

No. 23

JULY, 1942



1549

The K. G. S. Chronicle

*Being the Official Publication
of the Kirkham Grammar School
Old Boys' Association.*



Beryl

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Dear Old Boys of K.G.S.,

The hard and strenuous days which are the lot of most of us to-day seem to cast a halo of happiness over those far-off days of boyhood. An Old Boy in training somewhere in England, but far away from K.G.S., wrote to tell me how the sight of a field surrounded by trees suddenly surprised him with a flood of memories—memories of another field with a pavilion in one corner, and there came back to him “the thought of Sports Day, cricket season, rugby above all things, faces, the masters, incidents, snatches of conversation, routine.” I suppose this experience comes to many, in many parts of the world, in the desert, on the seven seas, in prison camps, in the heights of heaven, and in the depths of ocean. Never before have the Old Boys of K.G.S. been so scattered or engaged upon such perilous and important work.

I have so many letters which tell me how precious are the memories of the old school. The further we roam the dearer it becomes. Last year's *Chronicle* appeared to be exceptionally welcome for this very reason. I would therefore send to you whose affectionate thoughts come to us, the message that ours continually go forth to you, that we too recall what you did in classroom and field. The old familiar round still goes on. You would still find us as you knew us. Many familiar faces are missing, for seven of our masters are on active service, but the bell still rings at the appointed time, the same old round of lessons goes on, cricket and rugby continue energetically as ever. Houses

strive with the old zeal to excel. The swimming baths are as popular as of old, and the approach of School Certificate and other examinations brings a sudden feverish enthusiasm for work.

One or two things you would find new. You might see a very promising Cadet Unit at their drill and training, or a party of boys practising life-saving.

In this world of change and chaos you would still find here unchanged the things that were and are precious to you. We have so far kept our promise to you to maintain the spirit and tradition of K.G.S.

We think of your courage and pluck, your endurance and your cheerfulness, and when we meet each day as you used to do in the Assembly Hall for our daily prayers—we remember you.

Mrs. Strange and I send to you our most affectionate good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

CRESSWELL STRANGE.

School Notes.

The number of boys in the School (Summer, 1942) was 269, divided among the Houses as follows: Preston 71, Fylde 60, School House 51, Kirkham 48, Lytham 39.

EXAMINATION RESULTS, JULY 1941.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE :

W. L. Ainsworth, G. L. K. Beard, S. J. Chambers, B. R. Kirby, J. B. Langtree, G. D. Wilkin, E. M. Willacy.

SUBSIDIARY SUBJECTS :

R. G. Tomlinson passed 4 subjects.
E. Howarth passed 3 subjects.
D. Duerden passed 2 subjects.
A. Clift passed 2 subjects.

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE :

R. Burton, V. Coupe, D. C. Crabtree, B. Gastrell, J. R. Gill, P. A. Greenhalgh, H. Hopley, H. Kirby, R. W. Kirby, G. W. Lawson, J. Rigby, A. B. Roberts, C. W. Roberts, F. Sanderson, R. B. Sedgwick, S. C. Sedgwick, D. R. W. Smith, N. Swift, E. L. G. Wilkinson, R. H. Williams, J. Worthington.

DECEMBER, 1941 :

E. Parr.

Since our last issue Mr. J. W. Saunders and Mr. J. L. Graham have gone on active service. Their places are being taken by the Rev. C. Fielding Smith and Mr. W. N. Simm.

During Kirkham and Fylde Warships Week, March 14th to 21st, 1942, K.G.S. Savings Association received sums amounting to £4,383 5s. 10d. Thus in the War Weapons Week and the Warships Week K.G.S. raised the remarkable total of £10,003 10s. 10d.

A Unit of the Army Cadet Force has been formed at K.G.S., and is doing excellent work. Mr. Hughes is in command and Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Williams are Platoon Commanders.

Mr. J. E. Bullough has kindly presented a silver Challenge Cup for the Junior Swimming Championship.

Prize Day on July 29th will be restricted by war conditions. It will not be possible to provide tea, and no formal invitations are being issued. It is hoped that parents will be well represented, and Old Boys who can come will be very welcome.

