

# *The Wathonian*



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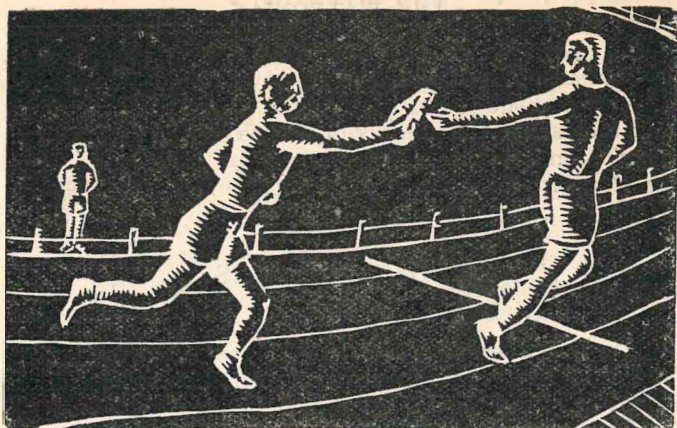
MARCH, 1937

NO. XLI.

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MILBURN U.V.A.

# The Wathonian

MARCH, 1937

## School Notes.

We offer a hearty welcome to Miss Lee, who came to us at short notice to take Miss Appleton's place.

We congratulate D. Higgins on winning a Major Scholarship at Jesus College, Cambridge, and hope the example he has set may be speedily followed.

The plays attracted slightly larger audiences this year, and the profit from them was £46.

The only important events of this term have been the influenza, which attacked us so successfully at the beginning of term that we closed for four days, and the weather which reserved its strongest attacks until the latter part of the term. The Scholarship Fund is growing steadily, if not rapidly, and now stands at over £380. The subscription list which is still open has provided £90 towards that total. The following subscriptions have been received during the present School year :—

|                       |    |    |   |                            |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Collins .. | £3 | 3  | 0 |                            |
| W. Wetherell, Esq.    | 0  | 10 | 0 |                            |
| F. Curran, Esq. ..    | 1  | 0  | 0 | (3rd annual subscription). |
| J. Maidment, Esq. ..  | 0  | 10 | 6 | (3rd annual subscription). |
| Anonymous ..          | 5  | 0  | 0 |                            |
| M. Hodgson, Esq. ..   | 0  | 10 | 0 | (2nd subscription).        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Horn ..    | 3  | 3  | 0 | (in memoriam A. Horn).     |

£13 16 6

The Art competition attracted so many competitors that the Committee has decided to give two prizes—the senior to J. Batty and the junior to Webster. There was also a welcome increase in the number of entries for the junior literary competition, for which the prize goes to C. M. Swift. Kitson won the prize for the senior competition.

## House Notes.

### ATHENS.

On December 11th last term Athens held a very successful House Party, and it was regretful that a national crisis should have caused the curtailment of our enjoyment.

In the games this term Athens has been badly let down by the Senior Boys, who have not yet won a match. The greatest trouble is that the members of the House teams will not turn up, and they would do well to remember that it is only good manners to ask to be excused when they cannot turn up.

The Senior Girls have played three matches this term, won two and lost one. The one lost, against Troy, was when only six of the team were present against nine Trojans. The score of 4—3 was very creditable to Athens.

The Junior Girls have played all their matches, having won three, lost one, and drawn one.

The Junior boys have played three matches and won them.

We are hoping that all Athenians, Seniors and Juniors alike, will show keenness next term in training for the Sports, and in making a real effort to secure the cup for Athens.

### CARTHAGE.

Although we realise the difficulties, especially that of distance, we yet think that more Carthaginians could attend School Societies, for their own improvement, for the good of the School, and of the House. More points for social activities might easily gain us the Work Cup, since the detentions are not increasing and we believe that the House's reputation for hard work can be maintained.

We stand a good chance of winning the Games Cup, but attendance at senior boys' matches has not been too good.

For the rest, we can only temper our high hopes with unstinted effort. No doubt we shall see every keenness in sports practices and summer games, with a corresponding vigour in School work. The Sports and Games Cup we should retain. It next remains, in Mr. Grear's last term as Carthaginian house-master, to make a concerted effort for the height of our ambition—the Work Cup.

### ROME.

At the end of last term we held our House Party. It was a great success, largely due to the kindness of Roman mothers.

We were sorry to lose one of our senior members, Alban Horn. He was very hardworking, and set a good example to the House.

The games this term have only been moderate; the juniors have shown a great deal of enthusiasm, which I am sorry to say, has not been supported by all the members of the Senior team.

The Senior Girls have lost one match and won one match; the Junior Girls have lost one match; the Senior Boys have lost two matches and won one match; the Junior Boys have lost one match and won two matches.

Hopes of winning the Work Cup seem to be very remote, for a small circle of Romans, mainly boys, seem to be aspiring for the record number of detentions.

### SPARTA.

For Spartans, as for the rest of the School, the term has been a very uneventful one. We were successful in winning the Work Cup last term, and it is to be hoped this performance will be repeated more frequently in the future. The support given by Spartans to School Societies certainly does the House credit. The detention list, that hardy annual source of grumbling, has been a trifle shorter up to the time of writing, but there is still much room for improvement. The House has not shone in the way of House matches; this has been chiefly due to unavoidable drawbacks, but it has been suggested that if every member of each term made a point of turning out, some improvement might be made.

