

THE RED ROSE.



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EXPERT
CRAFTSMEN

STEINWAY CHAPPELL
CHALLEN BROADWOOD
MARSHALL & ROSE SQUIRE



14 HOGHTON ST., SOUTHPORT

MUSIC - STUDIOS - RADIO - RECORDS - TUNING

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EDITORIAL

While the bombers roar overhead and the ruins are still tumbling around us, the word "reconstruction" is heard with increasing frequency. There are those who tell us that the shape of things to come is no business of the common man, you and me and the other fellow: they have even been given the freedom of the air to babble their impertinences, while honest men are put to silence. But the common man, despite the mental debauchery due to the constant floods of impopaganda, is not yet convinced that his own future is no concern of his and can be safely left to distinguished experts to make another distinguished mess of. Hence all this talk of reconstruction: it is an anodyne for his anguish that he, Man the Builder, has become Man the Knacker; it is a symbol of a lingering faith that he has not altogether and for ever relinquished his proud title, *Homo sapiens*.

It is not only in times of violence and destruction that man dreams of a fairer world. Always has he found consolation for his sorrows in visions of a Golden Age, of *Astraea Redux*, of the Millennium, always has he felt the urge to which old Omar has given the perfect expression:

Ah Love! could you and I with Fate conspire
To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire,
Would not we shatter it to bits—and then
Re-mould it nearer to the Heart's Desire!

But the horrors of mass murder give a sharper edge to the appetite for the paradisiacal, and the orgies of futile destruction make the dynamic life force, the evolutionary urge to create, more keenly insistent. What, then, of the Land of Heart's Desire now that our collection of bits is well under way?

Not so many years since a simple slogan sufficed. But it is not forgotten that many of the homes for heroes proved to be the derelict areas. Later, to spare our delicate feelings, we called them the depressed areas, but it was only the name we changed. Then they became the bombed areas. Now they are just areas.

These areas have become the theme of most of the talk of reconstruction, and publicity men have helped world-famous architects to tell us of the wonder cities that will arise. But is that all? we may well ask as we examine the idealised sketches and grandiose blue-prints. Material reconstruction there must be, and we may as well make a good job of it. But is that all? If so, we can well understand why the huge communal dwelling-houses where the home-loving Englishman is to live are to be provided with basement shelters.

For the outlook for mankind is grim unless we can achieve far more than material reconstruction. After the war, says one eminent politician, Britain must maintain huge armies to police the world. After the war, another public figure of weight advises schoolboys, there will be a fierce international economic struggle for which they must prepare now. What hope for humanity is there here? None. This is the very bankruptcy of statesmanship.

The one hope is that men shall learn to live together as friends, passing their lives peacefully and profitably together in a world that knows neither frontiers nor fortifications. This cannot be until we establish a new scale of values, in which life and happiness take precedence of property and profit. Here is the reconstruction on which the common man must concentrate his best efforts, and without which no other reconstruction will be worth while. And the time to begin is now, before the floods of hatred and bitterness which are the inevitable concomitants of bloodshed submerge not only the present but the future.

THE EDITORS.



SCHOOL NOTES

VALETE

- BAILEY, K., 1933-41.—Edwards', Lower VI Modern, School Certificate 1940, Minor Scholar, Secretary Music Society.
- LUND, J. D., 1934-41.—Mason's, Lower VI Science, School Certificate 1940.
- MARSHALL, R., 1934-40.—Woodham's, Upper Vc.
- BARTON, G. E., 1935-40.—Evans', VI Commercial, School Certificate 1940.
- BIRCHALL, J. E., 1935-40.—Mason's, Lower VI Science, School Certificate 1940, Patrol Leader School Scouts.
- BLACKMORE, W. E., 1935-40.—Edwards', VI Commercial, School Certificate 1940.
- BRITLAND, C. M., 1935-40.—Woodham's, Upper VI Science, School Certificate 1939.
- HOWARTH, J., 1935-40.—Leech's, Lower VI Science, School Certificate 1940.
- LAWRENCE, H., 1935-41.—Evans', Upper VI Science, School Certificate 1939.
- PERROTT, E. W., 1935-40.—Woodham's, VI Commercial, School Certificate 1939.
- WEATHERBY, J. N., 1935-40.—Gear's, VI Commercial, School Certificate 1940, Minor Scholar, Inter-School Athletics.
- WRIGHT, K., 1935-40.—Rogers', Upper VI Modern, School Certificate 1939, School Librarian.
- KEFFORD, P., 1936-41.—Evans', Lower VI Modern, School Certificate 1940, Inter-School Athletics.
- RIMMER, G., 1936-41.—Gear's, Lower VI Modern, School Certificate 1940, Secretary War Savings Group, Bronze Medallion R.L.S.S.

TAYLOR, D., 1936-40.—Spencer's, VI Commercial, School Certificate 1940, Secretary War Savings Group.

TROTT, C. E., 1936-41.—Rogers', Lower VI Modern, School Certificate 1940.

WILSON, E. D., 1937-40.—Mason's, Lower V Transitus.

MAJOR, P. C., 1938-41.—Leech's, Lower VI Modern, School Certificate 1940.

RIMMER, W. C., 1938-40.—Leech's, 111a.

ROBERTS, A. W., 1938-40.—Edwards', VI Commercial, School Certificate 1940, Acting Patrol Leader Scouts.

LAWRANCE, D. E., 1939-40.—Spencer's, 111b.

PARKER, R. S., 1939-40.—Mason's, 11b.

RYAN, J., 1939-40.—Mason's, Transitus Y.

NORMAN, J. B., 1940.—Leech's, 11 Remove.

SALVETE

G. Alpe, I. D. Ashworth, H. Ball, J. L. Bantock, A. P. Barton, J. M. Bather, L. Becker, I. Cain, K. Chipperfield, R. Cleveley, R. G. Clewley, D. E. Crook, A. Davidson, R. L. Dickinson, W. Dickinson, B. W. Duck, J. E. Fegan, A. Franklin, R. G. Franks, R. B. Griffiths, W. J. Grove, A. S. Howlett, L. D. Kramer, B. V. Lowe, D. N. Matten, I. N. McKenzie, B. Miles, C. R. Phillips, E. P. Powell, L. Ratoff, D. Read, I. C. Roddick, W. H. Rothwell, D. Tarry, A. J. Usher.