The Rev. A. H. Candler, B.A., Vicar of Kirkham, has promised to present the prizes.

Cricket, 1941.

FIRST ELEVEN: SUMMARY OF MATCHES.

Played 13; won 7; drawn 2; lost 4.

2ND ELEVEN:

Played 6; won 3; drawn 0; lost 3.

RESULTS OF FIRST XI MATCHES.

Date	Opponents	Ground	Runs		Result
			For	Agst.	
May 28	Arnold School	.....Away	117 for 5	80	Won
" 31	Stonyhurst College				
	2nd XI	.....Away	55	89 for 6	Lost
June 4	King George V School				
	Southport	.....Home	64	73 for 9	Lost
" 7	Balshaw's G.S.	.....Away	81 for 4	104	Draw
" 11	Rossall 2nd XI	.....Home	126	48	Won
" 21	Preston G.S.	.....Home	132	31	Won
" 25	Blackpool G.S.	.....Away	59	95	Lost
" 28	Baines's G.S.	.....Away	53	39	Won
July 2	Blackpool G.S.	.....Home	138	58 for 9	Draw
" 5	Preston G.S.	.....Away	105 for 4	100	Won
" 12	Balshaw's G.S.	.....Home	139	94	Won
" 16	Arnold School	.....Home	125	29	Won
" 19	Old Boys' XI	.....Home	55	63	Lost

The leading First XI Averages were :

BATTING.

	<i>No. of Innings</i>	<i>Times Not Out</i>	<i>Highest Score</i>	<i>Total Runs</i>	<i>Average</i>
E. M. Willacy	12	1	59*	177	16.1
B. R. Kirby ...	11	1	25	147	14.7
G. D. Wilkin ...	13	2	49	160	14.5
H. Kirby	13	0	41	151	11.6
G. V. Swarbrick	9	6	19*	35	11.6
J. B. Langtree	12	2	35*	105	10.5

BOWLING.

	<i>Overs</i>	<i>Maidens</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Average</i>
G. V. Swarbrick	92.5	28	157	26	6.038
D. W. Ruddock	130.4	33	271	43	6.302
J. B. Langtree	143	44	282	35	8.057

The Awards were :

Mr. J. H. S. Matthews' bat for Batting—

E. M. Willacy ; average 16.1.

Mr. G. Taylor's bat for Bowling—

D. W. Ruddock ; average 6.302.

COLOURS.

First XI Colours :

Re-awarded—J. B. Langtree, E. M. Willacy.

Awarded for first time to D. W. Ruddock, H. Kirby.

XX Caps :

Re-awarded—G. D. Wilkin, G. V. Swarbrick, D. R. W. Smith, J. Rigby.

Awarded for first time to B. R. Kirby, J. A. Curwen, A. B. Roberts, A. Myerscough, R. S. Clark, A. F. Pickles, S. Shuttleworth, V. Coupe and V. F. Gibbs.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS.

Senior Winners : The Preston House.

Scores in Final :	Preston House	...	132.
	School House	...	39 and 52.

Junior Winners : The Kirkham House.

Scores in Final :	Kirkham House	...	48 and 107 for
			5 (dec.)
	School House	...	76 and 35.

Swimming, 1941.

The number of boys able to swim at the end of the season was 232—a record. The House Championship was won by the Kirkham House, the Open by E. M. Willacy and V. Coupe, and the Junior by D. C. Crabtree. A feature of the swimming season was the great success in life-saving training; seventy awards of the Royal Life-Saving Society were won by the School.

THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP.

<i>House</i>			<i>Points</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Relay</i>	<i>Total</i>
Kirkham	...	...	223/255	87	30	117
School	...	...	222/255	87	15	102
Lytham	...	...	189/210	90	10	100
Fylde	...	...	196/300	65	20	85
Preston	...	...	195/295	66	5	71

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.

50 yards Free Style Open :

1—E. M. Willacy. 2—V. Coupe. 3—G. G. Thompson. Time 36½ secs.

50 yards Back Stroke Open :

1—E. M. Willacy. 2—V. Coupe. 3—A. B. Roberts. Time, 46½ secs.