The House Party held last term, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended it. We were sorry to lose our boys' House Captain, Atkinson, after one term's service in that position, and we wish him the best of luck in his new work. We also welcome the new Captain, R. Ellison, of the Upper VI. Science. Let us hope next term will give Spartans more opportunity to distinguish themselves—but not on the detention list!

### THEBES.

This term has lived up to its reputation of being absolutely uneventful. There has been very little to relieve the usual monotony of the Easter term except for the plentiful supplies of snow which is rather early for the time of the year. The fact that detentions have been less noticeable, especially among the girls, must strike a cheerful note in an otherwise

doleful term. The senior girls have played four hockey matches and won none, but the junior girls have been more successful. As for the boys, in the words of Painter, they have been "jolly good." For the past two or three years the House Outing has been non existent and we are hoping to remedy this in the summer term. Perhaps if it is proposed in good time we shall be able to make it a real success. Meanwhile we can only continue our attempts to improve, and hope for better success.

### **TROY.**

The House Party was definitely the high-light of last term. The Seniors arranged a sketch for presentation, but unfortunately, on the eve of the party, one of the caste was taken ill and the sketch had to be abandoned. The gap was filled with games. The Seniors proved very helpful in the arrangements. An experiment was tried in cutting out whist, which experiment proved successful. Next term we are hoping for a fine day for the House Outing, which was literally and metaphorically "damped" last year. No destination has been fixed, but any suggestions would be appreciated.

This season has also been quite a successful games season. The boys and girls have all done commendably in this sphere. It is pleasing to see that the boys have taken a greater interest in the gym club than ever before.

I hope you will forgive me for ending up on this note, but time-honoured custom enforces me to speak of detentions. Seventy-five per cent. of the boys' detentions have come from forms below the Fourth Forms, and more than half the total were from "A" forms. I fear the girls too have accounted for more detentions than good girls should.

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## **School Societies.**

### **THE SENIOR LITERARY SOCIETY.**

Owing to the short duration of the term and to the ravages of influenza, the activities of the Society have been very limited. Attendances throughout the session have been consistently good and greater keenness has been evident, especially in debates, although dramatic readings appear to have lost their sometime attraction.

The first meeting of the Easter Term was held on Feb. 1st, when members of the VIu. Lit and VI.Sc. debated the motion that : "The Arts as a course of study are of more value to the human race than the Sciences."



J. BATTY: L.VII.

The debate did not attain the high standard expected of Vth Form debates, the speeches being superficial and failing to penetrate to the crux of the problem. Higgins and Painter proposed the motion and Davies and Atkinson opposed. The motion was carried.

The second meeting of the term, the seventh of the session, also took the form of a debate. On Feb. 22nd members of the Upper Vth Forms debated the motion that "Chivalry is dying out." Curran and E. Quinney proposed, and Hawke and Barker opposed the motion, which was defeated by an overwhelming vote.

On March 10th members of the L.VI.Lit gave a dramatic reading of H. G. Wells' "Tono-Bungay." The whole production was well arranged and well given. H. Hill, J. Batty, Hollingsworth, Phillips, Rowe and Smith (R) (U.V.A.) were quite good.

The annual social will be held on March 22nd, when Shakespeare's "King Lear" will be given.

### **JUNIOR LITERARY SOCIETY.**

On February 3rd several impromptu debates were held. When the chairman closed the meeting, the discussion was

so animated that it was decided to continue the last debate at the next meeting. Thus on Feb. 9th a lively debate followed on the respective merits of "classics" and "bloods." The speeches on both sides were of a higher standard than the Society has heard for some sessions.

On February 16th the first year forms debated on the motion that "Camping is the best form of holiday." Form II., the proposers, were defeated by two votes.

In the Trial Scene from "Pickwick Papers," which was presented on February 23rd, the actors well deserved the vote of thanks accorded them.

The last debate of the term was held on March 2nd on the motion that "Wild animals should not be caged." As in all the debates held this term, there were so many speakers from the floor that the meeting had to be closed before everyone who wished had spoken. The competition has been so keen that in no debate was time found for the principal speakers to sum up.

So far all the meetings have been well-attended, and we confidently expect a full house for the last meeting when a one-act play, "The Old Bull," is to be read.

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## Orchestra Notes.

We were sorry to lose Atkinson at the end of last term. His reliable playing was the mainstay of the violins, and helped to improve the general standard.

The Orchestra provided music during the intervals of "Miss in her Teens" and "Laburnum Grove" last Christmas. The music for the former included "Speranza," by Popini, "Water Music," by Handel, "Comus" (Arne), and some traditional songs. For "Laburnum Grove" the Orchestra played "Morgenblatter" and "Wiener Blut" (Strauss), Mazurka (Delibes), and Belle Gavotte (Mozart).

This term the Orchestra has been practising the incidental music for "King Lear." It includes "The Magic Flute," "Nozze di Figaro," "The Wand of Youth," and "The Queen of France."

