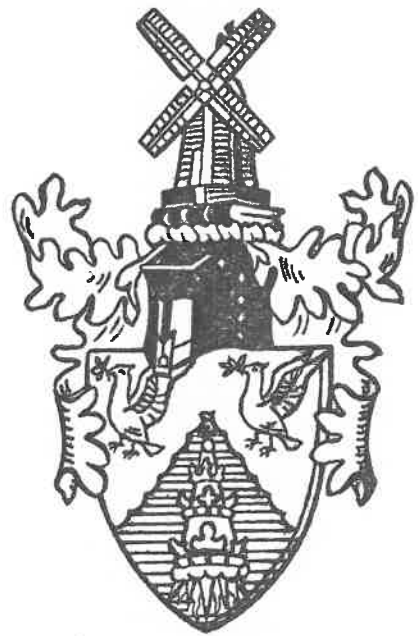


The Kirkhamian



FEBRUARY, 1964

VOLUME III NUMBER 9

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THE KIRKHAMIAN

Volume III, No. 9.

February, 1964

Contents

EDITORIAL	407
HOUSE REPORTS	408
SOCIETY REPORTS	414
SCHOOL PLAY	421
C.C.F. REPORT	422
R.A.F. SECTION REPORT	423
CRICKET	424
SWIMMING	425
GYMNASTICS	425
OLD BOYS RUGBY MATCH	426
SPEECH DAY	427
CAROL SERVICE	428
SENIOR PRIZE WINNING ESSAY	432
FORM REPORTS	434
BOOK REVIEWS	435
CONTRIBUTIONS	437
PROFILE NO. 14	452
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION	454

Editorial

Chairman: Mr. H. B. Wilson
Vice-Chairman: Mr. G. Bellis
Editor: A. D. Kirby
Committee: A. J. Howells, R. B. White,
H. Lomas, C. J. Horn, P. J. Lambert,
C. Gardner.

"Give us strength to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed; Give us courage to change the things that can and should be changed. And give us the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

ANON.

This year we welcome three new members to the staff. Mr. Airey comes as Assistant Geography Master, Mr. Worth, an Old Boy of Preston Grammar School, is our new Gym Master, and M. Bilau, from France, who is working as a French Assistant.

Ours is an ancient seat of learning and we rightly treasure its links with the past. The regular march of annual events such as Founder's Day, the Carol Service, and Speech Day all have a touch of such nostalgia. Tradition, we are told, is a stabilizing factor, but what if the ivy that drapes our ancient walls conceals cracked bricks and mouldering plaster, if the death-watch beetle is busily mining our seemingly stout oaken timbers? And so in school life let us not be lulled into a reactionary attitude towards change for change is necessary to provide vitality. The importance of tradition must not be allowed to overshadow the need for original thinking. Adulthood is too often rooted in contented conservatism; youth is the age where discontent and idealism should march shoulder to shoulder towards Utopia.

The School Magazine is one of the few outlets for the boys of K.G.S. and ought to be used to the fullest extent. We are prepared to publish satire and criticism if they are both good enough and pertinent. We have again asked for original contributions and even though those received are better than in the past there is much room for improvement; especially in the lower forms where, though it is hardly credible, there would appear to be a marked lack of talent. If you feel things are wrong you owe it to the community to express your views, remembering that this is your magazine and a school only gets the magazine it deserves.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the following magazines: The Poultonian, The Hoghtonian, The Veseyan, The Lancastrian, The Arnoldian, The Rossallian, The Georgian, and the magazines of Blackpool Grammar School and the Park School Preston.

House Reports

Ashton House

House Master: Mr. H. B. Wilson

Assistant House Masters: Mr. T. Jackman, Mr. G. S. Cheesborough

House Captain: J. M. Dobson

Prefects: H. Herrington, R. T. Hill, M. E. Greenhalgh

The house wishes to extend its best wishes to all those members who have left and also to all the new members who joined us in September.

As anticipated at the beginning of term the house, this year, is noticeably lacking in senior members. This fact was rather heavily forced home in the Senior Rugby Competition where we suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the Fylde House. On this occasion, for the first time in many years, house spirit was at its lowest ebb.

However, if the gods have decreed that this shall not be our year for sport, then we shall do our best to make it a good academic year. Towards this end the house is leading in the work cup competition to date. If every member of the house works hard and thoughtfully for the rest of the year, then I feel we can be successful.

At the time of publication of this report the Junior Rugby matches will no doubt have been played and we wish our Junior team the best of luck in this competition, hoping at the same time that they will carry the Ashton house triumphantly through the final.

J.M.D.

Fylde House

House Master: Mr. I. W. McKerrow

Assistant House Masters: Mr. I. J. Kremer, Mr. D. Butterworth

House Captain: D. R. Brownbill

House Prefects: A. J. Howells, D. L. Watson, P. Parkin,
D. Robson, R. E. H. Jones, P. A. Richards

Firstly let us thank the departed VI form for leaving behind them a healthy and vital atmosphere in the House. An atmosphere into which we can be proud to welcome our new members.

The Work Cup results so far have been a little disappointing for although there have been fewer non-scorers, we still find it difficult to raise ourselves from sixth position. The fact that we have twice as many B form boys as A form boys should not be the hindrance it is proving to be; for to be high in the B form is better than to be low in the A form. The solution is for the house to muster round the hard core of consistently good scorers and consolidate their hard work.

In the Gym Cup we were fifth behind the worthy winners, School House, but only a handful of points separated us from the second position. Indeed, our performance, especially in the Senior section, did nothing but credit the reputation of the House, and the interest and agility, of all promises well for the future.

In the Senior Rugby we have recorded some general success albeit without truly showing our full potential as a team. We have beaten both Ashton and Kirkham Houses scoring 67 points in the process and having had our own line crossed only once. Suffice it to say that we eagerly await the final against School House in the Spring Term.

In conclusion, we look forward to the more vigorous house activities of next term; we have high hopes for the Junior Rugby XV and also have a fine reputation to uphold in the Athletics sphere.

D.R.B.

Kirkham House

House Master: Mr. H. J. Reay

Assistant House Masters: Mr. L. A. Redman, Mr. A. Baldwin

House Captain: C. J. Horn

House Prefects: C. J. Gardner, H. W. Lomas

Since the last publication of the magazine the house finished the 1962-3 school year with a flourish. On the last Monday of the term the House won the Swimming Cup in convincing style. Under a very able captain in C. J. Gardner the whole team swam well, being placed in every event. Other outstanding swimmers were T. West in the juniors and M. R. Hall in the intermediates.

For the second successive year the House carried off the Work Cup. It had held first place on aggregate right from the beginning of the year. The boys who contributed most from the LV downwards were A. P. Jackson, I. Hird, and G. Irving, but it was noticeable that all boys scored a reasonable number of points. For the first time the House was placed first in the G.C.E. results, the highest scorers being M. R. Hall, C. J. Gardner, D. R. Knowles and C. T. Robinson.

As usual the winter term has brought tentative beginnings to the various competitions with only one competition being decided. In the semi-final of the Senior Rugby the House lost to Fylde House by 25 points to 3. The result is not a fair representation of the game in which the team laboured under the difficulty of losing D. A. Knowles after only five minutes. By the end of the match the strain of playing with only fourteen men showed itself when the opposition scored half its points in the last quarter of an hour.

The Gym Cup brought an innovation this year, there being a team section introduced. Under the captaincy of P. B. Almond the

team performed well and gained third place. T. West was the best performer being third in the juniors.

The Chess team has had only one match in which the House defeated Fylde House by 16 points to 8. The juniors excelled themselves, winning all their matches. In the Work Cup the House is not faring as well as in past years only gaining third place at the end of this term. However with an all-out effort by the House it can win the trophy for the third time.

The enthusiasm shown this term augurs well for the future. Not only does the House show keenness but it also has the potential with which it can achieve many successes in the remainder of the year.

C.J.H.

Lytham House

House Master: Mr. C. K. Lee

Assistant House Masters: Mr. R. T. Bentley, Mr. J. Murray,
Mr. J. L. Verity

House Captain: S. Cartmell

Vice-Captain: J. A. Powell

House Prefects: D. E. Glasson, G. H. Sykes

This report would not be complete unless a small tribute is paid to last year's House Captain R. A. Walmsley, whose untiring efforts and loyal service to the house played no small part in the success which the House enjoyed during the past school year. Unfortunately, the year which saw the House in possession of the Rugby, Music and Junior Cricket trophies also saw the departure of a strong nucleus of senior boys.

The winter term has been one of mixed fortunes for the House. In the senior Rugby Competition our hopes of winning the trophy for the third time in succession were dashed by a stronger School House team, the final result being 33-3. Our points came from a penalty by Powell in the closing minutes of the game — a score which was greeted with much elation. Although it was a heavy defeat, the many young members of the team will have gained valuable experience which will tell in future years. Perhaps if Ross and Redfern had been fit the game would have been much closer, and in the case of Redfern, who broke his leg earlier in the season, the House hopes that he will soon be "on his feet again".

In the Chess competition victories by margins of 16-8 and 13-11 have been recorded in the matches against School House and Ashton House respectively. With three members of the House playing in the School Chess team, the prospects for a high position in this competition are very encouraging. In the Work Cup competition the House now occupies 4th position. In view of the high number of boys who regularly fail to score, one can say that

there is much room for improvement. The only other activity in which the House has taken part during the winter term has been the preliminaries of the Gym competition. Crowther and Dowling are to be congratulated on their fine performances in the senior team; unfortunately the juniors did not perform as well, and a very low position was attained.

Although the above results may indicate a slight lack of ability within the House, they certainly do not indicate any lack of spirit and enthusiasm which I am sure will show itself in a more practical form in the coming terms.

S.C.

Preston House

House Master: Mr. S. Crane

Assistant House Masters: Mr. B. Coates, Mr. M. Airey

House Captain: M. P. Benson

House Prefects: D. G. Barnes, A. D. Kirby, P. J. Lambert,
J. D. Myers

This term we welcome Mr. Airey, our new Assistant House Master, and also our new third-formers. We hope that their stay will be long and happy.

The end of the summer term saw the completion of many competitions. We improved on our position in the Shooting competition by coming 4th and maintained our usual dismal record in the swimming competition, coming equal fifth. We finally finished runners-up to School House in the Senior Cricket, loosing the Final by five wickets. In the Chess Cup we gained our success, Dent, Chrystall and Scott remaining unbeaten throughout the competition.

Unfortunately all our senior team left, and this year we have had to start anew. At the moment we are lying second in the table, having drawn with both Ashton and School. Obviously if we are to win this trophy again a big improvement will have to be shown.

We encountered a strong School House XV in the Semi-Final of the Senior Rugby. Although we eventually lost 3-9, for most of the game the score stood at 3-3, and the team, and the forwards in particular played with admirable skill, courage and spirit against generally stronger and experienced opposition.

In the Work Cup we are in our usual position of second at the time of going to press. Although at the moment the gap between us and the first house is not great, now is the time to concentrate and establish ourselves at the top. To do this needs the help and enthusiasm of every boy in the House; it is up to everyone to work diligently ALL the time — if we do this we will win the trophy.

We also finished second in the first part of the Gym Cup — a

fine effort by both our senior and junior teams in this innovation. It is now up to the rest of the House to make sure that their effort has not been in vain.

The Spring Term sees the Junior Rugby, the Cross Country, the Debating Competition and the Musical Competition. In all these competitions the House stands as good a chance of success as any other house — but success will not come automatically; it must be worked for. In House competitions, the House with good spirit often prevails over the House with an abundance of talent but no spirit. Let the Preston House have not only talent but also spirit and enthusiasm, and then the next report will be a report of success and not failure.

M.P.B.

School House

House Master: Mr. R. A. Knowles

Assistant House Masters: Mr. G. Bellis, Mr. S. J. Cooper,
Mr. D. E. Worth

House Captain: C. D. Robertson

House Prefects: J. B. Johnson, G. Leaney, J. B. MacIldowie

At the end of the last school year the house was once again in the happy position of being the leading house trophy winners, with four trophies in its possession; the Senior Cricket, Gym, Shooting and Cross Country. The House was also runner up in Swimming and Athletics. In individual events, R. B. White, won the Public Speaking Competition, R. B. Brown won the Intermediate Reading Prize, M. C. Hobbs, J. Donald and G. Harrop, won the Senior Intermediate and Junior Gym Prizes respectively, and D. E. Moor won the Cricket Prize.

