

THE WATHONIAN



JANUARY, 1955

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EDITORIAL

WE have in recent weeks been hearing lengthy discussions on horror comics and how they deprave those who glory in them.

One would think that the school-children of this country are half-witted, spineless illiterates. It is therefore heartening to find that the pupils of a school like ours can contribute enough material to produce some kind of a magazine. Its existence proves that some of the younger generation can not only read and write but can, in fact, also think for themselves. Some of their ideas, as seen here, may be highly unusual, but they are ideas. And for as long as young people continue to think for themselves they have an effective antidote to the horror comic.

We have, also, in this *Wathonian* a fairly comprehensive account of the school year. We have, too, considerable comment on outside matters. If the magazine can be taken, and indeed it should be, as a reflection of the general spirit of the school, then we, as a school, are growing increasingly aware of the outside world. This is perhaps inevitable in a school which has become so large that it has to have its own internal telephone system. Whatever the reason, it is noticeable that the original contributions are concerned less than usual with strictly school matters. They include articles on such topics as jazz and tropical fish, a review of continental food, a translation of a French poem and two modest trifles in French itself. This seems to indicate a widening outlook and an increasing interest in other countries. It is desirable that a school should begin to see itself as part of a community much larger than its own limits. If the magazine can help to make its readers see this, then its continued publication is fully justified.

1954

This year has been one of the saddest in the school's history. In the midst of our anxiety for Mr. Leadley, lying seriously ill in hospital, came the terrible shock of the Headmaster's death. What his loss has meant to us is expressed on another page. A Memorial Service, conducted by the Rev. G. V. Gerard, Assistant Bishop of Sheffield, was held in Wath Parish Church and attended by pupils of the school. The John Ritchie Memorial Fund has been started and will provide a Prize similar to the Deeks' Prize, but to be awarded for success in science studies.

Recently the school received another shock on the sudden death of Amelda Jones of Form II. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to those who have been bereaved.

This year has seen many staff changes. We were sorry to lose Miss Disley, Miss Langley, Miss Lumb, Miss Laurenson, Mr. Burton, Mrs. Higgs and Mr. Faulkner, and we wish them every success in their new sphere. A cordial welcome is extended to our new members of staff: Mrs. Swann, Miss Hardy, Miss Shawcross, Miss Gledhill, Miss Loughran, Mr. Watts and Mr. Jenkins. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Warren, Miss Tonbridge and Miss Towers for their valuable help in the absence of Mr. Leadley and Miss Searle. We are glad that Mr. Leadley, despite his illness, has managed to design this year's school Christmas card, and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

The School is deeply indebted to Miss Swift for her skilful and patient guidance through these difficult terms.

Staff and pupils are still suffering from the noises incidental to building operations. In September the new science block came into use and is apparently much appreciated. At the same time the new canteen was opened. Its smaller tables and resulting increase in elbow room are a great improvement on other canteen accommodation and with a few changes it would be a suitable place in which to entertain visiting teams. The new hall comes nearer completion every day, but even when this is ready for use our academic calm will not go uninterrupted, for yet more changes are planned. With the extension of the school buildings our reduced playing area is now suffering severely from continual use so that even the weeds have been worn away from the rugby pitches. The preparation of new hockey and cricket pitches across Festival Road becomes more urgent.

In addition to the excursions reported later, a party of staff and pupils visited York, staying in a Youth Hostel. They saw the closing ceremony of the Festival, and were particularly impressed by the mystery plays.

Visitors to the school have included Mr. J. Wellens, an Old Wathonian, who gave a talk on "Opportunities in Industry," Squadron Leader Nesbitt, D.F.C., Mr. T. H. Hawkins from Steel, Peech and Tozer, and Brigadier Loring.

We now await the arrival of our new Headmaster and assure him that he will be most welcome. May his stay in Wath be long and happy, and may the school flourish under his leadership.

MR. RITCHIE

On Monday, May 31st, the School heard with astonishment and grief of the sudden death of Mr. Ritchie. In our loss we felt the deepest sympathy with Mrs. Ritchie and her family in their great sorrow.

We earnestly hope that Mrs. Ritchie, whose friendship we have learnt to value, will continue to join us at School functions as formerly. No one could be more welcome.

We cannot, in these pages, do justice to the full range of Mr. Ritchie's versatility—his eager, infectious enthusiasm radiated far beyond the little world of this school. Here we pay tribute to him as our Headmaster. On Speech Day, County Councillor W. Cutts delivered his tribute on behalf of the Governors of the School. Now, we add those of a colleague, an Old Wathonian, a parent and a pupil.

They show what Mr. Ritchie meant to the School, how fortunate we were in his leadership, how proud we are that he was our Headmaster, how brightly his memory lives.

From Mr. W. E. Leadley.

JOHN RITCHIE — HEADMASTER AND COLLEAGUE

It is significant that my first reaction to the news of Mr. Ritchie's death was a feeling of personal loss. This was the passing of a good friend. Perhaps John Ritchie's greatest gift was his power of making human contact, his ability to make you feel at all times that he welcomed any approach made to him. However busy and harassed he was, and he was frequently both, he always had time for the consideration and courtesies that are the mark of true Christian friendliness.

This friendliness was closely linked with a surprising wisdom and tolerance: I say "surprising" because these are qualities which one does not normally associate with the initiative and drive which were his. When the Head arrived, some of us were uneasy at the thought of the inevitable changes that a relatively young Head would wish to make; but we need not have feared. Mr. Ritchie was quick to realise the value of established things and, when changes had to be made, was careful to effect them with a minimum of discomfort to those involved. Many times some of us favoured violent or drastic measures and many times the Head was the advocate of peace and moderation, and in the long run the wisdom of his policy was proved.

Kindliness, tolerance, moderation may all add up to a rather negative weakness but in Mr. Ritchie's case this was not so. When convinced of the rightness of his cause he could fight. His courage and determination became increasingly evident as illness overtook him. Few of us realised the grimness of those struggles in the privacy of his study, but we all recognised the courage which enabled him to make his report on Speech Day. It would have been so easy, so justifiable to relax, but he would not give in. A weaker man might well have survived.

All that and much more might be said of Mr. Ritchie as Head and fellow teacher, but having seen him come to us full of energy and enthusiasm, having seen him conduct the affairs of the School with kindness and good humour, I feel that we owe it to his faith in the innate goodness of humanity to welcome his successor with the friendly co-operation that he would be the first to offer.

But whatever happens in school we shall always regret the passing of a very real friend.

From Mr. W. S. Hampshire.

AN EXAMPLE TO MANY

The greatest asset any Headmaster can have is a commanding personality, with touches of human kindness, and a generous nature. These qualities Mr. Ritchie had and many more. A burning enthusiasm for his school and the welfare of his pupils filled his life but not the whole. He was a Practising Christian, attending the Parish Church with a regularity that was symptomatic of all that he did. He was so approachable. From a parent's point of view it was easy to go to him with any difficulty arising during a child's period of school training, and be confident of a sympathetic hearing, with advice from his deep knowledge of young people.

It was my privilege for many years to meet Mr. Ritchie at his home during the Christmas holiday, and the generous hospitality followed by a stimulating talk on many and varied subjects will be long remembered. His death was a tragic loss.

I shall never forget the Memorial Service for pupils and staff; the utter silence that obtained in the Church that he loved was more moving than anything I have known. Respect, and a deep sense of loss were shown, not by words, but by complete stillness. The hymns that followed, by contrast were vigorous, but just as compelling. A thought that passed through my mind, and still does whenever the memory of that Service comes, will stand as his epitaph:

"There they stand, the Loved and the Beloved."

From Mr. Walter Young.

(Hon. Treasurer, Old Wathonians' Association).

When I was asked to write a tribute to the late Mr. Ritchie on behalf of the Old Wathonians' Association, I felt greatly honoured but soon I realised how inadequate any words of mine would be to express just what Mr. Ritchie did for the Old Students. When the Rev. A. T. L. Grear left and the war brought its long separations, the Old Students could have been forgiven for thinking that their link with the School was broken.

It seemed that Mr. Ritchie must have sensed this because he went out of his way to make the "older" Old Students feel at home. How successful he was in preserving the link is proved by the number of these students who are still active members of the Association. During the difficult post-war years when the Association became active once more, he was most helpful in every way, and when the Rugby Club was re-forming he made us feel that the school was ours, giving us every facility for using the changing rooms, the gymnasium and the playing fields.

The first time I saw Mr. Ritchie I thought, in fact, that he was one of us. He was on the touch line at an Old Students v. School Rucker match, wearing an Old Wathonian tie, and it was only when I discovered that he was shouting encouragement to the School, that I realised who he was.

His success with the older Old Students was only surpassed by his relationship with his own Old Students. During his conversations with them they realised immediately that he was talking to them as a friend and as to adults and not scholars and that his accurate memory of their names and present posts sprang from his sincere interest in them personally.

He presided regularly over our meetings, attended all our functions, and in short was the staunchest Old Wathonian of us all.

From Audrey Platt—Head Girl 1953/54.