The Orchestra numbers have been reduced to twelve with Atkinson's departure. The different sections have improved, especially with regard to timing. There is still plenty of room for more recruits, however.

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## Scouts.

Last term ended with the usual Scout sing-song, led by the usual orchestra of harmonicas, the modern name for mouth-organs, a Jew's harp, and one paper-and-comb. The roaring

tones of the combined troop, which penetrate into the distant places of Wath, contrasted greatly with the sweet and dulcet tones of Hargreaves, our soloist, whose voice

“Grew up like organ, that begins anew  
Its strain, when other harmonies, stopt short,  
Leave the dinned air vibrating silverly.”

This term, however, work started once more. Several of the older Scouts have been continuing First Class Work while the rest of the Troop are mainly occupied with work for either their Tenderfoot or Second Class badges.

We have been pleased to see several new Scouts from the lower school, and especially delighted to have the privilege of two stalwart members of the Sixth Science, unbending from their scientific studies to apply their minds to the making of those intricate knots for which Scouts are famous, and which, we are informed, are quite easy when worked out by means of the Calculus and Newton's Law.

“Dulce est desipere in loco.” And the Scouts always believe in a little play after a lot of work. Accordingly games have been organised throughout the term, and a few new games, such as the obstacle race, have been introduced, together with a game played with a Rugby ball, in which the sole aim is, apparently, to wait until someone near you gets the ball and then to “scrag” him. These have served to relieve the monotony of the ever-popular games of handball, at which the more experienced Scouts have now become most efficient.

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## Guides.

This term has been very short, and in addition there was an extra week's holiday at the beginning of the term so there has not been much work completed.

A few second class Guides have been attending Ambulance classes and hope to pass their Ambulance badge this month. We are hoping to have an enrolment and a Patrol Leaders' Conference before this magazine is published.

At the end of the year there is to be a Guides' Handwork Exhibition at Barnsley, at which each Company is to hold a stall. The School Company, together with the Village Company, is to have a “Toy” Stall, so now the Guides can be seen busily knitting or sewing toys ; we believe in making an early start.

Our Company is now doing two good deeds, to help others, by collecting silver paper and used stamps.

We are still only a very small company, and would welcome all new recruits, especially those from the first year forms; perhaps we can entice them to join, by promising them Saturday afternoon rambles and "trackings" next term.

Don't forget to think over the question of "Camp" during the Easter holidays, Guides. D.G.

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### ARTS AND CRAFTS.

This has again been a very successful term for all the sections of the Society, in spite of the bad start due to the 'flu epidemic. Membership has been very keen and the work done good.

At the Art Club the sketching section has been restarted and some portrait work has been done. Less craftwork has been done this term, but illustration and manuscript work has been continued. There has been a keenness to carry further work which is being done in class. As usual several of the members are sending in entries for the Art Competition.

J. Frith, Upper III.b and Fereday, IVb, have been elected full members for regular attendance and general keenness.

The Woodwork section has not been quite so busy this term, but the drop in attendance is probably due to the bad start at the beginning of the term.

The Club has been honoured by one lady member, but should any of the girls in the school fancy their prowess as carpenters, there is no restriction to membership.

In the Metalwork Club the success of last term has been followed up by great activity, and it is particularly pleasing to see junior members of the School showing interest in metalwork as this is not one of their subjects.

A variety of models have been made, amongst which iron stands and poker are most popular.

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### Natural History Society.

The activities of both sections have been curtailed owing to the influenza epidemic and bad weather which has rendered outdoor work impossible.

A few members of the junior section have been active, clearing skeletons of rabbits, and are now fairly proficient.

There have been two meetings of the Senior section. H. Knutton read a paper on "How animals develop," giving an account of development from the early stages of the egg

to the final stage of animal development. The paper was illustrated under the epidiascope. The attendance was deplorably poor.

Later in the term Mr. W. B. Williams gave a paper on "Heredity" to a select band which apparently was the Field Club. Another paper is due, Simpson, of Upper Va is giving a paper on "How plants feed."

It is to be hoped that next term weather and other factors will permit excursions outdoors and that these will lead to a renewal of interest.

## School Plays.

### "MISS IN HER TEENS."

"Miss in her Teens," by David Garrick, is an interesting play, as it is one of the first of the artificial comedies, preceding the comedies of Sheridan and Goldsmith by about thirty years.

In a play of this type, when much of the comedy depends on the action as much as on the speeches, it is very important that the whole cast should be fairly level.

The principal actors, Humphreys as Captain Lovett, and K. Evers as Miss Biddy Bellair, played their parts excellently and M. Smith, as Tag, Miss Biddy's maid, who also had an important part in the plot, played with a merry humour rivalling that of Puff, her rascally husband, proved very entertaining. The two suitors, Captain Flash and Mr. Fribble, played by Ellison (P.) and Linley, were strongly characterised. Among the smaller parts Sir Simon Goldacres played by Kitson, brought to life the testy old suitor who was admirably valeted by his attentive servant, Jasper (E. Painter). The scene in which Biddy shared her resentment of Sir Simon's strictness showed in a lively fashion the trials which beset young maidens of that time.