50 yards Breast Stroke Open :

1—A. B. Roberts. 2—G. G. Thompson. 3—R. Almond. Time, $42\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

100 yards Free Style Open :

1—E. Parr. 2—V. Coupe. 3—S. Shuttleworth. Time, 1 min. 24½ secs.

Rugby Football, 1941-42.

The number of matches played was fewer than usual, owing to transport difficulties.

We had a very sound team, capably led by A. B. Roberts. We beat Sedbergh 3rd XV for the first time in our Rugger history.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES.

					<i>Points</i>	
	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Agst.</i>
First XV	... 11	8	0	3	325	103
A XV	... 1	1	0	0	15	3

DETAILS OF FIRST XV MATCHES.

			<i>Points</i>		<i>Result</i>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Agst.</i>	
Oct. 11	Sedbergh 3rd XV	Home ...	39 ...	6 ...	Won
„ 22	Lancaster R.G.S.	Home ...	8 ...	21 ...	Lost
„ 25	Arnold School	Away ...	3 ...	14 ...	Lost
„ 29	Balshaw's G.S.	Home ...	59 ...	8 ...	Won
Nov. 5	Blackpool G.S.	Home ...	33 ...	6 ...	Won
„ 8	The Old Boys	Home ...	27 ...	0 ...	Won
„ 12	Stonyhurst 2nd XV	Home ...	14 ...	23 ...	Lost
„ 15	Balshaw's G.S.	Away ...	10 ...	9 ...	Won
„ 19	Rossall A XV	Home ...	54 ...	10 ...	Won
„ 26	Blackpool G.S.	Away ...	27 ...	6 ...	Won
„ 29	Arnold School	Home ...	51 ...	0 ...	Won

AWARDS.

HONOURS CAPS—

Re-awarded to A. B. Roberts.

Awarded for first time to J. Rigby, R. G. Tomlinson
P. Jackson, B. R. Kirby, V. Gibbs and G. V.
Swarbrick.

FIRST XV COLOURS—

Re-awarded to A. B. Roberts, J. Rigby, R. G.
Tomlinson, P. Jackson, B. R. Kirby, V. Gibbs,
G. V. Swarbrick, and K. Rich.

Awarded for first time to J. Martindale, A. F. Pickles,
R. S. Clark, J. Jackson, W. H. H. Carr, D. Ruddock,
and A. Clift.

Honours Caps were generously presented by Mrs.
Penney, W. Bond, and the Headmaster.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS.

Senior Winners	...	The Fylde House.
Runners-up	...	The School House.
Junior Winners	...	The Lytham House.
Runners-up	...	The Kirkham House.

K.G.S. Harriers, 1942.

RESULTS.

March 11th, 1942.—K.G.S. v. Blackpool G.S., at Kirkham.
K.G.S. won.

K.G.S.	...	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9	...	33 Points
Blackpool	...	3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14	...	49 ..

March 18th, 1942.—K.G.S. v. Blackpool G.S. at Blackpool.
K.G.S. won.

K.G.S.	...	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	...	38 Points
Blackpool	...	1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 13	...	43 ..

March 28th, 1942.—K.G.S. v. Kirkham R.A.F. K.G.S.
won.

K.G.S.	...	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	...	26 Points
R.A.F.	...	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	...	62 ..

AWARDS.

Re-award of Colours to R. G. Tomlinson, G. V. Swarbrick,
P. Jackson and S. D. Whitehurst.

New Award of Colours to I. Haresnape, H. Carr, D. W.
Ruddock and J. F. Sims.

Inter-School Athletic Contest.

At Blackpool G.S. Ground, May 6th, 1942.

RESULT.