At the end of last year we saw the departure of several members of the house, from the school, to whom we send our good wishes, especially J. Mackelden, D. E. Moore and G. R. Moores.

This term the house has been active and successful. In the Senior Rugby Competition the team has recorded two good victories, one against Lytham House 33-3 and one against Preston 9-3. The team now has its eyes firmly fixed on the Senior Rugby Shield, which has eluded the house for a number of years, and meets Fylde House in the finals next term. The juniors have put in some hard work and are now ready to meet Lytham in the Preliminary Round.

The House has been well represented in school teams this year and C. D. Robertson, J. B. Johnson, J. B. MacIldowie, F. E. Thompson, J. E. Bailey, R. D. Hartley, S. E. Buckley and F. G. Rigby, who have appeared regularly for the 1st and 2nd XV's are to be congratulated. A special mention should be made about the

men for all school teams who invariably come from the House.

In the new style Gym Competition the house representatives outclassed all opposition to win the individual section by a clear 38 points. Mention must be made of J. S. Donald who scored 85% and G. Harrop who scored 83%. The rest of the house must work hard, and improve this result in next term's part of the competition which forms half of the Main Gym competition.

The House has not had everything its own way this term. In the Chess Competition the team has lost to Lytham 16-8 and drawn with Preston. In the Work Cup the House is in the very uncharacteristic position of sixth. A lot of work is needed to remedy this situation. Looking ahead, there will have to be a determined effort by the house in Work, Chess and Music competitions, and plenty of practice must be put in for the Athletics competition which gets under way next term.

In the Badminton World the House is very well represented in the school team, with J. B. MacIldowie, who is captain, J. B. Johnson and I. K. Peacock forming 50% of it.

The end of the term has seen much activity in the production of the school play and the house has been represented in all its aspects so well, especially behind the scenes, that it is very nearly a "school house" play. Christmas also sees the departure of G. Leaney and M. F. Drewitt. Our best wishes go with them. For those returning we hope to see them next term ready to give their best for house and school.

C.D.R.

The Societies

Badminton Club

Chairman: Mr. Airey

Captain: J. B. MacIldowie

Secretary and Treasurer: I. K. Peacock

Committee: J. B. Johnson, M. Giles, D. Harper, G. Leaney,
J. A. Carmichael

This term we would like to begin by welcoming Mr. Airey as our new Chairman; without forgetting Mr. R. A. Knowles's many years of service in that office and thanking him for them. So far the team has played 3 matches, against King Edward's, Arnold School and Hutton Grammar School. A good beginning was marked by our 6-3 games victory over King Edward's but we were unluckily beaten by Arnold 5-4 games. In our third match we suffered a heavy defeat by loosing 8-1 games to Hutton G. S. We hope that through our intense practises that more positive results will be achieved next term. I'm afraid we must end on a sad note with the heart rending news that the mortality rate of shuttlecock's has drastically increased.

1st Pair: J. B. MacIldowie : M. Giles

2nd Pair: I. K. Peacock : M. Gregory

3rd Pair: J. B. Johnson : D. Harper

I.K.P.

Boxing Club

Chairman: Mr. H. B. Wilson

Secretary: J. M. Dobson

Committee: D. G. Barnes, J. Powell, G. S. Worrall, H. M. S. Davies

This term has seen a revival in interest for the boxing club and there are now more members than at any time in the past few years. This is perhaps due to the fact that the meeting times have been changed from Thursday evenings to Monday lunch time when a large percentage of the total membership of the club can attend. It is hoped that this revival will continue and that many more people will come forward to learn this useful sport.

J.M.D.

Chess Club

Chairman: Mr. H. B. Wilson

Secretary and Treasurer: G. Leaney

Committee: J. A. Powell, W. J. Ross, C. J. Horn, J. P. Ballard,
I. K. Peacock.

As always the winter term has seen the beginning of the School's Individual Chess Competition. Two years ago a record number of 86 entrants went into the hat for the first round draw and at the time it was stated that this number would be very difficult to surpass. However, this year, no fewer than 114 names appeared in the first round draw. It is hoped that, despite this great number, the final will be played before the summer examinations.

The Inter-House Competition is already well under way and at present five matches have been played. Results at the time of going to press, were:

School	12 — Kirkham	12
Ashton	12 — Preston	12
Lytham	16 — School	8
Kirkham	16 — Fylde	8
Lytham	13 — Ashton	11

Two school matches have been played already this term, against St. John's R.C. Secondary School Ribbleson whom we beat $5\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Hutton G.S. to whom we lost $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $3\frac{1}{2}$. Two more matches against these schools have been arranged for the Spring Term.

G.L.

Debating Society

Chairman: Mr. G. Bellis

Secretary: M. P. Benson

Committee: G. Leaney, P. Lambert, R. White, R. Cresswell

This term has again been an active one for the Society, thanks to the keenness and enthusiasm of the chairman and his committee. Four debates have been held; the Society has decided that it is NOT better to serve in heaven than reign in hell, that all education is NOT indoctrination, that nothing worthy of proving CANNOT be proven nor yet disproven, and that capital punishment should NOT be abolished. Attendances at all these debates have been high, and the general standard of speaking has been good.

The Spring Term sees the re-introduction of the Senior-Debating Competition, and it is hoped that enthusiasm will be maintained at a high level. In particular it is hoped that the revival of interest in the Society by the Sixth Form will be kept up. Of course this is not to say that the lower part of the school is not welcome; we value their attendance just as highly, for it is from this section that the speakers of tomorrow will come.

M.P.B.

Scientific Society

Chairman: Mr. A. Baldwin

Secretary: P. J. Lambert

Treasurer: C. J. Gardner

Committee: H. W. Lomas, J. A. Powell, P. E. Clark, R. E. H. Jones

The Scientific Society, ably managed by a keen and closely united committee, continues to flourish. Many films have flowed through the projector in room 11 since the inauguration of a six-penny membership fee last September, when remarkable support was shown by the junior forms of the school. The winter term of 1963 marked a period of great success for the scientific Society, when several very good films were shown, some twice in the same dinner hour. Talks by H. W. Lomas and R. E. H. Jones, on guided missiles and tape-recorders respectively, were well received, and such a discourse by M. E. Greenhalgh has resulted in the formation of a Natural History Club, comprising many younger members of the society.

The climax to the term's activities was a lecture by one of our more famous Old Boys, Dr. E. R. Laithwaite, who spoke from the very frontiers of knowledge, to a gathered audience of well over 100 sixth formers of eight different schools in the area, in the School Hall.

There can be little doubt that the scientific society is cultivating more interest in its own field, than any other society in the School.
P.J.L.

Table-Tennis Club

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Verity

Secretary: J. D. Myers

Treasurer: D. J. Simmonds

Committee: W. J. Ross, M. Giles, C. J. Horn

Once again recognition has been given in the School Magazine to one of the most exclusive societies of K.G.S., and it is with pride that I submit this report.

Following repairs done to the Table Tennis "room" during the summer term, the Society prepared itself for a new influx of players for the 1963-64 season. Tradition has played its part in making the Society a preserve of the L.VI and at going to press membership has reached the high figure of about 25 players. The enthusiasm for the club is clearly seen at dinner times and break, when the hut is filled to capacity.

The result of the Winter Term Singles Table Tennis Competition resulted in W. Stanway surprisingly beating G. T. Taylor in a tense fought match.

Due to their having only one tennis table, clamour arose for other amusements and so Fair, A. J. and Giles, M. organised a

Darts competition which is being fought on a singles and doubles basis.

The Society looks forward with confidence, financially that is, to next term when no doubt further pieces of new equipment will be bought. Perhaps in the future, if the unofficial Darts group thrives we might have a Table Tennis and Darts Society?

J.D.M.

Geographical Society

Chairman: Mr. R. A. Knowles

Secretary and Treasurer: C. J. Horn

Committee: J. B. Johnson, P. A. Richards, M. J. Burke, M. J. O'Sullivan, G. Cartmell

The success of the past year has, I must report, not continued this term. The society's Friday dinnertime meetings got off to a slow start with the result that boys found other attractions. By the end of term however a corps of regulars had been built up and in the second half term the attendances had risen to around sixty per meeting. The choice of films is now limited because of the shorter dinner break and the fact that in the past years the society has shown most of the good films available. It is hoped next term by careful budgeting to hire films and thus present a wide programme. Yet even this term the society has shown films with such widely ranging subjects as agriculture in the desert and the development of oil over the past seventy five years.

C.J.H.

Musical Society

Chairman: Mr. J. Murray

Secretary: P. Parkin

Treasurer: D. E. Glasson

At the beginning of the year, the Music Society was granted twenty pounds by the General School Committee. So far, a number of records have been bought, and several others are on order. The variety of records has been widened, ranging from light music, such as music from South Pacific, and folk music by Peter, Paul and Mary, to classicals such as Bach's Brandenburg Concertos.

The School Orchestra has continued to play the hymn at the Friday morning assembly. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed towards the end of term because of the lack of room due to the stage extension. It was suggested that the school orchestra should play at the Carol Service, but it was decided that it was not yet up to a high enough standard to play in church. Nevertheless, the

idea is to be considered in future years. The orchestra has also started practising for the Easter Concert. Owing to the shortened dinner break, the orchestra decided to practice on Thursday evenings. It is not certain whether this will continue as every member of the orchestra cannot attend on this night. Unfortunately, there is not one night of the week suitable to every member.

The School Choir welcomes a number of new choristers from the third forms. Many hours of practice have been put in during the term for the Carol Service. Next term the choir will start practising for the Easter Concert.

On 3rd December, the Christmas Oratorio by Bach was produced by the Preston Musical Society at the Public Hall, Preston. It was hoped to be able to form a party of at least twelve members of the school to attend this performance. However, due to a lack of interest, a party could not be formed. Five members of the school attended the performance. On 17th March, Preston Musical Society will produce Handel's Messiah. It is again hoped to form a party, and we hope the response to this will be greater than before.

P.P.

Photographic Society

Chairman: Mr. L. A. Redman

Secretary: H. W. Lomas

Treasurer: E. Hornby

Committee: A. D. Kirby, C. Shaw, P. J. H. White

Value for your money! That is what the photographic society offer under their new subscription scheme. If you don't use the darkroom or 10% discount scheme then you don't pay any subscription. For those using the darkroom at 6d. per term, a great saving is made on photographic materials. All photographic materials essential for processing are available at greatly reduced costs. For example, if you take a 16 picture "127" film to the chemist for processing, you pay nine shillings and sixpence for 16 $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ prints. Under the new scheme, a member of the photographic society can obtain the same results for as little as two shillings and threepence or 16 $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ prints for elevenpence, and you also receive the satisfaction of having processed the prints yourself.

Anybody, wishing to take advantage of the scheme, but doesn't think he is capable or knows how to process his prints, is welcome to go into the darkroom at any time when an experienced member will demonstrate the process.

The equipment for all the processes has been greatly improved during the last term, the main items being a new safelight and developing dishes. It is hoped to add an enlarger timer to the comprehensive range of equipment.

A two part film about developing and printing at home was shown to members of the school during the term to show boys how

easy it is and inexpensive to process their own films. It is hoped that this stimulated some interest.

In the cine section of the society only two short films have been made during the winter term. The first, a film in cartoon form explaining the use of the vernier scale. The second, a film showing a meniscus on a liquid and demonstrating the right and wrong way of reading the meniscus. Both films are for use in the special projector in the physics laboratory for teaching purposes.

The cine section hope to attempt to produce a film about the manufacture of Crown Crisps in Kirkham during the Spring and Summer terms.

H.W.L.

Gym Club

Chairman: Mr. D. Worth Secretary: D. L. Watson
Committee: J. B. Johnson, J. Donald, G. Irvine, M. N. Jordin

The highlight of the Club's activities this term was the Inter-House Competition. Of worthy note were G. Harrop, J. Barrett, I. Donald, and G. D. Irvine, and in the final analyses the results worked out as follows: School 332 pts., Preston 294 pts., Kirkham 292 pts., Ashton 287 pts., Fylde 283 pts., Lytham 281 pts.

The Club now has official recognition, and, after the wealth of talent displayed in this competition, looks forward to more ambitious ventures in the near future.

D.L.W.

