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The Kirkhamian



MARCH, 1957

VOLUME II NUMBER 7

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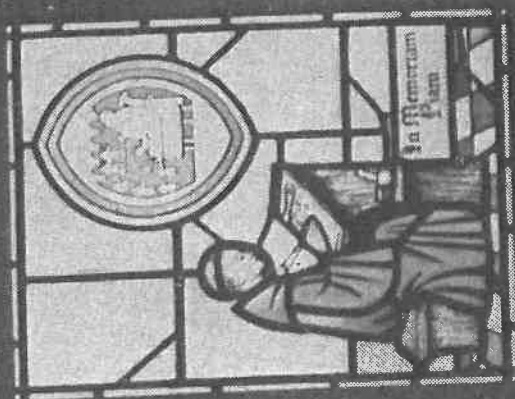
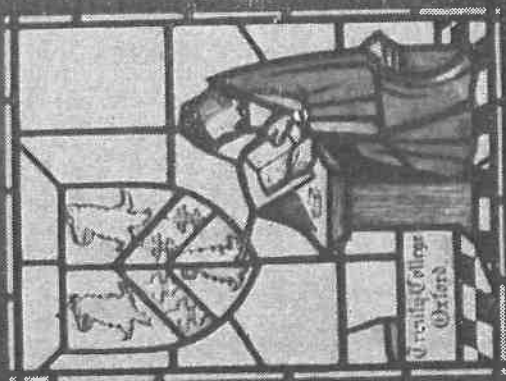
THE KIRKHAMIAN

Volume II, No. 7.

March, 1957

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	279
SCHOOL EVENTS:							
(i) Cresswell Strange Memorial Window	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
(ii) Carol Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
(iii) Arnold Gastrell Obituary	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
CONTRIBUTIONS:							
(i) Aufenthalt in Deutschland	...	...	...	...	...	...	285
(ii) It Could Happen to You	...	...	...	...	...	...	286
(iii) Stratford, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
(iv) Rugby Football: A Comparison	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
(v) A Modern Poem	...	...	...	...	...	...	292
"SOCIETY" CHATTER	...	...	...	...	...	...	293
FORM REPORTS	...	...	...	...	...	...	297
THE HOUSES	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
SPORT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:							
(i) Cricket	...	...	...	...	...	...	306
(ii) C.C.F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
(iii) Swimming	...	...	...	...	...	...	309
FRIENDS OF KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL	...	...	...	...	...	...	313
OLD BOYS' SECTION	...	...	...	...	...	...	315



Farewell — and Hail !

Editor: W. J. P. Grime

One always wonders what to write for an editorial. Should it take the form of an exhortation to duty or a description of recent school life, or should we just tell you which good book we were reading last week? In the the end we do none of these. We just sit down, pen in hand, and let the ideas flow into our receptive mind.

We have recently had to wave a sorrowful goodbye to Alan Dean who was secretary of the magazine committee, and was, we must say (if we wish to remain alive), an absolute marvel in his job. In his hands the minutes of the magazine committee were a wonder to behold. Unfortunately, however, he became so attached to them that he took the minute book with him when he left. Nevertheless they were a wonderful sight, even though we may never view them again.

APOLOGY.

A record number of contributions have been offered for inclusion in this issue. Unfortunately, pressure of space has resulted in some articles being drastically cut or omitted. We would like to apologise to those contributors whose essays have been treated in this fashion and would like to express the hope that this unhappy contingency will not deter them from contributing to the "Kirkhamian" in the future.

The Cresswell-Strange Memorial Window (opposite)

The window, which follows the pattern set by the Canon Mitton Memorial Window, shows in the left panel the coat-of-arms of Uppingham School and in the right those of Trinity College, Oxford, which were Mr. Strange's school and college. The centre panel of course depicts the coat-of-arms of K.G.S.—which Mr. Strange was instrumental in obtaining

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The Cresswell-Strange Memorial Window

Soon after the death of Mr. Strange in 1952 the Old Boys Association set up a committee to collect funds for a memorial to a much beloved Headmaster. Eventually, when the fund was closed, it was decided that the memorial should take the form of: firstly, a stained-glass window on the North side of the Library; secondly, a framed photograph to hang in the Hall; and thirdly, if funds allowed, the endowment of an annual prize to be awarded on Speech Day. The first and second of these aims were fulfilled on the evening of Friday, 5th October, 1956, when, after a simple yet beautiful service, Mr. T. L. C. Strange unveiled the window which is illustrated in this issue of "The Kirkhamian."

Before a gathering of perhaps 80 Old Boys and friends, Mr. Norwood began by outlining the steps which had been taken towards the erection of the window and by paying his tribute to the memory of his predecessor. Then Mr. James Tomlinson, on behalf of all Old Boys, very movingly spoke as follows:—

"I appreciate the fact that I speak on behalf of thousands of K.G.S. Old Boys who passed through the School during the headship of Mr. Strange. This fact alone is sufficient reason for me to feel very humble as well as somewhat anxious that I should try to voice the sentiments of Old Boys in general and not my own particular thoughts. Yet, my experiences here could not have been very much different in the main to those remembered happily by so many.

Although Mr. Strange had taught at K.G.S. prior to the first world war my own recollections start from the time he came here to help generally in the teaching and management of the School, shortly after the death of Mr. Walton. I well remember the reactions in School House when we heard that Mr. Strange had been appointed Headmaster. We were all glad he was coming here, for in the short while we had known him he had earned our respect and esteem. Just as the country as a whole was trying to found a new era following a major conflict, so K.G.S. under the excellent leadership of Mr. Strange began to re-organise and equip for the future. Through this trying period, and indeed throughout his whole career, Mr. Strange had the unfailing support of Mrs. Strange whom we all loved and respected.

New names appeared on the Staff rota, Messrs. Barton, Williams, Hughes Budden and Smith added to Mr. Simmons and the Rev. A. Bean, Vicar of Wrea Green. The length of time most of these gentlemen stayed at K.G.S. and were accepted by all Old Boys as part of the establishment was sufficient proof of the happiness which abounded here.

This happy concern for every Old Boy persisted throughout the years. Anyone visiting the School either with or without warning was made to feel that both Mr. and Mrs. Strange had been anxious

to see him especially and to learn of his successes and difficulties. One's appreciation could only increase as the years passed and evidence of this continued concern for all the boys persisted and increased.

Meanwhile other names appeared on the Staff, Harding, Stevenson, Middleton, Lee, Crane, Saunders and others, some of whom are with us this evening.

In addition to his work here, Mr. Strange for many years took a great part in local government, somehow finding time to serve as a Councillor and Chairman of the Urban District of Kirkham. His willingness and great ability must have been of great assistance to those with whom he worked. The coming of World War 2 revealed by his knowledge of the achievements and whereabouts of Old Boys his keen interest and concern on their behalf.

When the time came for Mr. and Mrs. Strange to leave the school one sensed that they left quite happily, conscious of the fact that their record at K.G.S. was one of which they could be justly proud and the knowledge that in handing their charge to Mr. and Mrs. Norwood all was well with the school.

In his last visit to the school when he had left Mrs. Strange in hospital and came to K.G.S. to unveil the War Memorial, we saw and heard anew his love for the school and all it stood for. His intimate knowledge of the character of the Old Boys he honoured was more than proof of the affection he had in his heart for each of them. We know too the manner of his passing, so soon to be followed by that of his dear wife, and knowing both we feel that they would have wished this to be.

Today we pay tribute to the memory of one we have been proud to respect and obey; one who in character and by example has shewn the way to good and honourable citizenship. We the Old Boys are happy to associate ourselves in this practical expression of the esteem and regard in which the Rev. Cresswell Strange was held by all who knew him, at the same time pledging our support to the School and all he held so dear".

After a hymn and prayers the Act of Dedication was fittingly performed by the Rev. A. R. Allen, M.A. (1910-1917), Chairman of the Governors of K.G.S.

When designing this window a very happy thought on the part of Mr. Norwood has been the inclusion in the bottom right-hand corner of the Bear and Ragged Staff, the arms of the Warwickshire C.C.C., which, as all who knew Mr. Strange will witness, almost equalled K.G.S. in his affections. When permission was sought from Warwickshire to include this coat-of-arms the president of the club spoke most highly of the love and interest which Mr. Strange had for the club and of the great affection and esteem in which he was held by all at Edgbaston. The extremely life-like photograph of Mr. Strange will balance that of Mr. Walton in the Hall and it is hoped that the first Cresswell Strange Memorial Prize will be awarded on Speech Day, 1957.

Carol Service, 1956

The School's Annual Carol Service was held on Friday, December the 14th, at the Parish Church of St. Michael. On a particularly wintry afternoon the school was shepherded down to the church, there to sing carols both old and new with a gusto which not even the inclement weather could dampen. The school must have felt particularly pleased to see so many visitors at this, the winter term's main event. To the "regulars" and to those who were attending this function for the first time, the school would like to put on record its deepest thanks for such staunch support without which no organised school occasion such as this could possibly be described as a success.

The organist, Mr. J. Murray, brought his voluntary to an end with "Pastoral Symphony" from the "Messiah". At the entrance of the Headmaster and officiating clergyman, the Rev. W. A. P. Francis, vicar of St. Michael's, all stood and the service began as it has done for many years with the quiet strains of the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City" sung by the Cantoris trebles. All choir trebles sang the second verse, full choir third verse, and final verses by all.

A moment of silence followed this carol as the congregation was bidden to prayer and the Lord's Prayer said. The choir went on to sing the second carol and its first solo carol, "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" in which A. R. Baines sang the solo second verse.

The choir seated, the first of the Nine Lessons was read by R. H. Wood. This was followed by the carol, "Angels from the Realms of Glory," in which both congregation and choir were called upon to sing. A. J. Williams took his place at the lectern to read the second lesson. Then followed the carol "Ding dong, Merrily on High" in which choral verses were followed by a full chorus of "Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis." W. A. Coward then read the third lesson, which was followed by the singing of a carol new to the normal order of service, "All my heart this night rejoices."

After the fourth lesson, which was read by D. T. Bowe, the carol "I Saw Three Ships" was sung. The fifth lesson, which followed, was read by the School Captain, A. R. Baines, and then came the singing of the Magnificat which this year was sung by all to a chant by Robert Crook, using the pointing from the Parish Psalter.

The sixth lesson followed, read by an old boy of the School, J. C. Renshaw, after which four boys from the junior forms sang "Away in a Manger." The boys were M. T. Hill (solo, second verse), C. D. Robertson, G. Wellens, and R. H. Wood. The seventh lesson was read by Mr. J. R. Bennet, Chairman of the "Friends of Kirkham Grammar School" Association, which is in so many ways, both great and small, helping the School. The carol which followed was also a new addition to the Order of Service and was

sung by the choir alone. It was called "Ye Shepherds, leave your flocks upon the Mountains." The deputy Headmaster, Mr. B. Stevenson, read the eighth lesson and then a third new carol, "Rejoice and be merry," was sung by the choir.