It was indeed a sad loss to the school when Mr. Ritchie died last year. I know that he is greatly missed by the whole school, and especially by those whom he taught personally.

As a teacher he had an ideal mixture of patience and impatience. He was impatient with the lazy, yet patient with those who were slow to understand.

His lessons were always brightened by a touch of humour and coloured by anecdotes from his own personal experiences, which would illuminate the point he was making and impress it on the memory.

It was not only in teaching chemistry that Mr. Ritchie was greatly appreciated. He gave unstintingly and ungrudgingly of his time to give counsel on the choice of careers and to seek out the best approach once the career was decided upon. I am sure that there are many old pupils, happy and successful in their employment who would not be so placed were it not for the wisdom and foresight of Mr. Ritchie.

It is a pity that Mr. Ritchie did not live to teach in the new laboratories which he did so much to plan. He wished to have things on hand so that they were not just names. Indeed, throughout his lessons, he tried to make the subject live for us and if he did not always succeed, I am sure the fault was not with him.

And though the chemistry he taught may become dim in our memories, we shall never forget Mr. Ritchie himself nor his courage and devotion.

HOUSE NOTES



ATHENS

House Captains : Beryl Parke.
J. Ashton.

Games Captains :
Junior—Derna Collier, G. Amos.
Senior—Pat Law, R. Simpson.

Games Committee :
Pat Law, G. Clements.

Magazine Representatives :
Judy Law, P. Harvey.

Before embarking, as is the mode of those privileged to write House notes, on a tedious list of achievements during the past year and of hopes for the year to come, we must first say how sorry we were to lose Miss Langley. Our good wishes go with her in her new post. We extend a hearty welcome to Mrs. Pike, our new House Mistress and to our new leaders, Ashton and Beryl Parke.

Now to our achievements. How dismal for an Athenian to have to admit that last year we lost the one trophy of which we could then boast—the Cross Country Cup, and are consoled only by the memory of Kay's grand performance which brought him home well ahead of the field. He must also be congratulated on gaining his State Scholarship.

Our loss of the Cross Country Cup was wholly forgotten with the advent of summer. Thanks to a startling display by the senior boys in winning all their matches and by similarly grand performances in the girls' tennis, we now proudly display a beribboned Summer Games Cup.

Characteristic determination saw Athens put up a sound performance in the Annual School Sports competition, and the trophy only slipped from our grasp in the last half-hour. We finally came a worthy third.

Finally a word of welcome to all newcomers, particularly the first form contingent. We must also thank Mr. Smith for guiding us skilfully through yet another year.

P.H.

CARTHAGE



House Captains : Barbara Hinchliffe.
K. Nelson.

Games Captains :
Senior—Beryl Fisher, K. Powell.
Junior—Irene Dolman, P. Parkin.

Magazine Representatives :
Elaine Jacob, M. Ford.

Games Committee :
Margaret Beevers, J. Fennell.

Once again we extend a hearty welcome to all newcomers, and hope that Carthage's numerous activities will not prove too great a strain on brain and brawn.

At the end of the Spring Term, we found ourselves proud possessors of two Cups—the Deeks' Trophy—in which the seniors gained 2nd place, and the juniors 1st, thanks to their ability in mime—and the Games Cup, where we had the advantage of gaining points for five Carthaginians in the 1st Hockey XI.

Our success at Games was continued when we won the Sports Cup the following term.

However, there remains one weakness in our sporting abilities. Try as we may, we have never succeeded in winning the Swimming Cup, last year's efforts proving no exception, though we did move up to 4th position, which is some encouragement.

Another direction in which more effort is needed is in the Work Cup Competition. More Carthaginians must join societies.

We send our best wishes to Mr. Leadley, who we hope has not forgotten us, and regretfully say goodbye to Mrs. Higgs who is leaving us at Christmas. We sincerely thank her and Mr. Freestone for their help and encouragement and wish Mrs. Higgs success and happiness in the future.

E.J.

ROME



House Captains : Eunice Rhodes,
M. Taylor.

Games Captains :
Senior—Pauline Beighton, C. Sidebottom.
Junior—Ann Rawlinson, B. Sidebottom.

Games Committee :
Rina Kirk, B. Hooper.

Magazine Committee :
Ann Meyers, C. Clayton.

Rome bids a hearty welcome to all new comers, and may they uphold the fine tradition of the house.

We were unlucky this year in failing to win the Winter and Summer Games Cups. All the house teams played well and tried exceptionally hard. Rome may be proud of the fact that it provides a third of the School Rugby XV.

Our achievements in the field of athletics were not so successful as those of last year. Instead of being first again, we only came fourth. If, however, the result had depended on effort we would most certainly have won, for the members of the team gave of their best and practices were very well attended.

Once more we ceded the Swimming Cup to the Spartans, but the time is close at hand when we shall wrest the cup from them. The Roman girls have started a swimming club which is well and enthusiastically attended.

A great achievement was the winning of the Work Cup once again. It is notable how the number of detentions has fallen in Rome in recent years. This is a great improvement. Romans are attending school societies in ever-increasing numbers.

Finally we would like to thank Mr. Richardson and Miss Killoch for the invaluable support they have given to the house. C.J.C.

SPARTA



House Captains : Eileen Garfitt.
N. Beaumont.

Games Captains :
Senior—Ann Lidster, A. Crookes.
Junior—Maureen Redfern, D. Hyde.

Games Committee :
Pat Winch, N. Beaumont.

Magazine Representatives :
Eileen Garfitt. D. Wilkinson.

Tell me the old, old story ! This is the story we Spartans like to hear over and over again. We won the Swimming Gala—but not by the usual comfortable margin. Troy were only a few strokes behind us.

Our efforts to improve our speech and behaviour were duly rewarded by the Deeks' Trophy in the Summer Term, but our efforts to show our dancing prowess were not so well-rewarded. We took third place but are hoping to see the Physical Education Cup adorned with a blue ribbon next time.

The Spartan boys—without any outstanding runner—won the Cross Country Cup and in doing so provided an excellent example of what can be done by determination and team spirit.

We must congratulate the senior boys on winning three rugby matches this term. We hope they will be equally successful in the remaining match. The girls have not been so fortunate but are hoping to show that they too can win matches.

What has happened to the work of Sparta? For three terms Rome has gained the Work Cup. If more Spartans would join societies and fewer Spartans would spend their Saturday mornings in detention, we should see a blue ribbon once more on the Work Cup.

I should like to extend a hearty welcome to all new Spartans and hope that they will uphold the Spartan tradition—only the best is good enough!

E.G.



TROY

House Captains : Anne Perryman,
G. Young.

Games Captains :
Senior—Colleen Varney, M. Wood.
Junior—Ruth Bradshaw, G. Percival.

Games Committee :
Patricia Oldknow, R. Jackson.

Magazine Representatives :
Monica White, J. D. Murfin.

Troy extends a hearty welcome to all new members of the House, trusting that they will prove enthusiastic and worthy Trojans.

Although none of the cups are adorned with yellow ribbon, we managed to take second place in the Inter-House Sports and the Swimming Gala. Of this latter achievement we were particularly proud for not only did we advance our position higher than we have ever done in the Gala before but we came very near to breaking the Spartan monopoly.

Even the fairy-feet of our fourth and fifth-form Tyroleans failed to win for us the new Physical Education Cup. However, their efforts in the "Dashing White Sergeant" were quite admirable.

Finally, we should like to send our best wishes to all former Trojans and also encourage the new ones to join School societies and support House activities.

M.W.

SOCIETIES AND CLUBS



Lino-cut by D. Harvey (3a).

ART CLUB.

In the absence of Mr. Leadley, the Art Club has been unable to meet but members eagerly await his return and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

THE CHOIRS.

Much to the Scouts' horror, the Girls' Choir meets very frequently now. They spend many enjoyable Friday evenings in French 4 with Miss Knowles, who is choir conductor, accompanist and leading contralto.

According to tradition they sang at the Christmas Concert. The songs they chose were:— "Unto us a boy is born" a 15th century carol, "Jubilate," a Russian song, and "The Three Kings" by P. Cornelius, with two members singing the solo melody. At Speech Day they sang "Daffodils" by E. Thiman, "To Music" by Schubert and "Sleep, Baby, Sleep" by A. Somerville.

They have a flourishing rival, much to their—"delight ?!"—for Mr. Eyre's Boys' Choir meets in French 4 on Wednesdays. Their melodious voices pierced the air at Christmas when they sang "Oh ! who will o'er the downs with me ?" and "Old Black Joe." At Speech Day they sang "The Seekers" by G. Dyson, "The Arethusa" a sea shanty, and "Loch Lomond" an old Scotch song. They are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Girls, we shall have to look to our musical laurels.

The next public appearance of both choirs will be at the Musical Concert to be held during the last week of term. We also hope a mixed choir will perform.

In the "Merchant of Venice," three members of the Girls' Choir helped Bassanio in his task of choosing the casket. They sang "Tell me, where is fancy bred?", accompanied by the plucked strings of the 'cello played by Miss Knowles, and the double bass played by Mr. Woodhouse (in lieu of lute).