			<i>Points</i>
1.	Lancaster R.G.S.	... ..	22½
2.	Rossall	... ..	22
3.	Blackpool	... ..	18
4.	K.G.S.	... ..	14½
5.	Baines G.S.	... ..	10
6.	Barrow G.S.	... ..	8
7.	St. Joseph's College	... ..	4
8.	Arnold School	... ..	1

K.G.S, points were made up as follows :

	<i>Points</i>	<i>Position</i>
R. G. Tomlinson—¼-mile	3	2
G. Swarbrick—¼-mile	3	2
R. S. Clark—High Jump	2	3
D. Ruddock—Long Jump	2	3
C. Ravenhill—100 yards	1½	(equal) 3
P. Jackson—1 mile	1	4
P. Jackson—Weight	1	4
Relay Team (R. S. Clark, I. Haresnape, D. Ruddock, R. G. Tomlinson)	1	4

Prize Day, 1941.

Prize Day was held on July 30th. Although war-time conditions restricted the usual festive nature of the proceedings, yet a good gathering of boys and their parents filled the Hall and spent a happy afternoon. The Headmaster presented his 22nd Annual Report on the work and progress of the School.

The prizes were presented by the Chairman of the Governors, the Rev. E. F. Stoney, M.A., Vicar of Lund. His lively wit was enjoyed by an appreciative audience. He said it was 55 years since he first attended Kirkham Grammar School.

Speaking of education, Mr. Stoney said that many parents looked on education as something which gave their sons an opportunity of getting a position another boy might not get, to give him a good start in the race of life, and to enable him to earn a higher salary. Education was not given to them so they could make a living, but so they could live. Its main purpose was not the making of money but the making of men. He urged parents to join with the masters and the School in developing the boys' characters.

Old Boys.

Congratulations to :

- S. Turner (1928-34) on passing the Final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.
- J. L. Roscoe (1926-34) on being appointed to a position in Nigeria in the Colonial Service.
- W. J. Roberts (1933-39), R.A.F., on being awarded the prize for obtaining the second highest marks in Educational Subjects at his final passing-out examination at Cranwell in October, 1941.
- N. Jackson (1933-39) on gaining Second Class Honours in the final examination for the degree of B.Sc., at the University of Birmingham.
- H. C. Walker (1933-38) on gaining the Qualifying Certificate for Second Officer in the Royal Mercantile Marine.

Lt.-Col. J. Butler Porter has sent a most interesting account of how he and his battalion of South African Infantry captured Bardia on January 2nd. "We went in with the bayonet, getting our objective, which overlooked Bardia, and taking 500 prisoners. The next morning at dawn a battalion of infantry and a battery of guns, all Germans, surrendered. At about 7 a.m. the flag of surrender was observed, and I went out and brought in the emissaries myself, taking them through to Division. I then returned to the Bardia fortress, released our own men who were prisoners there (1,200), picked up the German General

and Italian Commander, and so we got the thrill of taking the first German General to surrender to the Allies in this war."

Colonel Porter also sent some most interesting snapshots, and a captured Italian medal for the School museum. This, he explains, is Mussolini's medal to his armoured division to commemorate their crossing the Egyptian border. This particular medal has never been issued, but was captured with other stores.

Service Distinction.

The George Cross has been awarded posthumously to Albert Matthew Osborne, who was at K.G.S. 1919-22. The official report says :

During a number of fierce enemy air attacks on Malta, Leading Aircraftman Osborne displayed unsurpassed courage and devotion to duty in circumstances of great danger and emergency, whether in fire-fighting or rescue work.

The following are examples :

Rendered safe the torpedo of a burning aircraft, working for ten minutes within three feet of the main danger of explosion.

Extinguished fire in burning aircraft during heavy bombing attack.

Attempted to save burning aircraft. Subsequently removed torpedoes from the vicinity.

Assisted in saving the pilot of a burning aircraft and then extinguished the fire.

Saved number of aircraft from destruction by fire.

Attempted for six hours to extricate airman from damaged shelter, despite fire and danger from falling stonework.

Fought fire in two aircraft, saving one.

Freed parachute of burning flare caught in aircraft, enabling pilot to taxi clear.

Checked fire in burning aircraft, the greater part of which was thus not damaged.

The last three incidents occurred on the same day.

He was killed on April 2nd, 1942. During an intense attack he led a party to extinguish flames on burning aircraft. The petrol tank exploded and he was injured, but he returned to fight the fire, and was killed by the explosion of an air vessel in a torpedo while attempting to pour water over torpedoes which were in danger of exploding.