The songs, "When Laura Smiles," "Phyllis was a Faire Maide," "If the Heart of a Man," "My Heart was so Free," and "Blue Riband," sung by D. Green and J. Cutler, were a delightful addition to the play and the choruses sung by the whole cast off stage to represent the distant music to be heard in the fashionable parts of Bath, were sung with vigour.

The costumes, which seem to improve each year, were also greatly admired. A notable feature of the play was the distinctness with which the whole cast spoke, a necessary accomplishment in artificial comedy, where much depends upon catching the force of the repartees.

"Miss in her Teens" was an interesting addition to the series of eighteenth century plays given in previous years by other members of the School.

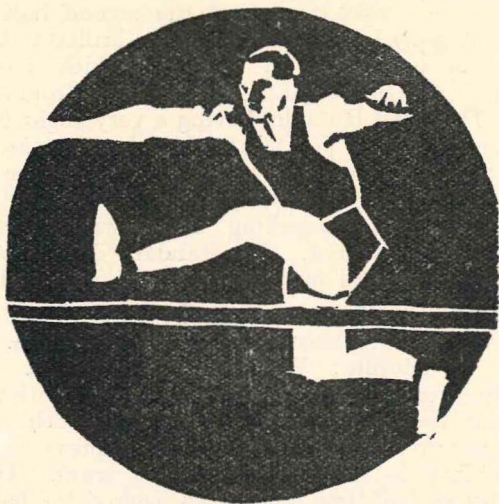
#### "LABURNUM GROVE."

"Laburnum Grove" is one of the most popular plays which the School has produced. It is quite true to say that there was not a dull minute in the whole performance. The audience evidently shared this view and not only expressed their approbation in the recognised way at the end of each act, but also applauded in the middle of a scene. The dialogue between Hardy, as Radcliffe, and Philips, as the detective, is but one example of their approval. Added to the appeal of the plot was a high standard of acting. Moreover, all the actors could be heard quite distinctly from the back of the hall.

The honours of the performance go to Hardy, as Radcliffe, the seemingly typical suburban business man, but who in reality is a crook, and to Boyd, his sponger brother-in-law who has recently returned from the East and is unable to forget it. Hardy's air of genial honesty showed that he thoroughly understood the part of a man whose life seemed so utterly "suburban" and so devoid of adventure, but which was in effect concerned with the manufacture of counterfeit money.

Philips, as the detective, who was waiting for proof of Radcliffe's illegal activities, was also good, and certainly looked the part. As Joe Flecken, who is known to Radcliffe's family as his gardener friend, but is really a crook, Glover played his part well, although the smallness of his role gave him little chance to distinguish himself. Harold Russ, Elsie Radcliffe's despicable suitor, was ably played by Sands. His nervousness on his introduction to the Radcliffe family was well acted. Hawke, the prompter and the policeman whom everyone thought had come to arrest Radcliffe but had only called in for the subscription to the local cricket club, was efficient in both capacities. His second role, though quite convincingly presented, was only very small and he had more chance to distinguish himself in the first. If he was obliged to prompt, the audience was not aware of it.

Irene Atkinson, as Mrs. Radcliffe, gave a successful performance, and it was obvious that she understood her part of a simple and kindhearted woman, who would believe no ill of her husband. As her sister, Helen Hill was very good, whilst Freda Turner played the part of her niece, Elsie Radcliffe, quite capably.



WEBSTER, VIIIA.

## Football Notes.

1st XV. v. Goole G.S. (Home). Feb. 6th.

Result : Won—37 points to nil.

Fortune smiled at last. Ideal Rugger conditions prevailed. The School won the toss and Painter decided to play uphill. In the early stages of the game play was even, with Goole in slight superiority in the pack. The Wath backs were definitely superior towards the close of the first half. Humble secured a fine drop goal just before half-time.

In the second half the School asserted their superiority, good use being made of the slope ; and the defence was never too pressed. Tries followed in quick succession. Ellison, R., went over twice, Humble converting both. Longbottom added a further three points and Ellison, R., scored twice again. Humble converted all these. Towards the close Horner scored; Humble, however, failed to convert. Humble's accurate kicking was a marked feature of the game.

1st XV. v. Thorne. (Home). 20th February.

Result : Won—13 points to nil.

This game was played under difficult conditions, handling and kicking being made extremely difficult owing to a strong wind across the pitch. It was essentially a forwards' game. The School kicked off up the slope. Thorne attacked strongly, but fine combined forward play, and judicious kicking by the School backs, soon took the play into the visitors' half. Play throughout the first half was very keen and even. Half-time : no score.

In the very first minute of the second half Horner, making full use of the slope, made a brilliant dash, and succeeded in placing a try down. A kick was almost impossible. A little later Ellison, P., scored from a forward dribble. This time Humble, having a very slight help from the wind, converted. Thorne attacked, but were soon driven back. Then the School backs broke through the visitors' defence and Brown gave Knutton a pass, which the latter put to good advantage, touching down without difficulty. Humble again converted. The standard of play was high, especially the forward play. The match provided a good, keen and even game.

1st XV. v. Thorne. (Away). Feb. 27th.

Result : Won—16 points to nil.