Library Report

Chairman: Mr. B. Coates
Secretary: P. J. Lambert Treasurer: D. J. Simmonds
Sub-librarians: S. Cartmell, P. M. Dawson, H. Herrington, R. T. Hill, J. D. Myers, J. Powell, M. P. Benson, A. J. Howells, C. D. Robertson, P. A. N. Syms

The library has functioned at a moderate pace during the Winter Term, and would seem to have been put to very good use by all quarters of the school. The committee has been pleased with the way in which library discipline has been observed during library sessions, although the appearance of the tables and the shelves is so easily marred by carelessness and forgetfulness in replacing books and periodicals after use.

During the term, the committee has cleared the remainder of the disused fiction section, and has auctioned the same to an enthusiastic gathering of pupils, at intervals, at the end of the normal library sessions.

Many new books have been acquired on loan from the County for the junior section, and several books are still to be accessioned for the other departments. The Penguin and Pelican books belonging to the English Section are the most widely read, and the committee would ask the school to take all due care with these, as their purchase represents a considerable saving of money, over fully bound books of the same type.

P.J.L.

Dramatic Society

Chairman: Mr. J. I. Kremer

Secretary: A. J. Howells

Treasurer: Mr. L. A. Redman

Assistant Treasurer: C. D. Robertson

Committee: F. E. Thompson, S. E. Buckley, A. P. Jackson,
R. B. White.

The Society this term has been concerned with the production of the school play, "The Importance of Being Earnest", on which there is a separate report. At the beginning of the term a store house was made available in which scenery can be made, painted and stored. Until now side curtains have had to be used on the stage but the presence of a store and the grant of £50 for materials by the General School Committee has made possible the construction of flats for a box-set. Mr. Wilson designed the set which was made under the direction of Mr. Butterworth by some of the staff and several members of the sixth form, who also painted it. The G.S.C. also granted the Society £25 for felting to put on the floor of the stage. Thus the noise of feet, which in previous years was disturbing, is now deadened. Altogether a more realistic atmosphere on stage has been created by these recent developments.

At the time of writing all expenses have not yet been paid but the production has certainly been financially sound. Bookings were very encouraging this year, the Saturday performance being booked up three days after tickets were made available.

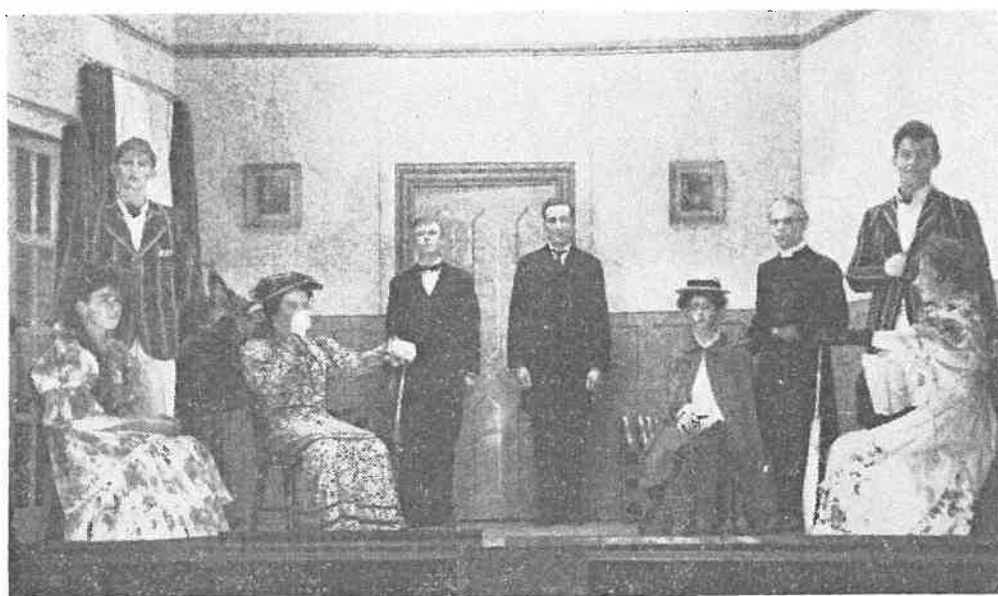
Another important point about this year's play has been the fact that no less than five Lower Fifth boys took part as actors, which promises well for future years. A hard core of actors has been formed, around which future successes can be built. Everyone who took part in the production must be thanked and final praise must go to Mr. Kremer, the producer.

A.J.H.

The School Play

"The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde was staged by the Dramatic Society on December 11th, 12th and 14th. It was a great success, not merely financially, but also in its production. The play concerns two young bachelors of the late nineteenth century who are both chasing young ladies, but both pretending to have the name of Ernest. They in their turn are hounded by the mother of one of the girls and several complicated situations ensue until all is resolved in the final scene. It is extremely funny at any time, and the cast made a commendable attempt to draw every laugh possible. Of the "male" actors A. J. Howells gave perhaps the most polished and professional performance. He and A. C. Pilling played the parts of the two young men, the former playing the cynical Algernon and the latter the inexperienced Jack. However, even Howells's performance tended to be overshadowed at times by Jackson's interpretation of the difficult part of the formidable Lady Bracknell. The parts of the two young ladies, Gwendolen and Cecily, were played by T. Cara and G. Irving respectively. In this case the people concerned with "make-up" must be congratulated, for the "girls", especially Cecily, were extremely appealing. The pathetic Miss Prism was played convincingly by R. B. White. This core of central characters was very well supported by Warden as Dr. Chasuble D.D., and C. D. Robertson and S. E. Buckley as the two butlers.

After the actors, success was due, in no small measure, to the prodigious work done behind the scenes. This is the first time the society has been able to play to a box set and thus a great deal of work was done by the designers, builders and painters before



Cast: "The Importance of Being Earnest"

hand. Chief among these were Mr. Wilson and Mr. Butterworth who was also stage Manager. If one were to pick out any one set it would be the garden scene. Even on the professional stage exterior brick-work and gardens are not easy to portray. However the set caught the fresh atmosphere of a sunny afternoon in early summer, in fact one could almost smell the flowers and hear the bees!

If final praise is to go to anyone it must of course go to Mr. I. J. Kremer for the time and effort he put into making this one of the most memorable of K.G.S. productions.

A.J.H. & A.D.K.

C.C.F. Report

C.S.M. J. M. Dobson

S/Sergeant C. D. Robertson

Sergeants: S. Cartmell, C. J. Horn, A. J. Howells, J. B. Johnson,
J. B. MacIldowie, J. A. Powell

Corporals: J. Bailey, A. Brown, J. Carmichael, P. Dawson,
C. Gardner, H. Herrington, H. Lomas, P. J. Lambert

L/Cpl. Hartley

Cpl/Q.M.S. A. D. Kirby

This year has seen a change in the organisation of the contingent in that boys can now only join at 14 years of age. This means that boys enter the cadets at the start of the LVth year when they may join either the R.A.F. Section or the Army Section. The Part 1 exam has thus been abolished and the cadets will start straight onto Part 2 training. However although these changes have taken place the UIVths still continue to do cadet training on Thursdays without the previously strong military bias. We have not been able to issue them with cadet uniforms but we have been fortunate in securing some very smart denims.

At the beginning of term it seemed as though we were going to be short of senior cadets for the cadre. However over the weeks cadets have drifted away from the First Aid and Adventure training, so that we now have what appears to be some potentially good junior N.C.O.'s.

A field day was held on the 31st October in which all the cadets took part. The four senior platoons were engaged in cross-country map reading exercises and the two junior platoons did exercises in the Whitewell area.

The weather conditions for the map reading exercises were terrible both on the Rochdale and Bleasdale fells. Yet on the whole the exercises seem to have been successful and well enjoyed if only for the daring rescues of A. D. Kirby and Lt. Butterworth, both of whom deserve our thanks. The exercises would have been

even more successful had not certain cadets forgotten some of the "golden" rules of fell walking which become even more important under such conditions.

The juniors on the whole, enjoyed their first field day even though they finished soaked to the skin. The exercises were undertaken with great enthusiasm by all cadets and McColm is to be congratulated on having the fastest time for the Assault Course.

J.M.D.

R.A.F. Section

Sgt: G. Leaney

Cpls: M. P. Benson, D. R. Brownbill, R. Hill, P. A. N. Syms

The Royal Air Force Section of the C.C.F. this term was comprised of 52 cadets, 5 N.C.O.'s and 2 officers — the largest total the section has ever experienced. During the term, while the Upper and Lower V's were working for their Certificate "A" part II, the senior cadets spent all their time with the Proficiency work. The results were as follows:—

Ordinary Proficiency:—

Distinctions: I. A. A. Smith

Credits: S. E. Buckley, E. Hornby, P. H. Jeffrey, R. E. H. Jones,

Passes: M. J. Briers, G. J. Cooke, E. T. Redfern, W. Stanway, F. E. Thompson.

Advanced Proficiency:—

Credits: D. E. Glasson, P. Parkin

Passes: J. D. Myers

Instead of flying at R.A.F. Woodvale, the section spent an overnight field day at R.A.F. Finningly on Wednesday, 30th — Thursday 31st October. During the brief visit, the party of 30 cadets, 5 N.C.O.'s and 2 officers toured the Bomber Command station. Items of interest ranged from the vast V—bombers to the not so small alsatians which guarded the camp. The singing on the journey back was not quite up to the high standard achieved going there, despite the great efforts of cadet Myers J. D.! The overnight field day proved a great success and it is hoped that there will be many more in the future.

G.L.

Cricket, 1963

		Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
1st XI	11	1	5	5
2nd XI	8	2	5	1
Under 14 XI	6	3	3	—

As the above table shows, it has been a very depressing season with little success to record, especially in the Senior teams. The 1st XI, in particular, has been most disappointing and at times the determination to win has been lacking. Even so, if only half of the catches which were put on the floor, had been taken, it is reasonable to suppose that at least two more victories would have been recorded. The fielding, in fact, has been the worst feature of the team. Nine catches were put down in one match and at least five in another. The weakness has probably stemmed from the difficulty in finding an adequate wicketkeeper; neither keeper tried has been up to the standard required for a successful 1st XI. Apart from F. Rigby and D. Moore, the captain, the batting has been rather undistinguished. The former has been the mainstay of the team with the bat and after a somewhat light hearted start, has played some splendid innings. He has a good technique, which has been lacking in the other players, and he could develop into one of the most successful batsmen of recent years. D. Moore has also done well although with a tendency to lose his wicket when apparently well set. Of the others, D. Simmonds has shown the greatest improvement. The bowling has been largely dependent on Moore and J. MacIldowie. Moore especially has bowled well and with great hostility but the two openers did not receive much support from the other bowlers.

The weaknesses in the 1st XI were apparent to some extent in the 2nd XI, although the fielding here was much better. It has been a keen side and good performances have come from A. Chry-stall, captain, D. Brownbill and P. Jeffrey with the ball, and from M. Benson and G. Kerby with the bat. But the greatest hope for the future lies with the Juniors. There is a large number of very promising cricketers in both upper and lower IV's, and if the talent here can be properly developed and interest maintained, it should form the nucleus of a strong 1st XI in the near future. A. Hall, D. Simpson, J. Hunter and K. Bignell have been the outstanding characters here. Set cricket has flourished this term and much keen competition seen. The House matches, too, have been well contested and have resulted in well deserved victories for the School House in the Senior competition and for Lytham in the Junior.

The Committee met at the end of term, and expressed its gratitude to umpires, scorers, to Mrs. Knapton and her helpers at the tea table, and to all who have contributed to the organisation this term.

Full Colours were awarded to D. Moore and F. Rigby and Team Colours to D. Barnes, P. Clark, G. Hague, C. Horn, J. MacIldowie, J. Rayton, D. Simmonds, K. Snape, and G. Worrall.

Swimming

The School has had its usual lack of success in Inter School Competitions and for the usual reasons — lack of adequate preparation and facilities for practise. The Senior team met with a heavy defeat at Hutton where the Under 16's was also narrowly beaten. But the outlook for competitive swimming is beginning to look a little more hopeful. To finish equal 4th in the Inter Schools Competition at Blackpool was a very creditable performance on the part of a very young Junior team and with improved facilities and opportunities for training should do very well next year. A. West, D. Whittle and A. Smith, all of LIVB are the most promising and most capable in this group. The form swimming continues to be very good and LIVB with a 100% swimmers have the best record here but there are many forms almost up to this standard. The two strongest Houses in Swimming continue to be School and Kirkham and the latter House is to be congratulated on regaining the Inter House Cup from the former after a lapse of some years. At the Inter House Sports, the Cup was presented by Mrs. Kirby of the Friends Association.

