Next year he should make many more runs with the added responsibility. At No. 5 R. W. Alder played several useful innings. At his best he is a stylish batsman but when off form he is clumsy. He drove well but had difficulty in connecting with the hook stroke. He should try to master this shot as the ball wide of the leg stump is a very common one for the left hander and can be profitable. With the ball he was by far the most hostile of the bowlers and was never mastered. M. G. Richards at No. 6 was the same as ever, but he only had limited chances. Although he has no pretence to style he is very effective and the cricket is never dull when he is at the wicket. In the field he caught several very good catches in the deep. R. J. Lawson on the whole was disappointing. He had few chances. Against slow bowlers he should use his feet more as he does in the nets. He is potentially very good but seems to lack confidence in himself. R. C. Pilkington, not previously thought of as a batsman, improved beyond bounds as the term progressed, and played several useful innings. He has a sound if rather ungainly method of defence but picks the right ball to hit and hits it very hard. Next year will show whether he will become an outstanding player or merely a good one as his bowling will be used much more than it could be this year. The rest of the team swung their bats with different shades of success. Semple hit the ball harder and higher than most and it was due to 24 runs from him in 10 minutes that we won the match against Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Of the rest of the team, Handoll was ill for two early matches and as a result his form was affected. There were few matches left when he had worked up to his former pace and accuracy and he can count himself unlucky in that way. Home this year reverted to off spinners and made a sensational return to the team by taking 6-2 when he replaced Handoll, who was ill. He bowled very accurately and spun the ball considerably.

The 1st XI had an initial advantage in their matches in that the Captain always won the toss. It could also be recorded that on each of the eight occasions the coin was spun it came down "Tails". This occurred also in both A XI matches and so the toss was won 10 times out of 10. Astill, as captain, was not only successful with the toss; throughout the season he organised with smooth efficiency and led the team sensibly and without fuss. His bowling was rather less accurate than the previous year and he occasionally bowled too much. His batsmanship was as solid and

watchful as ever though he was inclined to treat bad bowling too respectfully. It will be hard to imagine Rendcomb Cricket without him.

The 2nd XI was also a strong side but that was only to be expected as none of last year's players were needed for the 1st XI. B. Glastonbury replaced R. N. Home as Captain when the latter was recalled to the 1st XI. In any normal year he would have had a place in the 1st XI. There was a great spirit of attack in the 2nd XI which was an excellent thing. Their more carefree attitude was great fun either to watch or to take part in and the players thoroughly enjoyed their matches. Prominent players were J. A. Richards, D. T. Hart and M. R. Horton, with the bat and in the field, and B. Glastonbury, J. R. Alder, A. K. Bowley and R. F. Stebbing with the ball.

The Juniors once again were very weak. The main fault once more was the batting which invariably collapsed. The fielding also was poor and got much worse whenever it was under pressure. The bowling was the best part of the team and R. F. Stebbing and M. van den Driessche formed an opening attack which was accurate as well as fast. It was a pity that there was no good spin bowler to back these two up. R. A. Cockrell was the only batsman of note. He has a good defence and with more attacking strokes should improve. The outlook in the Juniors is very bright for in Forms I and II there are about 15 promising players. Most notable of these are H. E. Gough, J. C. Malpass, N. J. Price, R. P. S. Harrison, P. K. Dale and J. R. Marshall. Given the right coaching and practice these and others should soon be very useful players. Due to the efforts of Andy Wilson most Juniors have a knowledge of the basic principles and this is a good foundation to build on in the future. What is also very important is that they are all very enthusiastic and willing to learn.

The outlook for the next few years is not very bright in the Seniors. With Astill, Alder, Godfrey, Home, Semple and Richards, M. G., leaving there will be a considerable vacuum left behind without much material to fill it with. Next year we should be of average strength, but after that it looks as if we shall be weak for a few years.

We should like to thank everyone who has contributed towards the cricket this season, including Mr. James, Mr. Hull and Mr. Haywood, who have coached and umpired, G. H. G. Herbert who has umpired, and the men who prepared our pitches.

Results 1st and 'A' XI.

Sat., May 12th. 1st XI v. Cirencester G.S. 1st XI. Home.

Won by 121 runs.

Rendcomb 148-4 dec. (Godfrey 93, Ellis 25).

Cirencester 27 (Alder 6-8, Astill 3-14).

After two wickets had fallen for one run, Godfrey and Ellis put on 72 runs. Godfrey batted beautifully and his runs only took him 90 minutes. It took little time for Alder to go through the Cirencester batting after tea.