On behalf of both boys and girls, I would like to thank Miss Knowles and Mr. Eyre. We do appreciate their work and enthusiasm.

PAULINE M. GREGORY (Va).

LIBRARY NOTES.

This year the library opened rather sedately. Absent was the usual stampede of borrowers during the first few days. The level of interest has been maintained, however, and books have been borrowed at a very consistent rate. Another pleasing feature is the large number of volunteers to take charge of the library, with the result that the library has been open during both dinners every day of the week.

There is, however, the eternal nuisance caused by non-returners of books, but with a little thought and memory-jogging this fault may be rectified in the near future.

N. BEAUMONT.

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

At Easter the society performed Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice." This was a great success and enjoyed by all who took part.

We are now busy selling tickets and rehearsing frantically for this year's school play which is creating a precedent by being performed in November. It is "Viceroy Sarah," a play in three acts by Norman Ginsbury.

We have to thank Mr. Easterby for producing all our plays. Thanks are due also to Miss Langley, who has now left us, and Miss Loughran, who joined us at the beginning of this term.

The Fourth Form group has met only intermittently this term, although the meetings held have not been without incident and amusement. We hope to meet more regularly next term when we trust to advance beyond bowing to each other.

The Juniors started this term by welcoming Miss Henderson and Mr. Morgan to their Tuesday night activities. The four groups have performed various plays or mimes including "Grannies' Surprise," "Telegram," "At the Seaside" and "The Crowd at a Football Match." They have spent several meetings producing a pantomime based on outstanding nursery rhymes.

Next term they request the pleasure of a few more bold gentlemen who are seen too rarely at the meetings.

Editor's Note : The Society is to be congratulated on its presentation of "Viceroy Sarah" which proved to be one of the most notable achievements in its history and deserved larger audiences for the evening performances.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

The society intends to hold five meetings this term, and has so far held three.

The first took the form of snap debates, in which everyone took part.

Other meetings have included—a paper by Stanger on "Canoes," a musical evening, where the arguments for and against Jazz were very heated. The three most-discussed records were those of Frankie Laine singing "Rain, Rain, Rain," ; Ted Heath's version of "Skokiaan" and Kathleen Ferrier, singing "Ma bonnie lad," and "The Keel Row."

Two intended papers are "Punishments through the Ages," by C. Clayton, and "Television," by J. Murfin.

Attendance has been high considering competitive school activities.

JUNIOR LITERARY SOCIETY.

This year the Junior Literary Society has continued to flourish. We have many new members, but we should welcome more second formers to join the two we have at the moment.

The year began with a debate on the motion that "It would be unpleasant to live one's life over again." At our next meeting we played "One minute Please" which proved amusing, particularly when one boy, mistaking the subject began a speech on "A box of matches" by saying : "There are many different kinds of these, for example, feather-weight, heavy-weight, etc."

We have also held a session of "Any Questions," and debated on the motion that "Bonfire day should be abolished."

Laughter is the predominant feature of our meetings, and I should like to assure second formers that, if they join, Thursday night will become the most enjoyable part of their week.

LILIAN ORRITT (IVa).

GUIDES.

This has been a very successful year for the Guides. We have a large number of recruits all of whom are very keen.

This year we have been working hard for Tenderfoot or Second Class badges. One has had to be very careful when entering the hall that one was not knocked out by some energetic guide brandishing morse or semaphore flags. We now pride ourselves on being proficient signallers. First-Aid practice has been in full swing. Evidence of this has been shown by figures lying prostrate on the floor or poor girls going red in the face in their attempts to choke.

About ten of our Guides have now obtained their Second Class badges and are working hard for First Class or proficiency badges. We were very sorry to lose Miss Disley and Miss Lumb. Miss Hardy has now become our Lieutenant and we hope she will be very happy with us.

THELMA FELLOWS (Va).
JOSEPHINE SIMPSON (L. VI Gen.).

SCOUT NOTES.

There was the usual recruitment of juniors into the Scouts this year, bringing more work—probably trouble—for our ever-able Assistant Scoutmaster, Mr. Curry.

For the first time, the Swimming Gala was held at Denaby. After the strenuous efforts of those scouts taking part, we gained first place from the 12th Don and Dearne Troop by $\frac{1}{2}$ point.

Only one team was entered for the District Cycle Marathon in June. Although the weekend was wet the team gained second place, losing by a mere nine points.

This year's camp was held at Levens and, though rather wet, everybody managed to survive. Some Harrogate Scouts, led by Mr. Sales, an old boy of the school, soon settled down to enjoy themselves in spite of the rain. Because of the rain, some members had to be evacuated to other tents. In the masters' tent only two remained, the rest having floated away via the Main Canal to another tent.

The Harrogate Scouts and our own unseasoned Scouts came through the ordeal very well and I do not think the weather will have discouraged many from attending future camps.

The Camp Fire was held at Swinton and was enjoyed by all who went. Many certificates were won by the Troop.

Little has been heard about the Soap Box Car which is being prepared for next year's race. We hope that it will reach the Finals in London as it did on its debut in the "Derby."

A new highlight was introduced this year. It was the District Gang Show, held at Mexborough in February. It was held for three nights and members of the Troop took part in the chorus and two items. Of the items the Bambazoolian Way was very well received. The Witch Doctor was played by Hickling in the manner only Hickling could play it. Those who attended will long remember his performance.

A.G.L.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

After one or two false starts, the Photographic Society seems to be flourishing under the guiding hands of Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Curry.

The members range from one or two who have had a few years experience to the few who are raw beginners.

One of our features was a portfolio of members' prints which was passed round, each member giving helpful criticism. Our first concern has been to raise sufficient money to buy apparatus. Hence some of the members have been busy taking photos of hockey teams and forms, whilst Mr. Faulkner 'covered' "The Merchant of Venice." The results were as successful as the lighting allowed, but the stage lights were positioned wrongly for good photography in spite of the efforts of Mr. Coomer and his three henchmen.

When the new dark-room in the Science Block is open, we hope our work will improve. But because of the limited space available we must confine membership to forms V and VI.

Finally, an appeal to the girls. The society is open to both sexes, but so far, all the members have been boys. Surely there are some girls who know, or wish to know, something about photography.

H. MACK (L. VI Sc.).

NOTEWORTHY OCCASIONS

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day this year was held on Thursday, 8th July, with Alderman H. Cutts, M.B.E., as Chairman, and Sir Thomas Tomlinson, B.E.M. as the guest speaker.

This was a sad as well as memorable occasion. County Councillor W. Cutts a member of the School's Board of Governors paid tribute to our late Headmaster, Mr. Ritchie, as one who never spared himself in the service of the school. Similar tributes were expressed by the remaining speakers, the Chairman, Sir Thomas, and Miss Swift, and then we stood in silence in his memory.

After the presentation of certificates, Sir Thomas addressed us on the theme that, although everyone wanted children to be clever, they must also have character "which would stand the test" wherever they went. Sir Thomas hoped that each of us would be proud to say, "I was educated at Wath Grammar School." The Speaker's sincerity in no wise restricted his humour. Drawing on a fund of witty anecdotes, he immediately captured our interest and his sparkle and gaiety, like our enjoyment, remained undiminished throughout his address.

In her report, Miss Swift spoke of the successes gained by old pupils of the school. She referred to the new satellite buildings quickly nearing completion and to the conversion of the old workshops with extra dining accommodation.

This year in addition to songs from the girls' choir, we heard the first public performance of the newly-formed boys' choir, under the leadership of Mr. Eyre.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. E. Mellor and seconded by the Head Boy, Frank Hooper.

J. B. FENNELL (U. VI Sc.).

THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

The theme of the Conference held at Mexborough Grammar School was "The Christian Faith and Life," and it was developed in three lectures given by the Venerable J. S. Brewis, Archdeacon of Doncaster.

The first lecture was about the "Cross." What was Jesus' attitude to his own life and death and why was he crucified? These were two topics discussed. The whole purpose of this lecture was to find the difference between Christianity and other religions. One of the conclusions reached was that Christ is a "living" God who came among men and suffered the greatest humiliations, descended the depths of despondency, was despised and rejected and yet remained pure, humble and holy. He expects man to follow this example to the utmost of human capability.

The second talk dealt with the life after death, judgement, forgiveness and ideas of Heaven and Hell. Most people present believed in an after-life but were hazy about the full understanding of the speaker's views. Judgement and forgiveness brought to light new ideas. Christ's method of forgiveness is the complete forgiveness to penitents. Human beings tend to remember grievances for future reference. Discussions on Heaven and Hell raised the groups to fever pitch. Some declared that the devil was another form of supernatural spirit strictly opposed to Christ and anything good. Others stated that the devil did not exist at all but was a creation of man's own mind. He who turns from God slips from the pathway into iniquity. Ideas about Heaven were vague and unspecific in nature but the ideas of Hell were fixed and far from vague. Milton's Hell in "Paradise Lost" was quoted as being just the correct description. A condition of man's own mind and not a place of eternal fire was another conception.