M. C. Hobbs, a most enthusiastic captain, and C. J. Gardner, received a re-award of Team Colours.

Gymnastics

Inter House Gymnastics Competition

As always it has been a most interesting competition and as always dominated by the School House who are to be congratulated upon an uninterrupted run of success. There has been much enthusiasm on the part of the Middle and Junior schools but at times the competition, for one reason or another has not had the support it deserves from the Seniors.

The results of the Competition are as follows:—

1. School. Average per boy 28.9. Highest Score M. C. Hobbs 102.
2. Preston. Average 16.71. Highest Score G. Worrell 68.
3. Ashton. Average 14.96. Highest Score P. Clark 72.
4. Kirkham. Average 14.14. Highest Score G. Irving 54.
5. Fylde. Average 13.25. Highest Score A. Irvine 54.
6. Lytham. Average 12.09. Highest Score I. Walton 83.

The Gym prizes this year have been awarded to M. C. Hobbs, J. Donald and G. Harrop, all of School House.

The Old Boys versus The 1st XV

Saturday, 28th September, 1963

This year the Old Boys' match was regarded with greater than usual trepidation so, by the time the great day came the, by now legendary, old boys team had reached gargantuan proportions: with names such as Wilcox, Parkinson, and Howard being mentioned in hushed, almost reverent terms by all (and in some cases, sundry).

"We" won the toss (in spite of fierce opposition from the Old Boys) and D. R. Brownbill, the 1st's captain, chose to play towards Preston. Thus, on a chilly September afternoon one sharp blast on the whistle was heard and battle commenced.

The Old Boy's full back kicked short and low; consequently J. B. MacIldowie, our wing forward was able to catch it. Whereupon MacIldowie disappeared under a heap of Eric Parkinson.

Ten minutes later, after a "flip-flip-flip" Cartmell scored the first try which Myers failed to convert, probably because it was scored in the top right-hand corner. Soon afterwards this score was increased to 6-0 in our favour by a magnificent try by Cartmell; who beat the Old Boy's left wing, Morgan, to cross the line in the top right-hand corner of the field amid the ecstatic applause of the onlookers. At this point things looked bright, but did not remain so for long as, just before half-time the score was evened by K. Howard's try, the Old Boys inside centre, followed by a penalty goal kicked by Chrystall.

At this point the oranges came on, aided by two small boys.

Soon afterwards came the kick-off for the second half, and "Fritz" Howard began the decline and fall of the "firsts" by kicking a stupendous 30 yard drop kick. I say decline and fall because two tries were scored in quick succession by Morgan and Lewis. The latter's being unsurprisingly converted as it was exactly between the posts.

Dewhurst went off with elbow trouble and the School made use of this chance to fight back, but succeeded in adding only three points before the game came to an end. Result. OLD BOYS 17: SCHOOL 9.

R.B.W.

Speech Day, 1963

Looking singularly unlike "The Beatles" in whose steps they were following, the stage party emerged at the Public Hall Preston on the afternoon of 10th October.

Without the interruption of screams and cheers the Rev. Allen, Chairman of the Governors, started the proceedings with his customary "Opening Remarks." His speech ought to have gladdened the depressed hearts of the third year Sixth. He advised sixth formers not to rush to University because at 17 or 18 they were too immature to reap the full benefits that a University Education had to offer. In his speech he criticised Comprehensive schools, saying that it would be a national tragedy to see ancient grammar schools and all that they stood for disappear. He warned that to-day there was a tendency to treat boys and girls as guinea pigs in the matter of education and that it should be remembered that they are human beings on the threshold of life and it would be a tragedy if any generation should suffer because of these experiments.

Dr. J. M. Hill B.Sc., Ph.D., the Managing Director of the Production Group of the U.K.A.E.A., who presented the prizes continued in a similar vein. He expressed the view that science and technology influenced greatly the modern world and that the grammar school played an important role in this. He said that there was a need for good scientists and also a need for good science teachers both at University and Grammar school level, for without them Britain could not produce top scientists.

The U.K.A.E.A., Dr. Hill continued, employed a large number of chemists, physicists and engineers, the vast majority of whom commenced their scientific training at grammar schools, of which Kirkham was an excellent example. He felt sure he could say without any chance of contradiction that it was these schools that were providing the country with the scientists, technologists, managers and designers of the large technological factories on which the country was totally dependent. The contribution such schools were making to the future well-being of the country was inestimable and he hoped that they would be given the facilities they required to carry out their most important function.

The Head master was pleased to announce that ministerial sanction had been given for the construction of phase one of the new science block. He hoped that 1964 would witness the start of the new biology and general science classrooms. He then continued, to use his own words, "to compress into a few brief words" the successes and failures of the school over the past year.

The Rev. W. A. P. Francis, vicar of Kirkham and Vice-Chairman of the Governors proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Hill, which was seconded by Mr. S. Middleton, the deputy headmaster. The guests, prizewinners and prefects then proceeded to the aptly named Crush Room for tea.

A. D. Kirby

Carol Service

Beneath dark and dismal clouds, portending much misfortune for the school, for the day was Friday, 13th December, there could be heard the joyous strains of Christmas time. The scene was St. Michael's Church, Kirkham, and the occasion, the Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The service opened with the customary carol "Once in royal David's city", the first three verses being sung by the choir alone. The caressing tones were still echoing in the rafters as the congregation was bidden to prayer by the Rev. W. A. P. Francis, and the choir sang Gerhardt's "All my heart this night rejoices."

A newcomer to the school, J. Pigott read the first lesson, about the Garden of Eden, in clear, ringing voice more beautiful than K.G.S. has witnessed for some time.

The congregation rose heartily to "Angels from the realms of glory" and "Ding Dong! Merrily on high", between which I. Hird read the second lesson.

So the afternoon proceeded, the choir supplying lovely versions of "The First Nowell" and "Sing Lullaby" and the congregation joining in for such carols as "Silent Night" and "While Shepherds watched their flocks."

We were able to follow the whole sequence of events from the words of Abraham to Christ's Birth, and the establishment and meaning of Christianity from the readings of the lessons. A. P. Emery, R. B. Brown and D. R. Brownbill, the school captain, provided three of the lessons, whilst two prominent men in the activities of the school, Mr. Smith, President of the Friends, and Mr. J. Davie, President of the Old Boys Association, Mr. Middleton and the Headmaster read the remaining scriptures.

As the last lines of "Adeste Fideles" reverberated through the church, and the Rev. Francis gave the blessing, the Carol Service for 1963 came to an end, and a heart-warmed, enriched congregation filed out of the church to the tune of Handel's Halleluyah Chorus.

P. J. Lambert

Les Bourgeois Gentilhomme

On the 12th November a party of fourteen boys and two masters visited the seaside but not to take in the sea air. It was in fact the annual visit to the French play at Blackpool. The play was "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" by Moliere. Unfortunately the cast was too small for this play to be produced in its original form and some of the players had to play two roles. Despite this handicap their performance was first class with their sound production outstanding. It was thus no surprise that they received a loud ovation at the finish. The majority of the party having seen a film of the play understood the dialogue quite easily. The party by quarter to four were on their various homeward routes at the end of an interesting afternoon. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Messrs. Reay and Cooper for arranging such an enjoyable afternoon.

C. J. Horn

King Lear

On December 6th, 1963, a small party of sixth formers made their own respective ways to the Tower Circus, Blackpool. The objective was to see a production of King Lear, presented by the Fylde College Theatre Group.

Immediately on arrival the party disowned one, thirsty, "Romeo" who was wearing a strange collarless apparition. ("To him a women's services are due").

However it appeared that we were in the minority as Beatle sweaters, haircuts and boots were all an intensive part of the production. The so-called modern styles looking quite at home in their ancient and pagan role.

The play itself was exceptionally well produced and was a credit to this amateur production group. Frank Winfield playing the part of Lear was obviously the most skilled actor but Alan Cass (Edgar), John Lomax (Earl of Gloucester) and James Hulme (Earl of Kent) all gave meritable performances. Simon Fulford-Brown (Edmund) and Hugh Keely (the fool), never really seemed to interpret fully, their adopted characters, unlike Carolyn Crowe (Cordelia) who played the part admirably, although one is suspicious that her own physical beauty was the winning factor.

Considering all things however the play was enjoyable and raised yet further the exceptional reputation of the production group. This it appears was the general opinion of the highly appreciative, but nevertheless critical, audience.

P. A. N. Syms, M. P. Benson

Student Christian Movement

The Park School, Preston

Friday, 22nd November, 1963

In view of the urgent relevance of the subject (namely Christianity, Sex and Me) the school was well represented, with two group leaders (Greenhalgh and White) and some 25 others. The two group leaders unfortunately (?) arrived some 20 minutes early and were all but crushed by hoards of book-carrying girls; they were, however, efficiently rescued by Miss Williams and ushered into the library. With the arrival of the other group leaders the plan of attack was worked out and the topics for discussion discussed (to ensure we could all discuss them).

The main K.G.S. contingent was last to arrive; they were greeted with something like this:—

"Are you from Kirkham?"

"Yes."

"I thought so — you are seven minutes late."

"Humph."

After everybody had found their respective girl-friends the conference proper began with a short introductory address by Miss

Shanks in her capacity as host. Then followed a brief introduction of the main speakers by the Reverend F. Bamber, who acted as chairman. At 2-25 p.m. the Reverend David Edwards rose and spoke for some 35 minutes; expounding his views of the role of sex in the life of our community. Following this the assembly broke up into groups of about ten people for the discussion of several pre-arranged questions. The discussion, however, ranged from the new "Beatles" L.P. to Buddhism: but much useful work was done, mainly in clarification of pre-conceived ideas. After the group leaders had reported to the assembly the substance of their discussions an excellent tea was had in the Park School canteen.

After tea Mrs. Edwards spoke on the sensual aspects of sex, again much of what was said was not new to the delegates and represented the unspoken thoughts of most of the people present. Following the second main speech a further discussion period was had, immediately after which was question time. The latter was the most interesting part of the conference; many new points being brought up and discussed.

In spite of the discontinuation of the school S.C.M. this conference was actively and interestedly attended by a strong contingent from the school.

R. B. White

Geographical Excursion to Malham, 1963

On Friday, July 12th, 1963, a party of Geographical boys under the direction of Mr. Knowles, set out to explore the Carboniferous Limestone area around Malham, which lies about 5 miles east of Settle in the Pennines. To fill up the coach number, we had to endure the presence of a group of biologists!

Secrecy surrounded the expedition until we reached Malham village. There written instructions were handed out to the 5 leaders of the geographical teams. P. M. Dawson's group were given the task of making a study of the Malham Tarn area; S. Cartmell's group an intense study of Gordale; C. J. Horn's with a survey on settlements and water supply; J. E. Bailey's with a sink-hole survey and finally J. D. Myers's group with a difficult survey on Land Use.

Thoughts on having a quiet day were soon dispelled on seeing the many coach loads of students in the village from all over Lancashire and Yorkshire. What with amusement arcades and coffee bars it was difficult to start the expedition rolling.

Equipped with packed lunches, geographical necessities and foot-wear for long "strolls," the parties split up to obtain the required information in order to build up a comprehensive analysis of the area. As well as making notes, cameras were used to illustrate particular features of limestone country. Rain which fell just

before lunch time dampened enthusiasm a little, but with the reminder of Mr. Knowles' sudden "appearing" tactics, spirits were quickly revived.

Around 3-45 p.m. the straggling groups began to enter Malham once again and to climb on board the coach back to Kirkham. After a successful and worth-while day our thanks must go to Messrs. Knowles and Baldwin for organising the trip.

J. D. Myers

High-Speed Railways and Monorails

At 4-15 p.m. on Friday, 29th November, 1963, a car drew up in front of the school, out of which stepped the massive frame of Dr. E. R. Laithwaite, M.Sc., Ph.D., A.M.I.E.E., senior lecturer in Electrical Engineering at Manchester University, also Old Boy and Governor of K.G.S. Wooden cases were quickly transported from the boot of the car to the School Hall, where Dr. Laithwaite's assistant, Mr. Hill, set to work immediately with screwdriver and pliers. Such was the efficiency of the whole operation, that within two and a half hours, the hall was almost prepared. Layers of coils, wires and meters arrayed the table across the front of the platform and the film projector, and neatly arranged rows of chairs decked the floor, as a blazing fire roared in the grate.