All the people stood for the ninth and final lesson which was read by the Headmaster, Mr. D. Norwood. The final carol, the ever popular "O come, all ye faithful," brought the singing to a close. After a prayer — the Collect for Christmas Eve — the Blessing was pronounced by the Rev. W. A. P. Francis, and the service brought to a close.

Arnold Gastrell (1910-1911)

We regret to record the death in August, 1956, of Arnold Gastrell, an Old Boy and Governor of K.G.S., and the Managing Director of a subsidiary company of Messrs. Tootal, Ltd., Manchester.

K.G.S. has lost as staunch a friend and as wise a Counsellor as it ever had. He was never tired of expressing his gratitude to the School, and provided ample evidence of his appreciation by the support he gave to the activities of the Old Boys' Association and, later, by his regular attendance at the Meetings of the Governors of the School, even though each meeting involved him in a journey of 80 or 90 miles.

It was on 20th June, 1941, when another Old Boy of K.G.S., Rev. E. F. Stoney was its Chairman, that Arnold Gastrell was elected to the Board. Almost exactly seven years later he became its Vice-Chairman. Apart from the year 1953-54, he held this office until his death.

Those who were privileged to meet him both in his lovely home and garden and also at his place of business could not fail to be greatly impressed by the atmosphere he created. It was a tonic to be with him in his family circle, and an inspiration to feel the friendly relationship which he had established with those with whom he worked.

Some years prior to his death, he had survived a very serious illness, but it was humanly impossible to restrain his natural energy and enthusiasm for both his work and the many other acts of service which he performed. His decision to resume the Vice-Chairmanship at K.G.S. after the year's break was only typical of his general attitude.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. To them we express our deepest sympathies, and to Mrs. Gastrell our great gratitude for so generously giving to the School, in his memory, a Coronation lectern Bible. For generations to come it will remind us of one to whom the School meant so much, and from whom it derived such valued inspiration.

Travellers' Tales

AUFENTHALT IN DEUTSCHLAND

Having decided, during the course of the year, to honour the people of Germany with my company, I might have been seen shortly after the start of the last summer holidays making slow progress via British Railways to the South Coast, there to embark on some good ship bound for Ostend. The sea-crossing was uneventful and on arrival at Ostend we were given time to regain our "land legs" in walking the mile or so to the Customs shed. In due course we reached the Belgian frontier an hour ahead of schedule — so early in fact that to while away the time customs officials went round opening everybody's cases and prying into all their contents. My travelling companion, a young Indian, had to empty the entire contents of his case on to the table in front of him, while the official looked suspiciously on. At the German post a mile further on, he had to do it again, for the only German word he knew was that for "coffee"!

My destination was the old university town of Mainz which I reached at one o'clock in the morning to be met by a friend whose rather bohemian appearance, reminded one of the more colourful residents of the Latin Quarter in Paris. The following morning we left Mainz for Niederhochstadt, the native village of my friend.

Niederhochstadt, either picturesque or ancient, according to individual fancy cannot have been much different in the Middle Ages. The town's only concession to modernity is an excellent street-lighting system.

The house where I stayed had been a country inn two hundred years' ago, being transformed into a private house by my friend's great, great, great, great grandfather. True to tradition it had its own ghost (although I must say it never disturbed me at night). Living further down the road were two uncles of my friend, both of whom had lived a large part of their lives in America, where one of them was reputed to have become a millionaire. When he came back to Germany he invested his money in houses in Mannheim, and lost it during the war, leaving him with only the ground rents.

A most remarkable fact was the extreme diligence and hard working nature of everyone in the village. Most of the villagers were farmers and it was quite customary for them to rise at four or five o'clock in the morning to work in their fields until ten o'clock at night (with headlights on their tractors). Whilst I was there another wing was being added to my friend's house. The workmen from another town arrived and started work at seven o'clock in the morning, not finishing until seven o'clock in the evening. But when they left the family and their friends would continue the work until ten o'clock. The only thing which tended to militate against

my otherwise boundless admiration was that everyone would boast and brag about German diligence. But German egotism is proverbial!

A thing which surprised me very much was that everyone was so keen to talk about dem Krieg — the War. My hosts gave me to understand that they had all been violently pro-Nazi during the war, for only after the war did the more sordid details of the Nazi regime become public knowledge. One really interesting encounter was a meeting with an ex-officer of the Wehrmacht who told me of an early conspiracy against Hitler's life in 1938 in which he had been concerned.. Apparently "der Chamberlain" had sat on the plot by meeting Hitler at Munich thus giving recognition to Hitler's regime. It seemed curious reasoning to me but it appeared to convince everyone else.

P.G.

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

A steady drizzle was falling on a certain morning of last August, when Ken, Neville, Jim and myself found ourselves travelling in the direction of London in "Herby," the wonder Morris Minor. We had tents, beds and luggage on the roof, and cooking equipment in the boot. We had a route planned but we were not sure whether we should cover it.

Night found us in the waiting room for the Dover-Boulogne car ferry, passing the time before the 5-0 a.m. boat, with a force 7 gale howling outside. After a rough crossing (which certain members did not enjoy) we headed southwards, reaching the French Riviera with little incident except that of being flooded out of our tents by a sudden storm at Grenoble. (Also shock tactics against pedestrians, which will be elucidated no further). Unimpressed by the commercialisation of the coast between Cannes and Monte Carlo we passed into Italy.

We spent three days on the Riviera taking full advantage of the sun, the sea, and others things — not the spaghetti! Meanwhile we were cooking all our own food. Ken and Jim specialised in cold creamy porridge for breakfast. I preferred to get up later and simply have bread and butter! We travelled along the coast until we came to the renowned town of Pisa, but on arrival found little of interest save Ye Olde Tower and its immediate surroundings.

Deciding not to pitch camp at Pisa, we set out for our first experience of an Italian Autostrada, the one which leads to Florence. After a most uninspired fifty-odd miles we arrived, and sought the camping site. What a site! On a hill overlooking the city it possessed all the facilities of a first-class hotel — stores, restaurant, bank, information centre, shop, showers, laundry, ironing room and garage. We spent four days at Florence viewing the city and its sights, especially the Uffizi Galleries with their art treasures. The only complaint was the heat; we found it necessary to have four cold showers a day in order to remain sane. The

next major stopping place was the City of Dreams, the one and only, Venice. Here "Herby" had a rest and we found ourselves travelling by boat, and believe it or not, on the Grand Canal (Jim commented on one journey along the aforesaid waterway with the naive remark: "Is it famous?").

After our stay in Venice we set out towards the Brenner Pass and Austria. In summing up our visit to sunny Italy, and with all due respect to one, Ken, I think it can be said that some Italians tend to have "etrunken" noses.

Austria, Innsbruck and the Tyrol offered some wonderful scenery, rivalled only by that of Switzerland. The beginning of our third week away from Olde England found us leaving Switzerland and entering Germany in a steady drizzle. Our first night in Germany was spent in a hotel on top of a mountain which Nevill insisted was famous, especially for its views. We awoke in the morning to find the establishment enveloped in swirling mists, and drenched by torrential rain; and what is worse we had had German sausage for dinner the previous evening! The next evening we went back "*sous la belle etoile*" on a camp site at Altensteig and it is here that our adventures were to begin. We arrived at dusk, pitched our tents as usual and had our meal in the dark. On going to bed, we put our suitcases inside the car so as to have more room in the tents. And so goodnight. Ken was up first to make the customary cold creamy porridge. No sooner was he out of his tent than he announced that "Herby" was open and all our luggage gone; he went to the camp-site attendant and sent for the police. On further examination we noticed that two passports and two wallets had disappeared also — more than half our remaining money. The two policemen who came spoke German and Spanish, we spoke English and French. Fortunately the site attendant spoke broken English. Investigations and questions followed, but nothing was discovered. The police gave us a certificate to say we had been robbed and we went to the British Consul in Stuttgart, for two emergency passports. We stayed at Altensteig three days hoping for developments, but nothing happened.

Continuing, our proposed visit to Paris off because of lack of money, we travelled through the Saar into France. It was now Friday. We had a crossing to Dover booked for Sunday dinner-time. Friday night saw us into France and Saturday morning we set off for Le Touquet.

Saturday dinner-time saw us within fifty miles of our destination. It was sun-shining and we were travelling along a road typical of the French, tree-lined and as straight as a die. Suddenly a Citroen appeared from a small road on the left-hand side; he seemed to stop to let us pass, but as we drew level he lurched forward across the middle of the road, striking "Herby" on the left-hand side at the rear. The next few minutes, or rather hours as it seemed, were taken up with nightmarish experiences, a swirling dizziness, uncontrollable blows from nowhere, and a

deafening sound of tinkling glass, banging and bumping. My next recollection is of Ken half in and half out of the front door of the car, his head and shoulders out on the ground, his legs on the front seat. I scrambled out after him, only to find the process of walking very difficult due to splintered glass in my shoes. All four of us sat on the grass to come round and a small crowd seemed to have gathered from out of the atmosphere, for we were in the country. There was a house on the roadside to which we were helped and after recovering from the initial shock I went to survey the scene. It was one of destruction: "Herby" was unrecognisable, a total wreck. On reconstructing the action afterwards it appears that after being hit, we swerved into a small bank on the roadside, went over, bonnet first, onto the roof and then onto the wheels again, Ken's tent on the roof acting as fulcrum. We ourselves were not mortally wounded; Nevill however was bleeding from the head, and received injections of morphia from the doctor who soon came on the scene. Ken's knee became so swollen he could hardly walk, I could not move my left shoulder or arm, having been sat in the corner where we had been hit, and Jim some five hours after the event discovered his thigh was hurt, and he too found great difficulty in walking. A priest came on the scene and a hearse stopped, but fortunately neither was found necessary.

The other party involved was a Frenchman of outstanding merit, with his wife and family. He acknowledged that he was at fault as the road along which he had been travelling had a "Halt" sign which he had not observed.

The fact remained we were without luggage, almost without money, and now without car, somewhere in the north of France. Some English people offered to take our beds, tents and cooking equipment to their flat in London, and after more police interrogation (in French) we were put in a huge Chevrolet with a Frenchman who travelled at 130 kilometres an hour, overtaking on blind corners. No matter, we were beyond caring! After he dropped us we began hitch-hiking and managed to stop a lorry which took us to Boulogne. We caught the 11-30 p.m. car-ferry (without a car) and arrived in Dover at 2-30 a.m. sleeping in a shelter on Dover promenade. We had just enough money to pay our train fares to London where we went to the flat of the people who had taken our remaining luggage after the crash. Nevill had his Easter bonnet (bandages which the doctor had put on his head) removed at Westminster Hospital, and then we went to Euston Station. After considerable trouble with the stationmaster, resulting in Jim and me going to the police, we managed to board a train for Preston with permission to pay on arrival.

So ended a holiday which none of us will ever forget. We returned with virtually nothing except experiences and memories which give immense pleasure in retrospection, but some of which it would be impossible to survive for a second time.