We welcome to the Staff this term Mr. J. B. Jenkinson, A.R.C.A., of Alsop High School, who has been appointed Art Master, and Mr. A. L. Grundy, of Terra Nova School, who has taken over the Physical Training during the absence of Mr. Jones.

We greatly regret that Mr. Rogers, owing to serious illness, has been unable to be with us this term. He has been much missed by boys and staff alike, and we all offer our best wishes for an early and complete recovery.

We have to express our appreciation of the services of Mrs. N. S. Taylor, B.Sc., whose offer to assist in the Mathematical Department stood us in such good stead in the hour of need.

As we go to press War Savings have reached the total of £3,254 3s. 4d. The effort made during War Weapons week realised approximately £1,350.

J. K. Hulm was in December last awarded a Major Scholarship of £100 per annum at Caius College, Cambridge. The subjects of his examination were Physics, Chemistry, Pure Mathematics, and Applied Mathematics.

A unit of the Air Training Corps has been organised in the School, and the Flight No. 652 came into being as from February 1st. At present the strength is 45 cadets and 2 officers. It is hoped to organise regular parades very shortly.

The Science Department is grateful to Dr. Heisler for his gift of the books, *Science Marches On*, by Walter Shepherd, F.G.S., and *Physical Science in Modern Life*, by E. G. Richardson.



HOUSE NOTES

EDWARDS'

Last term the House was successful in taking first place in the Honours List. It is not the first time that we have achieved this honour, and we look forward to maintaining our position.

Besides having had considerable success in the scholastic sphere, the House has been well represented in games activities. H. Markham, A. H. Walker, G. Barton, and A. P. Goode have played for the 1st XV.; J. Thornley for the 2nd XV.; T. Allen and R. H. Abram for the 3rd XV., and P. Oakes, J. A. Mayor and N. Allen for the Bantams. The weather has severely interfered with House matches, but we are pleased to note that up to the present both the Senior XV. and the Junior XV. have won their trophies at least should not regain its place on the House-room wall.

As the storms of winter give way to the gentle Spring zephyrs, athletics, cricket and swimming take the place of football, and we urge the youthful members of the House to devote a little of their spare time to cultivating the physical fitness necessary for success. In particular we should like to see a few more boys taking to the water during the coming term.

Many boys will shortly be racking their brains for the Trial Examinations. We offer them our consolation and best wishes for ultimate success.

Our appeal last term for more savings has produced the expected result, and the House is now fully doing its part in paving the road to victory.

Congratulations are extended to E. B. Taylor on his being appointed a House Prefect.

At the end of last term we lost the valuable services of W. E. Blackmore and A. W. Roberts, and during the present term we said good-bye to K. Bailey, who has been a competent Secretary of the Music Society for some time.

In spite of these depletions of our ranks we have had a fairly prosperous term, and the keenness of many of our junior members augurs well for the future.

We send our best wishes to the many members of the House now serving in the Forces.

J. W. T.

EVANS'

There have been few activities outside school hours this term. We are hoping to finish the list of Rugby fixtures, both Senior and Junior, before term ends. If the Seniors win their next match they will be in the final.

In the School teams H. Lomas, K. Hepburn, and G. Whelan have played in the 1st XV., G. Whelan and N. G. Irving in the 2nd XV., R. Buck in the 3rd XV., and Trimble and Taylor in the Bantam XV. We congratulate K. Hepburn on his obtaining his 1st XV. Colours.

Our congratulations go to Goldberg on his appointment as a House Prefect.

The House has continued to support the Savings movement, and during the War Weapons Week an extra effort was made.

We hope that every fit boy will try to qualify in the qualification rounds of the Athletic Sports, so as make a good start towards success in the Sports next term.

D. M. P.

GREAR'S

This term House activities have been very restricted owing to the fact that the usual winter weather has made necessary the postponement of all Rugby matches; some hard work has been put in, however, in the few practices it has been possible to hold.

Towards the end of last term the first and only junior Rugby match played up to now took place. The team, though lacking experience in certain positions, gave a good account of itself, and the victory gained augurs well for future matches. G. Humphreys, E. Lawrenson, F. F.

Martin and K. Parkinson have been our representatives in the 2nd XV., while D. A. Cox, the House Rugby captain, is to be congratulated on the award of 2nd XV. colours.

One of the most important activities of the House this term has been in connection with the National Savings campaign. During the recent local War Weapons Week, the House made a very creditable contribution to the School total. Several new members have joined the group, and we would remind the House that it is the regular contributions that are so important, and that, although a large sum cannot be collected every week, the effort must be kept up.

The end of the Easter Term brings new activities to the notice of boys. By the time these notes appear in print the Athletics competition will have begun, and we urge all boys to attempt the qualification part of the contest.

Swimming practices have commenced, and it is hoped that new boys who are unable to swim will take advantage of the instruction provided by willing seniors.

We would remind boys that, with all these varied activities, work in the form room must not be neglected in view of the examinations taking place at the end of next term. To all candidates for the H.S.C. and S.C. examinations we tender our best wishes and express the hope that their labours may be crowned with success.

H. L.

LEECH'S

This term has been generally blank so far as sporting activities and societies have been concerned. If it is permissible to mention that once popular subject, the weather, we may say that the amount of fair weather at week-ends has been unusually small, with the result that up to the time of writing no house matches, either senior or junior, have been played. The precious minutes of daylight after four o'clock are now lengthening, and it is hoped that one or two of the postponed matches may be played before the end of this term.

House officials remain the same as last term with the addition of G. Prichard, whom we congratulate on being

made a House Prefect. We would like to thank him for the hard work he put in during War Weapons Week. B. Collinge has of late played regularly for the School 1st Rugby XV.

The end of term will see the qualifications for the School Sports, and we hope to see the more athletically inclined members of the House striving for points on the sports field.
J. T. D.

MASON'S

In the last issue of the "Red Rose" it was pointed out that the House had held the second place in the honours list for two terms. At that time we asked all members of the House to strive to create a record by attaining that position once more. We take pleasure in reporting that at the end of last term the second position was again reached, and that it has now been held for the third time in succession. We would like to congratulate those boys whose endeavours have resulted in this creditable achievement. It now remains for the House to surpass this effort and to obtain the first place.