The last lecture was on the topic of the Church and Christian duty and Christian attitude to life and work. This lecture gave such wide scope that much wandering from the theme took place in subsequent discussions. In one group severe criticism of church dogma took place but no agreement was reached. Only one definite conclusion was reached by everybody. The Christian way of life may be easily expressed in words but to live this way is an extremely difficult task.

The Venerable J. S. Brewis was warmly and sincerely thanked for his lectures and allowing the Conference to visit his Church at High Melton. I would conclude with the suggestion that these conferences should be supported by more people in the future.

B. HOOPER.

AN INVASION OF THE CONTINENT

Last Easter for the first time in the school's history some of its members went on their annual holiday by luxury coach. After a leisurely journey to the south of England we spent the night at Folkstone before crossing to Boulogne on England's fastest ferry-boat, "The Lord Warden."

We arrived in Paris in time for dinner, whose quantity came as a shock to our inexperienced continental travellers. Although he had had a very tiring journey driving from Boulogne to Paris, Mr. Fletcher, our courier, insisted on showing us the sights of Paris by night.

After an early start from Paris, we stopped to look round the palace and grounds of Fontainebleau where two members of the party were chased by a gendarme for using the pedestal of a stone lion as a base for photography. Needless to say the culprits were only too glad to return to the bus as the gendarmes had begun to patrol the grounds on cycles.

The next day an excited crowd of typically Swiss children greeted us as we crossed the frontier. This happy welcome was characteristic of the kindness of the Swiss people wherever we went. We journeyed on to Berne, the capital, and stopped to gaze with admiration on the celebrated bear pits and we actually witnessed the performance of the world-famous clock as it struck 5.0 p.m. Soon afterwards we reached the longed-for Interlaken.

The following day gave us a much-desired rest from travelling and we all spent it in various ways, mostly in exploring Interlaken and its surroundings. We noted the immaculate wooden chalets which contrasted sharply with the rather squalid French villages. Wandering round in the dusk, the staff were confronted by a savage-looking bear which struck fear into their quaking hearts. But on venturing that same way in the daylight they beheld to their astonishment the very same bear, docile and gentle, in fact just a statue.

On our second day in Interlaken we went on an excursion to Lucerne, passing through some of the most picturesque scenery that Switzerland offers and skirting the lake of Lucerne whose transparent blueness has to be seen to be believed. Unfortunately it turned out to be a cold, rainy day but we were able to explore some of the larger Swiss shops. It was at Lucerne that we admired the magnificent monument hewn out of solid rock, dedicated to the unswerving but futile loyalty of Marie Antoinette's Swiss guards.

Of course it would not have been Switzerland without snow and it was with delight and amazement that we awoke the next morning to find the apple-blossom and early spring flowers covered in snow. We were greatly disappointed that we had to abandon our planned excursions into the mountains on this account, but we were partly compensated by the awe-inspiring appearance of the Jungfrau, whose pine-covered slopes rose majestically into the leaden sky.

The last day of our stay at Interlaken was spent in buying presents, a task which almost seemed like Christmas shopping because of the continual fall of snow.

It was with reluctance that we said good-bye to Interlaken and began our homeward journey through France where we spent our last night on the continent at Rheims. As this is the centre of the champagne district it was only natural that those who wished should sample this luxury.

It was with our holiday now fast drawing to its close that we realised how much we owed to the careful planning of Mr. Richardson and Miss Townsend, and the whole party would like to take this opportunity of thanking them.

A. E. FLETCHER.
P. SANDERSON,
A. C. LIDSTER.

THREE-DAY COURSE AT GRANTLEY HALL

When we left Wath station early one October morning on the way to join a three-day course at Grantley Hall on "The Nature of Philosophy," being of an unphilosophical turn of mind, we were inclined to wonder just what we were letting ourselves in for. On arrival at Ripon we were driven five miles out into the country. Our first impression of our residence-to-be was certainly favourable. The Hall is situated in extensive grounds which have a river flowing through them, many beautiful foreign trees, and a small lake so well concealed by trees that we did not discover it until the last day.

We started lectures straight after lunch and soon realised that we were to hear, what seemed to us, some very strange views on life. For instance, the lecturer tried to prove to us that so-called "material" objects such as chairs and tables do not really exist as substances but are appearances in the mind. It became a standing joke for us to be asked by members of a group of museum curators, who were following a course on folk lore and crafts, if we were really there or just appearances in their minds. It was noticed at meal times, however, that the lecturer who had been trying so hard to convince us that bread did not have a material existence obviously enjoyed the "insubstantial food" as much as we did.

We had been somewhat astonished when told by the Warden that the Hall imposed no rules and that people usually went to bed about midnight, but our astonishment turned to understanding when we discovered the wide scope that there was for relaxation. Among the many attractions which delighted us were an extensive and varied collection of gramophone records, an extensive library and a table-tennis room.

The second day showed us just how much one can crowd into a day. We attended two lectures and a discussion; visited Fountains Abbey, three miles away, in the afternoon; and accepted an invitation from the folk lore group to attend a showing in the evening, of some educational but entertaining films, some about ancient pagan festivals still carried on in Britain and others about crafts, such as coopering, clog-making and home-weaving, which are now dying out; and from 10.0 p.m. to 12.0, still undefeated, we enjoyed square-dancing.

By the last day most of the students, nearly all of whom had not known anything about philosophy at the beginning of the course, had become really interested in the subject and, despite the late hour at which we had retired the previous night, discussion on such topics as "Is it ever right to tell a lie?" was certainly lively. The Warden assured us that our reasoning was much more logical than it had been at first. For our part, we felt that the lecturers were really engrossed in their subjects, for one went so far as to knock a chair off the platform, and another actually fell off it himself in his enthusiasm.

As we left somewhat regretfully at tea-time on the last day, we felt that the course, short as it was, had been fully rewarding. As well as learning a little about philosophy, and discovering the high standard which we must attain in the University and College life to come, we had also found that there was much, as students, which we could teach one another. We can assure any who come after us that Grantley Hall, with its beautiful surroundings and its facilities for learning and leisure, is the ideal place in which to find an interest in knowledge.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

DANS LE JARDIN

Dans le jardin
Il y a un lapin
Très superbe
Qui mange l'herbe.

Avec une lapine
Très méchante
Qui mange les plantes.

(Q2).

Mademoiselle A
Va
au cinéma.

Avec son ami
(Elle est très jolie !)

Mais—
Mademoiselle B
Boit du café
(Du café au lait),

Avec Mademoiselle Z
(Elle est très laide !).

(Q2).

A MOMENT OF FAME

Just for one night, I the great pianist,
Played Schumann, Chopin, Bach and Liszt,
Played and played midst great applause
Without a break, with barely a pause.
The audience rose with mighty roars
And called for more and more encores—
But the glory is gone
—I'll ne'er redeem it—
For, alas, poor me,
I did but dream it.

D. LOMAX (Q1).

THE FIRST DAY

With blazer new and cap so bright,
And satchel that reflects the light,
Alone among a hundred more,
He enters shyly through the door.

In the Hall, school rules are read,
Then to his Form-room he is led ;
Time-table next is written out—
He'll never find his way about !

Maths. in "Housecraft," then P.T.,
Science, then History in P.S.3,
Then at last the final bell,
He's home and what a tale to tell !

H. E. BEAUMONT (1b).

FROST

Yesterday the trees were bare,
But Someone had the greatest care.
He spread the boughs with silver frost,
Every branch and twig englossed.
Frail things glitter in the light ;
Every pond is hard and white ;
Disgruntled ducks beneath the hedges
Watch the children with their sledges.
At night the world lies white and still
With frost that glistens on every hill.

MARION SHAWCROFT (Q2).

KENT'S CAVERN

Kent's Cavern is in Devon. It was found when, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-five, the Rev. McEnery accidentally discovered the caves when his dog disappeared down what was thought to be a rabbit hole. Leading geologists explored the cave and discovered implements of flint, and bones of extinct animals. In eighteen sixty-four the cave was more carefully and thoroughly explored and it was discovered to have been formed by an underground river which is now dry. The smooth rocks show that a considerable stream flowed through the cave long before man existed.

Visitors see many chambers and also many passages at various levels. In some caves there are lime deposits, caused by dripping water and known as stalactites which hang down from the roof, and stalagmites which rise up from the ground. They grow one inch in a thousand years. One large chamber contains many bats which have never seen the light of day. Various forms of plant life have sprung up since the introduction of electricity into the caves. Some of them are moss, ferns and lichens. When the moss is touched by the hand it immediately dies.

Bones of a cave bear have been found and are considered to be five hundred thousand years old. These caves have been used by man and beast. Axes which date from the early ice-age have been found. The most interesting find was a very fine bone needle. The jaw of a woman said to have met her death at the age of twenty-five was found ten feet down. There are articles of bronze and early iron-age such as spear-heads and pottery. Some of the bones of the animals are too big to be part of the creatures who have lived in the caves and must have been brought into the caves by some of the glaciers.

The colourings of the rocks are remarkable. They consist of green, blue, brown and white. There is also some ice-age soil. Anyone visiting the district should not miss the opportunity of seeing these interesting caves.