Sat., May 19th. 1st XI v. Cheltenham Town 2nd XI. Home.

Won by 9 wickets.

Cheltenham 80 (Home 6-2)

Rendcomb 84-1 (Astill 44 not out, Godfrey 22 not out).

At one stage Cheltenham were 60-3, but then Home, who only played as Handoll was ill, (came on and in 7.3 overs took six wickets for two runs. The runs 'were hit off' easily though the luck was in our favour more than once.

Wed., May 23rd. 1st XI v. Cheltenham G.S. 1st XI. Away.

Lost by 46 runs.

Cheltenham 88 (Alder 5-26).

Rendcomb 42.

We bowled and fielded very well but the batting collapsed on a rough wicket and none of the first four batsmen scored a run.

Sat., May 26th. 1st XI v. Marling G.S. 1st XI. Away.

Won by 26 runs.

Rendoomb 120 (Astill 32, Alder 33).

Marling 94 (Astill 6-45, Alder 3-19).

Astill batted well early on and when he left Alder and Richards M. G., carried on till we were 90-4 at tea. The next 5 wickets fell for 8 runs, but a last wicket partnership added 22. They batted brightly and at one stage all was set for a close finish when they were 70-4 with 45 minutes left, but the last 6 wickets fell rapidly. Astill bowled well and took two excellent catches off his own bowling, but the opening attack was unusually inaccurate.

Tues., May 29th. 'A' XI v. Kingham Hill 1st XI. Away.

Won by 68 runs.

Rendcomb 132-7 (dec.) (Gough 66 not out).

Kingham 64 (Horne 5-44, Pilkington 3-13, Glastonbury 2-2).

Gough came into form on a sodden wicket and also stumped three batsmen. Only the spin bowlers were used and they quickly did their job, aided by good catching by the deep fielders.

Sat., June 2nd. 1st XI v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Away.

Won by 3 wickets.

Cheltenham 137 (Home 5-53, Alder 4-26).

Rendcomb 138-7 (Astill 22, Gough 54, Semple 24 not out).

A very good game in which the ball was hit very hard throughout on a fast, true wicket. This was shown by the fact that Horne bowled only 8 overs to take 5-53. Gough and Astill put on 64 for the first wicket and it looked as if we were heading for a big win, but the middle batsmen got out hitting wildly. Semple ensured victory with 6 fours hit in 10 minutes. A good victory and a most enjoyable game of cricket.

Thurs., June 7th. 1st XI v. Dean Close 'A' XI. Away.

Drawn.

Dean Close 191-5 dec. (Alder 4-48).

Rendcomb 107-4 (Gough 22, Ellis 25 not out, Alder 27).

We paid the price of bad catching and two batsmen who made 138 runs between them were dropped early on. Periodic showers of rain handicapped the bowlers but this was just as much to our advantage after tea when we batted. The batting partly redeemed our had fielding and bowling and we batted consistently till rain ended play.

Wed., June 10th. 'A' XI v. Kings School, Gloucester 1st XI. Away.

Won by 19 runs.

Rendcomb 84 (Ellis 26, Pilkington 27).

Kings School 65 (Astill 6-31, Pilkington 3-11)

We batted and fielded very badly, Astill in particular being quite out of form. In all about a dozen catches were dropped. Astill and Pilkington bowled well but their figures could have been much better.

Wed., June 27th. 1st XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's 1st XI. Away.

Won by 71 runs.

Rendcomb 127-8 dec. (Astill 27, Godfrey 36, Pilkington 20 n.o.).

Sir T. Rich's 56 (Astill 4-9).

Runs came consistently all through the innings. Astill and Godfrey both batted very well early on and Pilkington enlivened the end of the innings. Good fielding early on was marred by bad slip-catching, when the spinners came on, but we still won easily.

2nd XI Matches.

Thurs., May 17th. v. Burford G.S. 1st XI. Home.

Lost by 11 runs. Burford 73-7 dec. (Griffiths 3-12, Home 3-15).

Rendcomb 62.

Sat., June 2nd. v. Dean Close 3rd XI. Home.

Won by 7 wickets

Dean Close 79 (Glastonbury 4-22).

Rendcomb 121-3 (Richards, J. A. 33 not out, Horton 22,,
Glastonbury 23 not out).

Sat., June 30th. v. Kingham Hill 2nd XI. Home.

Won by 49 runs.

Rendcomb 121-8 dec. (Horton 22).