The Rugby teams have little hope of attaining any distinction this season, for both XV's have already lost one match. The Seniors, however, have one victory to their credit—a victory that was in no slight degree due to the plucky play of Juniors who helped to make up a side weakened by the loss, permanent or temporary, of older members. We are happy to record that one of the stalwarts of the side, H. G. Sumner, who plays for the 1st XV., has been awarded his 1st XV. colours. The House congratulates him. D. M. Walbank also has been awarded 2nd XV. colours.

We also have to mention the loss of E. J. Birchall, who left at the end of last term. We thank him for the work he did for the School 2nd XV., for the House Rugby and Swimming teams, and for the School Scout Troop. The House offers him best wishes for his future success.

We would remind the House of the need for practice for the Athletic and Swimming Sports, which, with the Swimming qualification trials, will be held next term. The

Seniors concerned will need no reminder of their coming examinations. We hope that their efforts in both the trials and the examination in July will be rewarded with success.

In all probability these will be the last notes by the present writer, who this term will end a pleasant, if not lengthy, association with the House and the School. He would like to take this opportunity of wishing them both the best of good fortune in the future.

D. M. W.

ROGERS'

We were very sorry to learn at the beginning of term that Mr. J. W. Rogers, our House-master, had been taken ill during the Christmas Holidays. We are sure that all members of the House will join us in expressing deepest sympathy with Mr. Rogers, and wishes for his speedy recovery. Mr. H. Higham is at present House-master, and it is to be hoped that the sincere welcome which the House gives him will be demonstrated in a practical form by increased enthusiasm in all departments of House life.

We are delighted to hear that our House captain, J. K. Hulm, has been awarded a Major Scholarship on the result of the December Examinations at Cambridge. In offering him our congratulations we hope that his excellent example will be followed by other members of the House.

The poor record of last year's Senior Rugby Team was not improved upon during the Autumn Term, the Seniors being defeated by Edwards' and Evans'. The Junior Team has played only one match, and although Woodham's were beaten by a comfortable margin, the victory had to be forfeited owing to an accidental infringement of the rules regarding the "dimensions" of Junior players. The side is, however, a strong one, and, despite this reverse, there is still a possibility of gaining the shield. So far this term adverse weather conditions have thwarted all attempts to play the remaining inter-House fixtures.

Our representatives in the School teams are: G. P. Roberts, D. Lee (1st XV.); B. S. Crowther, M. F. Drury (3rd XV.); G. Rimmer, R. N. R. Greenall (Bantam XV.).

This term and the next will witness the Athletics qualifications and the actual Sports. We hope every member of the House will do his utmost to ensure the House a high position in the final list.

To all those members of the House taking the H.S.C. and S.C. Trial Examinations we wish the best of success.

G. P. R.

SPENCER'S

This term has been extremely uneventful, as far as House affairs go; nevertheless steady though not spectacular success has rewarded our efforts in most spheres of activity.

In Rugby our Senior House team has played two matches and lost both. Our Junior House team has, however, put up a fair performance; but we are looking for greater success in the future. In the 1st XV Wilks has joined our other representative, Hartley.

In War Savings the position is very satisfactory, but we would like to remind contributors that putting money in on Thursday morning does not necessitate going down to the first lesson about twenty minutes late. Our contribution to the local War Weapons Week would appear to be considerable. We have had many transactions and an amazingly high number of new contributors. It must be remembered that the savings movement is vital at present in order to bring the victory celebrations forward by some months.

The societies seem to have closed down for the duration, but Waldman won the Chess championship.

We would like to wish all those engaged in examinations this year good luck and high marks.

Finally, we would like to say that next term many sporting events take place, and would urge all members of the House to go to it and keep at it so as to provide us with a good position when the Jubilee Cup comes to be re-awarded.

R. L. P. R. H.

WOODHAM'S

This term finds us a very young House, but we hope to overcome our disadvantage by hard work. We have been deprived of the services of two House prefects, C. Britland and E. W. Perrott, who left us last term.

No House-matches have as yet been played this term on account of the bad state of the weather.

The S.C. and H.S.C. trial examinations will by now be over, and we hope boys lost no opportunity of preparing for them. Having been third in the Honours List for the last two terms, we should like to see more work done by the House and a higher place taken. The House should appreciate that the School's routine remains unchanged in spite of the present international state of unrest.

The House has always held a premier position in the Savings Group inaugurated last year, and during the War Weapons Week of this term savings to the value of nearly three hundred pounds were invested. Our thanks are due to R. J. Smith, who has undertaken the secretarial duties of the Savings Group.

Next term the School Sports and gym. competitions will be taking place, and we would remind boys that opportunities for training will be provided during the coming holidays, and that full use should be made of them. Not very long ago the sports trophies adorned our House-room, and if everyone pulls his weight in the qualifications and practices, we see no reason why those trophies should not be regained.

We have noticed an increasing keenness in the House for swimming and life-saving. At the present time three Life-saving Classes are in progress, instructed by J. Lancashire, E. Gruber, and E. Bennett; but there is plenty of room for more enthusiasts, who would be greatly welcomed. In a few months the Swimming Sports will be held; this leaves little time for non-swimmers to learn and to qualify. Baths practices will again be held during the holidays, and we wish to impress upon the House the need for a greater percentage of swimmers.

J. L.

OLD BOY'S NEWS

MARRIAGES

EDGAR JACKSON to MARJORIE WHITE, at the Town Hall, Southport, on December 28th.

RONALD WALKER to JESSIE POTTER, at Leyland Road Church, on December 31st.

GEOFFREY H. DRINKWATER to ESTHER EARNSHAW, at Church Street Methodist Church, on January 18th.

JOHN S. MANN to JOAN BARNES, at Reigate, on January 21st.

ERNEST BUCHER to DOROTHY FOX, at St. Andrew's Church, on January 25th.

JAMES M. CHADWICK to ELIZABETH DAVIES, at Altrincham, on February 2nd.

GORDON R. INGHAM to PEGGY WHITEHOUSE, at Wolverhampton, on February 27th.

ROLL OF HONOUR

ALLEN F. RIDDLESWORTH, D.F.C., Flight-Lieutenant R.A.F., killed on active service on February 26th.