M. BEDFORD (1b).

A GHOST OF A CHANCE

The driver of number 10 bus,
Had a scare when he ran over puss,
But she popped out her head,
Grinned slyly and said,
"I've nine lives, chum, no need to fuss."

K. TAYLOR (Q1).

A WISH

I wish I were a pilot,
Soaring up on high
Above the flossy clouds
Till clear blue meets the eye.

Gliding like a phantom,
Soaring like a bird,
I see the earth beneath me,
Yet not a sound is heard.

I come in for a landing
(My petrol nearly gone),
The plane rolls to a standstill,
On runway number one !

M. COPLEY (Q1).

SUMMER

(The idealist's view)

The dragonfly drifts on azure wing,
And up on high the bluebirds sing.
A summer haze hangs over all ;
Too soon the Autumn leaves will fall.
A bumble bee drones overhead,
And through green pastures cattle tread,
Or deep from wallowy waters drink
Beside the pond's cool glittering brink.
The daisies lift their yellow eyes,
Up to tranquil clear blue skies,
The sun shines down with burning gaze—
Such are the lazy summer days.

DOLORES MEADE (3 alpha).

SUMMER '54

(The realist's view)

The time is five thirty,
I've just finished tea ;
I sit in the digs
"Four mins. from the sea,"
Sit at the windows, nose to the pane,
Watching the never-ending rain.
No games on the beach,
No fun in the sea,
I've read all my books,
Oh, miserable me !
Must think of something or I'll go insane,
Watching the never-ending rain.
I'll pen a few lines
For the school magazine,
I'm racking my brains
For a happier scene,
But what can I write with such a dull brain
Through watching the never-ending rain ?
Can I write of full gutters
Or soaking wet macks ?
Or riderless donkeys
With cold, streaming backs ?
Or the man in the digs with his rheumatic pain
Caused by the never-ending rain ?
Whilst I've been writing
Out came the sun.
My togs and my towel,
To the beach I must run !
But five minutes later I'm back once again,
Cursing the never-ending rain.

J. GITTINS (Q3).

KEEPING TROPICAL FISH

My hobby is keeping tropical fish. It is very interesting and not too expensive, for, once the aquarium has been established, the tank can be maintained at a very low cost. You need a tank with a large surface area. The usual rule is about ten square inches of surface area to each inch of fish. As the fish vary in size from half an inch to three inches long, you can soon work out how many fish you need in the tank.

You need an immersion-heater and a thermostat to keep the water at a fairly even temperature—never below seventy degrees Fahrenheit and never above eighty four degrees Fahrenheit.

Before you put in the water, lay sand and pebbles in the bottom, then plant various tropical plants. After filling the tank let it stand a week before any fish are introduced. Guppies are suitable fish for a starter, as they are hardy and easy to look after. Gradually other fish such as Platies, Swordtails, Black Mollies, Black Widows, and Neon Tetras may be introduced.

The usual foods are Brossian Flakes, Daphnia, and Mayfly larvae. The aquarium is not only very interesting but very beautiful when lit up at night.

J. HARTLEY (IVb)

THE TWIN SISTERS

Twin sisters lived together once
As happy as could be,
Till Julie wanted coffee for
Her breakfast and her tea.

You wouldn't think it mattered, but
It did because, you see,
Though Julie liked her coffee most,
Her sister still liked tea.

Those wretched girls they got quite cross
For neither would agree
To give up tea for coffee, or
Give coffee up for tea.

And so, alas, they quarrelled. Oh,
The wicked things they said !
They'd both have been much better off
With lemonade instead !

P. W. HARRISON (3b).

MOTHER'S GRUMBLE

Football ! Football !! Football !!!
Morning, noon and night,
With every cup of tea we drink,
And every blinkin' bite.
Kicking ! Kicking !! Kicking !!!
Shoes out at the toes,
Dirt and mud from head to foot
To add to washday woes.
Autographs and cuttings
Plastered on the wall—
Grainger in the dining-room,
Quairney in the hall.
Shilling for the soccer book.
Shilling for the game.
Football ! Football !! Football !!!
How I hate the very name !

Anon.

A RECITAL

Thirty "outcasts" who dared to sign the notice headed in red ink—"Jazz Concert"—were taken to Sheffield City Hall, where the Humphrey Lyttelton Band was giving a concert.

Dispensing with the superfluous actions of a classical conductor, Humph. placed his trumpet to his lips, stamped his foot three times and trumpet, alto saxophone, clarinet and rhythm were away into a rocking version of "Hotter than that." Continuing through many Dixieland specialities Mr. Lyttelton rounded off the first half of the concert with "Mamma don't allow" featuring the gravel voice of Mr. L. himself, introducing the band in turn for solos.

A point which made itself felt to me, at least, was the masterly way in which the soloists expressed themselves, by their phrasing, without all the excess volume changes that classical music is burdened with. Another point that I must stress is that these musicians play from their emotions, not acting, as classical musicians do, as machines translating black dots into musical sounds.

The second half started with another rousing opus, followed by a "guest-spot" in which Dill Jones, a leading light in British Jazz circles, played three numbers on the piano. After three songs from a lady, we welcomed the return of Humph., who this time poked fun at the classics by moving his hands (for the first time that evening), to start the band who played "O Sole Mio" in the written style for the first few bars. They then broke into a swinging up-tempo version of that same song, which "brought the house down." After two or three "blues" numbers and another two-four time speciality, in which Humph. showed his versatility by playing the clarinet, the band were practically forced by the insistence of the crowd to render "When the Saints go marching in." The piece received a tremendous reception of clapping, cheering, whistles and cries of "Play it again"—which our Humphrey duly did. Thus ended one of the liveliest jazz concerts I have ever attended.

M. TAYLOR (U.6 Sc.).

MUD-LARK

With clean white shorts and shirt to match,
Muddy boots that need a patch
Shining face and well-groomed hair,
Here you have a rugby player.

Of course, that is before the game,
But soon things won't be quite the same.
When all are placed the whistle blows.
You catch the ball—you're on your toes.

The other side are ready too,
And half of them take a leap at you,
They grab your middle, pull you down,
Into the mud, a rich, dark brown.

You lose your wind like a punctured tyre,
Another kick in the ribs—nation-fire !
The whistle goes, proclaiming half-time,
And you worm your way out of the slime.

Again the whistle shrills in your ear,
But this time it fills you with horrible fear,
The rain's beating down, you're soaked to the skin,
Only two minutes left, so now you can't win.

The match now over, you leave the pitch,
With twisted ankle and bleeding snitch.
Your locks are tangled, you're covered in mud,
Except for the parts that are smeared with blood !

JEAN ROBINSON (U.6 Gen.).

FOOD

"Marvellous stuff !" It's all very well saying that, but have you ever entered a cafe feeling ravenously hungry and full of expectation, only to have set before you a vile-smelling concoction, which, by the way, you are seriously informed is a great delicacy ? I remember when the would-be consumers of ham in wine sauce greeted it with faintly-repressed revulsion. "H'm, it sounds all right," you may say, but wait till you try it yourself.

Or again, have you watched with horror mingled with fascination a seemingly-charming little French boy carefully extract big, fat, juicy snails from their shells, and then imagined them squelching and crunching between his sparkling white teeth before they slither down into the realms below. At the same time you yourself are being confronted with a bowl of spinach that looks remarkably like freshly-gathered scum off a stagnant pool.

This is what happens after enjoying a short cruise—across to France.

However, if you are thinking of taking a trip to the continent, don't be put off by these isolated incidents for there are many compensations. There is certainly no fear of finding the mealtimes boring, for each one brings strange tempting dishes just asking to be explored. Meats are cooked in ways unknown to the average English boy or girl and have a lingering taste or smell which can't quite be identified. Even though you have not the first idea how to begin to eat them and have to take your cue from the more experienced adults, it is still exciting and tremendously amusing to watch the cautious probings of a more adventurous spirit and then to see the look of incredulity that such a queer-looking mess should taste so delicious.

Nevertheless, there is rather a general feeling of relief when Swiss food is found to be perhaps a little plainer, but by no means less tasty or interesting than French. So that by the time we arrive back in England we realise that the English have much to learn about food.

P.S.

THE TOUCHLINE CRITIC

Every house-match he is there on the edge of the pitch, shrieking and bawling at the top of his voice, giving unheeded instructions.

"Pass, you nitwit, before you're tackled," or "Get up, you idiot," are two phrases included in his strange vocabulary, plus the unrepeatable words that he is denied the use of from Monday to Friday.

He is such a clever fellow. He can estimate the timing of every single pass, tackle, and shot. The one thing that he never seems to understand is why the respiratory system should break down after running up and down the pitch six or seven times, or that a pretty hard blow on the leg or ankle tends to slow the player up somewhat.

As the team loses, it appears that the Saturday "coaching" would receive a welcome ear and be more appreciated at the midweek practices, with, maybe, a demonstration or two.

JEAN ROBINSON (U.6.Gen.).