D.T.B.

STRATFORD, AUGUST, 1956

On a typical English summer morning a bedraggled huddle, consisting of Mr. Fielding, Dickie, John, Martin, Bill, Peter, Tony, David and Paul, assembled on Preston railway station. By the time we had located our reserved compartments, they were occupied, the labels having been removed from the windows, but at last we were all seated and in due course arrived at Crewe, the first stage of our journey. Here we split up into two parties. Mr. Fielding purchased a pack of cards and retired with Dickie, Martin, and Paul to the waiting room for a game of whist. The straw seats aroused some comment, but the game was much enjoyed. The remainder of the party wandered off. Doubtless David was able to satisfy a long felt want and complete his pleasure whilst the Players were playing whist. After a time we boarded the train for Birmingham, where, having changed stations, we saw a little of the city and having sacrificed to Bacchus and company, we then made a general tour of the station. Soon we commenced the final stage of our journeys. "The Boys," finding all the third class compartments full, travelled in style, egged on by two Students (female) from Birmingham University. The others continued their game of whist which Mr. Fielding and Dickie eventually won.

At last we arrived at Stratford Station. They too must have had rain, for the red carpet was nowhere in evidence. In true tourist fashion we made a bee-line for Anne Hathaway's cottage. Three of the party paid up and went inside; the more mercenary remained outside and studied the beauty, natural and Americaine, to the sound of music from Tony's wireless.

A brief visit to the Parish Church followed. During this visit the advance party went round the side of the church and vanished from view. "The boys" never saw them again for the next two hours. The rearguard went a little out of their way — three miles out to be exact — before they realised their error and returned to the Youth Hostel just in time to be reunited with the rest of the party and see "Othello" at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre.

After leaving the church, Mr. Fielding and company went to the Youth Hostel at Alverstone where we were to stay. Our evening meal was reasonable; they must have known we were coming, for they had put some tea in the teapot, but they probably used the same leaves for the rest of our sojourn.

"Othello," an excellent play, enjoyed by all, conveyed to us the subtleties of Shakespeare's art far better than any play-reading ever could.

The next day The Boys visited Stratford, finding it a mixture of old and new. They were especially struck by the cosmopolitan nature of the people they saw there. Meanwhile the other half of the party were paying a visit to Warwick and had ascended to the top of the tower of the Collegiate Church. A visit to nearby Kenilworth Castle completed the day's exploits. At tea Peter and

Co. made friends with a girl who was participating in an Anglo-American cycle tour. The other notable feature of our evening repast was the fishcake, at least we think it was a fishcake, of a peculiar consistency.

That night we saw "Hamlet" which was well up to the standard of "Othello". The effects of the previous night made themselves felt on one member of the party who had literally to be kicked out of the arms of Morpheus. During the interval, Paul put into practice his favourite hobby, not without some success.

The following day the whole party visited Oxford, separated from Stratford by forty miles and seven shillings return fare. We visited several of the Colleges to the accompaniment of a commentary from Mr. Fielding whose discourse was not in the least biased in favour of the "other place". The College of the greatest interest was Exeter, which for some years had sheltered Mr. Fielding's colleague at K.G.S. Suggested causes of the need for repair of the Chapel organ, though numerous, were all of similar theme. Having arrived back at the Youth Hostel by eight o'clock, the remainder of the evening was passed either playing cards or discussing with the new (girl) friend the disadvantages of attending a coeducational institution.

Saturday, the last day of our stay, dawned bright, but far from clear. We left the hostel in pouring rain and firstly deposited our luggage at the station, one member of the party having suddenly and mysteriously acquired a new "ratter". We then split up into the usual two parties: Mr. Fielding and the usual four looked around the Theatre Museum, the rest visited their favourite haunt in Sheep Street.

In the afternoon we saw "Love's Labour Lost," a play in different vein from the others we had already seen. The wit was at times fast and furious and the audience (including us) laughed heartily.

All the trains were running late and we had to dash across Birmingham in order to catch our connection. The train from Crewe was considerably delayed, but eventually we arrived back in Preston and regained our individual domiciles by divers means after a most enjoyable trip for which we all heartily thank Mr. Fielding.

M.R.

P.B.

Rugby Football and Association Football — a Comparison

The respective merits and demerits of the two codes of football will forever be a fruitful source of argument. Members of Grammar Schools are not indoctrinated (Heaven forbid!) into accepting the noble, fashionable, skilful game of Rugby as Britain's national sport. They are never impressed with the fact that even to watch the brawling, professional sport of the Plebians — "that ROUND-BALL game" — means instant contamination. Each one of them acclaims the handling code: it is rarely indeed that any misguided person expresses a preference for the ignoble, crude sport of "Soccer".

What joys does Rugby Union hold for player and spectator alike! How great is the pleasure of experiencing an elegant maul, in which all the skill and noble spirit so characteristic of modern civilisation is evident! Not the least of the joys of the game is the application of a covert, gentlemanly "rabbit-punch" to an opponent who has been floored by the judicious use of an artistic "arm-tackle." How the spectator enjoys the sight of that glorious agglomeration of mud, ball, blood, referee and thirty dignified gladiators which constitutes a good game of Rugby! Is not this game the "Sport of Kings"?

On the other hand Association Football is an affront to the nation. It is professional: it provides entertainment for the masses and thus the game stands condemned. "Soccer" is, moreover, entirely unskilful: the ball is illogically spherical — how superior is the rugby ball! — how easy it is to dribble — how easy it is to kick accurately!

It is quite undesirable that a man who is outstanding as a player of a game should earn his living and give pleasure to hundreds of thousands of spectators as a professional in that game. The abhorrence of professional sport which every true rugby lover feels is reflected in the Union's attitude to Rugby League. Players have been barred from playing Rugby Union because they have once played Rugby League, albeit in an amateur capacity. However, do not think that such rulings are the result of bigotry and outrageous conservative ignorance.

So the superiority of Rugby Union is manifest: this is no barbarous sport, providing an outlet for the basest instincts of man. How inferior is that deplorable game of "Soccer"!

A.R.W.L.

A Modern Poem?

With no apologies to anybody anywhere

"Rambling" Thoughts on passing the Cadet Hut, etc., etc.

Noble cardboard War Office edifice,
housing

a powerful armoury

relics of the Boer War after all

Lloyd George once said—

"In the beginning Joseph Chamberlain
created Heaven and earth—
including South Africa."

A table tennis table

(what alliteration)

with slightly chipped corners

Acting unpaid clerk

—cooking the books

Uniforms, large and small

—mainly small

"Vi et armis."

Thank God we have a Navy!

After all—it was our Canal

—Shoot the lot!

The steadying influence

Of Nye

Will save the country

Maybe.

Do homage to the health scheme

—"Yes, madam—fine false dentures

(alliteration again).

—They are too!!"

Boots! Boots! Boots! Boots!

(Some Shoes) — Platoon One

Patient, gentle, instructors

Put that POKER down!!

Blanco, Polish Brasses, insert creases.

We must be smart!

The Thracian hue

of bright khaki

Mitigated by the salubrious

Somnambulistic

navy blue.

glorious auroras of indigo

—R.A.F. berets.

"Let 'em all come,"!!

Gliders everywhere—

on the ground of course.

B-ss-- Br-dd-ck sits

(for not on) Liverpool Exchange
 —how unfortunate.
 But to return to
 the C.C.F.
 The C.S.M.
 —comes out of his shell
 As Churchill once said
 But no—let us disregard it
 and end this tale
 —of an idiot
 —full of sound and fury
 —signifying nothing.

N.B.—For the last four lines we are indebted to one W. Shakespeare.

It has been said by Mr. N. S. Jackson that these last four lines might apply to all poetry — which just goes to show what an unappreciative Philistine he is.

A.R.W.L. and M.D.L. (LVIM)

* * *

"Society" Chatter

The Scientific Society

Secretary: N. H. Leater.

Chairman: Mr. G. R. Wignall.

Committee: R. A. Darrah, D. J. Sharratt, J. B. Blossom,
 N. I. P. McKie.

First of all we must apologise for the lack of programme this term, but owing to the unforeseen difficulties in obtaining new and interesting films, we are afraid that we have been unable to carry out our usual intensive programme

However, much good work has been done on the meteorological side of our Society. Besides taking readings each day, we are now receiving daily weather maps, which are of great use to those interested in this division of the Scientific Society. Also valuable work has been carried out, by the committee and various other members of the Society, in the long-needed renovation of the Meteorological Station.

For next term we have arranged several interesting films and illustrated talks which will constitute a worthwhile and workable programme.

Debating Society

Chairman: Mr. Coates.

Secretary: D. T. Bowe.

Committee: L. Barton, W. A. Mayor, G. C. Box, M. D. Lawton.

At the beginning of the term the Society experienced some difficulty in finding a convenient time and place to hold its meetings. It was finally decided that fortnightly on a Wednesday in the Library was the most suitable. Having settled down, the Society has held six successful debates this term, and the attendance, especially from the Lower School, has been very encouraging, even though on certain occasions it may have been due to meteorological conditions. The attendance of senior members is not as good as it might be.

Early in the term it was decided that "Compulsory games are NOT desirable in Schools" and "Life is NOT too short to be taken seriously." Then on October 24th, that is a full week before any drastic action was taken over Suez, the House voted very definitely against deploring the Government's action over that question. Amid meditations which tore many hearts asunder, it has also been decided that "to journey is better than to arrive," "that war is not a necessary evil," and the House voted against deploring rock 'n' roll.

There is no doubt that the standard of speaking has improved and the number of people speaking when the motion is thrown open is good. Younger members do not hesitate to participate and in particular the two members of the Lower V, G. C. Box and G. A. Preston, who were the main speakers in the last debate, must be congratulated on the quality of their speeches.

A debate was arranged externally in conjunction with Preston Scientific Society against Winckley Square Convent, for the evening of Friday, 11th January, 1957. It was a most successful event, and it is hoped it will not be the last of the external activities of the K.G.S. Debating Society.

Musical Society and Orchestra

Chairman: Mr. Murray.

Secretary: P. I. Vardy.

Committee: A. R. Baines, W. A. Mayor, J. L. Scott, L. Barton.

Trips to three orchestral concerts have been arranged with an average of 35 attending each. This represents 10 per cent. of the school. How about the other 90 per cent? You have the opportunity to hear fine orchestras play fine music—at half price too! Why not go to one concert to see, and hear, what good music is really like.

More progress has been made in the orchestra, although the string section is rather weak in numbers. We hope to give our second annual concert at the Easter Fair in the Spring Term.

Also in the Spring Term we hope to arrange a fuller programme of activities. We ask for your full support; the society exists solely for your benefit and membership is not limited; every member of the School is a member of the Musical Society.

Library

Chairman: Mr. B. Coates.

Secretary: P. I. Vardy.

Treasurer: J. Buckley.

Committee: P. S. Hayes, P. W. Hopcroft, L. Barton, J. E. Ryan, J. L. Scott, C. Plaster, R. A. Darrah, F. Traice.

