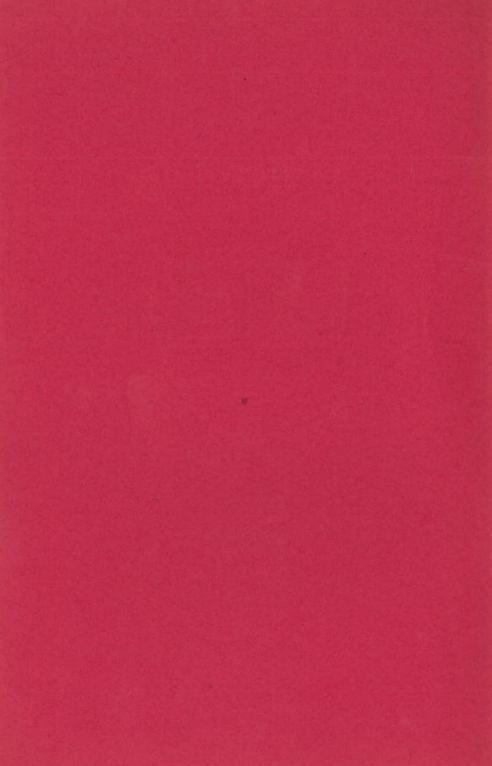
The Wathonian



APRIL, 1941.

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School Notes.

Since the last issue of the Magazine the School has undergone a number of changes, the most noteworthy of which has been the change in Headmaster, to which reference is made elsewhere. At the end of the Summer Term presentations were made to Mr. Grear to mark his long and valued service to the School. The pupils presented him with a Library Chair, the Staff with a gift of Books, and the old Students with Pictures and Silver Candlesticks.

The School has lost the services of two further masters to H.M. Forces. They are Mr. H. Smith and Mr. M. L. Pettersson, and in addition Miss G. M. Miskin left to accept a new post at York. In their places we have welcomed Mr. T. P. Norcombe, Mr. P. R. Smith, Miss J. P. Bovingdon and Mrs. H. Wilkinson. To those who have left us we wish every success, and to our new members of Staff a very hearty welcome.

We have every reason to be glad that the activity of hostile aircraft has only very slightly affected School life. From early December until early February the time of starting morning School was altered to 9.30 in order that bus travellers might leave home after dawn, but otherwise there has been

little or no alteration of our normal working.

The War Weapons Week Campaign, February 22nd to March 1st, evoked much enthusiasm. The total of £3,980 achieved by pupils and parents through the Schools War Savings Association is a very creditable result to have achieved. Prizes of War Savings Stamps for the Poster Competition were gained by Maureen Hoyle, Va; D. Everatt, IIIb; and D. Binns, IIa; and for the Slogan Competition, B. Glasswell, IIa; and E. Perkins, IIa. We are indebted to the generosity of Mr. W. P. Turner, of Mexborough, for the award of these prizes.

The establishment of a School Squadron of the Air Training Corps has been another of the outstanding events of this term. Considerable enthusiasm has been found both amongst the present boys who are old enough, and old boys who have recently left the School. The strength of the

Squadron at the time of writing is 136, made up of 40 present boys, 34 old boys, and 62 others. Parades are held immediately after School on Wednesday and Friday for present boys, and on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons for old boys and others.

The results of the Magazine competitions for this issue are as follows:—Senior Literary Competition, G. E. Hughes, U.VI.Lit.; Junior Literary Competition, Jose Shaw, IIa;

Garden Design Competition, B. Hudson, U.VI.Lit.

We congratulate Lily Redgate on obtaining a State Scholarship and J. K. Buckley, D. A. Hargreaves, E. W. Higgs, L. Redgate, and C. Broomhead on winning County Major

Scholarships.

The following are the School prefects for the year:—Boys—J. H. Miller, G. E. Hughes, D. Harwood, F. Mann, P. Thompson, J. D. Miller, D. Dexter, P. Dale, G. H. Webster, O. Edgar, B. Hudson, W. Sargeantson and L. Schofield. Girls—L. Bailey, M. Curran, C. Bridges, M. Bentcliffe, K.Disley, J. Frith, D. Hughes, L. Peace, M. Rorison, J. Rothnie and M. Williams.

SALVE ATQUE VALE.

Since the last issue of the Magazine we have said farewell to the Rev. A. T. L. Grear, first Head Master of the School and the founder of its destinies. We have now to welcome our New Head Master at a time when heavy demands will be made on his vigour and versatility. A School in war-time is a School suffering from loss of staff, difficulty of equipment, and the exacting and strange demands of A.R.P., in which direction Mr. Ritchie's wide experience will be of inestimable value.

The new Head Master has left Wolverhampton the poorer for his departure, and we do not doubt that Wath will benefit where his old School has lost. He has already become known to many old pupils, and has found his place in directing the various phases of School life. A live and vigorous personality, the traditions of the School are safe in his hands. May he

lead it to yet further success!

With the departure of the Rev. A. T. L. Grear, the School has had the unusual experience of losing its first Head Master in the full stream of his work, during which the School had reached a high standard, and was showing the results of his guidance in the lives of its past and present pupils. Not only have the members of the School had opportunities of considerable interest and careers of usefulness opened to them, but many of the Old Boys have reached distinguished positions

in the vocations they have followed, while at the moment, among those serving in His Majesty's Forces four have been honoured with Decorations for Valour, and others have been mentioned in Despatches. Old Girls are playing their part in the Women's Services, while the Teaching and Nursing professions, as well as business posts, number many competent workers drawn from the School.

The Scholarship list of the School has borne ample testimony to the solid nature of its work, and the founding of a Scholarship Fund showed the keen desire of the Head Master to add to the benefits already available for his pupils. The careers of those who have reached the Universities, Training Colleges and other institutions have given cause for satisfaction, and the great mining industry of the neighbourhood has received valuable recruits.

"By its fruit are ye known" can be spoken of the Wath Grammar School, which has owed so much to the clear mind which guided it through the early turbulent stages of trailing along from one "ecclesiastical" edifice to another in search of temporary classrooms. Not until the new school was built did staff or pupils have a full opportunity for showing their mettle, although old pupils from those early days find nothing lacking in their memories of the School.