NOISES OFF

*"The isle is full of noises . . .
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears."*

Caliban's words might well apply to the rooms on the southern side of the school. When Form III read "Macbeth" there, the results are more than usually unpredictable. In Act II, Lady Macbeth listens in suspense whilst somewhere in the silent castle her husband kills Duncan.

"Hark !" she says, just as the cement-mixer tunes up. (She ignores it or is deaf). "Peace ! It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman." Possibly she means the bricklayer-vocalist who just then bursts into song.

Form IV, too, have their difficulties with "King Lear." From time to time a workman smites the sides of the mixer with resounding blows that boom through the rooms facing south. To this vigorous accompaniment which is augmented by the whistling of a bricklayer, a fourth form Lear braves the storm on the heath—

*"Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks ! rage ! blow !
You cataracts and hurricanoes spout"*

shouts Lear to the appropriate noises off, till, suddenly, work outside ceases.

In unaccustomed and unsuitable peace, Lear invites the "all-shaking thunder to strike flat the thick rotundity o' the world." Instead of an answering roll of thunder, a voice rises shrill and urgent :
"Tea, Joe, tea. TEA."

SO THIS IS THE WONDER OF HEAVEN

- Prelude :* The autumn term was on us,
They thought 'twas all in vain
But the SPARTANS, worthy warriors,
They all began to train.
- Sparta 6* The rugger season under way,
Athens 5 The pitch was one dark patch,
As it rained upon this sea of mud,
THE SPARTANS WON A MATCH.
- Sparta 8* The weather went from bad to worse,
Rome 3 Each day we saw it rain
But, undismayed by all of this,
THE SPARTANS WON AGAIN.
- Sparta 12* Then influenza struck the school
Troy 3 And, smitten to the core,
Half the folk were absent, but,
THE SPARTANS WON ONCE MORE
- Sparta ?* The festive season cometh on,
Carthage ? You SPARTANS on the rampage,
Amid your joyful revelling
Think of the might of CARTHAGE.

N. BEAUMONT (U. VI. Sc.).

THE NEW SCIENCE BLOCK

The new Science Block, with its tall steel chimney and smooth lines, is the home of a thousand wonders and a technicians' paradise. Within its multi-coloured walls are several unique features of plumbing. There are to be found taps without sinks, sinks without taps, taps without water, and sinks without drains, necessitating the printing of such notices as "Please, do not touch this tap." Also to be found and seeming as yet a little odd are fume-cupboards with extractor-fans and no outlets, gaily-coloured control knobs and gas-taps without gas.

With new stock arriving every day, the controlling syndicate for the distribution of apparatus, aided and abetted by the harassed laboratory steward, have at present a thriving business. The latest additions to the physics department are two "Mains" Power control units—the envy of all budding electricians—with their red pilot lights. Three rooms of special note are the library, a lecture theatre and a very efficient dark room, each with its complement of revolutionary fittings.

The "Master Mind" behind this huge project is "Fred," the site's foreman, a man of great integrity, initiative and extraordinarily-even temper.

Despite these minor teething troubles, the new Science Block is already beginning to keep track of the ever-expanding field of science by means of the new and expensive apparatus at its disposal; paving the way and expanding new fields of learning for some of the country's future scientists and technologists.

J. B. FENNELL (U.6 Sc.).

SOWING TIME—EVENING

The deepening twilight is at hand.
I sit beneath the bower, and gaze
At the final hour of this day's toil
Fading in the evening haze.

And in the darkening, shadowed fields,
By the rags of an old man deeply-moved,
I ponder, whilst with his aged hand,
He casts the grain o'er the earth new grooved.

His tall, gaunt, black silhouette
His labour hard o'er-lays ;
One feels how deeply he believes
In the use of these fast-fleeting days.

He strides across the vast, flat plain,
To left and right the grain he flings,
Unclenches his hand, and starts anew,
Whilst I muse unseen, upon these things.

And meanwhile, casting wide its veils,
The gloom, its vague sounds sinking lower,
Seems to throw up to the stars
The rhythmic movements of the sower.

C. CLAYTON (L. VI.Lit.).

Translation from "Saison des Semailles—Le Soir" by Victor Hugo.

GAMES

SPORTS DAY



Tuesday, May 25th, the day of the annual sports was mainly fine but there was quite a fresh southerly breeze most of the time. In the early part of the afternoon, it seemed that the candidates for first position were to be Carthage, Athens and Rome, but Troy held on to their tail until it became clear that the result would be between Carthage and Troy. However, the effort proved too much for Troy, leaving Carthage to establish a comfortable lead over the rest of the houses. The final placings were—Carthage 300; Troy 270½; Athens 227½; Rome 210; Sparta 175½.

Several new records were made and these were :—

Boys.

- Group III. Hurdles—Charlesworth (Rome), 12.5 secs.
High Jump—Copping (Carthage), 5ft. 0½ins.
- Group IV. Hurdles—Dunn (Troy), 13-2/5 secs.

Girls.

- Group I. 100 Yards—A. Loftus (Troy), 13 secs.
Rounders Ball—L. Hall (Troy), 157ft. 5ins.
- Group II. Rounders Ball—J. Mason (Rome), 172ft. 2ins.
- Group III. Discus—E. Hopwood (Troy), 86ft. 6ins.
Hurdles—B. Hinchliffe (Carthage), 12.5 secs.
Long Jump—M. Beevers (Carthage), 15ft. 11ins.
100 Yards—M. Beevers (Carthage), 12 secs.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS, 1954

One of the closest finishes in the history of the Inter-School Sports was seen by a crowd of 3,000 people at the Plant Works Athletic Ground, Doncaster.

The most pleasing feature of this result was, however, the fact that Wath was intimately involved in this finish. In fact the result was not decided until the completion of the last event, the Middles Long Jump.

The event was won by Copping but the Maltby boy was second and exceeded the standard by a mere two inches and thus obtained the point which gave the shield to Maltby.

Apart from his victory in this event, Copping also won his other two events, the High Jump (record) and the Hurdles.

Other winners for Wath were :—

- Athey, in the Senior Discus (record), and the High Jump ;
Wood, in the Middles Discus ; and
Keeling, in the Junior Long Jump.

The final results of the sports were :—

1—MALTBY	..	..	62½ points.
2—WATH	..	..	62 "
3—THORNE	..	..	59 "
4—MEXBOROUGH	..	..	50 "
5—GOOLE	..	..	25½ "

N. BEAUMONT (U. VI Sc.).

INTER-HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY RUN

The 1954 race was run on a typical February morning on a very muddy course. This did not deter the leaders, however, and they returned a very fast time. The rest of the field was spread out over more than a mile.

Although Kay took first place, Athens were last in the House placings owing to some inconsistent running by some of the lesser members of the team. This inconsistency did not apply to Sparta who had no runners in the first six but seven of the ten Spartans were in the first twenty-three and consequently their House took first place.

The final results were :—

Individuals : 1. Kay (A) ; 2. Hedges (T) ; 3. Hooper, F. (R) ; 4. Bassinder (C) ; 5. Stables (A) ; 6. Camplejohn (C) ; 7. Swallow (S) ; 8. Beaumont (S) ; 9. Nelson (C) ; 10. Silcock (R).

House Competition : 1. Sparta 225 ; 2. Rome 240 ; 3. Carthage 242
4. Troy 276 ; 5. Athens 293.

INTER-SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY RUN

This was again a keenly-contested event but the advantage of the Wath team in that they were on the home course, added to some very fine running, proved too much for the visitors.

Wath also had the individual winner thanks to a very fine run by Hedges who maintained a very fast pace throughout to take first place.

The Wath team was : Kay, Hedges, Hooper, F., Stables, Camplejohn, Nelson, Swallow, Beardshall.

The final scores were :—

1—WATH	..	58
2—MEXBOROUGH	..	67
3—MALTBY	..	90
4—GOOLE	..	126
5—THORNE	..	140

N. BEAUMONT (U. VI Sc.).

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING GALA, 1954

The swimming sports were won by Sparta for the seventh time since the sports began seven years ago.

There was, however, a much closer struggle for first place, for with only four events to go Sparta and Troy were equal on points, but as expected Sparta won the last two races to win the sports.

In a trial of strength in the form of a tug-of-war, a team led by Fennell outpulled the team led by his no less redoubtable opponent—Clements.

The final scores in the competition were :—

1—SPARTA	..	123	points.
2—TROY	..	111	„
3—ATHENS	..	86	„
4—ROME	..	74	„
5—CARTHAGE	..	68	„

N. BEAUMONT (U. VI Sc.).

ROUNDERS

This year for the first time, the rounders teams were selected from the junior members of the school only. We found that this experiment did not achieve its aim, as the teams only won four times. It is hoped that in the ensuing season the Under 15 teams may have more success.

We can look back on the season as a most enjoyable one, and we would like to express our thanks to all who made it so.

CRICKET



As Wilby, the Captain, eloquently explained, the record of the First XI was not quite so dismal as it seems in cold statistics. The Team enjoyed their season and were involved in some thrilling finishes. Nevertheless, to win one game, draw another and lose seven indicates weaknesses that even their plausible Captain cannot explain away. The truth is that though their bowling at its best was formidable, their batting was most unreliable and their fielding patchy. Dropped catches led to at least two defeats. The team lacked confidence in themselves so that on two, possibly three, occasions with victory almost theirs, they allowed it to slip from them.