A fundamental change was made in the senior library last term. Instead of having two sessions a week we now have a session every weekday except Wednesday. This system has the advantage that books can be exchanged and the library used for reference daily instead of periodically. There has also been a definite increase in the weekly average of books issued since the new system was introduced. It is hoped to purchase more tables and chairs to relieve the present overcrowding. Please use the library as a library and not merely as an excuse for shelter from the winter weather.

In order to attempt to reduce the appalling number of missing books, a library check is being held twice a term in future. At half term about 30 books were missing from the shelves. Our suspicions that books were being taken out of the library unofficially were confirmed when some of the books reappeared later. Remember that it is tantamount to stealing to take a book out of the library without having it stamped or leaving the ticket in the Vith form tray.

About 65 new books have been acquired this term. Please take care of these and all the other books so that their life in the library may be long.

It is very pleasing to note the increased use of the junior library. 309 books have been issued in 10 sessions, an all-time record.

Statistics of issues in the senior library are as follows:—Religion, Philosophy and Sociology, 47; History, 174; English, 60; French, 11; Classics, 13; Maths and Physics 69; Chemistry, 48; Biology, 48; English Heritage, 5; Geography, 64; Art, 15; Music, 12; Sport, 12; Hobbies, 32; Fiction, 76; Travel, 17. Total, 703.

Chess Club Report

Chairman: Mr. Wilson.

Committee: J. E. Ryan (sec.), Hosker, Lawton, Nightingale,
Howard.

The Chess Club, which has a membership of over ninety boys, is now one of the most active societies in the School. It meets during the Monday and Friday dinner hours in Room 2 and it is here that members are able to seek advice and tuition from one of the committee who presides over each meeting. It is unfortunate that these meetings are not representative of the whole School in that they are mainly supported by the third and lower fourth forms. However there are some potentially good players among these members.

This year Hosker, Howard, Nightingale and Whitaker entered for the Lancashire Junior Chess Championship. Hosker successfully passed the first round but was not so fortunate in the second. All four players are now engaged in correspondence chess with Sussex junior chess players.

One fixture arranged this term was with Preston Grammar School. This resulted in a narrow victory for Preston. A much welcomed innovation this year was the provision of teas for the visiting team. This involved the school team in an extremely enjoyable ten minutes in washing up afterwards! Two other fixtures have been arranged with Hutton and Blackpool Grammar Schools.

The school championship has begun earlier than in other years and is now in full swing. The first round has been played and the second round is in progress. It is hoped that the final result will be decided well before next June.

The Film Society

Chairman: Mr. G. T. Wilkinson.

Hon. Secretary: D. J. Hinton.

Hon. Treasurer: C. R. Plaster.

Committee: E. Sidebottom, W. T. Kaye, M. C. N. Syms,
M. McCartney, D. R. Moor.

This past term has been the most successful in the history of the Film Society. Each successive performance has been better than the previous one, except for the term's last show which, due to the cost of the film, returned a loss. The films were "The Love Match," "The Belles of St. Trinians," "Above us the Waves," "Simba" and "Them". It is only to be hoped that next term's films "The Ladykiller," "Value for Money," "The Colditz Story" and "Calamity Jane" will be as successful.

The projectionists proved very competent at their job, and the other members of the committee carried out their duties efficiently.

What's the Form?

IIIb

Practically all the boys in our form found it rather strange in our new school, but we soon settled down. Mr. Wilkinson is our form master and he also takes us for geography.

The absence of Mr. Lee spoilt our General periods, much to the disappointment of the form.

The form on the whole consider the masters sporting, although they give out detentions, and the slipper is often felt. The form consider themselves readers and look forward to reading the following books which are to be published soon:—

“Easy Money” by Robin Banks.

“Broken Window” by Eva Brick.

“Rock and Roll” by Crumblehome.

“Woodwork” by Adam Nuisance.

Lower IVa

From 3B came the Wesham Wonders, Teddy and Fluff. They replaced Corky, Fatso and Texas who now reside in LVB.

This term we have encountered a new horror, Latin; it still remains a mystery to everyone except for the old swots. We now know why the ancient Romans died young.

And now to get on to a serious note. This term we have had four changes amongst the masters who have the pleasure of teaching us. These changes are that instead of having Mr. Wood for Divinity and Mr. McKerrow for General Science we have Mr. Wignall for both. The noises we have when we do some chemistry are mostly swish-swish and another swish.

The other two changes are Mr. Lee for History and English, whereas before Mr. Coates and Mr. Fielding respectively taught these subjects.

Lower Vb

“God rest ye merry Gentlemen” . . . but not much rest has been had by the members of this form during the present term, due to the current impact of Rock and Roll. The form members with the exception of a few like the “Centre Forward of Kirkham Choir”—are real cool cats well and truly in the groove. Bert has had a very good term and his brilliant record player has proved a great source of amusement.

In other more normal activities, the form has been well represented in school teams, with nine boys, Hornby, Threlkeld, Rooking, Robeshaw, Robinson, Hill, Davies, Butterworth and

Bushby—playing in the School's under 15 team, a total which we feel is quite good from one form.

Many eminent scientists hold the opinion that in a few years time man will be ruled by animals. Whether or not that theory is correct, only time will show. In the meantime we have in this form a striking parallel in the person of "Sir P.", who on many occasions gets away with "murder" whilst still seeming his "normal" self.

A certain someone is under the impression we are a group of young "Samsons". This is the opportunity to refute that suggestion even though Bert has considered the taking of a strong-man course which might have turned him into another "Atlas". It is hoped that the fireside thoughts of that certain someone are disturbed from time to time—not too frequently—by visions of weary school-boys—some with "shining morning faces"—toiling wearily along endless passages, weighted down with the immeasurable tonnage of school literature and text books.

Arising from a recent form debate is the evidence of one master's favourable interest in co-educational grammar schools. What isn't quite clear is whether this interest is fostered by certainty of academic or personal pleasure. Maybe this will be revealed to us in the distant future.

To close this report on a less facetious note the writer is happy to record our pleasure in having such an able captain as D. Threlkeld. He is just as popular with us as when he was first elevated to this responsible position a long time ago.

Mr. Reay is the form Master.

Lower Va

Friends, Romans, Countrymen, send us your money! We now take this opportunity of publishing a nation-wide appeal for contributions to the LVa "Money to pay for books pinched by somebody else" funds. It appears that we have been presented with mysterious ghosts who must like (a) algebra (the Fleet ghost); (b) English (the Alcock ghost); (c) hair; (The Fielding ghost).

Our sympathy (and envy) goes to Tomlinson who experienced an attack of DONTLIKEXAMSCOSOFWSOTINTITUS. The patient recovered and five days later he returned to convalesce. He has our sincere sympathy for what must have been a heartbreaking time, knowing what he was missing.

To wake you up a bit, we now bring to your notice a quiz which would be unsuitable for almost any party.

- A. Match the following quotations with the persons in question.
1. This is so easy that I can teach it to you in two minutes.
 2. I don't understand your phraseology.
 3. You're a clot what are you?

4. Let's test them for back benchitus.
 5. You two can stooge.
 6. Bon!
 7. It's the country's grievous taxation that's the cause of it.
 8. If you're not careful, boy, I'll hurt you badly.
 9. Attend with all your heart, and soul, and strength, and mind and body.
- B. Spot the deliberate mistakes in the following sentences and correct them if possible.
1. Hayes's badge will be found in Hayes's beret.
 2. Moiser didn't bet Alcock a penny that he would win the debate because Moiser supported a motion saying "It is wrong to bet."
 3. "Bill" was top in Latin because he spends all evening on his prep.
 4. Mr. Coates can read a popular newspaper.

Caesar found the Mark Antony burial scene very relaxing (and dirty) after his attempts to rock 'n' roll.

In a recent debate Mr. Fielding said this form was a bunch of half-baked illiterates.

We would like to know who had a big hand in making us so.

We thought of sending the following Christmas presents—

For Mr. Boocock — a great horned owl.

For Thistlethwaite—An all purpose hollow truncheon containing collapsible tommy gun, hand grenade and inflatable tank.

The Endurance Medal has been awarded to Hodgkinson who has seen "Rock Around the Clock" three times.

Upper V Science

This has been a somewhat uneventful term as far as we are concerned; the reason being, of course, that everyone, suddenly aware of the proximity of the inevitable impending doom, has become very scholastic.

On returning to this ancient seat of learning we found that our new quarters were to be in Room 10, and that, having endured two periods a week at Geography for the past year, we were now to be subjected to participating in eloquent discourse with the "Illustrious One" for a similar length of time. The terrors those of us who stay on next year will be forced to undergo do not bear thinking of.

Looking round at the rather motley crew in Room 10 on the first day of term, some new faces were to be seen, mostly those of the old reprobates, the morons and zombies from last year's Upper

V Science. Two of these gentlemen, namely "Charlie" and "The Hat," are not in the least subdued and still continue to amuse us with their fiendish goon-type actions and speech.

In the renamed world of P.E. we are far superior to our Modern counterparts. This is perfectly "naytural" as not only are we brainy, but we also have good physique to match! Whether we are superior to our Modern friends in the academic world remains to be seen.

We must extend our congratulations to Mr. Bentley on the success of the Brown Ring Test, which he elaborately performed for the sakes of Messrs. Lawrence and Marsh. One of our eminent scientists disappeared this term. Rumour has it that he was framed by "Joe," as he was endangering that worthy's position.

To those of our number who left us at Christmas, we extend our good wishes.

Come on, you literary scholars, work this one out. Who said to whom, "You can't have the cake and the ha'penny"?

Upper V Modern

"The time is Nye, and Hugh must do something about it. So quoth our left-wing friends appalled at the coming shortage of juice. Nevertheless the world must go on and we of UVM will also shuffle hesitantly to our doom in June, pausing sometimes in pity, and perhaps envy, those who have fallen by the wayside.

However things are not as bad as they seem; open the windows please (with a slight drawl); there is still a touch of humour somewhere. The Latin set were introduced to "block 'n' roll" early in the term. It "sent" them all right — to sleep. Talking of sleep, what was Reg doing first period one Monday morning? Drawn butterfly heads in geography books indeed!

Whilst on the subject of irrelevancies, how were a Chinese Emperor and a clockwork nightingale connected with John Keats? Do you know? We didn't. Of course, one gets accustomed to the sort of thing from Polle Jack; "procrastination is the thief of time, and don't we know it.

With reference to thieving, it was noted that Caesar mislaid his toga (or was it his trousers) whilst endeavouring to belt a shuttlecock about.

Turning to sport, we note that the Under 16's have had a reasonably successful term, and firmly deny the rumour that Strea fell over his hair. Congrats to Pug and John on getting into the First XI. We lesser rugby players will consider ourselves honoured to lick the soles of their boots.(?)

And finally here is a question:—Does anyone know the shape of a Grecian Urn?