The School Houses, the many School Societies, the keen competition on Sports Days, the efforts which obtained suitable cricket pitches and tennis courts, the School Plays with their resulting contributions to the provision of those courts and the initial Scholarship Fund, the Old Wathonian Society, the Old Boys' Rugby Club, the National Savings movement, the "Dig for Victory" in the School allotment, even the Magazine itself, all received the same patient interest, the same assiduous attention, the same sagacious guidance. An interesting phase was the establishment of the various School Committees in order to give Prefects, House Captains and House Representatives experience in the management of their own affairs, and thus provide a basis upon which to build useful citizenship.

The Old Students who met to present Mr. Grear with their loving tribute were a body of young men and women of whom he and the School might feel justly proud. Their regrets were tempered with the knowledge that their Head Master had chosen a new and honourable vocation in which his intellectual gifts and integrity of character would not be wasted.

The Staff and the School also presented their farewell gifts with their sincerest good wishes and expressions of deep regard. The Governors of the School added their tribute, and we feel that Mr. Grear must be happy in the knowledge that his great work has been fully appreciated. He has the affectionate thoughts of all, and their hopes for a bright future.

House Notes.

ATHENS.

Last term we said good-bye with regret to a number of our seniors, but were pleased to welcome all newcomers.

The period since September can scarcely be said to have been successful, though the girls began well with a meeting to welcome the new girls. This was made as much like a party as possible.

The Junior and Senior Boys' teams have each won two of their four matches. The girls have been less successful. It can be said that if full teams had turned up to all matches and practices the results would have been more pleasing.

The hopes of the optimists were quickly dashed at the end of last term when, after hearing of the negative marks resulting from detentions it was obvious that we could not win the Work Cup. However, a more cheerful aspect of House affairs is the better response to the campaign for selling the magazines. We hope that in the future this phenomenon will be repeated.

Athenians who remember Miss Jones join in wishing her well, and hope that she is as comfortable as possible in the trying conditions which now prevail in London.

CARTHAGE.

This year we have had several new Carthaginians, and practically all of them have entered for magazine competitions or joined one of the School Societies. We hope they will be as keen to buy the magazine when it is published. Snow and frosty weather have prevented many matches this Easter term, and a few at the end of last term. The few that have been played have been fairly successful.

ROME.

Alas! the Work Cup is lost to Rome, and we must make an effort to regain it at the end of the present term. Last term detentions seemed to be rather numerous, especially among members of the lower school. Surely this is not the way to win the House Cup.

Owing to the weather few House matches have been played, but the Junior and Senior teams have been fairly successful in those that have been possible. There has been difficulty this season in producing a Senior rugger team, and attendances at matches have been far from enthusiastic. Not so with the Juniors, who have on two occasions turned seventeen men out.

Magazines seem to be having a good sale this term, especially among the boys. In the lower school great keenness has been shown in sending contributions to the magazine. The upper and middle forms have not been so enthusiastic. Let us hope this will be remedied next term. We were sorry to lose S. Searle and Higgs at the end of last year, and welcome C. Bridges and Webster as our new House captains.

SPARTA.

Congratulations, Sparta! At last, after many vain attempts, you have won the Work Cup. Last term there were fewer detentions and great improvements in reports. Do not let yourselves slide back into the old lethargy. Already there are signs of sinking. This term, and here we refer especially to the boys, societies have not been well attended; little keenness has been shown in entering for magazine, poster and garden competitions. There was a time when Sparta regularly won the Work Cup. Cannot we repeat our former greatness?

In games the Senior boys have done particularly well. Three matches have been played and three won. The Juniors we are sorry to say, have not followed their example. Mig t we suggest that since Sparta has more Junior boys than any other House she ought to be able to turn out a full team.

For the girls, we can only say, "You are letting down the boys!" More keenness ought to be shown, despite the difficulties, to turn out to practices. If in certain sections there were fewer detentions, it would be easier to turn out a full team.

Keep up your efforts! The cup must not change hands again.

THEBES.

We heartily welcome all new members to Thebes, and equally heartily congratulate all those Thebans who were successful in their examinations last July. This term has been singularly uneventful with regard to House activities. Owing to the weather little progress has been made with gardening, and no House matches have been played. Thus there has been little chance for Thebans to distinguish themselves! Yet, in the Christmas term, it may be said of the girls that they did not lose one match. The Junior boys also played quite well, but the Seniors were handicapped by not having a full team.

But this satisfactory games record is clouded o'er by the shadow of that seemingly distant and unattainable object, the Work Cup! It must be remembered that the decrease in the number of detentions is accompanied by the increased number of minus points which they carry with them. However, it is worthy of note that Thebes possesses many enthusiastic Guides, and that a considerable number of the boys are Scouts.

We can only hope that Thebes will gain much needed points by magazine entries, and entries for the War Weapons Week competitions.

TROY.

At the end of this term we are sorry to say farewell to Miss Edge, who has been an enthusiastic Housemistress, but we are pleased to welcome Miss Knowles as her successor, and I am sure we all wish that she will have a happy time among us.

Since the new two-hour detention scheme has come into being, our list has slightly decreased, but more effort is needed on the part of certain individuals to abandon the ageold war cry of Detentions for a new one of Magazines, and especially as now they are only issued twice yearly.

Games this term have as usual been won and lost, and although they cannot be said to be brilliant, they cannot be said to be bad. Snow has been rather an obstacle, and many games have had to be cancelled.

But now to a lighter subject—or should we say heavier—gardening. The boys have put a good deal of work into the plot, and now it looks quite respectable.

Senior Literary Society.

At a debate on September 23rd, 1940, there was a fairly large attendance. Voting was unanimous against the motion proposed by Hughes and Edgar that "Newspapers are an evil influence, supplying us with ready-made opinions, and leaving us no room to think for ourselves." The opposers were Dexter and Schofield, and speaking from the floor of the house was rare because of lack of time. Mann took the chair.

Although rehearsals for the School Play made further meetings scarce, another debate was held on November 11th. With more courage than success Dale and Megan Williams attempted to persuade the meeting that "Plenty without freedom is better than freedom without plenty." Barker and Megan Bentcliffe, supported by several speakers from the floor of the house, had little difficulty in opposing the motion, which was rejected by a large margin of votes.

At the third meeting of 1940, Upper Va gave several dramatic scenes from "Julius Caesar," in which the acting and enunciation was of a high standard. Brown, as Julius Caesar, Evans, as Mark Antony, and Stenton, as Brutus, gave especially good performances.

The last meeting consisted of an Intelligence Bee between Upper Va and Upper Vb, compered by J. Walker of U.Vr. The production was appreciated by a large audience.