At 6-45 p.m., a slow trickle of Sixth Formers began to issue into the hall, to gaze mystified at the awe-inspiring array of equipment adorning the platform, and by 7-15 p.m., over one hundred representatives from Hutton, Blackpool, Preston, Baines and Fleetwood Grammar Schools, King Edward VIIth School, Lytham, Preston Park School and St. Joseph's College were assembled. An expectant hush closed over the audience, Dr. Laithwaite strode in, and three hours of careful preparation were over.

A colour film showing Railway Modernisation introduced the lecture, for Dr. Laithwaite's main work is research in connection with this. In it, we saw how his revolutionary monorail system of high speed transport can ascend slopes of 45° , and yet require no grip whatsoever on the single rail.

Dr. Laithwaite followed up the film with demonstrations of "floating" copper discs, and flat slabs of aluminium travelling quickly over an apparently harmless working metallic grid, from which issued a profusion of electric wires. He explained the principle of his "linear induction motor" very clearly, and, with his typical, broad Lancashire humour, declared all school text books out of date, and "a lot of mumbo-jumbo."

We saw how, when an ordinary 3-phase electric motor, with a core revolving inside it, is opened out flat, the core moves along the top of the "flattened" motor, and how Dr. Laithwaite used

this fact to invent what may easily be the transport system of tomorrow.

He explained how this idea may also be used to return men from the moon, and at the turn of a switch, we saw a three inch long slug of lead rise vertically about ten feet, and out of the end of an empty plastic tube.

This, and many other seemingly miraculous phenomena were so clearly explained, that members of the sixth form are seriously contemplating making their own. The lecture finished at 8-45 p.m., as Dr. Laithwaite invited the audience to come up on to the stage, and look at his apparatus. He talked to individuals, and there he told us of a book he has just written, in which is explained how to make all the apparatus he used in the lecture.

Soon, school parties began to make their way home, much enlightened after a thoroughly entertaining and interesting evening, and not until after 11 p.m. did the silent, foreboding atmosphere of K.G.S. after dark, return, as Dr. Laithwaite's car disappeared in the distance, and tired, but enlivened members of the Scientific Society, who had organised the whole lecture, made their own way home.

This account would not be complete, if we did not extend to D. W. Stirzaker and the juniors of the School House most sincere thanks for the invaluable assistance which they so readily gave, in preparing the Hall for the lecture. Without their willing and quite voluntary help, our job would undoubtedly have been prolonged considerably, into the later hours of the night.

P. J. Lambert

Senior Prize-Winning Essay

"LONELINESS"

It was one of those dull and dreary winter days which reduce the countryside to a state of languid apathy. The wind struggles to arouse some life from the stark trees, an incessant drizzle seeps through the thick grey clouds which blanket the silent fields and hedgerows. The silence is only broken by the occasional squalls which stutter across the fields, causing the trees to shudder and the hedges to quiver, only to fade with one final moan as they drift away inland. As I walked along the deserted and winding country lane, hands deep in pockets, collar turned up, I became a part of this mournful, drab scene. My intention was to get home as quickly as possible, to shrug off this feeling of complete loneliness effected in me by the morose surroundings. Yet on turning one of the many corners something in a nearby field caused me to pause awhile.

It was the scare-crow, the one which I passed every day, the one which I hardly looked at, and even when I did, it was only to chuckle at its comical figure. But somehow, today, it seemed different.

Something attracted my attention to it. Mystified, I stepped over the broken wooden fence into the field, my eyes all the time fixed on that shabby figure.

The head that had been raised so proudly during the summer now drooped and buried itself in an old grey scarf. The old straw hat had slid over his right eye. You could almost detect an expression of intense sorrow on his face. His coat, which had been almost torn away from his willowy figure, trailed in the cow dung and the mud. His arms, once happily outstretched to welcome the summer sunshine, were now flagging under the physical strain. Where was the sea of golden corn which would waft to and fro about his feet? Where were the twittering birds who would teasingly perch on his arms? Where were the fragrant perfumes of the flowers and of all the countryside which imbibed him with such bliss? All these were gone. They had forgotten him, left him limple, ragged, dejected, and dead. Yet to me he was not dead. Something aroused my curiosity, something of much deeper significance than I could possibly have envisaged as I stepped into the field.

Suddenly I understood. Everything began to mean something—the outstretched arms, the tattered clothes, the golden corn. The pieces of the puzzle knitted together to reveal something more than a humble scare-crow — something mightier than he, mightier than anyone. At that moment, a sudden gust of wind howled through the trees, to echo across the countryside. My vision became blurred. Everything went dark — the trees, the hedges — they all vanished. I almost felt that I, too, was fading away. But he would not let me escape. The pitiful expression on his face hypnotized me. I was terrified. A cold shiver sliced through my body. Then the transmuted figure on that wooden cross was encircled by a brilliant light, which emphasized every small detail. I was impaled with horror, unable to move. I wanted to cry out, but I couldn't. Then with a supreme effort I tore myself away from that awful sight, those dazzling lights, and stumbled blindly out of the field.

I staggered onto the road. I tried to run but my feet could hardly support me. All the time the image was in my mind. As I strove to get away from it, its details seemed to become even more magnified. I could see the blood oozing along the iron nails, staining the pure, white skin, and dripping to the ground. It was no use, I just could not escape from it. It was as if a huge magnet was hauling me back. I was completely exhausted, mentally and physically, and as the gruesome sight of the waxen face flashed across my mind in all its glory, I collapsed and rolled to the ground. Everywhere brilliant lights seemed to be flashing, white lights for the skin, red lights for the blood

Then suddenly it was all gone. In the distance I could hear the chugging of a tractor, a rabbit scuttered across the road and dived into the ditch. Slowly I raised my face from the ground,

a cold blast of wind revived me as it struck my sweating face. I glanced to my left and saw a shabby, old scare-crow, head drooping, clothes tattered and trailing in the mud. Had it been a dream — a product of my loneliness? Did this fear, this terror, this despair, spring from loneliness? Or did it spring from something else? For as I glanced back at the small scare-crow I began to wonder — Is there such a thing as loneliness? Isn't someone always near you?

S. Cartmell UMVI

Form Reports

LIV. A

This term has been quite a successful one for the form on the whole, with fourteen players out of the U13XV in LIVA.

In the gym there are many good performers. Cross, Pigott and Musson being some of the best. The first two performed for their house in the Junior Gym Cup.

In the swimming the "non-swimmers" have been converted to "swimmers". Also five boys obtained Bronze medals for personal sea survival.

The work of the form has been good with a few exceptions. In the examinations credit must be given to Patterson, who obtained 92% in Latin, and also to Cooke for 91% in Music.

Mr. McKerrow our form master has returned after his illness and we hope it was not caused from an attack of LIVA!

D. E. Cowell

LVI. Sc.

Hello dear readers! Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. Where have all the inmates gone?

The loss of Williams, of whom just less than a quarter of the population of Wales was once heard to remark "snap!", was a severe blow to Taffy as he now has to speak English all the time and not very well at that.

The long-dreaded closure of the Table-Tennis hut for exams resulted in the advent of two new activities, Table-Bui and Hoppui, which were about as short lived as most of the notices which appeared in room 15. A Lower Sixth Darts competition resulted in a win by a scientist, the venerable AL, who shall be nameless.

Outrage! Who let Stanway win the Table Tennis championship? Is your conscience clear? Send your confessions, on a postcard please, to Alan, care of the Biol. lab. Do you suffer from Worksheet? If so the only cure seems to be at least fifteen hours overtime a week.

Next time you laugh at Eric's hair, take a good long look at Astley's. You should have seen it last term. When relating the

minutes of G.S.C. meetings Eric has always commanded our rapturous attention.

Joint winners of this years LSC. VI. Form Boffin prize were Clark and Jones.

The Lower Science Sixth wishes to thank all those without whom this report would have been impossible, namely

T. M. Smith

U.V.I. M

The atmosphere of Room 10 does not seem to have been regenerated this year for the form very rarely sees itself together in one group. Maybe it is for this reason that the 7 members have done little together and therefore I beg you to bear with us if we give a quick summary of our associates.

The elderly gentleman with the distinguished surname, having failed yet again to reach the wondrous heights of Room 4, seems to be going all out for his hat-trick. The other elder statesman, at the time of publication, will have left us and may well be a "star" pilot in the R.A.F. Of the younger bretheran, already one has disposed of his "appendecui" another has knocked down his gate post and a third is still looking a little dazed and bewildered at his estrangement from Pip! The sixth member, now with monitory responsibilities, still carries around his heavily laden and bandaged brief-case, whilst the final-member has amused us all with his original (to say the least), pronunciations.

Finally, by and large, it would appear that Mr. Coates has a fairly representative cross-section of that renown institution, "the Great British Public" within his reach.

N—S.

Book Review

"NUCLEAR ENERGY" *By I. A. Redman* O.U.P. 15/-

Mr. Redman's suggestion for a book; admirably re-written by the publishers and re-drawn by Rumshott publications limited; fulfils its schizophrenic function adequately.

This admirable book has two main messages to carry over. The first is for scientists: a straightforward account of the discovery, harnessing and use of nuclear energy. Its second, and perhaps most important message deals with the way the scientist tackles a problem; his methods of reasoning and line of approach i.e. "the scientific method". Mr. Redman's subject, as elucidated in this book, provides an excellent insight into nuclear energy's use and, perhaps, abuse.

The book's physical form lends itself to easy reading; the positioning of figures, and their explanations in the wide margin,

gives them the urgent relevance needed if text figures are to serve their purpose: namely the clarification of the text.

On the whole I feel rather uneasy about recommending this book: for my miserable efforts look puny against the author's massive publicity campaign. In a nut-shell: interesting, informative, thought-provoking and well worth 15/-.

"THE WASTE MAKERS *By Vance Packard.* Penguin 4/6

This book, written by a man with great knowledge of the American level of culture, provides an insight into the methods used by American manufacturers to entice consumers to buy more for more and yet gain less and less.

He divides it into four sections; the first being an introduction in the form of a shrewd look into the future: the implications of a fast rising population with ever increasing needs — a golden market, in fact, for the licentious industrialist.

The second, and most revealing, section deals with the nine main lines of attack used by big business to make money out of the gullible millions. Taking one of these nine, "planned obsolescence" as an example of Packard's disquieting knowledge of life we find all he says can be summed up by that master of bon mots, Oscar Wilde:

"Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months."

The manufacturers make sure that their product will be out of fashion, or useless in a very short time; so that the customer will have to buy the latest model to stay in the originality-crushing, vogue.

The third section "Implications" deals with the psychology and motivations of the American mind. This shows yet another facet of Packard's genius: his ability to analyse and explain complex human behaviour.

His fourth section, somewhat of an afterthought, contains several suggestions for ending this rape of the American mind.

Everyone who is concerned about the effect of this relentless pressure on the stability of our society should read this masterly exposee of the cult of "shoddy goods in exquisite taste."

"THE CASTLE" *By Franz Kafka.* Penguin 4/-

Kafka is looked upon by many readers of modern fiction as being too difficult and too abstruse for any enjoyment to be gained from his work. The Castle, perhaps his best work, is very readable at any level and it is this stratification of meanings that is the key to enjoying Kafka's work. This book on the surface appears to be a simple story about a young land surveyor who is employed by some one in the Castle which overlooks a little German village. Kafka personifies the castle as the employer of K, the land surveyor. This personification is the next level of meaning from the simple story: but many more, deeper meanings appear as the reader gets

deeper into the book until K becomes an integral part of the village, tied by his love for Frieda. It is now that Kafka's message becomes suddenly clear: the question is, who is K?, why does he never enter the castle? and why doesn't he leave? In the end K is so confused that the reader also becomes confused and completely defenceless as Kafka delivers the coup de grace with masterly precision. The book suffers but little in translation and is fascinating in its complexity of conflicting personalities. If you do nothing else this Christmas: read this book.

R. B. White

Spanish Rendezvous

With a deep sigh of relief I sat back in my chair and reflected in a moment's pensive silence on the past three weeks. To think that barely a week ago I had been travelling through the North-East of Spain.

It had all begun in January 1963 when Eddie and myself decided to take a trip abroad. It was to be a hitch-hiking holiday and Spain was to be our destination. From January to August, plans had been decided, maps had been studied, routes determined, money changed and passports renewed. We had allowed ourselves £25 each and with that money we would see how far and for how long we could exist. Thus on August 19th, at the unearthly hour of 7-00 a.m. we made our farewells and tramped down to the start of the M6 which is less than a quarter of a mile from our homes.