Lower VI

During this term the main activity of the Lower Sixth form appears to have been connected with that common domestic article — the milk bottle. The plague of these which has affected Room 9 has excited comment, denunciation and laughter — in that order. 'Poker's' amazing erection was speedily demolished by the hand of its maker — surprisingly enough — and the rugby-playing members of the form speedily desisted from a dangerous occupation.

The form as a whole has been enthralled by its investigation of "thrilling" archaeology. It has been said that Uta Napishtim blocked the Suez Canal with his ark.

On Fridays the eighth period is devoted to Private Study in Room 4 — the nature of the "study" is rather obscure — but it has included classical music and contemporary pictorial art. This last subject greatly delighted N—— who continued to work even when the second bell had rung — perhaps this was a matter of necessity.

Room 9 is said to be our "Sanctum Sanctorum," as members of last year's (and this year's) Upper Fifths have found to their cost. The intrusion of several Upper Fifth formers during one dinner hour, whilst the inmates (this word is used in its mildest sense) of the "holy of holies" were being "sent" by the rhythm of modern "music," brought forth severe and justified censure. The whole form is thankful that they do not suffer through officiousness and emphasis on triviality.

Although that popular character of UVM universally known as "Tag" departed from K.G.S. some months ago, we are frequently reminded of him by the repetition of his gimmick, which is concerned with the Factory Act of 1844.

One member of the form has recently undergone a change of abode: he is to be congratulated on the resistance he has offered to the vices and temptations of that "straw-built citadel" which is Lytham St. Annes.

Our final paragraph is the most important item in this report and in it we would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies to Alan Roberts, who has been in Preston Royal Infirmary since he was gravely injured whilst playing cricket at Balshaws Grammar School last July. It is said that Alan will require a long convalescence before he fully recovers, but we look forward to the day when once again the community inside and outside K.G.S. benefit from Alan's particular qualities of reliability and leadership. Alan is one of the very fortunate few who are "born leaders," as he often showed on and off the sports field. The courage with which he has endured his recent sufferings typifies his character. It is the sincere wish of the whole School, and especially his own form, the LVI, that Alan will make a complete recovery.

Lower Science VI

Friends and fellow addicts — Elloo! These are the famous Euillii feverishly applying pen to paper.

We have had quite a successful term and it is with regret that we note the forthcoming absence of Kelly. No doubt Chunky will miss him. Talking of that, has anyone seen a tin opener lying around?

Mr. Connah, of Polo fame, is not doing very well but we hope with a bit of help he may achieve fame for Dave. The rest of us are receiving envelopes each week from secret destinations. Mr Wignall's "Cook's law" has been attempted in the Chemistry lab and all too soon savoury smells turned into a colossal explosion. The sight of "Joe" being chased by a chunk of phosphorus will never be forgotten.

Chew, Dave (2), Charlie, Wog and Elmer tried very hard to help Keith to forget the sorrowful loss of his hand. Oddly enough the chorus from the "Student Prince" has suddenly become popular.

The vicar's son continues to carry one with two of them'e' 362336 and 392038. These are not telephone numbers.

Does anyone want some milk bottles to decorate their Sanctum sanctorum? Oh, and there's something screwy going on in room 9.

Plug looks tired of late, especially on Saturday mornings. We believe the Rangers, the larger Girl Guides, meet on Friday nights. He says he was rocking and rolling with Geoff—"Bill Haley"—Lloyd. Mr. Stevenson had expressed his opinion of smoking and advises you not to take your TIME.

We should like to send our best wishes to Alan and hope he will soon be with us again.

As a footnote, would Bingo please pay up his liquid debts to Chew.

An Appeal — to the Older Boys

There is a strongly held opinion that the School Library ought to contain bound collections of all previous issues of "The K.G.S Chronicle" and "The Kirkhamian."

If, therefore, any Old Boys have copies of these two publications which can readily be spared, they are earnestly requested to send them to, or leave them at School.

The first issue of the "Chronicle" appeared in 1920 and annually until 1950. We do not expect much difficulty in collecting "Kirkhamians" but we shall be very grateful for any assistance whatsoever in the collection of "Chronicles".

Please help.

S.M.

Around the Houses

Fylde House

Captain: K. S. Jackson.

Prefects: K. Harrington, N. S. Jackson, W. R. Thomson,
D. F. Wootton.

We extend a sincere welcome to all our new members, and hope they will enjoy the privilege of belonging to the Fylde House.

At the same time we feel the loss of our older members, especially P. B. Myerscough who was Captain of the School and who did so much for the House. To him and to all who left the House at the end of last year we offer our thanks and best wishes for their future careers.

The House has good reason to be proud of the academic achievements of its members in the G.C.E. examinations last year. N. T. Colclough and P. B. Myerscough have left us for Oxford University.

Sporting achievements have been varied. The Senior House Cricket XI. departed from the competition having been ingloriously dismissed by the lively bowling of the Preston House for a meagre nineteen runs. The Junior team fared better by reaching the semi-final, but unfortunately could go no further.

In the Swimming Sports the House retained its position of the past three years — fifth. It is hoped that this performance will be improved upon next time.

The Senior House Rugby XV. was eliminated by the Lytham House in the first round, but this was due to no lack of effort on the part of the team who gave of their best and by their showing promised well for next year.

Finally, a word of encouragement to the Junior Rugby team. We hope that they will retain the trophy which they won last year.

Kirkham House

Captain: A. R. Baines.

Prefects: L. Barton, P. Fenton, W. J. P. Grime.

On reviewing last year's programme of Inter-House events we find the House failed to gain any great distinction. We had to be content with fourth place in the Inter House Athletics and an equally lowly place in the Inter House Swimming Sports, one function in which the House usually does excel. In the two cricket competitions both Senior and Junior teams were well and truly "knocked for six!"

It is little wonder then we are hoping that in the near future the House will once again enjoy the glory which was so often its very own especially on the sporting side of the School. Let us begin now in the 1956-7 year. In the Senior Rugby competition, preliminary rounds, it did seem as though that vital spirit which had been so lacking for so long had at last been aroused when the House conquered the Ashton XV by 14 points to 3. No doubt the inspiration from P. Fenton (captain of the House team), who is to be congratulated on his appointment as School Rugby captain, and from scrum leader E. Parkinson, did much to rouse the team into a record half scoring rout. Unfortunately some five weeks later a somewhat disarranged team failed to take advantage of that victory and certain positional ones when the School House beat Kirkham by 11 points to 5 in a very rugged semi-final.

In the immediate future the House will be called upon to enter teams for Inter-House Junior rugby and cross-country. Practice will be necessary and will be arranged; it will then be up to the people concerned to make every effort and perhaps some sacrifices to attend them.

To date, the House has 64 members of which, I hope, a lucky 13 are new entrants. The House takes this opportunity of offering to them its own personal "Salvete". May it also express the hope that House prefect A. Dean, and L. H. Irving and J. Trippier who left the School at the end of the Winter term, enjoy all success and happiness in their respective new spheres of activity.

Here's hoping good fortune will attend House members in the ensuing years and that great things will be achieved in the academic and sporting fields.

Lytham House

Captain: D. T. Bowe.

Prefects: J. E. Ryan, R. A. Darrah, R. A. Footman,
F. R. Dickinson, J. M. A. Hoyle, D. J. Sharratt.

We extend a sincere welcome to all the new members of the House, and trust they will find pleasure, satisfaction and achievement in its service. We also send our best wishes to all those who left us at the end of the summer term; we wish every success for the future to J. Stevenson, last year's captain, who is now at Liverpool University, R. A. Porter at Durham, and D. A. Stocks at Sheffield; not forgetting K. Parkinson and D. I. Hill who have gone out into the wide world, and we offer them our warmest good wishes.

In sport the House has by no means disgraced itself. Having gained a place in all the senior events at the Inter-House Swimming sports. Our final position was 2nd, and there was a promising improvement in the number of standard points.

Our cricket team was successful, having beaten Kirkham House by 4 wickets and Preston House by 8 it was our lot to face

School in the final. This grim struggle lasted 6 hours before Lytham House were ultimately beaten by 3 wickets.

With September came rugby and more House competitions. In the preliminary round Fylde House were beaten by 3pts.-22 pts., but in the semi-finals against Preston House the Lytham team had one of the hardest matches for many years, never the less the result was Lytham 8 pts., Preston 6 pts. So the team now looks forward to the final next term again the age-old foe School House.

The juniors have not yet had the opportunity to display their talents, that will come next term, and it is to be hoped they will do themselves credit.

Preston House

Captain: J. M. C. Smithies.

Prefects: P. S. Hayes, W. A. Mayor, F. B. Traice.

For our first two sporting reports we must go back to the Summer Term in which the outstanding performance was by the Juniors who, rather unexpectedly, carried off the Cricket Cup—our only trophy of the year. The batting of Catterall and the bowling of Garnett and Butterworth were the best individual performances, and also much credit must go to Mr. McKerrow and W. A. Mayor who spent many dinner-hours coaching the side. The Senior team beat the Fylde House very easily, thanks to a brilliant spell of bowling by Leater, but then were heavily defeated at the hands of the Lytham House.

In the Swimming Reports the House fared fairly well and finished in third position. First places were gained by Bowtell (2), Wilcock, and in the Senior relay. With more standard points and slightly stronger Junior teams, we would have had no difficulty in winning the Cup.

This term we had high hopes of winning the Senior Rugby Shield, and had defeated Ashton and School House in fullscale practise matches. However, in spite of a determined and concerted rally by the House during the last quarter-hour, we were unable to peg back the two-point lead gained by a very strong Lytham House side.

We owe our congratulations to M. P. Collinson and G. M. Mowbray, who are now at Durham and Manchester Universities respectively, and also to G. I. Holland who has gained admission to Wetherby (Yorks.) Naval Training Base. Other notable scholastic achievements were by Darby, Haythornwhite, Lawton and Nightingale, who all passed in nine subjects in the G.C.E.

Finally we extend a hearty welcome to the many new boys in the House, and hope they will be happy in our midst and will strive to be a credit to the House.

Even more finally we have a stop-press report. P. S. Hayes is to be congratulated on being awarded a County Major Scholarship.

School House

Captain: E. Sidebottom.

Prefects: C. R. Plaster; W. T. Kaye; D. J. Hinton.

Shortly after the publication of the last magazine the House capped a most successful year by completing a double in one day. In the morning the swimming team retained the Swimming Cup; and in the afternoon the cricket team beat Lytham in a keenly contested game, to retain the Cricket Shield.

At the end of the school year we lost the House captain, Johnston, who is now at Glasgow University studying medicine, Renshaw, Pilling and Widdup. To all these we give our best wishes for the future.

As to the prospects for this year, though the House is considered to be weakest in sporting spheres, we have already shown that the spirit is still there, by defeating Kirkham House in the semi-final of the rugby competition. We now look forward to the final in which we meet Lytham House.

It is encouraging to note that the House has been well represented in most school teams this term, particularly the under 16 XV, where members of the House constitute about half of the team.