At the first meeting of Spring term, 1941, on January 27th, the fourth forms took part in a Knowledge Bee, compered by Thompson, of U.VI.Lit. The questions were rather elementary, and were mostly readily answered. It is hoped that higher forms will answer more advanced questions with equal facility in a Bee to be held later in the term.

Most of the energies of members of the Society before Christmas were devoted to the production of the School play, "The Brontes," by Alfred Sangster, which was presented on two occasions to scholars and old boys and girls. Megan Bentcliffe as Charlotte, planning, hoping, unceasingly industrious, Kathleen Disley as Emily, stubborn, contemptuous, encircled by dreams, and Margaret Curran as Anne, meek in spirit, and gracious in deed, acted admirably the cheerless lives of the three novelists, while Schofield was excellent as the inexorable father. The supporting cast took pains with their parts, and the audience enjoyed the play on both occasions.

Junior Literary Society.

This term the Junior Literary Society has had ten weekly meetings. These have been well attended by each dinner.

On October 9th, with Hodgson as chairman, Blackburn and H. Taylor (in spite of spirited opposition from B. Harrington and J. Hinchcliffe) convinced the members that modern advertising methods deceive the public.

On October 30th when White was in the chair, Hunt and Iveson successfully denied the contention of Davies and Sands that the English are snobbish. In both these debates

there was a lack of speakers from the floor.

At the two following meetings Literary Tests were held, in both of which there were very close finishes, the teams of J. Hinchcliffe and L. Stott beating those of Broadbent and Hickling respectively.

On November 20th and 27th experimental series of readings were tried. The first, "Punishment in the Past" was compèred by Blackburn; the second, "Schools in the Past," was

compèred by M. Richards.

The session closed with two plays, the first one was produced by B. Harrington and was entitled "The First Printer," and the other, "Incorrigible," was produced by D. Curt.

The Orchestra.

Last term the Orchestra practices were mainly devoted to the music which was played between the scenes of the Sixth Form's performance of "The Brontes," at the end of the term. This music consisted of a "Scherzo," by Charles Woodhouse; "Ballet Music from Rosamunde," by Franz Schubert; "Minuet from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme," by Lulli; and "Miniatures," by Frank Bridges. We continued, however, to practise Haydn's "Clock Symphony in D Major," and are making

headway in this difficult work.

This term we are to prepare for the performance of Shakespeare's "Cymbeline," and we hope to give a recital in the Hall. No new members have appeared as yet for the term, but the Orchestra is maintaining creditable strength, and consists of Deeks, Miss B. C., Knowles, Miss M., Williams, M., Rothnie, M., Evans, E., Edgar, E., Edgar, C., Mann, F., Thompson, P., Jones and Hill, D. We lost a 'cello player with Mrs. Owen, who attended most of the practices during her short stay at School. It would be an agreeable addition if we could have a viola or other extra string instruments.

F. MANN.

Art Club.

The Christmas term was a successful one for the Art Club. There were fifty keen members, of which seventeen gained House points. The activities of the members were very varied, perhaps because there was a shortage of leather and it became necessary to find other types of work. Some turned their attention to clay modelling, others to the making of baskets, trays, or Christmas cards.

The popularity of the Club was emphasised when six meetings were held during the fortnight's holiday in October. This must surely be unique in the history of School Societies. During this period some decorative door panels were

completed, and a frieze was begun—but not finished.

A very interesting model of a film set, complete with lighting effects, was constructed last term by Mr. Leadley. This looked very realistic and was a great attraction, especially

for the boys.

This term also began well, with fifty-five members. Teapot-stands, lino-cuts, and fircone floral decorations have claimed the attention of many, but more door panels have appeared to add interest to the School corridors. The pioneers are now opening up a new sphere of creative effort in the planning of posters and gardens.

Science Club.

Chairman: Edgar, VI.Sc. Secretary: Dexter, VI.Sc.
The meetings during Christmas term were held on
Wednesdays in alternate dinners in the Lecture Room.
Attendances at the meetings were quite good. Papers have
been given by the following people:

Oct. 2-Dexter-"Designing an Animal."

Oct. 7—Edgar—"Poison Gases."
Nov. 6—Mr. Ritchie—"Pottery."
Nov. 13—Sykes—"Explosives."
Nov. 30—Dale—"Colloids."

On December 4th and 11th a Knowledge Bee, prepared by Miller, J. D., and Webster (VI.Science) was held. Sides were chosen from the audience, and a close contest resulted at both meetings.

This term we have already had a talk by Mr. Smith on "Aerial Photography." A number of photographs and maps were shown and provided much interest. Already a number of interesting papers have been promised, and should provide a series of interesting meetings this team.

Guide Notes.

Guide activities since our last notes included the collecting of clothing for refugees from the unfortunate districts of Stepney and Hoxton, and the knitting of helmets and mittens for old boys and girls now in the Services. For their Christmas good turn Guides raised £I for soldiers billeted in the Barnsley Division. Letters of appreciation have been received for these gifts.

Increased proficiency of the company is shown by the acquisition of several second badges, four cooks badges and one child-nurse badge.

No matter what happens, 1941 will be known as the year in which the Chief Scout, Lord Robert Baden Powell, was called to higher service. Although his health had been failing for some time, it was a shock to hear of his death in Kenya on January 8th. A Memorial Service held in Wath Parish Church was attended by local Guides and Scouts. After an address on Lord Baden Powell, Guides, Brownies and Scouts went through the ceremony of repeating their promise.

The Government have asked all patriotic citizens to use a portion of their spare time to help the war effort. There is no better way in which the girls of this School could answer this appeal than by joining the Guides. Girls going during second dinner will be especially welcome.

Scout Notes.

"Quae regio in terris nostri non plena Caloris."

Tales of last year's (1940) "bumper" camp in the Lake District are still popular. The weather was extraordinarily excellent and the river was exceedingly popular (although not too much soap was used), because the camp had a new site, almost on the river bank. Once again we must thank our Scoutmaster and those seniors who helped to make it the success it was. Two "first-class" journeys were made, but the aspirants of one returned by 'bus.

This year has been almost uneventful, but meetings, which have taken place in lunch-time, have been well attended. Several new recruits have been welcomed to the Troop. The whole Troop heard with regret of the death of Lord Baden Powell, but owing to weather conditions only local Scouts were able to attend the Memorial Service on Sunday, the 19th of January, at Wath Parish Church.

An association "tea-fight" was held on February 18th,

at Mexborough.

At present the Friday meetings are taken up alternately by games one week and *work* the next. So Scouts, carry on with the good work and remember:

"Tu bello non licet bis errare." L.D.B.