Kingham 72 (Bowley 4-10).

Junior XIs. (U.16, U.15, U.14).

Sat., May 12th. U.15 XI v. Cirencester G.S. U.15 XI. Home.
Lost by 8 wickets.
Rendcomb 23.
Cirencester 57 (Stebbing 5-25, Driessche 3-10).

Thurs., May 17th. U.14 XI v. Burford G.S. U.14 XI. Home.
Lost by 6 wickets.
Rendcomb 24.
Burford 41 (Gough 3-7, Cockrell 4 12).

Wed., May 23rd. U.I6 XI v. Cheltenham G.S. U.I6 XI. Away.
Lost by 78 runs.
Cheltenham 117-9 dec. (Driessche 3-13).
Rendcomb 39 (Bowley 18).

Sat., May 26th. U.15 XI v. Marling G.S. U.I5 XI. Away.
Lost by 6 wickets.
Rendcomb 57 (Cockrell 35).
Marling 60-4.

Tues., May 29th. U.14 XI v. Kingham Hill U.14 XI. Away.
Lost by 55 runs.
Kingham 81 (Cockrell 6-14, Taylor 4-30).
Rendcomb 26.

Sat., June 2nd. U.15 XI v. Cheltenham College U.15 XI. Away.
Drawn.
Cheltenham 156-5 dec. (Stebbing 4-32).
Rendcomb 78-6 (H. E. Gough 18, Driessche 17).

Wed., June 27th. U.15 XI v. Sir T. Rich's U.15 XI. Away.
Drawn.
Sir T. Rich's 115-8 dec.
Rendcomb 27-8.

TENNIS.

Throughout the term interest in tennis was fairly general though perhaps the senior school was not quite so keen as in 1955. The condition of the courts might have been a contributory factor as they developed bare patches soon after the beginning of term.

Three matches were arranged: two against Wycliffe College 1st VI and one against Cheltenham College 2nd VI.

Our team was : 1st String, M. G. Richards (captain), D. A. Godfrey. 2nd String, B. Glastonbury, J. M. Astill. 3rd String, J. R. Ellis, H. A. Gough.

The first match was against Wycliffe College 1st VI, away. Due to inexperience, mainly, we lost by seven matches to two, our only wins being when our first and second strings defeated their thirds.

The second match was at home against the same team. The score was 2-2 when the game was abandoned because of rain.

We were leading when rain stopped play in our match against Cheltenham College 2nd VI. It seemed likely that we might have taken this match if there had been any hope of further play.

THE FILM OF "RICHARD III".

Most of the school enjoyed the opportunity of seeing the film of "Richard III" in the Gaumont Cinema, Cirencester, on May 16th. The whole action is dominated by the overwhelming character of Richard of Gloucester, a figure so presented by Shakespeare that he has gone down as one of the greatest villains of all time. In his version of "Richard III" Sir Lawrence Olivier is superb in his interpretation of Richard.

The elder generation is inclined to look upon the cinema as an evil influence upon the young. However, there is no doubt that this medium of expression has been highly successful in the case of "Richard III". To the host of smaller boys who went to the film it opened the gates to a life's enjoyment of Shakespeare, in a way which no play could have done. For the ultimate capacities of the screen. are much greater than those of the stage, and surely none but the most pedantic can deny that in its battle and ghost scenes the film scored immeasurably over the stage version. Again only the pedant will refute the film's right to begin with a speech from "Henry VI, Part III", or attach the use of interpolations by Colly Cibber and David Garrick; and these were certainly not the only textual changes. What was the purpose of the film? Was it to give the stage version of "Richard III"? If so, why was so fantastic a sum spent on its screen production? No, it was to produce a film version, requiring a completely different technique and with an entirely different purpose in mind—that of bringing Shakespeare to the millions who have never been able to see and appreciate his works. In this, then, the film of "Richard III" was highly successful.

The glamour of the production was enhanced by the music of Sir William Walton. There were many delightful scenes earlier in the film, notable amongst them being those of quaint 15th century London. The whole was a magnificent array of pomp and pageantry, a vast canvas painted in a profusion of glowing colours, and there is no doubt that had Shakespeare been alive today he would have highly approved of the film of "Richard III"!

“MAJOR BARBARA.”

On June 28th, a party travelled by coach and car to the Theatre Royal, Bristol, to see George Bernard Shaw's play, "Major Barbara", which has since been presented in the West End of London. Written in 1907, this revival coincided with celebrations in other parts of the country of the centenary of Shaw's birth.