* * *

The Sporting Picture

Cricket, 1956

Results:—

1st XI	10	3	2	5
2nd XI	7	2	1	4
Under 15	4	1	1	2
Under 14	5	3	—	2

In general, 1956 was a good season, more games being won than lost with the Under 14's almost managing to have a 100% record. In common with the rest of the country, the season was marred by some shocking weather which caused the inordinate number of drawn games; for us, too, the term was marred by the accident to Alan Roberts and we are glad to hear that he is at last on the slow road to complete recovery. Although the accident did not occur at Kirkham, it is good to record that active steps have been taken to improve the wicket here. All that now remains to be provided is an adequate roller and it is hoped that something can be done in this direction. A picturesque addition to the School field was the new scoreboard which came into operation for the Old Boys' match and was provided out of the proceeds of the last Easter fair.

The season began disastrously for the 1st XI who lost their first two games decisively; but from that time the team settled down to become a workmanlike, if unspectacular, side. The bulk of the runs came from A. Porter (captain) and C. Plaster, but while useful additions came from E. Sidebottom and J. Bamber (the latter a very promising young batsman), there was a very noticeable lack of strokes amongst the other batsmen of the side. P. Hopcroft and G. Lloyd both failed to repeat their performances of the previous season and the latter player had a great deal more success with the ball, finishing top of the averages. Various players were tried as partners to Porter as opening batsmen, but the problem remained unsolved until the end of the season. Porter captained the side extremely well and he managed to inspire everyone with his own keenness and enthusiasm. The most memorable game was played against King Edward's at Lytham where Porter and Plaster, in reply to a total of 147 for four declared, put on 145 for the second wicket, in under two hours, the finest partnership for many seasons. As regards the attack, E. Swarbrick was not the force he was in previous seasons although he had several good games to his credit. A. Pilling bowled steadily but never dangerously, and C. Plaster showed much improvement as a slow offspin. Porter never really regained his confidence as a bowler, but G. Lloyd, by adhering to the cardinal virtues of length and direction, finished with the best figures. After a few experiments, E. Sidebottom was retained as wicket-keeper and showed considerable improvement, whilst the fielding generally reached a satisfactory standard. At the conclusion of the season, A. Porter, an old cap, presented twenty Caps to C. Plaster, E. Sidebottom, G. Lloyd, J. Bamber, E. Swarbrick, W. Mayor, A. Pilling. The team was completed by P. Hopcroft, J. Wilding and A. Roberts. The 2nd XI seemed to enjoy its cricket very much, and a lot of the enjoyment stemmed from the excellent team spirit which the captain, J. Renshaw, managed to instil. The batting was generally effective with some promising performances from P. Blackburn, W. Lawrence and P. Fenton. The bowling was never very bad but more should be seen of the medium pace of Fenton and the unorthodox speed of A. Lean. The Under 15's, too, were always ready to practice, and the bowling of H. Dobinson and K. Lowe, the all round ability of A. Butterworth, and the batting of R. Hill hold much promise for the future. But the more interesting of the Junior teams was undoubtedly the Under XIV which contained a number of natural cricketers in J. Harrison, captain, B. Howard, P. Carmont and D. Garnett as batsmen, a very promising all-rounder in D. Moor, I. Elliot as a fast opening bowler, and an excellent wicket keeper in J. Montgomery. The fielding reached the same high standard as the batting and bowling.

The bane of cricket at the moment is undoubtedly the poor state of the set wickets but as we have to play cricket on a Rugby pitch which gets badly churned up during the winter it is difficult to see what can be done about it. But weather apart even

the wicket cannot detract from a most enjoyable season, to which Mrs. Norwood and her assistants contributed in no small degree by the provision of tea at the appropriate times.

The competitions for the House Trophies resulted in a win for Preston House in the Juniors and for the School house in the Seniors. (Results on pages 311—312).

C.C.F. Report

C.S.M. Mayor.

S/Sgts.: Baines, Vardy.

Sgts. : Smithies, Dean, Kirkham, Jackson, K., Jackson, N.,
Rothwell, Bartell.

Cpls.: Bare, Hayes, Plaster, Sidebottam, Darrah, Bannister,
Ramsbottam, Hasker, Hoyle.

L/Cpls.: Kaye, Park, Lloyd.

The beginning of the Christmas term found us with many new faces amongst the N.C.O's and a larger than usual number in the ranks, and it is with much pleasure that we report that the target of one N.C.O. to ten cadets has at last been reached.

The N.C.O's this year are, on the whole, younger than usual and the C.S.M. would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the assistance and co-operation which he has received, and to congratulate them on making an excellent start in a role which demands both powers of leadership and a strong sense of duty.

Platoon one and the Basic section of the Cadets have shown considerable promise and keenness, but I should like to see these qualities more in evidence in the other platoons. However, the cert. "A" part one brought to light unexpected qualities in these platoons. Of the fifty-two candidates, forty-three were successful; the top cadet was J. J. Bamber with 72%.

This year a Recruits Test has been introduced for members of the Basic Section and the examinations in Map Reading, Weapon Training and Field Craft reveal that much ground has been covered in preparation for the Certificate "A" part of the examination which will be held before the end of the present school year.

Three officers and nearly forty cadets attended the annual Remembrance Day parade service this year, which was held, as usual, in Kirkham Parish Church, and they are to be congratulated on the smartness of their turnout and drill.

In conclusion we congratulate those cadets who were successful in the Certificate "A" Part II course at Fulwood Barracks during the Christmas vacation and hope that they were encouraged to put as much back into Cadets as they have got out in the past.

Army Camp - Cultybraggan

Four officers and 63 cadets attended summer camp at Cultybraggan in the Highlands of Scotland. We had an enjoyable journey from Preston finding to our delight that the advance party had made all necessary preparation.

The camp site was good, situated in a wide valley surrounded by imposing hills and mountains and blessed with not only a permanent NAAFI but also a similar undertaking organised by the Church of Scotland which also provided a television room. Part of the nearby river had been modified to form a swimming pool which was used to advantage by some cadets.

Training was carried out in the nearby hills which provided admirable facilities for section leading and map reading exercises. Assisted by a certain lieutenant Pitt-Rivers, we found it possible after a fair amount of practice to organize a full platoon in attack.

One full day was taken up by spectacular and instructive demonstrations which consisted of the organisation and equipment of a platoon, a platoon in attack and the fire power of a section.

The last day was quite unorthodox "training" consisting of a coach trip passing through beautiful Scottish scenery, by Loch Lomond and returning through the Trossachs.

Those who attended camp will long remember the incessant droning of discordant bagpipes; the haggis; frequent skirmishes with the Royal High School; and the nocturnal wanderings of a certain N.C.O. who would kick mugs over when he returned; the faulty reveilles of a bugler; concrete slabs in a sergeant's bed. However the finest memory is that of the extremely beautiful Scottish landscape adding the finishing touch to an excellent and fully worth while camp.

Swimming

The School Swimming Team has not met with much success this summer. Its first fixture resulted in a heavy defeat at the hands of Hutton G.S., whilst in the Inter-School Sports at Blackpool only five points were collected, K. Parkinson being second in the Diving and A. R. Baines, the captain, third in the Long Plunge. A feature of the swimming, however, has been the steady increase in the number of boys able to swim. Upper IVA, for instance, medical cases excepted, had a 100 per cent record, whilst the IIIrd Forms both had a much higher percentage than normal. This improvement was reflected in the Inter-House Swimming Competition, won by the School House, who had a percentage of 98 boys who could swim 125 yards. It is hoped that next season will see an improvement in the facilities for team training and a subsequent improvement in results with fixtures with other schools.

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING RESULTS

1. Junior Breast 25	Pilkington	K Molyneux	S Threlfall	F	18-9
2. Intermediate Breast 50	Deuse	S Wootton	F Watkinson	P	39-4
3. Senior Breast 50	Wilcock	P Widdup	S Robinson	L	36-8
4. Senior 100yds. F.S.	Hoyle	L Collinson	P Johnston	S	74-4 3/5
5. Junior Back 25	Kirby	K Sharples	S Harrison	P	19-6
6. Intermediate Back 50	Cryer	K Howard	S Broadbent	P	35-8
7. Senior Back 50	Bowtell	P Pilling	S Parkinson	L	41-1
8. Junior Dive	Bentfield	L Molyneux	S Whitehead	A	
9. Junior F.S. 25	Chadwick	S Kirby	K Lloyd	F	15-1
10. Intermediate F.S. 50	Cryer	K Howard	S Robinson	L	33-6
11. Senior F.S. 50	Bowtell	P Johnston	S and Hoyle	L	30-1
12. Long Plunge	Stevenson	L Threlfall	A Barnes	K	43-3½
13. Junior Relay 4 x 25	School	Kirkham	Ashton		1-16-9
14. Intermediate Relay 4 x 25	School	Fylde	Lytham		1-10-2
15. Senior Relay 4 x 25	Preston	Lytham	School		1-5

FINAL PLACINGS

1st	School.	4th	Kirkham
2nd	Lytham	5th	Fylde
3rd	Preston	6th	Ashton

INTER-SCHOOL GAMES

1956

FIRST XI

May 12—K.G.S.	24	Preston G.S.	34 for 2
" 26—Arnold House	86	K.G.S.	46
June 2—K.G.S.	94	Baines's G.S.	43 for 8
" 13—Hutton G.S.	124 for 5	K.G.S.	41 for 9
" 16—King George Vth—match abandoned.			
" 20—King Edward VII	147 for 4	K.G.S.	148 for 2
" 23—K.G.S.	120	Ormeston	82 for 7
" 27—Wigan G.S.	64	K.G.S.	54 for 6
" 30—Morecambe G.S.	22	K.G.S.	26 for 4
July 7—Balshaw's G.S.	56	K.G.S.	58 for 2

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	3	5	2

1956

SECOND XI

May 26—K.G.S.	80	Arnold House	65
June 13—Hutton G.S.	100 for 7	K.G.S.	82 for 7
" 16—King George Vth	5 for 0	K.G.S. No play.	
" 20—K.G.S.	92 for 6	King Edward VIIth	27
" 23—K.G.S.	133	Ormeston	59 for 7
" 30—K.G.S.	99	Wigan	100 for 7
July 7—K.G.S.	90	Balshaw's	87 for 9

		INTER-SCHOOL GAMES (continued)	
1956		UNDER XV's	
May 12—	Preston G.S.	K.G.S.	53
June 2—	K.G.S.	King Edward VIth	80 for 6
" 16—	King George Vth	K.G.S. No play.	
July 7—	K.G.S.	Balshaw's G.S.	27
		UNDER XIV's	
May 24—	K.G.S.	Blackpool G.S.	53
" 26—	Arnold House	K.G.S.	60
June 9—	Blackpool G.S.	K.G.S.	77 for 9
" 16—	K.G.S.	Rain stopped play.	
" 30—	K.G.S.	Hutton G.S.	40

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

SENIORS

First Round			
Fylde	19 v.	Preston	21 for 1
Kirkham	51 v.	Lytham	52 for 6
Second Round			
Lytham	v.	Preston	40
School	32 v.	Ashton	21
Final			
Lytham	84 v.	School	85 for 7

JUNIORS

First Round			
Ashton	39 v.	School	41 for 4
Fylde	44 v.	Kirkham	29
Second Round			
School	31 v.	Lytham	33 for 2
Preston	103 for 6	Fylde	74
Final			
Lytham	40 v.	Preston	41 for 7

Friends of Kirkham Grammar School

President: Rev. A. R. Allen, M.A.