Rugby Football Notes.

The School Rugby teams have had a successful season, the only inter-School matches lost up to date by any of the teams being the 1st XV. match with Hemsworth, and the "A" team match with Hull, both away.

The 1st XV. forwards played well in the loose and the line-outs, being dangerous both in dribbling rushes and in handling movements. Their loose scrumming was good, but in set scrums they were less successful.

The backs combined smartly at times and were generally sound in defence, though some were inclined to tackle high, a weakness to be found among the forwards also.

The 2nd XV. had a hardworking and heavy pack, but the backs never developed a successful combined game. The forwards were, moreover, poor in loose scrumming.

The "Under 15" team had an exceptionally strong and heavy pack. In attack, however, they depended too much on Higgs and Whitaker, two very clever and determined players. Too many of this team were inclined to be slack against weak opposition, but all played with great determination against a strong Morley team.

Sept. 28.—Ist XV. v. Old Boys. Result: Lost 3—15. The School played hard throughout against a heavier and more experienced team, but did not tackle Webster and Ellison (who between them were responsible for all the Old Boys scoring) with sufficient determination. Miller (J. H.), who played well throughout, scored a clever individual try for the School.

Oct. 5th.—v. Morley. Away. Result: Won 16—o.

Harwood (penalty goal) opened the scoring for the School, and tries by Cooper, Miller (J. H.) and Scothern, two of which were converted, put the School 16 points ahead by half-time. There was no scoring in an evenly contested second half. The School backs were superior in attack, but the forwards were frequently beaten in the scrums.

Oct. 12th-v. Thorne. Home. Result: Draw 8-8.

A hard rather than skilful game ended in a draw. The Thorne forwards were better in the scrums, and their backs were speedy, though inferior to the home side in combination. Doherty and Scothern scored for the School, the latter converting his own try.

Nov. 2nd—v. Goole. Home. Result: Won 15—3.

Cooper (2 tries), Barber, Miller (J. H.) and Finean scored for the School in the first-half. In an even second half the only score was a penalty goal for Goole.

Nov. 9th—v. Barnsley. Away. Result: Won 14—o. Miller (J. H.) in the first half, and Clegg, Lowe and Scothern scored tries for the School. Scothern converted his own try.

Nov. 23rd—v. Pontefract. Away. Result: Won 14—o. This was a poor game on a heavy ground. Dutton, Scothern, Webster and Clegg scored for the School, Sergeantson kicking one goal.

Feb. 15th—v. Pontefract. Home. Result: Won 26—o. A poor game resulted in an easy win for the School.

Mar. 8th—v. Wakefield "A". Home. Result: Won 9—8. A hard and interesting game under bad conditions resulted in a narrow win for the School, for whom Scothern and Schofield (2) scored unconverted tries. The School forwards adapted themselves well to the conditions. Wakefield might have done better to trust more to their clever backs.

Mar. 15th—v. Morley. Home. Result: Won 51—5.
Morley played pluckily to the end against an older and speedier team. The Wath handling was very good.

Mar. 19th—v. Hemsworth. Away. Result: Lost 12—5. This was a hard and interesting game. Hemsworth were much stronger in the scrums and their backs had more combination and thrust. The School pack played well in the loose and the backs tackled well, though concentrating too much on spoiling. Sergeantson scored the Wath try, which was converted.

The 2nd XV. beat Morley (home) 26—0; Thorne (home) 22—6; and Barnsley (away) 13—0.

The "Under 15" XV. beat Wakefield (away) 30-3; Goole (home) 26-6; Morley (home) 11-9; Pontefract (away) 26-0; and Barnsley (home) 9-6.

The Morley match deserves special mention for the determination and skill with which the forwards, headed by Stenton, Watson and Mann, held an older and heavier pack, the excellent tackling, particularly by Higgs and Whitaker, and the alertness of the last named, who scored all his side's tries. After being 8 points behind Morley scored 3 quick tries, but the School rallied in turn and Whitaker's third try, after a Morley mistake had given him his chance, settled matters. On the play, however, Morley were unlucky to lose.

Hockey Notes.

Ist XI. v. Hemsworth. Home. Result: Lost 2-1.

Possibly due to the fact that it was the first match of the season, the School team missed many opportunities, but in spite of that the game was very even. The pitch was in very bad condition, and there were several offences from both sides. The School forwards were very slow in the circle, but played much better during the second half.

ıst XI. v. Ecclesfield. Home. Result: Won 3-1.

The School team was in better form and every member played well—the backs keeping the ball a good distance from the Wath goal. The forwards made repeated attacks on the Ecclesfield goal, and succeeded in gaining three goals for the School. These were scored by M. Bentcliffe, M. Bennett and M. Rothnie.

Ist XI. v. Rotherham. Away. Result: Lost 2—r. It rained steadily all the time we played. The School had little opportunity of getting really used to the pitch, because owing to the rain, we only played 40 minutes. However, due to the valuable work of A. Cox on the wing, the School scored one goal during the second half, Rotherham scoring both their goals during the first half.

Ist XI. v. Thorne. Away. Result: Lost 9—0. The Thorne team was very superior to that of Wath. They had no new members and since this was their second year together they played brilliantly. All the efforts of the School team were concentrated on defending, with the result that no goals were scored.

Ist XI. v. Barnsley. Away. Result: Draw I—I. The weather was beautiful and the Wath team were in

good spirits after watching the 2nd XI. defeat the opposing team. The game was very fast and the play was evenly distributed ending finally in a draw.

2nd XI.

Wath v. Hemsworth, Home, Result: Won 6-3. The School won the toss and elected to play uphill. The forwards played well and the whole team was determined to make our first match a victorious one. At half-time the score was 2 all. A few minutes after. Hemsworth shot a goal. and then in the last 16 minutes Wath scored 4 in quick succession

Wath v. Ecclesfield. (Home). Result: Won 16-2. We were more confident this time, and, in spite of the keen wind, everyone played well. Although we hoped to win, we never imagined that we should get so many goals. The score was 8—I both halves.

Wath v. Rotherham. Away. Result: Won 3—1. It rained during the whole match, and the field was very slippery. In spite of a very muddy and slippery goal circle, the backs defended very well.

Wath v. Thorne. Away. Result: Lost 2-3.

B. Harrington, our left half, was asked to play in the 1st XI. for this match, since they were short of players. The game was very even, both sides trying hard to win. Thorne shot the winning goal in the last minute.