A. E. LAW, Sergeant Gunner R.A.F., reported missing February 27th.

UNIVERSITY LETTERS

5, Green Street,
Cambridge,
March 2nd, 1941.

To the Editors of "The Red Rose."

SIRS,—Although we would love to tell you all about air-raid warnings, we know that it would not meet with approval. Consequently, we turn to the weather. Unfortunately, that too is an official secret, and apart from the fact that the worst weather always coincides with O.T.C. Parades we can say no more.

Instead, we are pleased to announce that the Old Georgians have every hope of remaining unaffected by the registration of the new age-groups for some considerable time.

C. A. J. still rows. D. C. O. nearly knows how to present arms. J. R. L. still performs deeds of violence in the name of Judo.

An interesting and very popular new society here is the Film Society. The films shown are varied, and among the best ever made. Your correspondent has only just returned from a Society lecture by a famous musical director of films.

Braving a strong wind, two of us went punting the other day. In spite of being practically the only ones on the river, we found that the summer term is not the only time for punting. The trouble came when we tried to tackle Dead Man's Corner in the face of the gale.

(But let it be clearly understood that we came home dry!)

Finally, may we say how pleased—and in fact overawed—we were to hear of J. K. Hulm's success here in December. We hope he won't be the only new face among the C.U.O.G.S. in October.

We remain, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. U. O. G. S.

Guild of Undergraduates,
University of Liverpool,
2, Bedford Street,
Liverpool, 7,
24/2/41.

To the Editors of "The Red Rose."

SIRS,—This term will be remembered by most of us on account of the travelling difficulties it has presented. Since damage has been caused as a result of enemy action to a certain section of a certain railway line, passengers have been faced with either a tedious wait in the blizzard for a bus (or an Army lorry) to take them into the centre of the city, or with a journey on a "real train" from another station. Those who choose the latter are entranced by the thirty-mile sight-seeing tour which the journey affords; those who favour the former are welcome.

Saturday, February 22nd, gave many of us an opportunity of gaining first-hand knowledge of the inside of a Labour Exchange, and the main topics of conversation have subsequently ranged from Piloting Spitfires to Eating Soap Pills. Nowadays members of the University Training Corps are to be seen nicely decked out in battledress. Some of them look all right.

Student life, like everything else, has been sadly disturbed by the war, and study has in many cases lost much of its significance. It is particularly pleasing therefore to see E. F. B. Cadman once again figuring among those who have distinguished themselves. Students fortunate enough to be in final year are not allowing national affairs to interfere any more than is inevitable, and, if hard work heralds good results, W. F. Coulshed and G. H. Ball should complete their courses with success. M. H. Coulson is deeply engrossed in the legal aspect of things, although he recently spent a week-end at the University Rest House at Llangollen, and came back very pleased with (shall we say?) the illegal side of life.

Among the important speeches made at the University this term was that of Dr. Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, who prophesied that the war would end in an allied victory in the Spring of next year. With that happy thought we leave you.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

THE LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY OLD GEORGIANS.

The University of Manchester,
Manchester 13,
27th February, 1941.

To the Editors of "The Red Rose."

SIRS,—Here we are, still alive to tell the tale after another almost uneventful term, apart from the aftermath of the now famous blitz, and also the preparations for the usual Rag, which went on in unusual silence until its actual publication.

The lectures given weekly in the Chemistry Department have gone on as usual, and are one of the most interesting features of the term: one was on synthetic dyes and

drugs. We still wait patiently for "something to turn up" from King George V and break the monotony of our existence.

B.H.S., who left us a year ago, is still working at a Coventry factory, and has been almost unaffected by the efforts of the "enemy."

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

M. U. S. O. G.

St. Chad's College,
Durham,
March 13th, 1941.

To the Editors of "The Red Rose."

SIRS,—The Epiphany Term at Durham is notable in two respects, for its commemorations and its weather. The commemorations are those of the Founders and Benefactors, marked by a service in the Cathedral, and our own College Festival, held on March 2nd, St. Chad's Day. The former is a most colourful affair, with a procession of the Canons of the Cathedral followed by the dons of the University, led by a mace-bearer, who, on more mundane occasions, performs the duty of "bulldog," and harasses unfortunate undergraduates with such awkward questions as "Where's your respirator, sir?" or, worse still, "What's your name and College?" Following him comes the Vice-Chancellor in robes of black and silver, then doctors in scarlet, among whom one of the most impressive figures is Dr. Levison, whose seat of Mediaeval History at Bonn was taken from him in the interests of Aryan culture, and who has now found refuge at Durham.

"Chad's Day," as the College Festival is usually called, was not celebrated on the usual scale this year, for obvious reasons. The usual concert was held, and the Bishop preached in the Chapel at Evensong, but the usual number of old members of the College were not able to come up for the Festival.

A fortnight or so ago Durham was in the midst of a terrific snowstorm. Snow fell continuously for sixty hours, and lay well over a foot deep. The most weird and wonderful fashions were to be seen: some wore gum-boots

with trousers stuffed inside, others put their O.T.C. puttees to good use, and headgear of all kinds was to be seen—Balaclava helmets, trilbys, caps—in fact, anything but the “square” required by regulations.

The term is now drawing to a close. Some unfortunates are taking Collection papers, a termly test set by the boards of some schools. We in the Theology school are more fortunate: we have no papers to take; but we are “collected” by the board of Theology; this consists of appearing before the board and hearing what one’s tutor and lecturers think of one.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

D. O. G. S.

THE POSTMEN

Christmas is always a busy time for the Post Office, and this year it was to be expected that the number of letters and parcels to be delivered would not be less than usual. Yet there was an acute shortage of labour for the temporary work of handling the additional mail, and, as in other localities, the Post Office here was obliged to call in the help of schoolboys. Following an appeal made at school, about a hundred and forty senior boys offered to work as postmen during the holidays. Any light-hearted approach to the work was removed at a meeting with the Post-Master, who pointed out that we should have to fill a man’s place, and that imprisonment was the penalty for delaying, tampering with, or stealing the Royal Mail.

Undeterred, we made our way with feelings of curiosity and excitement to the Post Office before dawn on a moonlight December morning; our arrival was noted on the time-sheet, and with the issue of duty-cards, and the blue arm-bands inscribed “Post Office Postman,” we were servants of the Post Office and of the public.