Within ten minutes we had received a lift in a somewhat dilapidated, but nevertheless mobile, car, to London. After a light breakfast and a dinner break we found ourselves dropped off at London Bridge; this had been a magnificent start to our holiday.

We spent the first night with some friends of ours, outside London but 10-00 a.m. Saturday morning saw us once again on our way. Two speedy lifts saw us to Folkstone just in time to board the 1-30 p.m. cross-channel steamer to Boulogne. The crossing, we were warned, would be rough; force 10 gales were expected and all luggage was to be stored below deck. The warning was not without cause and soon the gay, happy, holiday crowd was transformed into a miserable, white-faced, vomiting multitude. The two of us, however, felt extremely proud of ourselves for we managed to retain our dignity despite the soaking we received!

At Boulogne we downed a hasty meal, and began to revise our French.

Sunday, found us spending the greater part of the day silently apostrophizing those vehicles that failed to stop. Nevertheless we still kept our weary thumbs raised and trusted our luck. "Dame Fortune" was, however, still by our side for in the next 48 hours we covered over 960 kilometres (600 miles). In this time we paid a flying visit to Paris late Sunday night, travelled over the wheat and

vine covered escarpments and crossed the Cote D'or to Chalon. From thence we went on to Lyons, Avignon, Nimes, Montpellier, finally spending Tuesday night at Narbonne less than seventy miles from the Spanish frontier. We had travelled in private cars, beer-lorries and a huge trans-France, Paris-Marseille articulated 26 wheeler!

At this point, I should like to say how often I thanked Mr. Reay for his French lessons; our own French, though far from perfect had proved invaluable. We spoke no English to anyone other than ourselves after leaving Boulogne until we entered Spain.

Wednesday morning came and our luck continued. We received a lift in a large Peugeot estate car, the occupants of which were no less than a honeymoon couple! After highly amusing introductions in Spanish and French (the wife was French, the husband Spanish) we were told not to be afraid of his driving as he was a rally enthusiast. The high speed motoring was enjoyable but when our driver began to embrace his wife, somewhat passionately, whilst hammering along at just under 150 k.p.h. (90 m.p.h.) our nerves nearly broke!

After a pleasant meal, at their expense, they dropped us off in Barcelona. We had spent almost a day travelling with them and had come another 200 kilometres. From Barcelona we went to Sitges, a delightful holiday resort less than 20 kilometres away.

Life in Sitges was ecstasy. We would rise at about 10-00 a.m. wander through the town and down to the beach. The beach itself is now portrayed on the front of Cliff Richards' Spanish L.P. The sand was dazzling white in the hot sun, contrasting sharply with the deep blue of the Mediterranean sea. Bathing in the sea was like taking a warm bath! Until 2-00 p.m. we would spend the time on the beach, sunbathing, surveying the local scenery of many bronzed, bikini clad, Spanish beauties, and watching local fishermen killing freshly caught octopus. We would then retire to some shadier place for a cool drink or take a leisurely stroll around the town surveying the work of peasant artists and admiring the citadel.

Melons and peaches which comprised the greater part of our food during the day were taken with innumerable chilled drinks. Often we would sleep from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and then as the shops and restaurants would re-open after their "afternoon siesta" we would return to the town. A meal at midnight was always enjoyed and it only cost us 40 pesetas (5/-) for wine, bread, main course, savoury and coffee.

In Spain the night life is enchanting; the narrow dusty streets are gaily lit with multi-coloured lights, people stroll around lazily in the warm air, and out of the bars drifts the aroma of cigars intermingled with the strains of music ranging from true Spanish dance music to modern English "pop" songs including those inevitable Beatles. Only at about 3-00 a.m. would this murmur of life be subdued.

After five hectic but happy days in Sitges, where we had made many friends, we began our return journey. A railway journey to the French border in an old-fashioned, out-of-door carriage which reminded us of the "Wild West", was followed by another to Avignon.

Money was now the pending question. Strict budgeting was essential and thus we decided to push on regardless. An overnight journey to Lyons, with a somewhat shady character who had spent all his money on the Riviera meant a sleepless night for me. At 5-30 a.m. we were hitching again on the outskirts of Lyons. It was interesting to note that at 5-30 a.m. this French town was more like an English town at 7-30 a.m.!

Lifts now came in the dozens. After a good lift to Dijon by an English family we finished by taking four more lifts into Paris. The last lift was with a German (another speed-maniac!) and on the way we witnessed a rather distasteful and fatal crash. The road seemed to be a mass of cars and bodies saturated in blood! Its effect was good; our driver entered Paris at a much more reasonable speed!

That night was spent on the Gare du Nord and at 6-58 a.m. the following morning we boarded the train to Boulogne. Seven o'clock that same evening, we were back in England, camping outside Folkstone and eating our last French loaf!

Bread and jam had been our only food for over five days but needless to say we had survived on this diet.

Early Monday morning saw us tramping down our own respective drives. We had precisely $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. between us, and for the first time in our lives we knew what it was like to starve!

Well that was it; almost three weeks of eternal experiences. I had enjoyed this my first real breakfast and even my first real meal for more than seven days. We had felt the sun and the rain, had sleepless nights and tiring days, but it had been an adventure which I would not have missed and will never forget!

P. A. Newton-Syms UMVI

The Road to the Isles

1,600 miles travelling by car, scenery to us more pleasant, picturesque and fantastic than anywhere in England or Wales, and a series of almost laughable calamities, were the bases of a fortnight of hot summer holidays for "Dave" Brownbill, "Charles" Walton, "Simon" Bridle and me. Our eventual destination was the Cuillin Hills of Skye where some climbing was anticipated but before reaching there the wild splendour of the west coast of Ross and Cromarty had diverted our attention. It was the Torridon region of Scotland which impressed Dave, Charles and me the most. Simon, however, appeared more contented with the climber's "home from home," the Cuillins.

The roads of North Scotland are rather poor, especially the road from Kinlochewe to Torridon, but the difficulties seem well worth while when two vast mountains are seen to the north, Beinn Eighe and Liathach. The wildness of the area makes the climber feel much more of an explorer. Beinn Eighe is a weird, steep-sided mountain with seven peaks, and with white quartz glistening on its pink sandstone slopes. Liathach, divided from Beinn Eighe by a narrow glen, has less quartz and more vegetation, being thus darker in colour, and has many high cliffs ranged along its sides.

We were camped to the south of Liathach by the end of the second day and on the third day Charles and Simon climbed the mountain. Much as they appreciated the view from the ridge they regretted tackling so large an obstacle so soon in the holiday, as, through sheer exhaustion, they uncaringly stumbled and fell down what was apparently the most difficult descent on the south face. On the north of Loch Torridon there is a small picturesque fishing village called Diabaig, which must certainly be one of the most pleasant and peaceful places in Britain. There must be many other such virtually unknown areas in northern Scotland, unexploited and each with an individual charm and attraction of its own. As one of the group commented "Why go to the continent for a holiday when you can see such beauty in your own country?"

The camp site at Torridon was the scene of the first major calamity of the holiday. On our last morning there a herd of cows arrived on the scene and one ran amok through the site, ripping the fly sheet of one tent, to the amazement of Charles and Simon, still asleep inside it. For the rest of the holiday we all had to sleep in one tent, which to say the least, was cramping.

Certain members of our party were bent on reaching Skye so we left the delights of Torridon and spent a week on "the misty isle." A most annoying feature of camping there is the abundance of midges and horseflies which naturally concentrate around streams where the best camp-sites are. While reversing out of one such unfavourable spot, the reverse gear of the car went, which added more problems.

Spectacular scenery seems to be synonymous with Scotland and this is certainly the case in the south of Skye. The Cuillins are composed of volcanic rock and are an isolated group of peaks, angular, shattered and precipitous. There are no gentle slopes in this area, but vast masses of black rock, torn and shattered into irregularity. The Red Hills nearby are more rounded, though their scree covered sides make them difficult to climb. Although we had intended to do much climbing this was not to be the case. On the first day Charles and Simon climbed Sgurr-nan-Gilleann and Am Bhasteir Tooth, but the following day the weather, till then fine, broke. Subsequently we covered almost every road on the island in the car, travelling 600 miles on Skye alone. It is not a place I would choose for a holiday, unless it was a purely climbing holiday, for much of Skye appeared uninteresting, being mainly a boggy, uncultivated moorland.

The most popular district of the island for the climbers is Glen Brittle to the south west. The locals have exploited this popularity to the extent of fencing off a special area for campers and charging an outrageous price. The field adjoining Loch Brittle has become an eyesore, with hundreds of coloured tents of all shapes and sizes. Luckily we had a car and camped to the north of the mountains near Sligachan and drove round to the glen on two separate days. On one of these Charles and Simon attempted to climb the Cioch on Sron-na-Ciche, while Dave and I climbed up to Coire Lagan, a corrie surrounded by scree and vast peaks.

By the end of the week on Skye anguished groanings were issuing from our car. At first we thought we were running out of money so we economised on food. Then our petrol stove broke down and our gas stove ran out of gas. It took us two days, and precious supplies of petrol, to find a shop that sold the right size of gas cylinder and during that time we lived on "jam butties" and raw onions!

The journey home was not without interest for, two days before leaving Skye, the starter motor packed up and we had our first lessons in cranking. Several times on the way home the car had to be restarted, as for example when leaving the ferry from Skye, or when Dave stalled the car on a narrow bridge, and embarrassed moments were endured while D.R.B. was "nay dashing round cranking." It rained throughout the homeward trek, the worst weather being experienced over Shap, which we crossed at 2 a.m. one Sunday morning. The journey, however was completed in one day, all credit to Dave (11 a.m. to 4 a.m.), and were we glad to get out of that car!

A. J. Howells

"Have Thumb, will Travel"

9-0 a.m. Saturday, August 31st, to the lay man, was just the start of another Saturday morning, but to Chris and I it was the beginning of an exciting journey which was to take us into Scotland, Ireland and, of course, Wales.

With the sun in the sky and our packs on our backs we left Preston behind us and headed for the "Haggis" country, and by mid-afternoon the sight of a kilted Scotsman — not Terence! — marked our arrival in Gretna Green — and Scotland. As darkness fell at the end of the first day we made our beds in a loft beneath the high, stone walls of Stirling Castle. A peel of bells from a nearby church (English for kirk), and we were once more on our way, heading for the Isle of Skye in the Inner Hebrides. Our wanderings took us through Loch Earn Head, not far from Comrie and the Cultybraggen Army Camp, and after crossing the picturesque and tourist infested Glen Coe we descended into Fort William, as snow and mist covered Ben Nevis above. Sunday night was a night to be remembered, for after having walked for about seven miles we pitched "Howie's" waterproof — we thought — tent behind a wall. As we settled down in our sleeping bags our hopes were put to the test — the tent was not waterproof!

Damp but still smiling we hit the road early the next day and immediately we were offered a lift from a young and pretty German girl who was travelling alone — no wonder we were still smiling! Reluctantly, just after she had failed in her attempt to back the car into a Loch, we said our good-byes. Soon we were in Mallaig and then, with Eigg on the starboard bow we were sailing "over the sea to Skye." A night in our tent on the bleak yet extremely beautiful Skye was quickly dismissed, and after posting home some kippers from Mallaig we were on our way back to Fort William. Unfortunately we still had to spend another wet night under canvas. Lifts were still coming our way on Tuesday and although our progress was held up somewhat because our chauffeur could not find some "petrified" pine trees, those "bonny, bonny banks" of Loch Lomond were behind us and we were on our way to Glasgow and then Stranraer. With evening drawing on, still some distance from Stranraer, we stopped for the night at Black Hill Farm on the outskirts of Ayr.

The unexpected sight of an octopus in Stranraer harbour marked our farewell to Scotland, just four days and five hundred miles after crossing the border from England, but with the thought of the I.R.A. and sweepstake tickets only two hours away across a calm sea, neither of us had time to look back over trodden ground. Larne; a night in a road contracting wagon; industrial Belfast; two cars stopping at the same time; the crossing of the Border with an Irish Priest all seemed to pass by so quickly, that we couldn't believe that it was only Thursday, when we rested for the night in a barn near Dundalk, only fifty miles from Dublin. As neither of

us had had a shave since leaving home — still no letter from mother? — our appearances were becoming a little rugged, a feature pointed out more than once by the Irish. By lunch time, after our first lift in a lorry, we were in the centre of Dublin (to be sure!). The Irish we found were extremely helpful to us, especially the old gentleman who gave us the complete history of the Post Office in O'Connell Street, when we asked him where we could catch a bus to the famous Phoenix Park.