The dialogue was slightly cut, leaving three different settings. Act I, the Undershaft's house, showed an ordinary Edwardian drawing room, which Lady Britomart used as her spacious boudoir. It gave the impression of being rather two-dimensional, with furniture forming a line across the foreground of the stage, backed by a somewhat flat window view of a fashionable crescent. The scene outside the West Ham shelter of the Salvation Army was immensely impressive, almost like a ruined fortress, bleak and miserable, completely expressive of the cruelty and poverty of the area. It gave a sort of tragic grandeur to the undoubted courage of the Salvationists. On first sight the setting above the cannon works at Perivale St. Andrews appeared almost pantomime-like, with a large cannon and some dummy soldiers for gunnery experiments, backed by a view of houses and factory chimneys. As a result of conversation during the final act, the setting does actually appear as an imaginative conception of the early twentieth century equivalent of the modern Bournville or Port Sunlight.

"Major Barbara" is not a play which is dominated by one character so much that the success of the production depends on his or her performance. It demands general consistency rather than one dominating personality, a demand which is completely suited to the resources of the Bristol Company. Moira Shearer, with the delicate gracious figure of the ballerina, suffered an initial disadvantage in the title role, for Barbara is a dominating robust person; nevertheless Miss Shearer's beauty and vivacious personality were extremely effective, particularly in the scene at West Ham with Bill Walker. This character, a loud-mouthed cockney, and Charles Lomax, an example of education without intelligence, were both enormously amusing. Bill Walker had a deep penetrating voice, full of expression, well suited to the bitterness of some of his remarks. Barbara's sister, Sarah, had little to say; she was presented as a bored society lady, who still retained some of the behaviour of her adolescence. Lady Britomart Undershaft was less convincingly portrayed as a dominating but charming aristocrat with an unusual amount of practical sense. Andrew Undershaft must be a difficult part to act, for here Shaw is subjugating his dramatic powers for the sake of propaganda. Andrew is basically the mouthpiece of an idea, yet in this production his actor succeeded in giving him a pleasant convincing personality. Cusins was equally successful, his quiet wit contrasting finely with the coarser humour of Bill and Charles. Of the lesser characters the part of Jenny, the simple, devoted, rather delicate Salvation Army girl, was superbly cast, while three others, Shirley,

Snobby Price and Rummy Mitchens, added to the effectiveness of the scene at West Ham.

A convincing portrayal of the personalities is not sufficient however to give "Major Barbara" dramatic unity, for the characters are governed by a series of controversial ideas which must be made acceptable in order that a basis of reason can be given to the development of the plot. The two important ideas are those which govern the actions of the hero and heroine. Barbara leaves the Salvation Army rather than accept an offer of money from Bodger, who lives by distilling whisky. She cannot accept money from a man who makes his wealth immorally, by playing on human weaknesses.

Barbara places conscience before expediency, whereas Andrew Undershaft does precisely the opposite. It is possible to accept his view that material poverty is unfortunate if not criminal, but is any means of avoiding it justifiable? Andrew himself was born into poverty, but his present business, manufacturing arms, though profitable, is thoroughly destructive, and his minimising of the importance of the moral issues does not disguise the fact that he lives by war. The problem is whether "a lucrative trade in death and destruction" should be described as "opulent villainy" or "energetic enterprise".

THE LANCHESTER MARIONETTES.

Towards the end of June, a party of juniors paid an evening visit to the Opera House, Cheltenham, where the Lanchester Marionettes were giving a performance. The coach left the College at 7.15 p.m. and arrived back at about 10.30 on a very wet night.

As the party sat in the balcony the marionettes appeared rather small and distant. The programme was a varied one of about ten sketches, including an excellent "floor show" given by Miss Christine Glanville.

The first half contained six sketches, four of which were musical. The first, entitled "Monsieur Pataluski", was an ingenious impersonation of a concert pianist. This was followed by two dances. First, "The Grass-hoppers' Dance", and the other "The Old Dutch Tile". The fourth item on the list was a Celtic Fairytale called "The Sprightly Tailor". "Seaport" followed next, and this consisted of an old sailor playing a bo'sun's pipe. The last item in the first half, which everyone enjoyed, was the floor show.

After the interval followed two plays, one "The Beau of Bath", the other "Shakes versus Shaw", which was really a subtle attack on Shakespeare by Bernard Shaw. Next, to the tune of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake", came an "Underwater Ballet". Rounding off the performance was a "Grand Circus", which everyone found amusing.