Marriages.

LANG—URQUHART.—On July 19th, 1941, at Christ Church, Leyton, J. Alec Lang (1925-34) to Jessie Margaret Urquhart of Leytonstone, Essex.

WILKINSON—FOX.—On June 25th, 1941, at St. Annes Parish Church, Norman John Wilkinson (1931-34) to Elsie Fox of St. Annes-on-Sea.

MATTHEWS—PRIOR.—On August 25th, 1941, at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, London, W.C.1., John Ross Matthews (1925-34) to Nancy Elizabeth Valentine Prior of Woodford, Essex.

TOMLINSON—MORPHET.—On June 13th, 1942, at Lund Church, Henry Armstrong Tomlinson (1922-27) to Grace Morphet of Salwick and New Longton.

SALISBURY—CARTER.—On July 13th, 1942, at Kirkham Parish Church, Leslie Richard Salisbury (1927-31) to Phyllis Carter of Kirkham.

Obituary.

We deeply regret the death of the following Old Boy :

B. HARGREAVES, of Kirkham, on November 12th, 1941, who was at School 1875-1883.

Roll of Honour.

We record with deep regret the names of those who have fallen in the service of their country. K.G.S. holds in high and revered honour those who have made this supreme sacrifice: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

June 17th, 1940.	Harold Edwards (1929-36). R.E.
Aug. 28th, 1940.	Francis Joseph Rosbotham (1927-31). R.A.F.
Jan. 10th, 1941.	John Olive (1929-33). R.A.F.
March, 1941.	Jack Butterworth Clarke (1932-36). R.A.F.
April, 1941.	George Allanson (1931-35). R.A.F.
May, 1941.	Norman King (1932-37). R.N.V.R.
Sept. 30th, 1941.	Sydney Moore Ramsden (1928-34). R.A.
Dec., 1941.	Kenneth Willacy (1932-37). R.N.V.R.
Dec., 1941.	George Herbert Desmond Dawson (1929-35). R.A.F.
Jan. 15th, 1942.	Eric Twelves (1929-35). R.A.F.
Jan. 28th, 1942.	Robert William Anthony Biddlecombe. (1936-38). R.A.F.
April 2nd, 1942.	Albert Matthew Osborne (1919-22). R.A.F.
June 30th, 1942.	Frank Johnston Rigby (1924-32). R.A.F.
July 3rd, 1942.	Arthur Harris (1929-33). R.A.C.

Prisoners of War.

We give below the addresses of three Old Boys who are prisoners of war. They write with brave cheerfulness, but not doubt they would welcome letters from old school friends.

H. Greenway,

British Interned Civilian, No. 110,

Ilag VIII Tost,

Bei Gleiwitz,

Silesia, Germany.

Pilot Officer W. Twist,
No. 39262,
Stalag IX C.,
Duleg A,
Germany.

Sergt. J. L. Ledsham,
Prisoner of War No. 24502,
Stalag VIII B.,
Germany.

News is anxiously awaited of R. Broughton and F. J. Coleman, who are believed to have been at Singapore at the time of the capitulation ; of M. J. Butler, missing in Malaya ; of J. Wright, who is reported missing at sea ; and of D. Unsworth, missing from operational flight on February 27th, 1942.

Mr. R. C. Dickson.

K.G.S. suffered the loss of a good and kind friend by the death of Mr. R. C. Dickson, on May 5th, 1942.

In 1915 Mr. Dickson succeeded his father, the late Mr. W. J. Dickson, as Secretary to the Governors, a position which he held to the time of his death.

Mr. Dickson presented to the School in 1938 the sword of Lieut. W. R. Buck, an Old Boy who was killed at the battle of Waterloo. He has also been the donor for some years of Prizes for English.

The Governors have appointed as his successor Mr. T. L. Child, who was Mr. Dickson's partner.

Athletic Sports, May 20th, 1942.

PRINCIPAL RESULTS.

Victor Ludorum	...	R. G. Tomlinson, 44 points.
Junior Champion	...	C. McNamara, 29 points.
Champion House	...	Fylde, 148 points.
Cross Country	...	Preston House.
Junior Cross Country	...	Fylde House.