Thorne won the toss and decided to play with the wind. Throughout the first half there was not much to choose between the two teams. The School, as in previous matches, showed ability to work together as a team. About ten minutes before half-time, our backs secured the ball from a scrumage, and after a really fast passing movement, Davison touched down. Humble failed to convert. Half-time : School winning 3 points to nil.

After the interval the School threes secured more of the ball. Humble dropped a fine goal. Shortly after, Ellison, P. went over to score. Humble again failed with the kick. Painter scored an unconverted try after a dribbling movement by the scrum. In the last minute Humble scored from a fine run, but failed to convert.

2nd XV. v. Goole Secondary School 2nd XV. Away.

Dec. 5th, 1936.

Result : Won—11 points to 9.

Goole won the toss and opened the play quickly. We soon settled down, however, and mainly through the playing of Horner and Hollingsworth, well backed by the rest of the team, succeeded in holding the heavier Goole team off, and although Goole were in Wath territory the greater part of the second half, the School finally beat Goole with a brilliant try by Horner.

2nd XV. v. Goole Secondary School 2nd XV. (Home).

Feb. 27th, 1937.

Result : Won—29 points to 5.

Goole sent down a much smaller team than the team which represented them at Goole. To even things, however, the School had to take the field with 14 men. The ground was muddy, making handling difficult. The School easily beat its opponents, Hollingsworth again playing an outstanding game. Kidson and Woodruff also scored tries.

## Hockey Notes.

1st XI. v. Mexborough. (Home).

Result: Won 1—0.

The School won the toss and elected to play uphill first. It was a fine day, and the ground was in good condition. The School team played together well, and so kept the ball up the field during the first half, although the Mexborough forwards were quick to seize a chance to get the ball into their own circle. During the second half both teams were tired, but the School, playing downhill, kept the Mexborough backs busy. M. Smith scored a fine goal by a shot from the edge of the circle. Throughout the game B. Evans, by her steady play in goal, gave confidence to the School team. The teams were very evenly matched.

2nd XI. v. Mexborough 2nd XI. (Away). Feb. 5th.

Result: Lost 3—1.

Mexborough won the toss and elected to play uphill first. The ground was rather soft and hindered play a little, yet the School played well and just before half-time managed to score a goal.

In the second half of the game the play was centred round the Wath circle. Though the School forwards made some fine attempts to take the ball up the field, they were unable to score again. Mexborough, however, were much quicker on the ball, and with their passing, and succeeded in scoring three times.

2nd XI. v. Thorne 2nd XI. (Away). Feb. 20th.

Result: Won 2—0.

The ground was in good condition and Thorne winning the toss, elected to play uphill first. The game proved to be a hard fight, but the School forwards pressed hard, working together, and just before half time were rewarded with a goal, which was followed very quickly by a second. During the second half the Thorne forwards came very near to shooting a goal, but the fine play of the backs and goal cleared the ball in time. Although we failed to score again the match ended in a victory for the School with a score of two goals to nil.

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## To A.H.

*"Quos dei amant, cum invenes moriuntur."*

How strange the working of God's holy will !

But stay ! let us not question Providence

Who know not how we came to be, or whence

Our shaping destiny. How bootless, till

We comprehend, to judge for good or ill

Those things beyond the range of human sense !  
 'Tis said, God best can his own laws dispense  
 A dark reverse may oft our hopes fulfill.

Time will obscure thy fleeting passing, friend,  
 Yet, amidst greatest joy, a starting tear  
 May bring to mind the sadness of thy end—  
 A restless thought breeds a haunting fear—  
 Now, thou hast probed life's deepest mystery,  
 I honour, friend, thy sacred memory !

E. N. PAINTER (Upp.VI.L).

## An Ordeal

After the roar, akin to that of some monster awaiting its prey, had subsided, and silence ruled, save for occasional creakings and scrapings, she stepped forth fearfully from behind the blue folds. Without that kind screen to hide her, she stood, trembling in every limb, the cynosure of all eyes. Striving desperately to control her shaking limbs, she plunged into the ordeal. Her tongue, which had previously seemed firmly glued to the roof of her mouth, by some miracle was unloosened. She raised her voice to read the words before her to the sea of faces turned expectantly in her direction. How shrill her voice seemed and how quickly she read ! She must slacken her speed. Of what she read she had no idea, but she must try to read it intelligently. Heavens ! How much remained ? Only four or five lines. It seemed aeons ago since she began. She stumbled over a word and owing to sheer nervousness, slurred the next three. Two more lines and then . . . At last it was finished ! In dead silence she returned to the engulfing blue folds, hidden from all curious eyes. As the monster's roar again broke out she uttered a sigh of relief. The ordeal was over. She had read in the hall for the first time !

M. GARDNER Upp. (VI.L.)

## The Breeze and the Gale

It raises faint whispers amid the house-eaves :  
 A rustling susurrus it thrills through the leaves ;  
 Completely still never, but ceaselessly stirring  
 The sails of the windmill, and setting them whirring.  
 The vapour-thin clouds, urged on into motion,  
 Sail in the blue sky as it were on an ocean ;  
 Their shadows below on that other sea pass,  
 —That sea undulating of zephyr-blown grass.