The evening out was considered very worthwhile by all.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

December, 1956.

Miscellaneous Notes, January 1st to August 31st, 1956.

Birds.

The severe cold spell in February reduced many birds to the point of starvation so that even wary Wood Pigeons, feeding on Brassica crops, became more or less indifferent to the presence of man.

Buzzards, after a very bad year in 1955, appeared to adapt themselves during the past winter to the absence of rabbits as food and they were seen many times. Their feeding habits have been somewhat different from the previous normal: they often hunt low or sit on posts from which low gliding attacks are made on small prey in the grass. Hovering has been more than usually frequent and the times of ten consecutive periods of hovering by one bird at Withington were taken on May 12th. They were 4, 12, 4, 5, 7, 11, 4, 8, 12 and 7 seconds. A nest was found not far from the College and held three small young on May 31st. Two of these flew safely. The smallest disappeared mysteriously and suspicion must fall upon his voracious older brothers!

A Grasshopper Warbler was heard singing on several occasions near the Rendcomb bus-stop in late April and early May. An unusual occurrence was the arrival of a cock Pied Flycatcher, a lovely black and white bird, in late May. He took up a territory astride the College back drive and sang every day for a month with great energy and persistence. At no time could any sign of a female or a nest be found.

A Cuckoo's egg was found in a nest of Hedge Sparrow by the back drive. All the eggs in the nest hatched at about the same time and the young parasite ejected its nest-mates in the usual way. Several members of the College saw this young Cuckoo at different stages of its development.

Very good views of a Hobby were obtained on August 25th as it circled above Lower Rendcomb amid a cloud of agitated House Martins. This little falcon is a rare species in Gloucestershire, and a bird with spectacular powers of flight.

Mammals.

Foxes seem to have recovered fairly well from the virtual disappearance of rabbits. Several earths with cubs were found in the vicinity of the College and at one were the remains of Pheasant, Wood Pigeon and a freshly-killed lamb. A vixen with two cubs was seen near Marsden by a member of the village, who describes them hunting for mice and making captures by quick bounds, much as would a cat.

Rabbits have been reported from many places in the district, and a number of young have been seen. The rabbit must nevertheless rank as a rare mammal at least for the present. Grey Squirrels have also become surprisingly scarce in this region during the past two years, shooting being only partially responsible, so far as one can judge. A drey with young was

found in a beech beside the Cirencester Drive.

Insects.

Two beetles are worthy of mention. The first is *Platyrhinus resinus* which seems to be scarce in the country generally. One was found in the College on June 11th.

The second is the Wasp Beetle (*Clytus arietis*), which is banded black and yellow and resembles one of the 'mason' or 'digger' wasps. The similarity is heightened by the insect's wasp-like movements and by the short buzzing noises which the beetle makes when touched. It is fairly common and several were found in the village during July.

This has been a poor year for butterflies in this part of the country. None of the migrant species has been seen in numbers and we have received no reports of Clouded Yellows and very few of the Peacock and Comma butterflies. The local colony of the rare Large Blue butterfly, however, did fairly well in spite of poor weather.

Several moths of interest were captured by members of the College. These included three species of Prominent, the Pebble Prominent as a larva on poplar in Conigre Wood, the Coxcomb Prominent to light in the Mill House garden and the Pale Prominent to light in the Old Rectory. A larva of the Black Arches moth was found on oak in Rendcomb Park in early June.

A capture of considerable interest was made by Mr. Hayward on June 21st, when he found a curious hawk-moth at Kennel Bottom. This proved to be a hybrid between the Elephant Hawk (*Dielephila elpenor*) and the Small Elephant Hawk (*Deilephila porcellus*). In size and pattern this moth is intermediate between the two parents, but in colour it is unlike either, being of a yellowish brown tint with much less red than is found in those species.

C. M. Swaine, B.Sc.

The Moths of the Rendcomb District, Part One.

Some confusion exists in both the scientific and the English nomenclature of the moths on the British list. Two systems of scientific names are in use, one in the British Museum and appearing in Richard South's "The Moths of the British Isles", and the other in Kloet and Hinck's more recent work "A Check List of British Insects". Since many of South's English names are misleading an attempt has been made by Cooper and O'Farrell to introduce a more rational system and this is rapidly gaining favour.

In order to minimise future confusion names in the following list are therefore presented thus :

English names:

First—Cooper and O'Farrell. Second—South.

One only—South (no change proposed).

Scientific names:

First—British Museum (Tams, mostly as in South).