The majority of us were employed on the delivery of letters and packets, and with the guidance of a regular postman we set out on our first day’s work. Thereafter we went out on our own.

The letters were sorted, made up in bundles, and arranged in the order of our round by the postmen sorters,

who came to sit before their rows of pigeon-holes, into which the incoming mail is sorted, at a terrifyingly early hour. After mastering the first difficulties of technique, after learning how to push a large letter into a small and tight letter box with one hand while holding a thick bundle of letters in the other hand, we made fair progress, though we were always troubled by annoying little packets, which seemed to hide away in the bottom of a large, and often well-filled bag, and which caused us to make many a double journey. The delivery of these packets necessitated the announcement of our arrival by the traditional knock, for while some bells rattled like the guns of a Spitfire, in many other cases we were informed that the bell was out of order, or were met by a bell which after fruitless pressing or pulling proved to be in the same condition. Our knuckles suffered considerably, and we feel that, from the postman’s point of view, the old-fashioned door-knocker is still an efficient means of attracting attention.

For a spell, we tried sorting the outgoing mail. This is divided, when it comes from the boxes, into three sections: Southport; Birkdale and Ainsdale, and miscellaneous; the last of these comprising letters for all other parts of the world. After this primary sorting, the local letters are sorted into their districts and streets, while the miscellaneous are made up into bags for the various centres to which they are sent.

Other boys had gone, not to the main office, but to a hired hall, used by the parcels post as a sorting office. From the darkness outside, we passed suddenly into a blaze of light. The sorters were skilfully throwing the piled-up parcels into the banks of gaping bags which filled up a large part of the floor. At one door, dull white bags were being brought in from the station. Through another swing door a postman trailed a bag out to his van. Yet another man was busily slinging empty bags from a pile, and hanging them in the iron frames. All was bustle. The very dust flickered agitatedly in the beams of electric light. But the rush was on. We had not time to stand gazing on the scene. We must sign on and help to drag out the bags and cram them, in order, into the vans, which were lined up ready to dash off with their load.

These vans varied from the large new model, which braves the blackout and the blitz to collect the night mail, to the decrepit and once condemned vehicle which required all the skill and coaxing of the mechanics to keep it in the service into which it had been pressed. In addition, other vans were hired, and we had the oft-sought opportunity of riding nonchalantly on the tail-board of a pantehnicon, and of performing balancing feats within a carrier's lorry. Some of our postmen, moreover, had the experience, uncommon in these days of mechanical transport, of riding in a horsedrawn cart which was used on some deliveries.

Looking back, we have a miscellany of scattered recollections. We see snatches of the streets in all the various parts of the town in which we delivered letters or parcels. We have memories of sandwich lunches eaten as we sat on piles of empty bags in the vans, in the white-washed basement kitchen at the office, in the suburban house of one of the drivers, in the homely parlour behind a fish shop, where, one biting Sunday, we warmed ourselves before the fire and drank the mugs of tea which the hospitable friends of one of the postmen provided. We remember pushing a hand-cart over the icy road, the red sun shining cheerily through the haze, and an air-raid siren cutting shrilly through the frosty air. Then we recall the day when we walked amid scenes of destruction, crunching through broken glass to deliver parcels at windowless houses. Again, there was the bottle of wine, which, insecurely packed, had been broken in the bag. Its contents had to be poured sorrowfully into the gutter. At any rate we learnt that breakable articles should be properly wrapped to protect them from the inevitable knocks that will be received in the bag. We recollect the friendly postmen; the visit to their canteen on Christmas morning, as they cooked their breakfast, sat round the table, or shaved; the officials, who were pleased to explain the broad and the fine principles of the complex organisation of the Post Office, whereby letters can be collected, sorted, and delivered over a distance of hundreds of miles, all within a very few days. As former employees who have been "behind the scenes," we shall in future have every admiration for the work of our "firm."

The whole period of our employment was interesting and enjoyable. The weather was pleasant and brought no discomforts, and though memories of corns and blisters may still remain, we feel that should the call come again next year, all who are able will respond willingly.

H. L. & D. M. W.

—*—
RAYON

There does not seem to be much similarity between a forest of towering spruce trees, somewhere in the backwoods of Canada, and the smart fabrics, dainty underwear and other artificial silk goods which are so much in evidence at the present day. Nevertheless, chemically speaking, the two things are very closely related, since wood contains a large percentage of cellulose, the basis of all artificial silk. It is interesting to note that the name "Rayon" tends to supersede that of "Artificial Silk," owing to the fact that the product is neither silk, nor is it artificial. The fascinating details of the viscose process of rayon manufacture were recently seen by a party from the sixth form at the Aintree works of the British Enka Silk Company. The characteristic odour of sulphur by-products greeted us on arrival, and soon, in several smaller groups, each in charge of one of the works chemists, we began a complete tour of the factory.

The basic raw material of the process is spruce wood, which is used in preference to other types of wood owing to its high content of cellulose. The original timber passes through several preliminary stages of treatment, including pulping, boiling with certain chemicals to dissolve out impurities, and bleaching, practically pure cellulose being eventually obtained. It is then pressed, dried and cut into sheets resembling thick blotting paper, and is received in this form at the rayon factory.

In brief, the principle of the viscose process is the conversion of cellulose, which is itself insoluble, into a compound known as "cellulose scanthate."

The latter will dissolve in caustic soda solution, and the resulting liquid, which is called "viscose," can be squirted

through a fine jet into an acid bath, when the cellulose is re-precipitated in the form of a thin thread of rayon. This method is used to provide over eighty per cent. of the world's rayon output, mainly owing to the cheapness of the raw materials.

The operations leading up to the formation of cellulose scanthate consist of soaking the pulp sheet in baths of caustic soda solution, squeezing out the excess liquid by means of hydraulic presses, and tearing the sheets into small pieces or "crumb," in kneading machines. The crumb is kept for a week at a constant temperature, to mature it, and is then agitated in huge churns with carbon disulphide, for several hours. A beautiful orange-coloured substance is produced, cellulose scanthate, and when this has been tipped into mixing cylinders containing caustic soda solution and stirred until dissolved, the magical viscose is obtained. It is very similar in appearance to new honey, but is not quite ready for the "spinning," as the manufacturers term the actual squirting of rayon thread, owing to the presence of solid matter which would clog the jets, and air bubbles which would cause the thread to be discontinuous. The former is removed by filtration and the latter by evacuating the space above the surface of the solution in huge cylinders known familiarly as "kettles." At the same time the liquid becomes less viscous, and fit for spinning.