The juniors were more successful, playing keenly, though like their seniors, being more convincing in the field than with the bat.

The First Team was chosen from the following :—

Wilby (*Captain*), Hedges (*Vice-Captain*), Hooper F., Hooper, B., Swallow, Wood, Smith, Hayes, Platt, Law, Ashton, Darley, Skinner.

Colours were awarded to Wilby, and Half-Colours to Hooper, F., Hooper, B., Hedges and Swallow.

Results :

- v. Thorne (Home). Lost by 5 wickets. 52 — 56 for 5.
 - v. Hemsworth (Away). Lost by 2 runs. 58 — 60 (Hedges 15, Swallow 5 for 16).
 - v. Hemsworth (Home). Lost by 92 runs. 27 — 119.
 - v. Thorne (Away). Lost by 7 wickets. 83 — 84 for 3. (Hooper, F., 26. Hooper, B., 23).
 - v. Goole (Home). Drew 80 for 8. Goole 56 for 7. (Law 22 N.O. Wood 3 for 7).
 - v. Mexborough (Away). Lost by 1 run. 88 for 8 — 89 for 8. (Hooper, F., 15, Hedges 16, Wilby 4 for 10).
 - v. Mexborough (Home). Lost by 10 runs. 52 — 62. (Hooper B., 4 for 18).
 - v. Old Boys (Home). Won by 3 wickets. 69 for 7 — 67. (Platt 25, Hayes 21 N.O., Swallow 3 for 7).
 - v. Woodlands (Away). Lost by 45 runs. 62 — 107 for 9. (Wilby 4 for 20).
- The Second XI lost to the Old Boys by one wicket. 53 — 57 for 9.
- Prefects v. Staff. Staff 84. Prefects 77. (Hedges 49, Swallow 4 for 0. Mr. Curry 33, Mr. Atkinson 19 N.O. and 5 for 22).

Juniors : The following played in two or more matches :—

Swinburne (*Captain*), Good (*Vice-Captain*), Sidebottom, Beckett, Watkin, Sanderson, Hutchinson, Thompson, Hill, Kerry, Atkinson, Amos, Mallinson, Roberts.

Results :

- v. Hemsworth (Home). Lost by 35 runs. 39 — 74.
- v. Rotherham Schools (Home). Lost by 1 run. 46 — 47.
- v. Hemsworth (Away). Drew. School 26 for 7 — 81 for 8.
- v. Mexborough (Away). Won by 4 wickets. 50 for 6 — 42.
- v. De La Salle (Home). Won by 4 wickets. 52 for 6 — 47.

RUGBY



Last season the 1st XV's record was:—
 Played 17, won 10, lost 6, drawn 1; points
 for 177; against 139.

Full colours were awarded to Swallow,
 Hooper, F., Hooper, B., Darley and Taylor.

Half colours were awarded to: Dunn,
 Beaumont, Nelson, Atkinson, Booth, M.,
 Booth, B., Fennell, Clayton and Caldwell.

This year the first team has been chosen
 from: Taylor (*Captain*), Dunn, Mann,
 Beaumont, Nelson, Bell, Wood, Copping,
 Caldwell, Crooks, Sidebottom, Booth, Ashton,
 Hooper, Denmar, Fennell and Clements.

The enthusiasm of the teams is being reflected in the results. The 1st XV are having a successful season playing more matches than any first team for several years. All the forwards have had a previous year's experience in one of the senior teams, but midway through the second-half of matches their energy begins to flag and scrum play becomes scrappy. The scrum loses its "punch" and mistakes by the opponents are not pounced upon as they ought to be. However, training for the school cross-country race generally sees the forwards gain more stamina and improve their play. The first team backs do not cover up their mistakes as they should do but they have been thrown "out of joint" by the loss of their full-back through injury.

The 2nd XV, led by Young, ably assisted by Crooks, are also having a very successful season. They have a heavy scrum and a strong back-line. The under 15 side are having a season of bad luck, losing matches by one try or even by the odd point, however, if hard practice will rectify this the under 15 team will soon start winning.

Results :

1st XV :	Sept. 8th	Ex-Captain's XV	.. ..	H.	Won	14—3
	Sept. 25th	King's School, Pontefract	.. ..	H.	Won	9—0
	Oct. 2nd	Rotherham "A"	.. ..	A.	Won	10—3
	Oct. 9th	Doncaster "B"	.. ..	H.	Won	31—0
	Oct. 16th	Sheffield "A"	.. ..	H.	Lost	5—36
	Oct. 23rd	Sheffield Tigers "B"	.. ..	A.	Won	9—6
	Oct. 30th	Sheffield "extra A"	.. ..	A.	Won	12—9
	Nov. 6th	Hemsworth G.S.	.. ..	H.	Lost	3—11
	Nov. 13th	Goole G.S.	.. ..	H.	Won	6—0
	Nov. 27th	Doncaster "B"	.. ..	A.	Won	14—6
	Dec. 4th	Sheffield Tigers "B"	.. ..	H.	Won	6—0
	Dec. 11th	Thorne G.S.	.. ..	H.	Won	11—0
	Dec. 15th	King's School, Pontefract	.. ..	A.	Drawn	0—0
2nd XV :	Sept. 25th	King's School, Pontefract	.. ..	H.	Won	11—6
	Oct. 2nd	Rotherham "B"	.. ..	A.	Won	11—3
	Nov. 6th	Hemsworth G. S.	.. ..	H.	Won	9—3
	Nov. 13th	Goole G.S.	.. ..	H.	Won	11—3
	Dec. 4th	Sheffield Tigers Colts	.. ..	H.	Won	17—3
	Dec. 11th	Thorne G.S.	.. ..	H.	Won	6—5
"Under 15" XV :	Dec. 15th	King's School, Pontefract	.. ..	A.	Lost	0—15
	Oct. 2nd	Spurley Hey	.. ..	H.	Won	9—8
	Oct. 23rd	Doncaster G.S.	.. ..	A.	Lost	3—6
	Oct. 30th	Spurley Hey	.. ..	A.	Lost	3—18
	Nov. 6th	Hemsworth G.S.	.. ..	H.	Lost	0—3
	Nov. 27th	Sheffield Schools	.. ..	A.	Lost	0—5
	Dec. 11th	Thorne ..	.. ..	H.	Won	11—8
"Under 14" XV :	Oct. 2nd	Spurley Hey	.. ..	H.	Won	8—3
	Nov. 6th	Spurley Hey	.. ..	A.	Lost	3—8
	Nov. 20th	Oakwood	.. ..	A.	Lost	12—15

M. TAYLOR.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

From the University of Leeds.

“So this is University !” we thought as we sat drinking coffee, trying to put our thoughts in order.

We had spent the morning floundering in a morass of forms and papers, cards, photographs, cheques, receipts, class-tickets, leaky biros and fountain pens ; we had rushed around following large printed signs, waited in long queues (usually the wrong ones) seeking Heads of Departments and Professors and Sub-Deans and Bursars and Registrars until our minds were in a whirl.

But this was only the beginning. This was our official reception. The afternoon was to prove equally hectic but less imposing and much more enjoyable.

It was what is known as Bazaar-Day. All the University Societies had set up their stalls and were trying to attract our custom. They used every known method of advertisement from the mighty “Castrol” banners of the Motor Club, the alluring strains of Jean Sablon’s “Le Fiacre” at the French Society’s stall and the “Genuine Piltdown” (mammoth) skull of the Natural History Society (which the more sceptical avowed had come from the museum) to the more serious claims of the religious and political societies. There was something here to attract us all—wine-bottles, tin-whistles, rattling drums, soft voices, loud voices, streamers, posters, even a ghost floating around in one corner ! Rather significantly, the Music Society had the quietest stall of all.

When we finally tore ourselves away from all the hubbub and confusion we felt slightly weak and light-headed. Obviously another strong coffee was needed to clear our fuddled brains. After this we made our various ways back to digs and hostels to meditate upon this, our first day at University.

AN OLD WATHONIAN.

OLD WATHONIANS’ ASSOCIATION

We were all most deeply shocked and distressed by the sudden death on May 30th of Mr. Ritchie, Headmaster of the School and President of the Association. Both past and present Scholars have sustained a great loss. A note of sympathy was sent by the Old Scholars’ Association to Mrs. Ritchie and her family. A wreath was sent to the funeral on 3rd June at which the Old Scholars were represented. Old Scholars also attended the Memorial Service on 14th June.

The Re-Union was held on Wednesday, 7th April. Many Old Scholars met once more to spend a happy evening together. We were sorry that the Rev. A. T. L. and Mrs. Grear were unable to come, as Mrs. Grear was ill. Flowers had already been sent to Mrs. Grear on behalf of the Old Scholars who now expressed the wish that a letter wishing her a speedy recovery should also be sent.

Mr. Ritchie, unfortunately, was not well at the time of the Re-Union, so he was not able to be there.