Greetings, and good wishes for the year which lies ahead.

Since we last went to press, the Garden Party has been written into the annals of history. The clerk of the weather gave us a day of sunshine in a summer noted for its wetness, and we appreciated the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Finney, who gave us a successful "Kick Off". The "jug and bottle" stall did its usual roaring trade, and a host of other attractions, including a bran tub, skittle and bowls alleys, roll a penny and drop a penny devices, raffles, etc., kept us busy and amused, and though our personal bank balances diminished, that of the Association grew in direct proportion. The ladies rendered their usual yeoman service in the Canteen. The competitions for the Prettiest Cotton Dresses attracted much attention, as indeed did the wearers, and the male roving eye was seen to wander from the vital issue being fought out on the cricket square. It is with pride that we record our first win in this Friends v. the School XI — sorry v a School XI!

A new venture, a Social Evening for Parents of New Boys, was held on October 3rd. It is regretted that the attendance was rather thin, but this did not prevent us spending an enjoyable evening, and new boys' parents were able to "discover" one another. Perhaps it was a result of this evening that a ballot was necessary at the Annual General Meeting, for the election of members to the General Executive Committee. As the Chairman then remarked, it was the first occasion on which a ballot had been necessary, and could be regarded as a healthy sign of real and growing interest in the Association. He thanked the candidates, particularly the parents of new boys, for their willingness in standing for election.

On October 27th, the delayed Careers Exhibition was held at School. This was attended by over 300 people, and their time was well spent in touring the many most interesting displays, covering a wide range of careers. The Exhibition was an undoubted success, and the Association wish to record their grateful thanks to the people who exhibited; to the Careers Sub-committee; and to Mr. B. Stevenson in particular. Mr. Stevenson's work cannot be praised too highly, for he was undoubtedly the mainspring of the undertaking.

Our Fourth Annual General Meeting was held on October 10th in the School Hall. The Honorary Secretary submitted a comprehensive statement of our year's activities, mentioning that our membership had reached the grand total of 446. In concluding, he

gladly acknowledged the most valuable assistance, so gladly given to us, by Mr. and Mrs. Norwood and Miss Duffy, and the encouragement received from the Governors of the School.

Officers for the current year were elected as follows:—

President: Rev. A. R. Allen, M.A.

Chairman: Mr. J. R. Bennet.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. S. Watkinson,
42 Greystock Avenue, Fulwood.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. Baines,
40 Preston Street, Kirkham.

Our new Chairman, Mr. Bennet, has been our Secretary for the past two years. In that position he worked untiringly, and in his new office, we know we shall receive the same quality of service from one who has the Association's well-being so much at heart.

The Social Sub-committee again went into action on November 24th, with a Rainbow Whist and Domino Drive. This was a "sell out". The Association benefited financially, and a thoroughly good time was had by all, "knocking" or "trumping" partners' aces.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee once again devised a Christmas Competition with which to brighten our winter evenings. This time we were subjected to a searching test of knowledge (or lack of) on European towns. We are grateful for their efforts to keep us up to something approaching G.C.E. Standards, and may their inspirations continue to flow each Christmastide.

Current events included two Careers Evenings during the Spring Term, on January 28th and the other arranged for March 6th, and a Film Show on February 16th. We should like to see a much better attendance at the Careers Evenings. Need we stress that the career of your boy is something vital, so why not come along next time and hear people talking of their jobs. A glorious opportunity this to gain inside knowledge, and put any questions, and a service which the Association regards very highly. A well-filled hall is a great encouragement.

Our Chairman's "Newsletter" will keep you informed of other events to be arranged, but once again, please let the Honorary Secretary have your ideas and/or criticisms. We are doing our best, but your views are more than welcome.

In closing, we should like to make reference to the resignations from the general Executive Committee of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Sparrow. Mr. Sparrow has been posted to an appointment in the South, and their resignations were accepted with real regret. They have both been members of the Committee since the inception of the Association, Mr. Sparrow being the Honorary Treasurer for the first three years and Chairman during the 1955/56 year. They have been untiring in their efforts, and the Association is indebted to them for their inspiration and wise counsel. Our best wishes for good health and happiness go with them.

News from the

K.G.S. Old Boys' Association

Secretary: J. Davy, The School House, Catforth, Near Preston.
(Tel. No. Catforth 330).

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the K.G.S. Old Boys' Association was held on Saturday, 17th November last, in the Victoria and Station Hotel, Preston, when the Headmaster, Mr. Denis Norwood, M.A., J.P., presided over an attendance of 26 members. Before the business of the meeting the President referred to the sad loss K.G.S. had suffered in the death of Mr. Arnold Gastrell who, as Scholar, Old Boy and Governor, had been connected with the school for nearly fifty years. Because of pressure of work Mr. D. W. Ruddock resigned his position as Hon. Treasurer and was cordially thanked for the great efforts he had made during his tenure of office. It was the opinion of the meeting that the welfare of the Association could best be served by combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. J. Davy gallantly undertook this dual role. All communications re Old Boys' matters should therefore be addressed in the future to:—

Mr. J. Davy,
The School House,
Catforth,
Preston.

(Tel. No. Catforth 330).

As no nominations for the committee had been received, the retiring members, Messrs. F. Jolly, J. Tomlinson and R. O. Wilson were re-elected en bloc.

After the meeting a total of 65 sat down for the Annual Dinner. This was a rather disappointing number because every year, as the number of Old Boys increases by about 60, the committee hopes that the 100 mark will be reached, but in fact the number seems to fall gradually year by year. The years of entry of those members present covered about 30 years so that, on an average, there were only about two boys of each year present, and surely it is the case that when an Old Boy attends his eyes look round to find his own contemporaries and he must be disappointed to find only one other. The secretary would welcome letters suggesting why there is not a bigger attendance or how, by changing the date, time, venue or any other arrangements, a greater number of guests could be attracted. An innovation this year was to invite

representatives from O.B.s Associations of neighbouring schools and as a result officials from Arnold School and Blackpool G.S. were cordially welcomed.

After a satisfactory meal and the Loyal Toast, the President proposed the toast to "The School", beginning by drawing encouraging comparisons of numbers and distribution of pupils at school in 1922 and 1956. He then went on to outline the academic and sporting achievements both of school teams and individuals during the past year, at the same time touching on the problems the school would have to face in the next year or two, problems arising from the inevitable increase in school population — "the bulge". In this latter connection Mr. Norwood was very pleased to report that the long needed new bathing and changing room accommodation was now in course of construction. In conclusion, Mr. Norwood expressed his deep conviction that in spite of inevitable problems, there was a bright future in store for the school, and he felt sure that in this he had the support and agreement of all.

When Mr. B. Stevenson rose to respond to this toast it was very obvious that all Old Boys were really pleased to see him back once more, recovered from the serious illness which kept him away for so long last year. Eloquently Mr. Stevenson discoursed on the value of tradition and sentiment, as he had watched it grow and operate during his time at the School, drawing a vivid analogy from the gracious facade of the school, a sight which ever provided a focal point for happy memories.

It was then the turn of the guests to express their pleasure at being present, complimenting the President on the flourishing state of the Association. In proposing the toast of "The Association," Mr. R. T. Ellis (1918-1920) emphasised how greatly the flourishing state of both School and Association was due to the wise and pleasant leadership of Mr. Norwood, mentioning also many ways in which Old Boys could render service to the present School.

The reply to this toast came from one of the younger generation of "Old Boys", Mr. P. J. Barnes (1945-54), and he spoke with affection of his years at School and of the friends he had made both amongst boys and masters. His short experience in the world since leaving school, he said, had proved to him how well his training at K.G.S. had equipped him to shoulder responsibility.

And so closed a memorable and enjoyable evening wherein the only thing to occasion regret was the absence of many other Old Boys we would have been delighted to welcome. We look forward to seeing them in 1957.

Reminiscent Rugger

Last year we missed the Old Boy's Rugger Match altogether. This year we were so busy going over famous tussles of old—that we nearly missed the first half.

However, in due course we took our places on the line, to watch, exhort and criticise. We noted with pleasure the excellent “gate,” also the turf was firm and springy and—Allah be praised—it was not raining, nor was it blowing a gale.

We should have some good football, we thought, and we were not to be disappointed.

First, however, to fill the blank occasioned by our late arrival. “What is the score?” we asked of the least censorious looking of the small boys. 6—3 to the Old Boys. Good! A discreet discussion on the merits of the scores gave us the information that Fleet and Jenkins had scored tries for the Old Boys and that Bamber had kicked a penalty goal for the school.

Now we could have a look at things. Our first impression was that the XV was playing the stoppers, but closer inspection revealed, a salmon pink affair with some sort of striping across it, breaking fast and often from the back row of the Old Boy's Scrum, Hancock of course, who becoming temporary scrum half (Hull being somewhere down and under), whipped a beauty straight off the floor into Pickup's hands.

Also we noticed something in a pale blue pastel shade, no mistaking that high knee action and long slanting run. S. H. Wilcock, no less. Of course we knew what to expect in the Old Boy's last line of defence. Yes — Old Serenity — fitter than ever, tackling and running almost as fast as when he and ‘Ticker’ Bond laid the Stoneyhurst ‘bogy’ twenty years ago.

There was a terrier-like forward; K. Thornton that would be, and these wing three-quarters with the magnificent thews and sinews?—well, well—Billy Fleet and S. Jenkins. J. A. Bramwell, K. Parkinson, David Fleet were there and—yes indeed and by all that's wonderful — J. Burrage.

Only three left now to identify. At last we had them, Alf and P. S. Jenkins and J. Croasdale.

The school were still holding their own against a powerful and skilful side. Hereabouts the familar dash of Kenny Parkinson took the eye as he sent Fleet away once more. Then S. Wilcock was nearly over and again Fleet was away only to be stopped by a splendid tackle by Sidebottam, amid great rejoicings, Plaster neatly worked the blind side of a scrum and sent Hinton over near the corner. No conversion, and at half time the score was 6—6.

Straight from the kick-off a darting run by S. Wilcock and a dribble by K. Thornton brought the ball to the school line, only to be scrambled away. Then we saw a beautiful cut through by

Lawrence—a most promising half this—and a well-timed pass nearly had Hinton over in the corner again.

Hereabouts we became aware that the Wilcock, Parkinson, Jenkins combine was likely to prove the undoing of the XV for in spite of some neat attacking and good defending Wilcock and Parkinson got Jenkins away for an unconverted try. The manoeuvre was repeated, with A. Rigby taking a final inside pass from Jenkins, and scoring a try, which remained unconverted.