Wath v. Barnsley. Away. Result: Won 1-o. Barnsley won the toss but this made very little difference, as the field was level, and there was no strong wind. E. Perkins, the reserve, scored the only goal of the match.

Senior Literary Competition. "THE RETURN."

"I have been here before. But when, or how, I cannot tell."—Rossetti.

(Scene: Glammis Castle, Strathmore, Scotland. A party of sightseers follow the guide into the great banquet hall). Guide (impressively): "And finally, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the historic banquet hall. On this very spot. where I am now standing the ghost of Banquo stoud . . . Tourist: "Och mon! He didna stand. He was seated." Guide (confused): "Quite so . . . quite so . . . to be sure, he was seated, as you say, he was . . . er . . . seated . . . er . . . here it was that the thanes and nobles, among them Fleance, but not Banquo, came on that historic . . .

Tourist: "Fleance didna' come either! I distinctly recall.

He couldna have come."

Guide (still more confused): "Oh . . . cr . . . no, of course not. Your memory is excellent, sir, everywhere we have been you have shown a remarkable knowledge of the place. Have you been here before sir?"

Tourist: "It's an unco strange thing, I was never here in ma life before, and yet somehoo I seem tae knaw the castle

verra weel."

Guide (resuming his commentary): "Here it was that Lord and Lady Macbeth sat, at the head of the table, which groaned under the weight of the dishes and gleamed with a thousand golden goblets."

Tourist's Wife: "No! It was at the ither end by the great hearth, and the goblets were no made o gold. They were

silver, were they no Mac?"

Guide: "I think you must know your Shakespeare very well.

That would account for your knowing where the murder took place, and the position of the bloodstains, and all the other details which you knew before I told you."

Tourist: "I never read 'ony ither but Burns in all ma life. It's a funny thing. I seem to have been here before, and yet

I canno' remember when it was."

Guide: "Before you go, ladies and gentlemen, will each of you sign your name in the visitors' book. Here's a pen and ink. Thank you!"

(They sign their names and exeunt gradually. Finally the guide is left alone absorbed in his own thoughts. Suddenly he starts, as though struck by a thought.)

Guide (musingly): "Never been here before! Never read any Shakespeare, and yet they knew the castle and its history as if they'd owned it. I wonder who they were."

(He strides over to a small table on which the visitors' signature book lies, still open. He looks down the list, and suddenly looks up startled).

Guide: "Great heavens! They were the last to sign. Mr. and

Mrs. Beth! And she called him Mac!"

E. HUGHES, U.VI.Lit.

Junior Literary Competition.

MY FEELINGS ON ENTERING A NEW SCHOOL.

What a mixture! Excitement, anticipation, timidity, awe and strangeness all mixed up inside me.

The excitement, increased through the war, was reaching its height as the time drew near for me to go to my new school.

All the assurance I had at the old school was now changed to timidity in this mass of unknown corridors and rooms.

"R-i-n-g" the bell went for assembly! A new feeling of expectation greeted me as we filed into the hall.

Awe now took possession of me. Seated on the platform were people clad in strange garb (gowns)—the masters and mistresses with whom I was soon to be acquainted. This was very much unlike, but more fascinating than, my other school.

I found it great fun changing rooms after each lesson. A different teacher for each subject made the day seem to go so quickly.

The thought of lessons in the Art Room, the Laboratories

and the Gym was very enticing.

At the end of a memorable day I set off home with a school bag full of books. This was pure swank as we had no homework. But you see I was no longer "an elementary puppy dog" but "a secondary bulldog." Yet, at the bottom of my heart I had a feeling of true pride and resolved to work hard and try to be a credit to my new school.

JOSE SHAW, IIa.

MY FEELINGS ON ENTERING A NEW SCHOOL.

Although I had looked forward very much to going to a secondary school, when the time came I was sorry to be leaving my old, grey, and much-loved village school. Here I had spent all my younger schooldays with their joys and sorrows coming daily. I knew every teacher and child, and above all, I had to part from my two most intimate friends who are now at a boarding school.

However, I felt very thrilled to think that I was to attend a large and well-known school that I had never seen before.

At last that exciting day dawned, and fearful of missing my special bus, I was up earlier than ever I had been. About two hours after I was walking down the road enjoying the teasing and fun of the children who had entered the great building a year or years before me. Soon I was seated in the special bus listening to a jumbled description of the school by at least four older scholars.

In about twenty minutes we arrived. What an aweinspiring building it looked. As I filed through the gate with my friend I wondered what the teachers were like, and if the children would be similar to those I had known before. The interior of the building seemed even larger than it had appeared from outside. Heavens! what a maze of corridors and rooms there were. Should I ever be able to

find my way about them?

In my form-room as many books were given to me as there were rooms. It was a new experience altogether to have school books of my own to use. The system of a different teacher and room for each lesson was at first very puzzling to me. Hardly ever did I seem to know which lesson, teacher, classroom, I should have next. After several months, sometimes, I am still wondering.

Before entering the school I thought to find the teachers extremely stern and severe. Getting to know them better has been one of the pleasant surprises of my new school life.

How insignificant I felt in the fine assembly hall amongst the rows and rows of school children. It was very strange to be in the lowest form of all, when at my elementary school

I was one of the older scholars.

When the bell rang to finish lessons for the morning I, amongst my fellow mates, began to get ready for dinner. This again was a new experience for me. With a beating heart I went upstairs to the dining hall, still remembering the dreadful tales I had been told about school dinners. One about a sticky, sickly pudding, "Yellow Peril." My fears fled with the wind as I crossed the threshold, for there I saw the meal that I was used to at home.

One of my greatest joys was my first game of hockey. For a long time I had wished to play games that secondary school children played; and here I was in the seventh heaven

of delight.

I am now quite used to the school ways, and think my school one of the finest and best schools in England.

HELEN TAYLOR, Ia.

Spring.

Spring is the season when flowers so fair Bloom in their splendour and scent the air: First comes the snowdrop with petals so white And then the crocus with colours so bright. We next see the violets, and primroses peep Out of the ground from their winter's sleep, Daffodils, tulips and lilies appear, All to remind us that spring is here.

C. K. ROGERS, IIb (Sparta).

Haworth-Home of the Brontë Sisters.

It is winter. The wild wind whips the bleak expanse of moorland above the old world village of Haworth, and sings a mournful melody, a dirge in memory of the sad lives of the Reverend Patrick Brontë, his three daughters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne, and his son Branwell. The sky is darkened with rain clouds and even the village itself seems desolate.