Queen Maud, the Dun Laoghaire — Holyhead Irish mail boat, with the usual inefficiency shown by the British Railways carried us across the Irish sea. At Holyhead all our theories about Wales being a foreign country were proved when a uniformed gentleman, with one eye on Chris's watch repeated, "Have you anything to declare?" The boat was half an hour late, it was midnight, we were both tired and with a night in the waiting room on Holyhead Railway station in front of us, this barbaric Welshman asked us if we had anything to declare! The following day, Sunday, we passed through Roger's beloved Anglesey, Mr. Bellis's beloved Wales and then over the border — no customs!! — and into our beloved Warrington. Monday morning saw firstly Warrington, then Wigan and finally Preston behind us.

A thousand miles, a hundred of them having been walked, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England, which only ten days before had been a dream, was a reality.

J. Powell

Coin Collecting

When there was a scarcity of silver at the end of the eighteenth century, Spanish dollars captured by English pirate ships were made legal tender and were countermarked with a small oval stamp with the head of King George III. There were, therefore, two Kings' heads on one coin and its value was 4s 9d. From this we get the saying, "Two Kings' heads are not worth one crown."

Coin collecting — or to give it its proper name, Numismatics — is a hobby enjoyed by young and old all over the world. A numismatist, though, does not, as many people think, only collect coins but he tries to discover the history of his coins. Where was it minted?; who engraved it?; now many of this type were minted?; does the coin indicate by its design or composition the political state of the country at the time it was minted?; are just a few questions the collector asks himself when he adds another coin to his collection. The numismatist is very much a historian. Some facts he knows are that the first coin to have a date on it, although

in Roman numerals, was an Edward I shilling in 1548, and that FID. DEF. on our coins is short for Defender of the faith, a title given to Henry VIII in 1521 by Pope Leo X for his book, condemning Luther, called the "Defence of seven Sacraments." He can tell from his coins the date of the death of one ruler and the date of the coming of the next ruler; at the end of a war "Pax" or "Peace" pennies were minted. In medieval times most of the main towns and cities had their own mints; and in many other ways the numismatist can discover the state of the country.

Although coins have been in England since the time of the Romans, and in some parts of the world since the time of the Greeks, who were the first people to use coins, numismatics is not as popular today as stamp collecting, a hobby which only started in the last century. The main reason for this is the difficulty in securing old coins. Old coins, especially those in good condition are hard to come by and the small, private collector finds it impossible to pay the ridiculous prices asked for them; but it must be remembered that numismatics is not the collecting of only old coins. Even in the last twenty-five years there have been many coins minted which, because of their rarity, have interested many collectors. Brass threepenny bits minted in 1946, 49 and 51; pennies minted in 1950, 51 and 53, and Scottish shillings minted in 1959 and 1961 are keenly sought after by all collectors.

The condition of a coin is a big factor when deciding whether a coin is a collectors "piece" and when buying or selling a coin. A finger print can mean the difference between the coin being graded with the top grade, fleur-de-coin (FDC) and it being classified as uncirculated (UNC); a scratch is the difference between uncirculated and extra fine. You can see from this that collectors must handle their coins very carefully especially if they still have their mint lustre. Another factor which influences the value of a coin, not just money-wise but to a collector, is the rarity of a coin, which like its condition is universally classified. The brass threepenny bit of the uncrowned King, 1937, is an example of the top grade extremely rare (R5). The lowest grade is extremely common (C5). The age of a coin does not completely determine whether it is rare or common, or it is of high value or of no value. For instance the 1797 penny of George III, about 166 years old, can be bought for about twenty five shillings if in an extra fine condition, whereas the 1951 penny of George VI, only twelve years old and in the same condition is valued at about three pounds four, if in an uncirculated condition.

With the proposed introduction of the new decimal system it seems certain that there no longer will be 240 pennies in the pound. This will end a life which began in the eighth century when Charlemagne divided one pound of silver into 240 equal parts, one part being called the novus denarius — the silver penny.

J. Powell

That Group

That group which has broken almost as many pop music records as it has made plastic discs. That group which provokes screaming and hysteria, not only by public appearances, but via the mere playing of one of their records. That group which used to play in a Liverpool night club but which now automatically tops the Hit Parade with every disc it issues. There are few teenagers in this country who cannot now distinguish John, Paul, George and Ringo. There are even fewer who dislike them, though it is said that some unconverted youths remain in this school.

Until November 1962 few people in Britain, outside the Liverpool area had heard of the Beatles, although they had Hit Parade successes in Germany earlier in the year. Since then they have had amazing record successes. All their singles issued since "Love Me Do" have reached the top. All their E.P.'s have entered the Charts and they have had an L.P. higher in the Hit Parade than any artist before them. As regards public appearances they have also been surprisingly successful, appearing at the London Palladium and the Royal Command Performance, within a year of discovery.

The sound the Beatles make is characterised by a terrific beat, being louder, often wilder, than much of the pop music of recent years. The so-called Mersey Sound has continued directly from the skiffle days which never really ended in Liverpool. People, however, are attracted to the Beatles by more than their individual sound. A music critic recently described them as being "the boy next door times four." Their biggest charm is their natural behaviour on all public appearances. They never attempt to show off for it is said that the unforgivable sin of a group on Merseyside is big-headedness. Their sense of humour is always prevalent and it belongs to them rather than to the script writer.

The main body of obsessed fans seems to be extremely young, the 10 to 15 age group, as well as the older teenagers. However, many adults, who have derided much pop music to date, appear to have developed more affection for the Beatles. Beatlemania is universal, classless, as proved by their fan mail. The "Daily Worker" has even tried to cash in by calling them the voice of the working class! When the Beatles hammer out their rhythm and scream out frantic songs, helped apparently by a never ending supply of throat sweets, anyone can join in and stamp, shout or scream. In a letter to a national newspaper a lady said that she would rather the fans screamed louder at the Beatles than scream at falling bombs as she used to do.

When their second record was issued in February 1963 the group said that their professional ambition was to get to the top and to popularise their sound. They have certainly achieved that but to what extent can they enjoy their wealth and popularity? Beatlemania has reached the stage where the four can go nowhere without being instantly recognised. Normal amusements are prac-

tically impossible. To go to the cinema, even to go for a walk, is not only dangerous for them but causes great inconvenience to others, not least to the police.

The Beatles themselves realise that there must come a time when their popularity will wane. They must already have amassed a large amount of capital in their own company and they have varied ambitions. John and Paul, the group's songwriters, aim to make songwriting their main profession eventually. They seem, by their present success, to have the talent. However, by Hit Parade Success, by excess press coverage and by extraordinary fan behaviour the group has been built up to a height from which their fall could be hard. The press, especially, is responsible for the creation of a legend which is unnecessary while the Beatles are so popular without such excess publicity. Thus has come the plea not to worship the Beatles but to regard them merely as "four bright boys who sing, bang things and make very funny jokes."

The feeling they invoke in the teenagers is quite fantastic. It can only be really understood if one has actually seen them at a public appearance. They're loud, their beat is great, their personalities do much to promote their popularity and their songs are good, for if they weren't, the Beatles, however popular they may be, would soon flop. For these reasons, and also as a result of a great deal of luck, as they would no doubt agree, they have become favoured above all other groups in this country and have become household names. No doubt reaction will eventually set in and a reversal of pop policy will result but, for a long time yet, the Beatles will be regarded as real fab gear.

A. J. Howells

A Glance at the French Educational System

by Michel A. Bilau

In these days when England is increasingly concerned with the problems of education, when the Public Schools on one hand and the Comprehensive Schools on the other, are the targets of many an attack, when the lack of good technicians and well qualified teachers is all too evident, may a foreigner "drop a word in?" I have no intention, whatsoever, of suggesting any solution, I would simply like to give an outline of the French system of education, and also of the difficulties through which it is passing. The worrying problem of the future of young people is, I think, international; which country can be quite sure to have found the ideal solution?

In France, school attendance is compulsory from six to fourteen, however the leaving age is just about to be raised to sixteen, and perhaps later to eighteen. Of course, younger children may go to school but they go to kindergartens, which are widespread in the big cities where many women go out to work and home help is more and more difficult to find. When, at four years of age, they leave the kindergarten, they may go to infant schools where they have their first taste of what SCHOOL really is. Kindergarten and infant-school attendance is by no means compulsory; it is certainly of great help to the child who will be better prepared for primary-school, but there already appears one of the biggest problems of the whole teaching system: a severe shortage of qualified teachers.

At six, all children go to a primary-school which they attend for six hours a day: three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon with a break of two hours for lunch, and this for five days a week.

It might be interesting to point out that contrary to what seems to be generally believed in this country, there is no state religion in France, and no religious instruction is given in French state schools. However, Thursday is a day off so that children can attend what would be equivalent to the English Sunday-School, if their parents so wish.

In the primary-schools, all pupils follow the same course, but when they are eleven they go their separate ways. The pupils of lesser ability or who, for some reason do not want, or cannot carry on much longer with their studies, stay in the same school and eventually sit for the "*Certificat d' Etudes Primaires*" (C.E.P.), which they take when they are fourteen. With this they may leave school, but of course they cannot expect to get a very good job with this qualification only, as year after year more students are continuing their education to obtain higher qualifications; with C.E.P. they may however, also go into a school where they will learn a trade or qualify for a job in commerce.

The boys who can stay at school longer take, at eleven, an exam which, if they pass it, enables them to enter a *Lycee* or a *College d' Enseignement General* (C.E.G.). The C.E.G. is, as a matter of fact closely connected with the primary school, but the level is of course higher, the pupils take a four year course at the end of which they sit for the "*Brevet d' Enseignement du Premier Cycle*" (B.E.P.C.). Again the pupils can then leave school if they wish, but the level of that exam, being above the C.E.P., their position will be better. They can also enter a school where they will specialize for a particular job, they can for instance try to join a Training College for Teachers (they will however only be admitted after sitting for a competitive examination, which is usually rather difficult).

In the Lycees, the course is of seven years duration, aimed at the Baccalaureat. There are two main types of Lycees: the ordinary Lycees, which are very much like grammar schools and the *Lycees Techniques*. In these Lycees, besides the general syllabus, the pupils receive special training so that they can sit for the "*Baccalaureat Technique*"; this in itself is a qualification which would enable them to obtain a good technical job e.g. fitter. The pupils may however continue their education after obtaining this certificate at an "*Ecole Specialisee*" (Technical College).

In the ordinary Lycees, the pupils have to decide at the beginning if they are going to take classical languages or not, but in fact this does not make an enormous difference in the general syllabus, which otherwise is the same for all pupils. The "*Bacc*" is taken in two parts, the pupils sit for the first one when they are seventeen and the other when they are eighteen. For the first one there are two main types of exams: with or without classical languages. For the second one there are three types of exams and as a consequence, three different courses; *Philosophie*, *Sciences Experimentales*, *Mathematiques Elementaires*. Contrary to what happens in a grammar school at "A level," there is no specialization between the first and the second part of the Bacc. Though there are three types of Bacc second part, the subjects studied are the same, none may be dropped, but of course the emphasis varies according to the form. The pupils going in for "*Philosophie*" will study philosophy and literature in greater detail, those going in for "*Sciences Experimentales*" will study biology, physics and chemistry, and those going in for "*Mathematiques Elementaires*" will study mathematics, but in all cases there is a minimum of nine compulsory subjects. Success in the "Baccalaureat" examination is a qualification for University entry, but the University is another part of the French system which has its own problems, as recent events in Paris have proved.

The French system of education with its advantages and disadvantages is now facing many difficulties and much criticism. One of the main reproaches formulated is the lack of specialization which leads to an overwhelming amount of homework in the upper forms. It has been decided recently that pupils who at eleven pass the exam allowing them to enter a C.E.G. or a Lycee, should take all subjects (ranging from Latin and Maths to woodwork) for a term at the end of which, a masters' meeting should be able to decide which course a pupil will follow. The basic idea seems good, but a severe shortage of fully-qualified teachers and of suitable buildings and equipment prevents it from taking its full effect. The French system of education which has, so far, always tried to give the pupils a culture as wide and complete as possible, has now to face the requirements of our modern world. How will it come out of the struggle? It is not yet possible to tell.