The viscose is pumped into spinning machines and comes out in fine filaments from the jets, or spinnerets as they are called technically, immersed in acid baths. It is most interesting to watch the threads of regenerated cellulose, which up to a few seconds previously were liquid viscose, running out of the sulphuric acid. Actually one rayon thread is composed of a score or more of extremely fine filaments, each of which comes from a different jet. The threads are drawn off, slightly twisted, and wound into the form of a hollow cylinder, known as a cake, in a rapidly revolving box. The rayon cakes pass through a final series of washings, with various reagents to remove acid and sulphur and to bleach them. They are partially dried by centrifuging, the drying being completed in huge ovens.

Two types of cake are eventually produced, lustrous and matte. The lustrous thread, as its name implies, is very glossy in appearance and is used mainly in the manufacture of materials such as are required for lining of clothing and ladies' underwear. Matte rayon, which is more dull, although none the less pure white, is largely woven into stockings. No actual weaving of rayon material is carried out at the Aintree factory, the final process being the winding of the thread on to conical-shaped spools, which are examined individually for faults before packing and despatching.

An important feature of the rayon works is the textile laboratory, where various properties of the thread, such as tensile strength, are investigated. Of particular interest was an extremely sensitive torsion balance which weighs short lengths of thread of hair's-breadth thickness.

To complete the afternoon we adjourned to the works canteen, where we were welcomed by tea and cakes. After tea, a vote of thanks was moved by J. K. Hulm, who voiced the opinion of us all in saying that the visit had been thoroughly enjoyable and most instructive.

J. H. & J. K. H.



THE DAISY AND THE TRAVELLER

Upon a roadside bank one day,
In breezy, bright and showery May,
A daisy smiled, enjoying life,
And knew no care or horrid strife.
A weary traveller on the road passed by,
With flagging step and many a heavy sigh.
He saw the daisy's gentle smile,
A lovely sight beside the stile.
He stooped and plucked the dainty weed,
And joyously across the mead
He went revived. The daisy wept,
And fading in his hat was kept.
Thus often (such is life's harsh measure),
What saddens one gives others pleasure.

A. R. P.

THE NIGHT RAIDER

Discharging his deadly load, he turns,
And heads for the land that sent him forth
Upon his mission. Beneath him burns
The havoc he has wrought, and to North
The searchlights claw and comb the skies.
Hemmed in by tireless fighters, sprayed
By shells from a hundred guns, he shies,
Unsure of his course. Each cannonade
Brings doom closer. He is caught,
Trapped like a fox on whom hounds converge.
He knows not where refuge may be sought:
He dives into clouds, but must emerge
To some new peril. Now he's over the coast;
The sea beneath him crawls silently.
A keen-eyed gun-crew at their post
Fire; the wreckage falls into the sea.

J. B. M.

THE SOUTH DOWNS

The breezes that sweep o'er the Sussex Downs
Still turn the sails of an ancient mill,
And sigh through the ring of trees that crowns
The top of Chanctonbury Hill.

On a distant slope the sheep bells tinkle,
Whilst far below the church clock chimes,
And cars crawl on the ribbon road
Where warriors marched in former times.

Once on this track rolled Roman chariots,
And Saxon ox-carts filled with grain.
From Ditchling Beacon blazed the warning
That Spain's Armada sailed again.

Far away to the misty horizon
Stretches the chequered, wooded Weald,
And the distant, purple North Downs stand
Like sentinels over farm and field.

T. R.

ESCAPE

For thirteen weary days the platoon had been in the thick of it; for thirteen days it had hardly ever stopped raining. Hostilities had ceased on both sides so that the common enemy could be fought. The black water crept down the sides of the trenches into the glutinous jelly of mud below. Churned to slime by the passage of hundreds of feet, the mud crept everywhere. It became a part of the men's lives. They worked, ate and generally slept in it. Some put up with the mud and even made light of it; others viewed it with growing horror. For them it was something black and mysterious which was always there, waiting to trap the unwary. Men would suddenly disappear, unnoticed, down hidden sump-holes; the mud's tenacious hold would evoke tears of vexation as they struggled in vain to free themselves.

One of the many who abhorred the mud was a boy of eighteen. Before he had joined up he had been working in an office, and the war seemed to him a great adventure. But this he could not stand. He began to dream of clean, open fields, of a bed without blankets soaked in slime, and of food free from grit.

At last it seemed that his chance had come. The blacksmith behind the lines needed a striker, and the sergeant called for a volunteer. The youth thought quickly. He had had no experience of such work; but what an opportunity to get out of those filthy trenches! He stepped forward and received his orders.

Down the trench he trudged, his heart lightening at the prospect before him. He would soon be free of the filth and discomfort of those slimy trenches. He would soon be eating clean food while the rest were still struggling in the deep ooze. He chuckled at the thought of the rest of the platoon left to contend with the mud while he was billeted in a village. His elation was damped, however, by the mud which lay deeply around him. It was getting thicker as he progressed. Soon he found himself struggling to free his legs as it clung to them. Just ahead lay the communication trench, a twisting, meandering river of mud. No, he could not face it. He would take a chance and cut across the top. It would feel fine to be running on fairly

firm ground again. Besides, it would shorten his journey down by at least a half. He would do it, and spite that black, evil monster which seemed to be waiting for him. He reached for a trench ladder.

They found him next day, propped against the ladder, a pale, stiff corpse with a sniper's bullet in his brain. "Poor devil," they said, and buried him in the mud.

Soon after the platoon moved out.

J. L.

— x —
THE MISSEL-THRUSH

All other birds were silent while
The lightning flashed, the thunder rolled,
But in defiance of the storm
The storm-cock sang his challenge bold.
Brave missel-thrush, through all the snow,
Sleet, hail, and rain of winter days,
You sing your song of cheerfulness
Alone, and brighten dreary ways.