The steep, narrow street, boarded with grotesque little stone houses leads up to the gaunt church, and the old parsonage, the two buildings which make Haworth of greater interest than its neighbouring hamlets. The interior of the church is plain, and comparatively modern, presenting only two features of interest. The first is the graves of Charlotte and Emily, almost hidden in the nave, contrasting in their insignificance with the immortal monument to their names which they have left in their writings. The second is a small tablet underneath the bell tower, in memory of the Reverend Patrick Brontë,

once incumbent of Haworth, and of his family.

The forlorn parsonage, now the museum, is full of associations with the past, and the spirit of the three great novelists who produced their works here still flit about the forsaken rooms. The floors and stairs are of cold stone, the walls whitewashed and bare. On the left, through the main door is the passage to the drawing room. Inside the room there is a little cottage piano and several chairs used by the Brontës. In the other downstairs rooms there are little writing desks. needlework cases, and even scribbled notebooks which belonged to the sisters. Charlotte had several work baskets all complete with reels of cotton, and a small pair of scissors, with their ends blunted, as her father would not allow sharp pointed scissors in the house. The personal belongings of the family are too numerous to recount, oak paint boxes, brooches, locks of hair, watch chains, fruit knives, visiting cards, crockery, travelling trunks complete with labels, and a thousand other objects familiar to the inmates of the house. Most interesting of all are the tiny microscopic magazines, editions of "Blackwoods Young Man's Magazine," written by Charlotte at a very early age. The numerous fascinating sketches and paintings, such as Emily's water colour of her dog "Keeper," show that their talents were not only of a literary nature.

Upstairs there are bedrooms and the room which when they were children, the Brontës called their "study," a room which Miss Gaskell says was never called anything else. It was never a nursery, and although they spent lorg hours alone in it, the Brontes would be always engaged in some creative work, painting, or drawing, or writing, and never indulging in the frivolous games more usual in children. Not that they never had their more exuberant moments. Although the moors are bleak and unlovely now in the winter time, in summer they will be covered with heather. Away from the sombre churchyard with its numerous graves, and over to the south, are miles of beautiful rolling moors on which they would walk with "Keeper," the dog, and breathe in the bracing moorland air. Perhaps the light and shade in "Wuthering Heights," in "Jane Eyre," and in "Agnes Gray" had its origin in the sight of the glorious moorland scenes of the summer and the barren desolate spectacle of the same moors in winter. G. E. HUGHES, U.VI.Lit.

Meliora Spectare.

The younger folk who tarry on the hill, Who yet remain upon this velvet slope; Amid the fog, the smoke from dizzy stacks, We laugh and play, we labour and—we hope.

We hope and pray for long departed friends; We hope and pray for comrades here no more; Who now no longer climb this steep ascent, But struggle in this world of toil and gore.

They, 'merging from the School's dark shelt'ring wing, Out swift into this world of strife they went; Their heads held high, undaunted by the task, For each upon Ambition's goal was bent.

Yet we who still within the shadow keep, Remember you though you seem long since gone; Our thoughts are often with you in the fight, Which you conduct for Right against the wrong.

Now handing on the ever-burning torch, You have set out upon Life's harder way, Eternal Torch, thou never shalt die out! Nor we from Right's hard pathway ever stray.

For we remain to keep that torch alight, And your example stirs our inmost soul; For we remain until our turn arrives, But you go on; achieve your precious goal!

W. L. SCHOFIELD, U.VI.Lit.

A Visit to a Highland Gathering.

In August, 1938, we were on holiday in Aberdeen, and one day decided to motor up Donside to Alford, where the Lanach Gathering was to take place.

On our way to the field where the Gathering and Games were to be held, we saw Highlanders in full dress standing at the entrance to little country lanes and outside cottages, waiting to be called for by the Chieftains and other Heads of the Clans. We arrived at Alford at IIa.m., just in time to see the pipe band and the clan leaders, setting off on their tour of the neighbouring villages and farms to pick up the others of the clans. For two hours this tramp through the glens and the hills went on until, at I o'clock, those of us who were gathered in the small field heard the faint sound of the bagpipes coming from the hills.

The music became louder and louder and soon the procession appeared, old white bearded men with faces tanned almost to the colour of mahogany striding along with majesty and dignity which could never be surpassed, and young brawny men clad in tunic and kilt with a large plaid over the shoulder. We could easily distinguish the different clans, the Stuarts in their own tartan carrying Lochaber axes, the Duffs carrying their ancient pikes and wearing sprigs of holly in their glengarries, the Farquharsons with fir sprigs in their bonnets and each man bearing a flashing claymore, followed by the MacGregors and dozens of other clans, each with its distinctive tartan and its individual emblem.

Round the field these men marched with amazing solemnity, for these clan gatherings are regarded by the Scottish seriously, and with no hint of humour. Then the games began-the best dressed Highlander was chosen, a task which seemed to be impossible, for all the men who entered appeared to be perfectly clad with no trace of the long march which many of them had just undertaken. There was a piping competition too—men in full tartan array marched up and down playing laments and marching tunes, their music being carried on the wind far into the surrounding hills. Young men twirled rapidly round, putting the weight; broad, muscular men were tossing the caber and throwing the heavy hammer; there was a tug-o-war between the various clans, the teams being composed of the strongest and heaviest Highlandmen, and Highland lassies dressed in kilts and velvet jackets danced reels and flings.

Finally the clans gathered again and marched round the field, the ribbands streaming from the pipes and the music echoing in the hills which closed in the field. The men dispersed, some to walk miles through the mountains to lonely crofters' cottages, and others to walk to the scattered villages, waiting for the time of the next Gathering.

JEAN C. ROTHNIE, Upp.VI.Lit.

From the Library Walls.

Prologue.

Two glittering orbs High up above, Of deepest black and purest white; Changing scenes, unfolding daily Fade, and vanish from their sight. Youths and maidens pore And tremble. Elders guide them, coax them— Sighing; Giving all with hope and patience Worthy counsel Vainly plying. A brief respite In which the player Mops his brow, adjusts his beard; Wild rehearsals: Cautious laughter: Cross-gartered and cosmetic-smeared.

Mona Lisa.

"To-morrow, sages
Here assemble
May I aid them make decision;
Meantime I must
Further wisdom;
Give me learning—every fashion."

Prologue.

Those eyes now wander Round the bookshelves, Read of Einstein Paul and Caesar; Ever smiling, ever patient Ever watching— Mona Lisa.