County Alderman Horace Cutts, Chairman of the Governors, was present.

The Old Boys' Cricket Match and the Old Girls' Tennis Tournament were held on July 16th.

At Easter we lost a stalwart member of the Committee when Miss Rose Disley left the school to take up an appointment as Senior Mistress at Wainfleet Magdalene School. We wish her the best of luck in her new post.

The Old Scholars have been very sorry to hear of Mr. Leadley's illness this year, and hope that he will soon be well again.

MARRIAGES

Alan Sykes (W.G.S.) to Margaret Kitchener (W.G.S.)

Edward Petts (W.G.S.) to Margaret Wroe (W.G.S.)

Walter R. Hague to Elizabeth Rawson (W.G.S.)

Douglas Spencer (W.G.S.) to Eileen Hohen

W. J. Marshall to Mary Durkin (W.G.S.)

Jack Marshall to Betty Dainty (W.G.S.)

Roy Smith to Mary Beaumont (W.G.S.)

Eric Potts (W.G.S.) to Christina Lovelock

Selwyn Morris to Dorothy Cropper (W.G.S.)

John Ogley (W.G.S.) to Margaret Marshall (W.G.S.)

Harry Mattock (W.G.S.) to June Hill (W.G.S.)

Wilfred Thompson (W.G.S.) to Joyce Bramwell

Anthony J. Murragh (W.G.S.) to Rita Ralling

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Clewes (Miss H. Upton)—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Bellwood (Margaret Leadley)—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Green—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Turner—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Keast (Margaret Buncall)—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth (Betty Hough)—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Maltby (Dorothy Heald)—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Smyton (Anne Leadley)—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Donohue (Margaret Kirk)—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Worthy (Doreen Senior)—a son.

Rev. D. E. and Mrs. Erickson (Joan Parkin)—a son.

DEATHS

We regret to record the deaths of:—

John B. Baker (W.G.S., 1923 - 1927).

Mary Podmore (W.G.S., 1924 - 1928).

William Worton (W.G.S., 1945 - 1949).

DEGREES

We congratulate the following on obtaining degrees:—

Arthur P. Walker, Ph.D., Birmingham.

Alan Sykes, Ph.D., Birmingham.

Derek Gibbons, Ph.D., Birmingham. (now in a post at Harwell Atomic Energy Establishment).

Joseph C. Bower, 1st Class Hons., (Municipal Engineering) Manchester.

William Hammond, B.A., 2nd Class Hons., (English) Liverpool.

Brian Windle, B.A., 2nd Class Hons., (Geography) Sheffield.

Donald Wade, M.Sc., (Civil Engineering) Birmingham.

Jack Ellis, external B.Sc., (Economics).

Charles S. Smith, B.Sc., (2nd Class Hons.) (Economics).

John P. Cavill, Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Liverpool.

Colin Watson, degrees as a fully-qualified doctor.

Congratulations are also extended to :—

Arthur Clegg—on being appointed Biology Master at Lady Manners School, Bakewell.

A. Lazenby—on being appointed lecturer in Agriculture at Cambridge University.

Ronald Davies—on his appointment as Headmaster of Jump County Primary School.

Mr. G. D. Ingham,—on being appointed special director of A. T. Green and Sons, Ltd.

John Michael Waddington—on being accepted for a commission in the Fleet Air Arm.

Orlando Varney—on being successful in the final exams of Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Ralph Smith—on being appointed to the H.Q. staff of the Carbonisation branch of the N.C.B. at Hobart House, London.

Rev. Phillip Cauwood has joined the staff of Doncaster Parish Church.

Mrs. Thirza Siddall (nee Pyatt) is in Umtali where her husband is working. Aircraftsman Paul N. Hill is at El Firdan in the Canal Zone in Egypt.

Constance Broomhead is on the teaching staff at a teachers' training school in Kenya.

Audrey Platt is the first Old Girl to study medicine. She is at Liverpool University.

Sheila Totty has sailed for Massachusetts to marry Ron Blackburn whose family emigrated four years ago.

Pat Wroe has now qualified as a Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists.

Mr. G. I. Michael has taken up his appointment as director of education for the Seychelles Islands.

We are always pleased to hear news of Old Scholars. This should be sent to Miss Swift at School, or to the Secretary, Miss Kathleen Clark, 19, Claypit Lane, Rawmarsh, Rotherham.

OLD WATHONIANS' R.U.F.C.

JOHN RITCHIE, ESQ.

We remember with deep appreciation our late
President and Friend,
His work on our behalf and his smiling help
in time of Crisis.

Since the issue of the last "Wathonian," the fortunes of the Club have taken a decided upswing. With virtually the same team as started the 1953-54 Season, the record after Christmas was much better.

Of twelve matches played only two were lost ; and the season was finished with the following results :—

P.	W.	L.	For	Points Against
25	15	10	282	165

Inter-Season 7-a-side Tournaments were entered at Barnsley and Rotherham, and the Club reached the Semi-Finals on both occasions falling each time to the eventual winners—Sheffield Club.

Season 1954-1955.

Recovering from the shock of a beating in the first match, the team have knitted well into quite an effective combine of solid scrummaging Forwards and elusive Backs.

Under the promptings of Scrummage-Half Gawthrope and Captain Ibbotson at Fly-Half, Lidster is blossoming into quite a star centre ; while Wood and Johnson are demonstrating what can be done when the ball is won for them.

Forward, Oldfield has brought solidity to what was a rather shaky pack, and Anstess, Brookes and Birkhead in particular are responding well to his gentle (?) prodding.

Faced with the strongest Fixture List the Club has ever had, we are optimistic of making this a record season.

To date results are :—

Sept. 4th	Bingley	..	..	..	A.	8—17	Lost
Sept. 11th	Moortown	..	..	..	H.	14—12	Won
Sept. 18th	Burley	..	..	..	H.	16—6	Won
Oct. 2nd	Old Otliensians	..	..	..	H.	14—13	Won
Oct. 9th	Halifax Vandals (Cup)	..	..	..	H.	16—12	Won
Oct. 16th	Old Rishworthians	..	..	..	A.	11—10	Won
Oct. 23rd	Old Brodleians (Cup)	..	..	..	H.	9—14	Lost
Oct. 30th	Leeds T.C.	..	..	..	H.	21—8	Won
Nov. 6th	Scunthorpe	..	..	..	H.	6—0	Won
Nov. 13th	Barnsley	..	..	..	A.	9—3	Won
Nov. 20th	Old Mannerians	..	..	..	H.	14—0	Won
Nov. 27th	Huddersfield Y.M.C.A.	..	..	..	A.	3—0	Won

Our grateful thanks are extended to the School Governors for use of the Playing Area, and to Messrs. Cooper, Atkinson and Hogg of the School Staff for their help and interest.

Finally, to all Rucker players—here is **your** Club. If you are interested in continuing playing after you leave school, come along and let us see what you can do.

We are faced periodically with players going away for two years rest at the expense of Her Majesty's Government, and an influx of playing members is constantly needed.

Don't hide your light under a bushel—come along—you will be given a game.

Anyone interested? If so contact :—

P. Ibbotson or K. Y. Lythe	..	Wombwell
I. Gawthrop	..	Brampton
R. B. Oldfield	..	Thurnscoe
B. Lidster or W. H. Mattock	..	Wath

or any member of the School Staff.

W.H.M.

PREFECTS, 1954-55

Girls.

Judith Law (*Head Girl*), Eileen Garfitt, Beryl Park, Anne Lidster, Ann Fletcher, Brenda Sharpe, Sonia Skidmore, Barbara Hinchliffe, Patricia Winch, Ann Meyers, Peggy Sanderson, Monica White, Eunice Rhodes, Patricia Oldnow, Anne Perryman, Margaret Beevers.

Boys.

J. B. Fennell (*Head Boy*), B. Hooper, J. Ashton, N. Beaumont, A. Gibbons, M. M. Taylor, G. Clements, R. Jackson, A. Mann, D. Cox, J. Murfin, B. Dukes, T. Biram, K. Nelson, G. Young.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, 1954

Advanced—Altogether 33 candidates took papers at advanced level, and 31 were successful, 24 obtaining certificates in three subjects.

County Major and State Scholarship : George Kay.

County University Exhibitions : Jos. G. Featherstone Audrey Platt

John L. Hedges	John Darley
Frank Hooper	T. Swallow
Stanley H. Platt	Anne Bentcliffe
Peter G. Wilby	Ruth Collens
C. Barry Clayton	Janet Wood
Anthony Gibbons.	

N.C.B. Scholarship : Stanley H. Platt.

Ordinary—Altogether 111 candidates took papers at ordinary level and 109 were successful, 58 obtaining certificates in five or more subjects.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge gratefully the receipt of the following magazines:—"Acta," "Alumnus," "Danensis," "Morleian," "The Sheaf," and the magazines of the Percy Jackson Grammar School and Rotherham High School.

Editor : JUDITH LAW (Upper VI Lit.).

Sub Editors :

PEGGY SANDERSON (Upper VI Lit.), M. FORD (Upper VI Sc.).