But give to me, rather than this gentle breeze,  
A wind blowing gale-force, that howls in all keys,  
That screeches wild threnodies through the gaunt trees,  
    Setting wires wailing,  
    Shatt'ring the railing;  
A wind that advances with boisterous roar,  
And blusters round buildings, and batters the door.  
R. SANDS (Upp.VI.Lit.)



BARNES, IVB;

## A Roman's Account of the Barbarians

. . . These Barbarians have another custom, so singular that I must needs mention it. Once every seven days they arrange as it were a battle between themselves; at which encounter they have forms and rites to be observed as strictly as those of any religious ceremony.

Firstly, then, though the time of starting is rigorously fixed, yet all by common consent prepare themselves with the utmost leisure, and that not till a quarter of an hour after the time appointed. Their attire is singular: it is prescribed that they shall appear in a brilliantly coloured upper garment and short trousers; but, whether from a sense of decorum or from a dislike of the cold, for the most part they secretly cover their bodies with two or three shirts and two pairs of "shorts." Some have even been known to wear scarves and gloves on such occasions.

When all have stalked leisurely onto the field, the contest begins. It rages most fiercely around a hollow leathern object, which is kicked to and fro with wild yells. What a savage and untameable race! Finally, after taking all this trouble to get muddy, they stand under a stream of water until they are wet all over. This practice appears to have the dignity of a sacred rite with them, for those who refuse to indulge in so degrading an exercise are punished. Never, till you see them at their sport, as they call it, could you conceive what a barbarous and singular race they really are. I hope to be able, at some other time, to inform you of some other of their remarkable customs; at present I will conclude. (*Inquisiturus, De Wathonis, I.*)

(D. HIGGINS, (Upp. VI. Lit.)

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## The Perfect Prefect

His features are quite à la Shaw,  
His jacket flapping wide,  
Revealing a pullover, which  
He really ought to hide.  
His gait is rather like a duck's,  
With pride he overflows;  
Horn-rimmed spectacles often sit  
On his patrician nose.  
He sometimes strokes his docile locks,  
And fondles his moustache;  
He bears a contempt for the world,  
To speak to him is rash.  
Remember he's a character,  
We'd like him left intact;  
Don't ruin his naiveté—  
Be kind to him, in fact.

J. M. HAWKSWORTH (U.V.a.)

## The New Wathonians

We try so hard to learn the rule,  
And all traditions of the School,  
At work or play we try our best  
To make us proud of our School crest.

Our Rugby game is very rough,  
But it makes our muscles tough,  
It keeps us healthy, and in good trim,  
And all our team mates full of vim.

Our colours are maroon and gold,  
And we are proud when we behold  
Our team victorious when they play,  
They try so hard to win the day.

G. A. DUTTON (IIa.)

## Murder ?

Johnson was not a murderer at heart, but now, goaded beyond human endurance, and seeing his chance to get even, he became blind to the consequences of his proposed act.

Stealthily he approached his victim who seemed to be asleep. Silently he raised his hand, and then paused for a moment as men are wont to do at such times. Then with a revengeful gleam in his eyes, he brought his weapon down with a resounding thwack, killing the fly instantly.

L. LANGFORD (Upp. IVa.)

## The Dreadful End of William Wace

Said the Scoutmaster : "William Wace,  
Last night, I hear, you kept your face  
Beneath the blankets—so declares  
Your P.L. Add not to his cares  
By such unscoutlike doings, boy !  
Have you not heard that to employ  
Such frowsy methods in repose,  
Denying air to mouth and nose,  
Is really most insanitary ?"  
"Yes, sir !" said William Wace but very  
Little attention paid he to  
The S.M.'s homily. The few  
Short nights of Camp, exemplary  
Was William's conduct, but when he  
Got home, with a malignant smile,  
He hauled the bedclothes o'er his dial.  
Thus counsel sage is vainly spent !

Oh, dreadful end ! Oh, wretched lad !  
 A fire alarm one night they had.  
 The whole town heard the hooter go  
 Save William with his head below  
 Four thicknesses of blankets fine  
 And an eiderdown of strange design !

The flames they crackled and they hissed—  
 The household fled, but William missed  
 His chance by sleeping soundly on  
 Until his bedroom door, alone,  
 Parted him from their cruel heat . . .  
 Enough ! I shudder to repeat  
 The details grim of William's end.  
 In vain a fireman did they send  
 Up the escape to rescue him—  
 The eyes of all the crowd were dim  
 When he looked out and bared his head  
 And told them "William Wace is dead."

F. G. ROSS (Upp.Va.)

## Sonnet: To the late Piano

Are thy past services so meanly paid,  
 That in retirement undeserved, unfair,  
 Thou, origin of many a tender air,  
 Shouldst mutely moulder in inglorious shade ?  
 Was it for this thy frame, so subtly made,  
 Uttered for us those harmonies so rare ?  
 A favourite outworn receives no care,  
 When youth's melodious charm is once decayed !  
 Though thy exalted place a rival fills,  
 While thou art exiled, comfortless, alone,  
 Yet rest in peace, from jealousy immune ;  
 Though other notes replace thy silv'ry trills,  
 Envy not thy successor's finer tone,  
 Which none can hear, while we sing out of tune !