HUDSON, Upp.VI.Lit.

Reynard.

There is a sport, despised by animal lovers, in which the sight of a fox is appreciated. Yet the object of this sport has rarely graced a home as a domestic pet.

Having had a tame fox in my own home I am able to state a few facts illustrating the response of a fox to captivity.

We found that the main drawback was our inability to give the animal adequate freedom. It naturally developed a resentment to being put on a lead and being made to walk alongside a human being. Many ingenious contrivances were made to give him plenty of liberty. He smashed quite a few, and these were followed by a flash of red across half a dozen fields, the capture of an unfortunate rabbit and a lively scramble by some unlucky person in an attempt to catch this compact mass of muscle under its red coat.

His pointed nose, black-tipped ears, deep brown eyes and bushy tail which, in winter, had a white tip and in summer a black one, stamped him the aristocrat.

Only on those days, which the members of the canine world dread, was his beloved tail ever touched. Only when these days arrived and the soapsuds were flying did this decoration ever feel a hand. On ordinary days one touched this at their own peril.

The antics and pranks I saw for myself will compel me to endorse any statement which says that the fox is cunning. He developed a gastric tolerance to home made pastry and seemed able to discern this from others.

He became very jealous at intervals when he saw that attention was being given to his best friend which curiously was a small fox terrier. At these times he would definitely sulk in a corner and only come out again when the intruder had gone.

Some people think that foxes are smelly creatures. They are, because in the fox's tail are two scent glands, and after a fox has eaten a good meal these glands open and a characteristic musty smell is released. It is this which gives a hound a scent when, after Reynard has been in someone's hen-coop,

his tail drags along the ground. However, with moderate care and a munificent supply of disinfectant, this odour can be totally kept clear.

Many amusing events took place and we were sorry to lose him.

He was so young, so full of life. He broke away one day, and after many adventures, one being the County hounds, he ended his short but packed career in a schoolhouse where a butcher brought him to a ghastly end.

R. M. FINDLAY, Upp.V. Remove.

Aspirations.

I saw a land where love and peace combine,
And melt together like the fading blue
Of the horizon, mingling sea and sky;
Where man to man is but a brother true,
And none would tread the path that he would rue,
But onward swings thinking of things more clear,
That will augment the honour of mankind.
And for that goal all living things did try,
'Till strife was no more felt, and Heav'n seemed very near.

I saw a land where greed for power did clash
With the desire for liberty of will:
But where mankind knows not to guide resolve
On Reason Road to Toleration Hill.
Instead he fights, and more than brothers kill,
When, weakly, he gives up his pen for sword,
For means of self-destruction racks his brain,
Forgets his vows of honour to mankind,
Achieves from singing thirds, the clanging sevenths,
discord.

I see a land where love and peace now grow Out of the ruins of our present life. Slowly men rise, but courage fills their hearts, And wisdom now is given for their strife. The worst has perished with the cruel knife, That rid mankind of greed and vague ideas, And now the sun shines dimly on our path, Showing the way to that first land I saw, 'Tis far away, in miniature, but waxing clear.

K. P. DISLEY, U.VI, Lit.

A Day at Whipsnade Zoo.

One of the most happy and interesting days I spent was at Whipsnade Zoo.

I got up at half-past four in the morning, to catch the six o'clock train on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. When we arrived at Luton we were met at the station by motor buses which took us on a most marvellous ride. The town of Luton seemed to be a very old-fashioned town; just as we left the border of the town we saw a small private aerodrome, where I saw the first glider of my life. When we got into the country we saw some very beautiful scenery, as we were in the Chiltern Hills, where the hills are mostly chalk. All the time we were in the Chiltern Hills we passed several flocks of sheep.

When we at last arrived at Whipsnade Zoo we got out of the buses, and the first thing we saw was the Wolf Wood, which we could see before entering the Zoo.

At the gates of the Zoo we were counted, and everyone was given a bag of peanuts to give to the animals. The first enclosure we came upon was the elephants' house, which was made of steel and was spotlessly clean; the elephants themselves were very entertaining as one played a mouth-organ.

We then went to lunch and had a good meal and a rest; then we started out again and went to the monkey house, where we saw a baby monkey with its mother. We next went to the lion and tiger pit, where we saw a huge pit in the sides of which were cages that held the animals.

Next we went to Wallaby Wood, in which we saw one or two wallabies which are like kangaroos, only smaller. After that we visited the bear enclosure, where we saw a grizzly bear and a Polar bear. We went to the buffalo park next; and from there on to the giraffe house, where we saw a young giraffe with its mother towering high above its baby.

One thing which struck me most about the animals was how clean and well kept they were. When we began our journey home I felt as though I had spent a very happy day.

The Old Wathonians Rugby Club.

Season 1940-41.

The Rugby Club was keenly supported at the commencement of the season, but the departure for His Majesty's Forces of several of the members has severely depleted its numbers.

However, considering the number of difficulties which had to be surmounted, the season has been very successful.

Thirteen matches have been played, eight of which were won and one drawn. Four more matches are to be played before the season ends.

It was with regret that the Club bid good-bye to the Reverend A. T. L. Grear, who has been the President since its inception. Mr. J. Ritchie has been welcomed as the new President.

It is hoped that the Club will renew its activities after the war, and that students leaving the School will retain their interest in Rugby.

J.M.

A Cambridge Letter.

Michaelmas Term.

Dear Wathonians,

School is well represented this year in Cambridge, owing to the additional grace of Bedford College, evacuated from London. St. Catherine's: Horner; Downing: Phillips; Magdalene: Curran, Buckley; Bedford: M. Gardner, H. Hill, C. Broomhead, L. Redgate; Hommerton: M. Wragg.

Cambridge is facing this year the problems which the whole country is facing. Numbers in the colleges are down, and there is now the genuine danger of air-raids. The University is playing its part in the war. Many undergraduates have joined the O.T.C..; others are in the University Air Squadron. Many are looking after evacuees or doing Canteen work.

Perhaps the only retrograde step has been the cessation of Union debates. These, however, are to continue next term on non-political subjects. Drama has been much in evidence this term at the Arts Theatre. After opening with Griffith Jones and Mary Clare in "Ladies in Retirement," it went on to Emlyn Williams' "The Light of Heart," and that amazing topical play "Thunder Rock," and ended on a note of triumph with Robert Donat in "The Devil's Disciple."