Second—Kloet and Hincks. One only—The two agree.

(See “A Check List of British Macrolepidoptera”, A.E.S. Pamphlet No. 5).

The district to which the list applies lies within the following arbitrary boundaries: south to a line passing through Perrott’s Brook and including all ground between the Foss Way (A.429) and the Gloucester Road (A.417); north to the roads A.40 and A.436 from Northleach through Kilkenny to Seven Springs.

The list is by no means complete and new records are expected. It is compiled largely from notes made by Mr. E. G. Neal and I. S. Menzies, with subsequent additions. Owing to lack of data concerning very many species it has been decided not to attempt to define the local status of each species at present.

Sphingidae.

Lime Hawk. *Mimas tiliae*. *Dilina tiliae*.

Poplar Hawk. *Laothoe Populi*.

Eyed Hawk. *Smerinthus ocellata*. *S. ocellatus*.

Death’s Head Hawk. *Acherontia atropos*.

Privet Hawk. *Sphinx ligustri*.

Small Elephant Hawk. *Deilephila porcellus*.

Elephant Hawk. *D. elpenor*.

Hummingbird Hawk. *Macroglossum stellatarum*.

Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk. *Hemaris tityus*.

Notodontidae.

Poplar Kitten. *Harpyia hermelina*. *Cerura hermelina*.

Sallow Kitten. *Harpyia furcula*. *Cerura furcula*.

Puss Moth. *Cerura vinula*.

Lunar Marbled Prominent. Lunar Marbled Brown. *Chaonia ruficornis*.

Drymonia ruficornis.

Sharp-wedged Prominent. Swallow Prominent. *Pheosia tremula*.

Blunt-wedged Prominent. Lesser Swallow Prominent. *P. gnoma*.

Pebble Prominent. *Notodonta ziczac*.

Iron Prominent. *N. dromedarius*.

Great Prominent. *N. anceps*.

Coxcomb Prominent. *Lophopteryx capucina*.

Plumed Prominent. *Ptilophora plumigera*.

Pale Prominent. *Pterostoma palpina*.

Buff Tip. *Phalera bucephala*.

Thyatiridae.**Polyplocidae.**

Arched Lutestring. Buff Arches. *Habrosyne pyritoides*. *H. derasa*.

Blossom Lutestring. Peach Blossom. *Thyatira batis*.

Common Lutestring. Lesser Satin. *Tethea duplaris*.

Yellow-horned Lutestring. Yellow-horned. *Achlya flavicornis*.

Green Lutestring. Frosted Green. *Polyploca ridens*.

Lymantriidae.

Vapourer. *Orgyia antiqua*.

Pale Tussock. *Dasychira pudibunda*.

Yellow Tail. *Euproctis similis*. *E. chysorrhoea*.

Arched Tussock. Black Arches. *Lymantria monacha*.

Lasiocampidae.

Lackey. *Malacosoma neustria*.

December Eggar. December Moth. *Poecilocampa populi*.

Fox Moth. *Macrothylacia rubi*.

Drinker Moth. *Philudora potatoria*.

Lappet. *Gastropacha quercifolia*.

Drepanidae.

Pebble Hooktip. *Drepana falcataria*.

Oak Hooktip. *D. binaria*.

Beech Hooktip. Barred Hooktip. *D. cultraria*.

Chinese Character. *Cilix glaucata*.

Nolidae.

Cloaked Dwarf. Short-cloaked. *Nola cucullatella*.

Agrotidae.**Westermanniinae.****Cymbidae.**

Pink-edged Green. Green Silver-lines. *Bena fagana*. *B. prasinana*.

Large Green. Scarce Silver-lines. *Pseudoips prasinana*. *P. bicolorana*.

Arctiidae.

White Ermine. *Spilosoma lubricipeda*.

Buff Ermine. *S. lutea*.

Muslin Ermine. *Cynia mendica*.

Ruby Ermine. Ruby Tiger. *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*.

Small Tiger. Wood Tiger. *Parasemia plantaginis*.

Garden Tiger. *Arctia caja*.

Cinnabar. *Callimorpha jacobaeae*. *Hypocrita jacobaeae*.

Lithosiidae.**Arctiidae.**

Red-necked Footman. *Atolmis rubricollis*.

Muslin Footman. *Nudaria mundana*.

Rosy Footman. *Miltochrista miniata*.

Common Footman. *Eilema lurideola*.

Dingy Footman. *E. griseola*.

Orange Footman. *E. sororcula*.

To be continued.

C. Handoll.