D. HIGGINS (Upper VI.Lit.)

## Punting with Father

Two summers ago I spent an amusing and exciting afternoon on the River Thames. With father, who averred that he was a professional punter, we set out. After hiring a punt we prepared ourselves for a peaceful afternoon. Father took hold of the paddles in a very masterly fashion, but sad to say we circled many times amid shouts of "T'other way,

sir" from the boatman. Father's antics intensely amused a number of small urchins who lined the bank. After much manoeuvring the combined efforts of Jean and Father restored the punt to its proper course. We meandered slowly up the river with many protestations from mother. Things were fairly peaceful when the silence of a summer's day was broken by the honk ! honk ! of a river steamer which was ploughing its way towards us. Amidst mother's frightened cries and father's angry ejaculations, the punt was at last steered out of the steamer's course. The wash of the large boat tossed our little punt up and down for a long time after it had passed, with the result that the rest of the journey was rather spoilt by the passing of other steamers. As we went up the river we saw a punt, the owner of which had lost his paddle ; we rescued it and restored it to its owner.

Feeling hungry we decided to land, and after trying many times, we at last succeeded. After obtaining refreshment we returned to the punt. On the return journey Jean took a hand. Sitting on the high part of the punt she punted in the opposite direction to Father. While passing a river pier we removed the floats from the fishermen's lines amongst great hilarity. Our landing place was on the Twickenham side of Eel Pie Island, but our boat passed slowly into the straight water much frequented by river steamers on the Richmond side of the Island. After much manoeuvring we rounded the Island near our landing place.

Sighs of relief came from mother, but all was not yet over, for father steered the punt onto the island instead of mainland, frightening the swans which were sunning themselves there. At last we landed, mother vowing that never again would she go punting with father.

MEREL SWIFT. U. IIA.

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## The Dirge of the Wath Brigade

*(With apologies to Tennyson).*

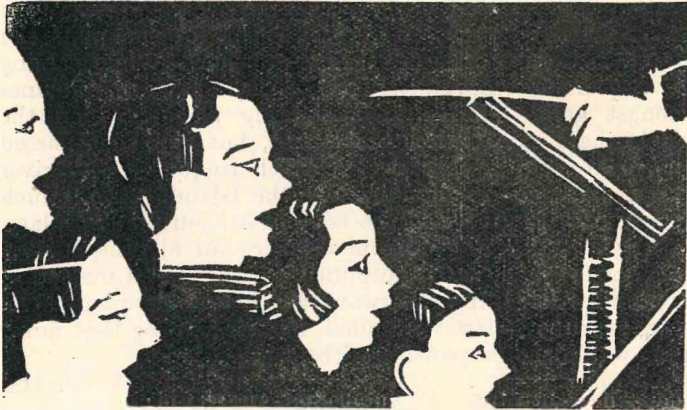
Half a mile, half a mile,  
Half a mile onward.  
Back to the vale of the Dearne,  
Rode the six hundred.  
"Forward the Wath Brigade !  
Come back to School !" he said,  
So to the vale of the Dearne,  
Rode the six hundred.

Closed schools to right of them,  
Closed schools to left of them,  
With three weeks given them,  
When 'flu germs thundered.

But up on Burman Hill,  
 Stormed at if they are ill—  
 Four days to make them well,  
 Then to the vale of the Dearne  
 Rode the six hundred.

Forward the Wath Brigade !  
 Weren't all the boys dismayed !  
 And all the scholars hoped  
 Someone had blundered.  
 And so, with many a sigh,  
 Thinking of studies dry,  
 Wearing the old school tie,  
 Back to the vale of the Dearne,  
 Rode the six hundred.

C. ATKINSON (L.VI.Sc.)



J. FRITH, UIIIb.

## The London Museums

"He who is tired of London," said Dr. Johnson, "is tired of life."

There is no end to the variety of the interests provided by London, but perhaps the most interesting and historical parts of London are the Museums. London is the home of seven Museums.

The British Museum was opened to the public in 1759. This great treasure house contains priceless collections of antiques, and varied and numerous books.

The London Museum is really a mansion called "Lancaster House," it was once owned by the Duke of Sutherland. This is particularly interesting as it shows the growth of London from a village to a city. In the Royal Room, and

the costume gallery can be seen the Coronation robes of Queen Victoria, King Edward and King George.

The Victoria and Albert Museum is mainly concerned with Art. Very rare examples of mediaeval and modern Art, books, prints, drawings and photographs are found here. It was founded in 1852.

For the scientific mind, the Science Museum is particularly attractive. Here we have a collection of old locomotives, scientific apparatus and various mechanical devices. The Aeronautical Section shows the development of aviation from its invention to the present day.

The Imperial War Museum, shows a fine collection of ancient and modern warfare in all its phases. Separate departments are devoted to the Army, the Navy, and Women's Work during the War. There are some fine paintings and diagrams illustrating the warfare.

The Natural History Museum possesses the finest and most complete natural history specimens in the world. It deals with the smallest insects to the colossal, prehistoric monsters.

The Royal United Services Museum at Whitehall, is devoted to national trophies and mementoes. Large models are shown there of the battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar. The model of Trafalgar is on an oak table made of wood from the Victory.