Thus we came to the end of another splendid match which reflected great credit on all the players, and the referee who helped to make it such an enjoyable spectacle.

We look forward to next time and take the opportunity of saying how very much pleasure the Old Boys give us when they visit us on our big occasions. We would like the touch line to be thick with them next year.

Report of K.G.S. Old Boys' Association Dance

The Annual Dance was held on Friday, 11th January, 1957, when almost one hundred Old Boys, their wives and friends, gathered at the School for one of the most enjoyable social events of the year.

The hall and corridors had been gaily decorated by some committee members — willingly assisted by the Headmaster's family — and coloured streamers, paper chains and Chinese lanterns set the scene for the evening's entertainment. Music for dancing was provided by the Roy Wilkins' Band, and strains of the waltz or the Gay Gordons, the quickstep or the veleta were heard until the early hours of the morning.

In the meantime, Mrs. Norwood and her staff had organised a refreshing buffet supper in the School House dining room, and liquid refreshment was available adjacent to the Hall.

All in all a very pleasant and successful evening, but we sincerely hope next year to see many more of our younger members and friends enjoying the pleasure of this annual event.

News from Overseas

George Duck has spent two years in Canada, employed by General Motors at Oshawa, Ontario. During his stay in the Dominion, he seems to have found time to visit many places of interest. Returning to this country in January, 1955, he re-joined the Lancs. C.C. Staff and is now Clerical Assistant to the County Planning Officer.

G. C. Wilson writes:—

“The Secretary has told me that readers of the Kirkhamian would be interested in what I have done since leaving K.G.S. in 1920 when the Rev. Strange was Headmaster.

My first experience was as a student-trainee for two years with a large rubber manufacturing Company in Leyland where I obtained a good idea of the organisation and problems of production of a large factory and what happens in the labour field. I then went for six years to one of the firm's branches in Preston where I was employed on cost accounting and latterly on shipping work. Trade was not very good at the time and prospects did not seem bright for me and so I looked round for better opportunities.

On the advice of a Chartered Accountant with whom I was taking an Accounting Course, I did some hectic cramming for three months and sat for the first of the Civil Service Open Competitive Examinations after the 1914-18 War.

I was successful and was offered and accepted a post as a direct entrant to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. That was during the bad old days when unemployment was very heavy and conditions such as the younger generation cannot imagine and the older generation like to forget.

After experience in an Employment Exchange and as an Inspector at the Manchester Regional Office, I was appointed Manager of the Leigh Employment Exchange. I was at Leigh for just over two years and then, on promotion, I returned to the Regional Office, Manchester. There I was in the Labour Supply Department and when the War broke out I spent a hectic eighteen months on the mobilisation and deployment of manpower for wartime industry. In 1940 I was promoted and transferred to the Headquarters Inspectorate of the Ministry, first in Southport and then in London. For three years I travelled the length and breadth of Great Britain undertaking a series of enquiries and investigations into such varied subjects as the organisation of the Merchant Navy Reserve Pool and the utilisation of manpower in the Iron Ore Mining and Quarrying industry.

In 1943 I was promoted to the Administrative Class in the rank of Principal and specialised in the manpower problems of the Design and Drawing Offices which were so vital to the production of aircraft and other munitions. In such spare time as I had during the war I was a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service and turned out for a number of big air raids; later on I was a member of the Home Guard.

At the end of the war I was transferred to work connected with the use of Employment Exchanges in the redeployment of manpower and its use in the development of essential industries.

Early in 1951 I was seconded to the Department of Labour and National Service, Commonwealth of Australia, and spent just over two years in that Dominion, first as Senior Inspector and

latterly as Assistant Secretary. In the course of my stay in Australia, though mainly in Melbourne, I visited all the States and gained some idea of the vast size of the country and its varied climate and scenery. I broke my journey home in 1953 to spend about six weeks in New Zealand where I visited the principal cities from Auckland in the North to Christchurch in the South and saw something of the work of the New Zealand Department of Labour and Employment.

On my return to the Ministry of Labour in London I was appointed to its Safety, Health and Welfare Department and took part in the initiation of measures to develop further the industrial health services in workplaces covered by the Factories Acts and served as the first secretary of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Labour.

In 1955 I was promoted to the rank of Assistant Secretary and transferred to take charge of a Branch of the Overseas Department of the Ministry responsible for Labour Attaches to overseas countries, the issue of permits to foreign workers under the Aliens Order, 1953, and labour questions in connection with the association of the United Kingdom with international and supra-national bodies such as the Council of Europe, O.E.E.C. and the European Coal and Steel Community. This has involved me in visits abroad as the U.K. representative at meetings of various international committees.

To end on a more personal note, I am married with one son and my official activities have not prevented me from playing Rugby up to just before the war and a considerable amount of tennis which I still play vigorously."

* * *

The news from Rodney Clayton, now living in Nairobi, Kenya, is that he was married in August, 1956, his bride being a Teacher. We wish him every happiness for the future.

* * *

J. Butler-Porter K.G.S. (1901-10) is this year's president of the Durban Rotary Club, the biggest on the coast of South Africa. He has also been appointed the Minister's nominee on the Council of the Sultan Technical College, which has 6,000 students.

The following additions or corrections should be made to the list of addresses which appeared in the December, 1955, issue of "The Kirkhamian".

- Williams, Alan (1936-44), 13, Princes' Road, Ansdell, Lytham.
Luty, J. (1950-5), Dalegarth, Blackpool Road, Kirkham.
Wilson, G. C. (1916-20), 271 Sheen Road, East Sheen, London, S.W. 14.
Wilcock, S. H. (19—), 101, Acregate Lane, Preston.
Bullock, J. O. (1946-54), Mont Alto, Ringley Road, Radcliffe, Manchester.
Aspden, A. R. (19—), 5, Byron Avenue, Lytham.
Rishton, R. W. (1933-40), 1, Springfield Cres., High Bentham, Lancaster.
Richardson, J. (1933-7), Mill Farm, Wesham, Kirkham.
Charles, A. O. (1942-6), Lynbeck, Holm Close, Histon, Cambridge.
Marsh, H. M. (1945-53), 434, Broadway Cleveleys.
Owen, N. H. (1932-36), 269, Baring Road, Grove Park, London, S.E. 12.
Rayton, F. B. (1902-6), 5, Burleigh Road, Preston (DECEASED).
Thorn, M. F., 8, South Drive, Fulwood, Preston.
Robinson, A. (19—), Whinfield Terrace, Tebay, Westmorland.
Atkinson, F. K. (19—), 14, Avenham Lane, Preston.
Atkinson, W. (19—), 14, Avenham Lane, Preston.
Cooper, C. F. (19—), 6, Cross Street, Preston.
Duck, G. (1943-9), 43, Newton Road, Preston.
Dobson, H. (1921-24), 6, Jubilee Avenue, Lea.
Dobson, J. R. (1918-24), 57, Orchard Avenue, Lymm, Warrington.
Stevenson, J. (1948-56), 52, Clifton Street, Lytham St. Annes.
Kirby, G. W. (1949-56), 49, Preston Street, Kirkham.
Dobson, B. L. (1935-45), The Manor House, Brent Knoll, Somerset.
Greenwood, E. B. (1944-51), 58, Scotland Road, Nelson, Lancs.
Pilling, T. A., The Gables, Green Lane, Bolton.
Cooke, D. T., 45, St. Albans Road, St. Annes-on-Sea.
Barrow, G., 16, Clifton Avenue, Warton, Preston.
Cumpstey, A. V., Greycote, 11, Highfield Drive, Fulwood.
Park, G. C. (1924-28), 3, Wilton Grove, Penwortham, Preston.
Hill, G. P. (1935-41), Bondoola, Balmoral Avenue, New Longton, Preston.
Scott, N., 1, Rutland Avenue, Cinnamon Hill, Walton-le-Dale, Preston.
Scott, L., 73, Stoneleigh Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland.
Gibbs, V., c/o 25, Stannah Gardens, Thornton, Blackpool.
Binns, A. P., 61, Cleveland Road, Burnley.

Signposts of the Sea

This is really an advertisement for the Northern Counties Radio School of Preston, but if you were interested in the Suez crisis, (and who wasn't!), you will be interested in our Merchant Navy, and its importance to us as one of the greatest maritime nations of the world, a position we have held for centuries. We are only too familiar with road traffic problems, but navigating a ship of 20,000 tons from port to port is today a job requiring a high degree of navigational skill. During the past 40 years radio navigational aids continuously progressed to the point where they act as eyes and ears and indeed as radio signposts for our ships.

There are now many types of radio aids. One of them, the automatic alarm—sometimes rudely referred to as the “Iron Mike”—will automatically ring bells if another ship is in trouble hundreds of miles away, and, situated on the bridge stands the Direction Finder aerials, and close to them is the Radar Scanner, the latter continuously searching for land and other ships, with “eyes” that can “see” even the unseen.

Above the promenade deck, and abaft the bridge deck, may be found the Radio Room, where the Radio Officer is listening to other ships and stations hundreds of miles distant. He presses a button, and from the depths of a complicated array of instruments comes a low murmur as a generator starts up. He presses a key, and to use his official phrases, he has “established communication,” thereby demonstrating Kipling's words:

*Would you call a friend from half across the world?
If you'll let us have his name and town and State,
You shall see and hear your crackling question hurled
Across the Arch of Heaven while you wait."*

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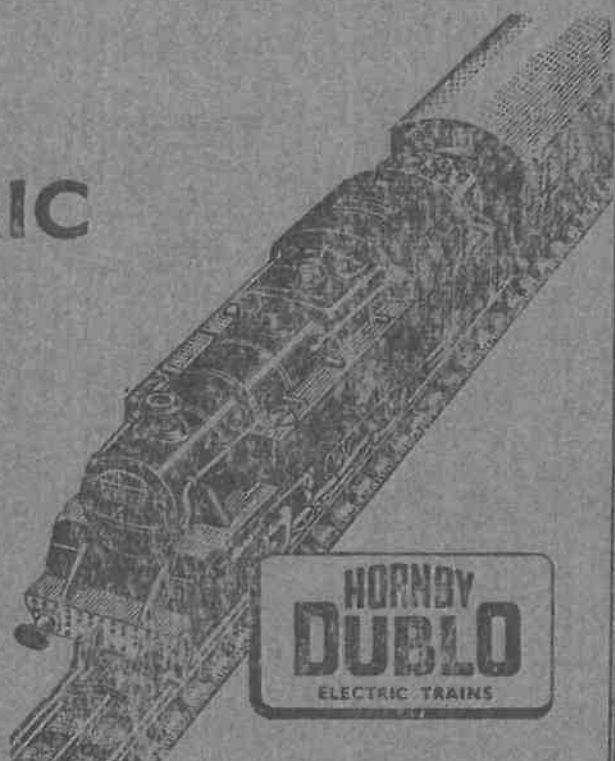


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