The thrush's song at daybreak, too,
Brings memories of happy hours
Spent in the peace of pleasant fields,
Of stately hills and dancing flowers,
Of Rydal, Grasmere, Coniston—
All Lakeland's beauty unsurpassed.
Rich in such thoughts, we too may keep
Brave hearts, though skies are overcast.

F. M.

— x —
THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

Tick tock, tick tock,
That's the song
Of our grandfather clock,
All day long
And all night too.
I'm sure his life
Is nearly through.

He stands in the corner
At the foot of the stairs,
Where he hears the radio
Playing sweet airs.

Like a dear old man
With his hands on his face,
What has he done
To bring him disgrace?

I hope he won't stop
For a long time yet,
For we look upon him
As a household pet.

M. A. H.

— x —
A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE

It was with mixed feelings that two Southport boys sat in the train, jogging along on a seemingly endless journey. The watery December sun cast its pale rays on the countryside as we passed the brick kilns and clay-pits of Bedfordshire. Gradually these gave way to flatter land, the borders of East Anglia. We were bound for Cambridge, and, though pleasantly anticipating our first visit to the famous University, we were also aware of the reason for going, the scholarship examinations.

At last the train reached its destination, and in a short while, piloted by two old Georgians, present members of the University, we entered the historic portals of Gonville and Caius College. Despite the fact that the term had ended and most undergraduates had left or were leaving, the one brief week of our stay left a vivid impression of the life and atmosphere of the University and infused in us a desire to see much more of the place. To say that the examinations were enjoyable would be an exaggeration. Most of the papers in our particular subject were held in the Gonville and Caius hall, and as we pondered over our problems the solemn countenances of such famous members of the college as Judge Jeffreys and Thomas Gresham looked down at us from the walls.

The short winter days and pressure of examinations did not leave much time for sight-seeing, but we were able to see most of the colleges, if only from their exteriors. A visit to the Fitz-william Museum revealed that most of the exhibits had been removed to places of safety for the duration. We should have liked to inspect the new University library, but this proved to be impossible. Not the least pleasant feature of our sojourn in college was the hospitality shown us by the old Georgians in residence, for which we were most grateful.

As we walked through Tree Court on the last evening, a carpet of white frost covered the grass, and the moonlight on the old buildings, as the silvery chimes from the clock tower rang through the clear air, provided a scene of beauty not easily forgotten.

J. K. H.

KEW HOCKEY CLUB

On February 22nd, Kew Hockey Club was revived for its annual and only fixture against the Girls' High School. Previous arrangements had been cancelled by the weather, but, at length, Spring seemed to have softened somewhat the heart of old man Winter, and, although frost had made standing difficult on the slippery grass, and the subsequent fall hard, eleven members of the 1st and 2nd XVs turned out to try their hand at the supposedly less robust game of hockey. Ignorant, at first, of the rules, and then forgetting to put them into practice, the Kew XI were frequently penalised, and so the sides were well balanced in this contest between strength and skill, this combat between Giants and Amazons.

At first, the fortune of war went to the Giants, as D. Lee (giant indeed!) connected with a cross-pass to register the first point. Undaunted, the war-like maidens made swift reply, and had soon recaptured the lost position and even made an advance. Whereupon the Giants, feeling the need to assert their masculine superiority, returned to the attack, and success followed a cunningly placed shot by C. McMillan and a series of C. Moss's brilliant one-handed efforts.

After the truce at half-time, the supermen from Kew, refreshed by the acid-drops provided, pressed on the attack, and R. Abram put them further in advance. Yet once again the Amazonian onslaught was renewed. Under heavy fire, G. P. Roberts and K. Smethurst were gallant backs and D. M. Walbank was useful in the last line of defence (although his play could not be as brilliant as his flaming jersey). Yet despite their stubborn resistance, first the centre and then Hippolyta, dashing Queen, with Atalanta's speed, broke through to equalise. But aided by D. A. Cox, who at centre-half strove hard in both storm and siege, the rearguard retreated no more. For a time the balance was maintained, and in the eager struggle many of our number, attacked like Achilles in heel or ankle, were laid sprawling on the field of combat. R. G. Munday and J. Hartley, busy halves, with B. Collinge on the left wing, were fighting hard meanwhile, and at length Moss was able to seize the vital point that secured victory.

So with cheers both high and low the echoes of Olympus rang and rumbled, and Giants and Amazons ceased to strive. Next year fresh armies may renew the struggle.

D. M. W.

RUGBY

1st XV CRITICISMS

ABRAM R. (Captain), 1st XV Colours 1939-40-41, Loose forward.

Possesses much natural ability for the game and might have given better service to School Rugby if he had developed as a three-quarter at an earlier age. As a loose forward, in which position he is at present most useful, he generally distributes the ball to excellent advantage, but in the threequarter line is inclined to spoil very good approach play by ignoring his support after an opening has been made. Shows fine anticipation by the way in which he covers whole movements in both attack and defence.

ROBERTS G. P. (Vice-captain), 1st XV Colours 1940-41, Centre threequarter.

Often demonstrates on the field that he possesses the same natural gift for Rugby that he has for other games. Had his love for the game been commensurate with his ability, his performances in school matches might have been brilliant. His obvious faults are (1) a tendency to delay his tackle, and (2) in his anxiety to "get off" the mark in attack, he attempts to take passes one-handed and this often proves disastrous.

H. H.

LOMAS H., 1st XV Colours 1940-41, Hooker.

A very strenuous, hard-working forward, who keeps well up with the ball. His play in line-outs and loose scrums has been good. Hooking very good.

SUMNER H., 1st XV Colours 1940-41, Loose forward.

His work in the loose has been very good, but he has a tendency to crowd the threequarters when opening up a movement from a line-out or loose scrums. A strong tackler.

HEPBURN K., 1st XV Colours 1940-41, Full back.

Fields the ball very well and kicks well with both feet. His defence has been very good, but it is in attack that he has shown his true worth. He is a believer in open Rugby and will open up a three-quarter movement from any part of the field. Very quick off the mark.

MARKHAM H., 1st XV Colours 1940-41,
Front row forward.

An excellent forward. His work in line-outs and loose scrums has been outstanding. Dribbles very well, and has shown a very good cut-through on occasions, but tends to hold on to the ball a little too long.