Cambridge has been well supplied with good music—Pouishnof, playing Chopin; Solomon, playing everything from Bach to Debussy, and finally the London Philharmonic, who gave a programme including a Mozart symphony and a Beethoven piano Concerto (No. 4). Is it a sign of an increased appreciation of things English that the audience applauded so much that Purcell's trumpet Voluntary had to be played twice?

There are other things which we shall always remember: the Services, especially the Carol Service, in King's College Chapel; the Great Court and Fountain of Trinity College; the Backs in Autumn; or, in our lighter moods, the Dorothy Cafe at term end; the races on the river; parties and arguments.

The Wath contingent meet every now and then, talking on a variety of subjects, but usually ending up with the School and the School worthies. We send our greetings to past Wath members of the University of Cambridge and to the future ones, whoever they may be, not forgetting our best wishes and fondest thoughts to the School itself.

May you have a happy term!

Yours sincerely,

THE CAMBRIDGE WATHONIANS.

Old Wathonians' Comfort Fund.

Since the beginning of April, 1940, various social activities among the Old Girls have resulted in the raising of £19 for a Comforts Fund, in order to send parcels to Old Boys on active service overseas and on the seas, while the Boys serving at home have received knitted gifts through the efforts of the School Girl Guides. A welcome donation of £3 3s. od. from the Old Boys' Rugby Club has just come to hand, and to them we tender our grateful thanks.

Since September Whist Drives have been held by Miss Deeks, Miss Killoch, Dorothy Green, Vera Swift, Betty Nash, Muriel Lythe, Edith Hinchcliffe (Mrs. Ibberson) a beetle drive, and a Table Tennis Tournament by Nancy Midwood. A table cloth given by Sister Grace Hanner was won by Lucy Willis and realised 12/-. Subscriptions have been received from Mistresses and Old Girls who have been unable to share in these activities.

Parcels have been despatched to the following Old Boys: Sig. R. Farthing; Cpl. George Lord; Sgt. R. Carnell; L/Cpl. L. T. Dyson; Sapper F. Abson; Cpl. J. F. Patrick; Gunner E. Cameron; Cpl. S. B. Atkinson; Cpl. J. Rhodes; Spt. R. Andrews; Rating R. Birchall; Const. D. Scholes; Pte. H. Clark; Cpl. R. Longford; Eng. R. Law; Guardsman L. Perkins: Pte. D. C. Wollman; A.C. W. George; Sgt. D. Guy; Sapper D. B. Bassindale; Sapper Wright; Pte. W. Burton; Sgt. J. Salmon; Pte. J. Blanchard; L/Sgt. T. L. Lloyd; Pte. Bullen; Sapper R. Crockett; Sgt.-Instructor Preston; Warrant Officer C. Unwin, D.F.M.; Sgt. H. Wathey, D.F.M.; Sgt. W. Scarritt. D.F.M.: K. Robinson (mentioned in Despatches). We hope the various ranks of our Service Old Boys have been given correctly, although promotions may make present information inaccurate. Contributions towards parcels for our Prisoners of War, Pte. K. Cutts, F. Jarvis and A. E. Potts, have been sent to their parents with expressions of our sympathy.

Summer activities to help the Fund will mostly take the form of Tennis Tournaments, but those who do not feel themselves up to Tournament form might come along for a friendly game.

One additional Whist Drive is to be given by Muriel Steer. Perhaps those Old Girls who cannot arrange Whist Drives might be able to think of some other scheme to help the Comforts Fund, such as a tea or competition or other novelty. The letters we have received show how much the Old Boys appreciate our thoughts of them, while many of them feel that the parcels make a link with the School and their own homes.

Miss Deeks would appreciate the sending of detailed particulars, without which the parcels cannot be despatched, from anyone who has correspondence with Old Boys serving overseas. Full addresses of those serving at home is also required for the sending of Guides' Comforts.

We should like to thank all who have contributed to making our Fund a success, particularly to Hilda Redgate, our treasurer, and Nancy Midwood, for secretarial assistance.

Presentation

TO

The HEADMASTER, The REV. A. T. L. GREAR, M.A.,
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT—
TUESDAY, 23rd JULY, 1940.

The evening's proceedings opened with an Association General Meeting, commencing at 8 p.m., and presided over by the Headmaster. The scheme of the Old Students' Comforts Fund was then outlined by Miss Deeks, who, as President of the Old Girls' Hockey Club, explained that it was being run by the members of that club for the purpose of sending parcels of comforts to Old Students who have served, or are still serving, outside this country in any section of H.M. Forces. She stated that funds were at present being raised by whist drives held at Church House and at the houses of several Old Girls in various districts.

Miss Deeks now alluded to the real object of the Meeting, namely, to present to the Headmaster the gifts of the Old Students. She referred to the method by which the collection of subscriptions had been approached, and mentioned the difficulties which had been encountered owing to wartime conditions and the existing high postage rates. The Committee had found themselves obliged to distribute circular letters (outlining the proposed method of collection) by hand. and to inform as many people as possible by word of mouth of this meeting. Miss Deeks apologised on behalf of the Committee if some had not been approached, but felt sure that they would appreciate the obstacles which the Committee had encountered. She then called upon the following four members to make the presentation on behalf of the Association: L. G. Cooper, as the oldest Old Boy present; Kathleen C. Carr, the Old Girls' Secretary; T. H. Umpleby, Treasurer and Old Boys' Secretary; and Hilda M. Redgate, as the youngest girl member of an Old Students' Association Committee. These four speakers dealt with various aspects of the retirement, with particular emphasis laid upon the past and upon the future.

The Headmaster responded in thanking everyone for telegrams and letters which he had received from Old Students situated at a distance, for what had been said at the Meeting, and particularly for the gifts. He gave a short description of the latter for the benefit of the audience, and began a retrospective survey of the outstanding features of his stay at Wath. He ended with a sincere hope and belief that when peace was restored there would be a gathering of Old Students such as had never before been witnessed. This was greeted with loud applause which did not subside, but rather increased, when Mrs. Grear came forward to thank Old Students for the "very, very nice things which had always been said about their Headmaster."

Coffee and cakes were then served in the Library, after which the Meeting returned to the Hall to sing the School Song, "Auld Lang Syne," and the National Anthem.

T. UMPLEBY.



Decorations.

D.F.M.—Bailey, R. L. (1930-33).

D.F.M.—Scarrot, W. (1936-38).

D.F.M. & Bar-Unwin, G. (1924-29).

D.F.M.—Wathey, H. (1925-28).

Commended for Gallantry—Robinson, K. (1932-34).