OPEN EVENTS.

1 mile	...	R. G. Tomlinson	...	5 mins. 17½ sec.
Putting the Weight		P. Jackson	...	35 feet
100 yards	...	C. Ravenhill	...	10½ sec.
Long Jump	...	R. S. Clark	...	19 ft. 4½ in. (record)
Quarter-mile	...	R. G. Tomlinson	...	55½ sec. (record)
High Jump	...	V. Gibbs	...	5 feet
220 yards	...	C. Ravenhill	...	24½ sec.
Throwing the Discus		P. Jackson	...	99 ft. 9 ins.
120 yards Hurdles		P. Jackson	...	17 sec.
Half-mile	...	R. G. Tomlinson	...	2 min. 9 sec. (record)

JUNIOR EVENTS.

One mile	...	J. F. Sims	...	5 min. 40 secs.
100 yards	...	C. McNamara	...	11½ secs.
220 yards	...	C. McNamara	...	25½ secs. (record)
High Jump	...	J. F. Sims	...	4 ft. 5 ins.
Long Jump	...	C. McNamara	...	16 ft. 4½ ins. (record)
Quarter-mile	...	C. McNamara	...	60½ secs. (record)
120 yards Hurdles		J. F. Sims	...	19½ secs.

New Members.

Beard, G. L. K. (1932-41), 24 Lawson's Road, Thornton, Blackpool.

Bowyer, A. (1937-41), 21 Crosby Road, St. Annes-on-Sea.

*Chambers, S. J. (1934-41), 24 Stanley Road, Marton Moss, Blackpool.

*Crabtree, D. C. (1936-41), Breeze Mount, Cross Lane, Hebden Bridge.

Duerden, D. (1936-41), 42 St. Annes Road W., St. Annes-on-Sea.

France, C. W. (1937-41), 40 Park Road, St. Annes-on-Sea.

Gill, J. R. (1936-42), 6 Lightburne Avenue, St. Annes-on-Sea.

Hill, G. P. (1935-41), Bollinworth, 5 Atherton Road, Fulwood, near Preston.

*Kirby, H. (1936-41), Refuge Farm, Clitheroe Lane, Freckleton, near Preston.

Kirby, R. W. (1936-41), 42 Poulton Street, Kirkham.

- Langtree, J. B. (1934-41), Colwyn, Aldwých Drive, Ashton, Preston.
- Lawson, G. W. (1936-42), Stanley House Farm, Weeton, near Blackpool.
- Myerscough, A. (1936-41), 7 Ribby Avenue, Kirkham.
- *Parr, E. (1936-41), Burns House, Inskip, near Preston.
- *Preston, W., Jnr. (1922-26), 163 Addison Road, Preston.
- Richardson, W. (1938-42), Summerer Farm, Singleton, near Blackpool.
- *Riley, D. M. (1937-41), 53a Richmond Hill Street, Accrington.
- Rigby, J. (1936-41), 30 Preston Road, Freckleton, near Preston.
- *Sedgwick, S. C. (1936-41), 62 Preston Old Road, Freckleton, near Preston.
- *Sedgwick, R. B. (1936-41), 2 Clarkes Terrace, Freckleton, near Preston.
- Smith, D. R. W. (1932-41), 209 Green Lane, Bolton.
- Wilkin, G. D. (1933-41), Kimbark, Dow Bridge, Kirkham.
- *Willacy, E. M. (1933-41), North View, Kirkham.
- Worthington, J. (1936-41), Riversleigh, Bush Lane, Freckleton, near Preston.

* Denotes Life Member.

NOTE.—Each Association year closes October 31st. After this date will members kindly send their subscription (5/-) to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Rigby, Kirkham, Preston.

Those desirous of becoming Life Members please write to the Hon. Secretary, who will at once state the amount due.

The Association Blazer Badge can only be purchased from The Grand Clothing Hall, 83 Fishergate, Preston, where all particulars may be obtained.

The K.G.S. Old Boys' Association Ties are 2/6 each (one coupon), post free, from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Rigby, Kirkham, Preston.