JOAN CUTLER.

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## Things in My Garden

I have a little garden and I love the bees to come,  
They sip the honey from the flowers and gently hum and hum.  
I have a little garden and I love the birds to come,  
The thrushes are so pretty and are certainly not dumb.  
I have a little garden and I love the flies to come,  
They are such funny creatures, for on their feet is gum.  
I have a little garden and I love the sun to come,  
He shines so bright upon my flowers that were before so numb.

I have a little garden and I love the breeze to come,  
He shakes the flowers and freshens them and into bloom blows some.

J. NASH (IIa.)

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## Summer

The summer is a merry time,  
When birds do sing and skylarks climb;  
You hear the humming of the bees,  
And leaves are green upon the trees.

All through the hot and sunny day,  
 You hear the children at their play ;  
 Their merry voices fill the air,  
 For summer days are very rare.

Indoors they need no longer stay,  
 Nor does the weather bid thee nay ;  
 For summer is a merry time,  
 When birds do sing and skylarks climb.

TERENCE SAYLES (IIa).

## Shakespeare Visits a Rehearsal of "King Lear" at Wath Grammar School (1937)

Beshrew me ! What have we here ? A play. Methinks this should indeed be interesting, I will stay and see this production. By Jupiter, this is a strange play ; it reminds me of that rehearsal by Bottom and the rest of those fellows in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." But why this delay in the action ? Ah ! Gloucester has disappeared—what says the clotpoll there ? Gloucester has gone to blow up a football !—call back the base football-player. So ! the play proceeds. What scene is this ?—a blasted heath, with a storm without. Indeed, this is a naughty night to swim in ; hark to the thunder—'tis by far the most vigorous thing in the play, it drowns even the bull-like voice of Kent. But who comes here ?—Gloucester bearing a torch, indeed, he seems to be baring his lusty legs rather than bearing his torch. He holds up his train like an old dame crossing a muddy road, and seems to be for ever shaking with restrained mirth. Who then is this fellow ?—five times hath he entered as a gentleman in as many minutes. He must be the only gentleman left in Britain, and the only soldier too, for he has already represented the British Army twice, and already he has been and fought with himself the bloody battle 'twixt the French and English armies, in which apparently there were no casualties for he lives to enter once more to announce his own defeat and utter rout. Indeed, next to the thunder he seems to have the most important part in the play.

Ah ! here is the final scene of this queer play. I wonder, will it turn out to be a tragedy or a comedy, for by the power that made me, I cannot yet tell, for while there has been a goodly number of ghastly deaths, yet the players have been consumed with so much mirth that methinks it may be a comedy after all. What should happen here ? Let's see !

"Lear enters with Cordelia dead in his arms." What, in the name of Jupiter was that fell noise, followed by a deathly shriek? What was it? Oh!—Lear has dropped Cordelia. Then methinks it must be a comedy, for never have I seen such doings in a tragedy before. But what did I say just now? "Lear enters."—Lear—LEAR! What is this play? Let's see the script—What is this!—"Oh fool! I shall go mad."—"King Lear"—"King Lear"—by Will Shakespeare—my own great tragedy, "King Lear."—"Oh! how this mother swells up toward my heart. *Hysterica passio!* Down thou climbing sorrow!" Now I know what made me turn and turn again in my grave. Now I know why I could not rest in peace, but must needs go roaming the earth once more.—Oh! my play, my greatest, dearest play.—As for you, you scurvy players, "I will have such revenges on you. What they are I know not, but they shall be the terrors of the earth—Go, go, my people!"

R. A. KITSON.

## Wildsome Way

If ever you go 'long Wildsome Way,  
Pause awhile and, while you stay,  
You may hear the elves at play  
Singing merrily.

They work and play from night to morn,  
But must vanish before dawn  
Out of sight ere day is born,  
Sighing wearily.

As twilight deepens they awake,  
For soon sweet music they will make  
Of dewdrops and honey they'll partake,  
Sipping daintily.

In gossamer garments they will dress;  
The green sward lightly their feet will press;  
To the fairy queen they'll pay their address,  
Dancing merrily.

Tread warily when you pass that way,  
For you may scare an elf or fay  
To their comrades they'll hasten away,  
Fleeing fearfully.

But if you will quiet be  
Lots of fairies you will see,  
Tripping along so full of glee.  
Laughing happily.

J. RODWAY (III.)

## Contest

Through the cloak-room has he gone,  
But Athenian found he none,  
On whose brow he might espy  
That one hope to score a try.  
Who is this, far off he sees,  
One more youth to join the threes ?  
He can go to help the scrum  
If the others do not come.  
Soon poor soul he may be found  
On the dark and dirty ground.  
So fine sir, thou must not stay,  
Thou art wanted in the fray.  
All the curses they do know  
Shall the House upon thee throw,  
Lest with us thou'lt meet the foe,  
Stay, look here, one more, Hallo !  
Here's another, that makes five  
Now have we our chance to thrive.  
We'll kick off, I think it best  
For "Carthago delenda est."

(On the 7th of November Athens Senior Boys kicked off against Carthage with five players).

R. SMITH (Upp.Va.)



S. BENNETT, U.V.R.