SMETHURST K., 1st XV Colours 1940-41,
Centre Three-quarter.

He has realised that his part in an attacking movement is not finished when he has passed the ball, and backs up his centre and wing very intelligently. His handling has not been too accurate on occasions but his defence has been very good. Often baffles opponents by rapidly changing the direction of attack either by body movement or by an inside pass.

COX D. A., 1st XV Colours 1940-41,
Front row forward.

His energetic play compensates for his lack of speed. A very strong tackler. When dribbling he is apt to kick the ball too far ahead.

2nd XV CRITICISMS

BARTON G., 2nd XV. Colours 1940-41,
Scrum half.

His work at the base of the scrum has been responsible for much of the three-quarters' success. His passing has not been very accurate on occasions, but this has been compensated for by the way in which he breaks through from the scrum. Defence sound.

McMILLAN C., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Fly half.

His handling is very sure and he has shown a good cut through, but he holds on to the ball too long. In defence he has played excellently, his tackling being very good. His kicking is useful but not always to the best advantage.

RUSCOE D. H., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Wing three-quarter.

Has shown signs of improvement this term, but still does not make full use of his speed. He tends to wait for support instead of going for the corner, and appears to become flurried when in possession. Tackling fairly good.

WALKER A., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Second row forward.

His work in both loose and tight scrums has been very good. Keeps up with the play very well. His play in line-outs has been good despite his lack of inches.

WALBANK D. M., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Second row forward.

He has been outstanding in loose scrums; falls on the ball very well. He is one of the most improved members of the team.

HARTLEY J., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Back row forward.

Useful in line-outs and tight scrums. Fairly good in defence. He is apt to kick the ball too far ahead when dribbling. Rather at a loss when in possession of the ball.

GOODE A, Wing three-quarter.

Is not really fast enough for a wing three-quarter, but runs very hard when in possession of the ball. Considering his lack of weight his tackling is remarkable.

LEE D., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Back row forward.

He makes good use of his height in line-outs. His dribbling is very good. Has shown considerable improvement since last term.

WILKS P., 2nd XV Colours 1940-41,
Front row forward.

Has played on several occasions. He improves as his knowledge of the game increases.

Kefford P., Moss C., Collinge B., Whelan G., and Thornley J. have also played.

R. A.

RESULTS

1st XV

- v. Royal Artillery, at home, December 28th.
School lost 21—3.
- v. Cowley School, at home, February 12th.
School lost 15—5.
- v. Manchester G.S., away, February 15th.
School lost 24—0.
- v. R.A.F., at home, February 26th.
School lost 15—9.
- v. Wigan G.S., away, March 5th.
School won 6—0.

" A " XV

- v. Ormskirk G.S., at home, February 8th.
School won 32—8.

2nd XV

- v. Cowley School, away, February 12th.
School won 23—8.

" B " XV

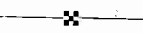
- v. Ormskirk G.S., away, February 8th.
School won 31—3.

3rd XV

- v. Cowley School, away, February 12th.
School lost 50—0.

Bantam XV

- v. Cowley School, at home, February 12th.
School lost 12—3.



SCOUTS

Since the December notes were written, Scouting has suffered a heavy loss by the death of the Chief Scout of the world. His passing has given all Scouts the opportunity to rededicate themselves to service.

Several Scouts have recently left the troop. King's Scout J. E. Birchall and Second A. W. Roberts have left school, but F. Wild, J. P. Wood and N. D. Holt have left without giving any reason. These losses have been partially made up by the return of J. Wilkinson, and the joining up of R. E. Allen.

The only other item of note is the appointment of N. G. Irving to the rank of King's Scout. Irving has been awarded his All Round Cords (red and white).

With the coming of longer days the Troop has again resumed full meetings.

R. G. T. M.

—x—
MUSIC SOCIETY

The School Orchestra is still carrying on though not without difficulties incidental to war time.

We have to be very thankful that summer-time was retained throughout the winter as, unlike last year, we have been able to have rehearsals during this time.

K. Bailey, our secretary, left school during this term, and we were very sorry to bid him farewell. He has given long and faithful service as secretary and was one of the best violinists we have had for a while: his place will be very difficult to fill.

New members would be welcome, and we should be very glad to see any boy who can play a musical instrument at the first rehearsal next term. Playing in the orchestra is very good practice for all instrumentalists.

K. R. B.

—x—
THE ART SOCIETY

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to our new Art Master, Mr. J. B. Jenkinson.

The Society has completed some good work this term with pastels and pattern designs. Members were kept very busy during War Weapons Week, producing posters and indicators to accommodate the ever-increasing total of War Savings.

A new selection of pictures has been hung in the School from the Rutherford Loan Scheme, for which we are indebted to the Manchester Corporation, and we are pleased to see that the exhibits have aroused much interest.

It is regrettable, however, that the attendance at meetings is so small. Several of the older members of the Society have left, and we are hopeful of some more encouraging meetings in the future, with a greater number of enthusiastic artists.

G. J. W.

—x—
CHESS CLUB

The Senior Tournament has been played off this term, and our congratulations are extended to E. J. Waldman on winning.

The Junior Tournament is still in progress, but should be concluded by the end of term.

G. J. W.

—x—
LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

Senior Librarians: D. M. Payne, A. R. Payne, D. M. Walbank. Junior Librarians: E. L. Eden, H. Lomas, G. P. Roberts, J. Krushevski, J. Lancashire, N. A. Norris, L. Shilling, H. Townsend, J. Wilkinson, G. Whelan, W. Dickinson.

Boys are, once again, asked to handle books and magazines carefully. We note in particular that those coming early in the morning have often left the papers they have read in confusion and caused the library staff much trouble in restoring tables and chairs to their correct positions. We hope that in future boys coming into the library before school will not abuse the privilege granted to them.

We wish to express our thanks for gifts of books to Mr. G. L. Cooper, Mr. H. Evans, H. J. Todd, and D. M. Walbank.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

IMPORTANT DATES

Summer Term begins April 30th, 1941
Sports Day Tuesday, May 13th
Half Term Monday, June 2nd and
Tuesday, June 3rd
H.S.C. Examination begins June 30th
S.C. Examination begins July 4th
Term ends July 22nd

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