A Crystallisation

O wise men,
In technical perfection
You find life,
And all existence in a shell
Of introspective pettiness.
You balance on a delicately sharpened
Edge of chaos.
Your seed is as the sand on the seashore;
Anonymous grains
Stamped by your own blind steps,
Rubbed into easy complacence
By the pointless abrasion
Of your mutual self-conceit.

In your ironic ignorance,
A self-bestowed blessing,
Make deeper the abyss of hope
Widen your seashore, heavier the foot
Of tragically misdirected endeavour:
You might as well,
For listen to the echoes
As your call for guidance falls on the barren
Senses of a God made in your own image.

Listen in the wind, untempered spirit,
And from a pit of unscalable solitude,
A cry, fading to the insane
Heights of mortality,
For earth is reduced
To the last forgotten prisoner of circumstance,
Screaming for freedom.

No,
You cannot hear, for thought is pain.
Shout against a cliff, caring man,
Listen to the returning parody of your self;
Why, in giving light,
You are lit merely by reflection.

Why try, when men are dead?
The bare wall caves of death cannot know
Of unconceived life,
No, not yet even conceived in the womb of
Despair.
Why?
When world-weight will crush,
Not through vindictiveness,
But by the leaden load of death.
Projected by insanity
To the foot of heaven,
Or brink of hell,
Whisper,
From the echoing abyss
That is hope.

Try, till the bone-bending, mind-stilling
burden of care
Dims the thought and brings Unconcerned
Decay.

S. E. Buckley

Pearls from the Pen

"A good wing threequarter should be prepared to dive for the line
if he is Worth his place."

—Hoppers take note.

"People don't fail exams they just make mistakes."

—Encouragement to Fij and Pip.

"That small infantry warred on by craines."

—the 1st XV? (apologies to Milton).

"Women and music should never be dated".

—Rodge take note.

"What passion can no music raise."

—Newton should know.

"I like work: it fascinates me."

—Noz trying to convince himself he will be happy when he
has left.

"Its like getting blood out of a stone!"

—Attempts at conversation with UVI French set.

"Nothing is law that is not reason."

—Try telling that to the Prefects.

"Some put their trust in chariots."

—JP 5737 for example?

"Order is Heaven's first law."

—N. B. Quarter-Master.

"'Twas but the wind or the car rattling o'er the stony street."

—Mr. W...h coming to school?

Ode to a master:—

Did you know.....?

"that deep coal mines are mined at a great depth."

"the overhead sun is overhead in July."

"areas of sand give rise to sandy areas."

. You didn't? — well all of these are "obviously quite obvious!"

J. M. Dobson

Profile No. 14

Dr. E. R. Laithwaite (K.G.S. 1930-40)



There can be few men in the history of the school with such a remarkable story of success to tell as Dr. Eric Roberts Laithwaite, M.Sc., Ph.D., A.M.I.E.E., Old Boy and Governor of K.G.S. Dr. Laithwaite, Senior Lecturer in Electrical Engineering at Manchester University, has taken his amazing accomplishments well in his stride for he is a gregarious sort of chap, brilliantly humorous, with all the qualities of a kindly family man and the enthusiasm and vigour so necessary for a life as full and exciting as his.

From the very first day that K.G.S. set eyes upon him in September 1930, Eric Laithwaite has taken an enormous and prominent part in the life of our school. In his school days he excelled in both work and play. At the mere age of thirteen he took the School Certificate and two years later the Higher School Certificate, although he considers this a great disadvantage and would not recommend it to anyone. He played in the Rugby and Cricket First teams and well remembers how, in one 1st XI match against Balshaw's, he batted for one and three quarter hours, gaining four runs and turning certain defeat into a draw, and how he was dropped before the next match for ineffective batting! Eric Laithwaite captained the School through the winter of 1939-40 when evacuees from the north of Manchester were staying there

and, after gaining a Lancashire Major Scholarship, he took his leave of K.G.S., as a pupil and set out for Manchester University.

The war call-up inevitably intervened and Eric joined the Air Force, later being commissioned to the Technical Branch where he experimented with automatic pilots in Mosquito aircraft at Farnborough in 1944. Upon his release, with the rank of Flying Officer, he continued his studies at Manchester. There, once again, Eric Laithwaite excelled. In 1947 he captained the University table tennis team which won the U.A.U. Championship, and in the same year reached the last sixteen of the English Open Championships. Two years later he gained 1st Class Honours in Electrical Engineering, and began research work on the first Universal High Speed Electronic Computing Machine. In 1951 he was the Secretary of the Inaugural Conference of the same.

Then, as Assistant Lecturer in Electrical Engineering, Eric Laithwaite turned to serious research into linear induction motors, work which today involves nearly all his time. His Ph.D., soon followed and one year later, in 1957, Dr. Laithwaite took up his present position.

Such was the progress with his research that he presently began to visualize a high speed system of rail transport, and in 1959 he served on the Special Advisory Committee for Electric Traction to the British Transport Commission. His revolutionary "Monorail" invention using the linear motor for speeds of up to 200 m.p.h., without the need for any moving parts, resulted in a programme in the B.B.C. Television series "Eye on Research" and rapid development of the "Monorail" project followed. In 1960 Dr. Laithwaite was invited to give a discourse at the Royal Institution and ever since those days the snowball of success has grown. Now Dr. Laithwaite is applying his ideas to space travel, and the blueprints for the production of the High Speed Railway System are already with the British Transport Commission. He has written two books about Electrical Engineering, one of them particularly suited to Sixth Form readers.

When, in 1961, Dr. Laithwaite was given an opportunity to become a Governor of our school he accepted with delight for here was his chance to re-enter the life of K.G.S. to a degree far greater than he had ever envisaged. Dr. Laithwaite's ties with the school had always been strong throughout the 20 short years of fast flowing and exciting progress that had passed since he left K.G.S. at the age of 19, and now was the supreme reward for a man so loyal as he. His interest in our school affairs is unceasing and he is always eager to talk to the boys about his chosen career as he feels that schools know far too little about engineering careers in general. Indeed, we may say of Dr. Laithwaite that his heart is truly with us at K.G.S. and we can surely wish for nothing more.

Addendum: Since going to press, news has reached us that Dr. E. R. Laithwaite has been appointed to the Chair of Heavy Electrical Engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; a position tenable from 1st October, 1964.

K.G.S. Old Boys' Association

President: H. W. Montgomery

Vice-Presidents:—Messrs. A. Clift, Ph.D., R. Howarth, A. Howarth, F. M. Jolly, B.Sc., W. J. Loftus, J. K. Platt, B.A., J. Richardson, J. Tomlinson, J.P.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1963 A.G.M. was held at the Masonic Hall, Preston, on Friday the 13th December when thirty members were present. Mr. F. H. Jolly read the minutes of the previous meeting and the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The business of the meeting, under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. J. Davy, proceeded briskly. (Indeed, in his speech later in the evening one of our Guests marvelled that we allowed only forty five minutes for our A.G.M. whereas his Association had taken approximately three and a half hours; however, he did add the rider that a considerable amount of that time was spent in selecting the Welsh team to play the 'All Blacks'). The main item on the agenda was that the Executive Committee should be increased in number from nine to twelve members. The Committee has felt for some time that since we now have many younger members in the Association a wider age group representation would be a good thing. The motion was unanimously approved and three new Committee Members were subsequently elected.

The following Officers were elected for the coming year:

President:— H. W. Montgomery.

President-Elect:— J. F. Morse.

Hon. Secreatry:— D. R. G. Hunt,
(2, Newlands Avenue, Penwortham, Preston).

Hon. Treasurer:— J. W. Crozier.

Committee Members:—

Messrs. J. Davy (retiring President)
P. Hodgson (retiring Secretary)
F. H. Jolly
R. E. Kitchen
W. D. Molyneux
C. R. Plaster

Hon. Auditor:— J. Ward

Area Representatives:— Re-elected en bloc with the addition of Mr. H. G. Longstaff for the Liverpool district and Mr. K. Halstead for the Lytham St. Annes district.

Under 'any other business' the point was raised that we may have an improved attendance figure at the A.G.M. and Annual Dinner if the date were changed. The chairman asked for the feelings of the meeting and opinion seemed to be divided between holding the function at the end of September and the third week in December. A show of hands indicated that the former was preferred by the majority. However, since only about five per cent. of the total membership was present the matter was referred to the Executive Committee. At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Davy paid tribute to the excellent work done by Peter Hodgson during his three year term of office as Hon. Secretary and thanked him on behalf of the Association. The meeting ended at 7-15 p.m. and was followed by the Annual Dinner.

Annual Dinner

After a very pleasant meal the toast to the School was proposed by the principal Guest Mr. M. F. Wilson. Mr. Wilson is an excellent speaker, his impersonations and reminiscences amused everyone and his speech was very well received. Many present were not surprised to learn later than he holds a Diploma in public speaking. Mr. Kennedy, responding to the toast gave a summary of the progress of the school; in the academic field the results had been good but the first XV had suffered several defeats from old rivals. The original estimates for the new buildings had been increased but the Headmaster hoped to see the commencement of building operations in 1964. The toast to the Association was proposed by a member of the staff who is probably known to almost every reader of this magazine, Mr. C. K. Lee. In his address Mr. Lee mentioned that this was not the first time that he had been invited to speak to the Old Boys: he was asked to do so in 1924! His reference to 'tell us a story' raised many laughs but in more serious vein Mr. Lee said that he thought the reputation of the school is influenced more by the former pupils than by the boys attending the school; after all, one is an Old Boy for perhaps ten times as long as a pupil. The President, Mr. J. Davy, in his reply said that he had enjoyed his term of office and commented that he was the first Old Boy to be elected President to have passed the scholarship examination for admission to K.G.S. Mr. S. Crane proposed the toast to the Guests remarking that he was the fifth schoolmaster to speak that evening; however, in replying the President of St. Joseph's College Old Boys' Association pointed out that he was not a member of the teaching profession and gave an admirable response to the toast. The proceedings for the evening concluded with Mr. Davy ending his term of office as President by handing the Badge of Office to Mr. W. H. Montgomery the President for 1963-64.

News Of Old Boys

J. J. Bamber (1952-60) has gained a 'second' in P.P.E. (Oxford)

P. Bannister (1950-57) got his Ph.D. at Aberdeen University after becoming an honours B.Sc. graduate at Nottingham University. He then took up an appointment at Glasgow University as lecturer in botany and ecology.

A Dean (1949-56) Ordained Deacon in Blackburn Cathedral by the Bishop of Blackburn on Sunday, 22nd September, 1963. He is to serve in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe.

R. W. Gough (1946-52) has passed Banking Diploma examination part II but has now left banking for another job. He is married to Jean the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Matthews.

M. D. Hinchcliffe (1950-55) is in residence at Salford Royal Hospital.

J. A. Howard (1947-52) is a qualified Chartered Accountant who has lately been employed by a firm of Accountants in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. He has now returned to work in Blackpool for the firm with which he served his articles.

T. H. Kirkham (1950-57) gained his M.B., Ch.B. at Manchester University and became House Surgeon in the neuro surgical department of Manchester Royal Infirmary.

H. R. Mayor (1952-60) has gained a 'second' in P.P.E. (Oxford)

K. Millington (1947-52) has gained his Fellowship Diploma of the Association of Dispensing Opticians and has been appointed Manager of the Middlesborough branch of Theodore Hamblin Ltd.

J. Stevenson (1948-56) has gained his Ph.D. at Liverpool University and has now been awarded a N.A.T.O. research Fellowship at Trondheim University (Norway).

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If you are Technically Minded

If you have 'A' level in pure and applied mathematics and physics you may be eligible for a cadetship at Henlow, the R.A.F. Technical College. Here you train for a permanent commission in the Technical Branch and read for the Dip. Tech. which is equivalent to an honours degree.

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Boys over 15 years 8 months may apply for an R.A.F. Scholarship worth up to



£260 a year, to enable them to stay at their own school to take the necessary 'A' levels for Cranwell or Henlow. If you would like further information, write, giving your date of birth and details of education to Group Captain J. W. Allan, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., Air Ministry (SCH), Adastral House, London, W.C.1. Mention the subject that most interests you: Cranwell, Direct Entry, Henlow, or R.A.F. Scholarships. Alternatively, ask your Careers Master to arrange an informal meeting with your Schools Liaison Officer.



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