

The Wathonian



JULY, 1931. No. XIV.

MEXBOROUGH
Times Printing Co., Ltd., High Street.
1931.

The Wathonian

JULY, 1931

Editorial.

At this time of the School year, we lose many of our senior members; but there is something seriously wrong if we are to lose them for good. During our schooldays we are taking from the School, after our schooldays are over, we can begin to give to it. We often don't realise how much we like the School, until we are due to leave it, and we rarely realise how much we owe to it, until long after we have left.

About two years ago the Old Wathonians Association was formed to keep old boys and girls in touch with one another and the School. If you neglect to join the Association when you leave, you are giving an outward and visible sign that you have lost interest in the School. Consequently, it is our hope, that every boy and girl on leaving will become an Old Wathonian. The Society plays matches against the School twice a year, and we hope soon that there will be 2nd team fixtures as well. In addition, two socials are held each year. Last season for the first time the Rugby Club had a full list of fixtures, and it is hoped that a hockey club may be started this year.

We don't, however, wish you to join the Association for what you can get out of it, but in order that as time goes by, the Association may be able to help the School. By 1935 there will be a thousand old boys and girls, and think what an Old Wathonians' Association could do, if it had 1000 members. How easy it would be to obtain audiences for plays and concerts, and so to find money for the School! How prosperous the Society would become with an annual income of £50! How we could develop the magazine, and at the same time lessen its cost, if we had 1,000 copies permanently ordered by the Old Wathonians!

School Notes.

It is with regret that at the end of this term we have to say good-bye to Mr. Axford. We hope that he will have nothing but happy memories of the four years he has spent at this School. He will not be missed only in the class-room, for he was the producer of the Fifth Form play last year, and

he has given valuable assistance to the Old Wathonians' Rugger Club. He is leaving us to take up a post at Wallasey Grammar School, and we wish him every success there.

Out of sixteen prizes awarded by the West Riding for Health posters, three were won by pupils of this School, and we congratulate S. Atkin, D. Odey and Fitch on their success.

We are informed that N. Carter competed in the Yorkshire Swimming Championships at Bradford on July 4th, and won the 440 yards championship. We offer him our congratulations.

M. Flavell (Athens 1923-30) has been playing for St. Bartholomew's Hospital Water Polo team. As he is only in his first year, he should do great things yet.

A record number, 114, has been entered for School Certificate this year. We hope in our next copy of the magazine to be able to chronicle a record number of successes.

The following lists give the names of those holding positions of responsibility in the School:—

School Prefects: J. E. Scholey, J. C. L. Smith, R. Prendergast, M. Greenwood G. I. Foster, M. Lythe, W. Swift, M. Rowley, C. Riley, V. Carroll, K. Steer, K. Dickinson, H. Howard, M. Abson, F. I. Tillbrook, M. Mitchell, J. Lawson, D. Harvey, J. Carr, and P. Soar.

Games Committee: R. Prendergast and M. Hardy, J. Carr and M. Pickering, H. Pears and I. Chesney, J. E. Scholey and J. C. L. Smith, J. M. Outram and H. Bailey, C. Riley and S. Atkin.

Magazine Committee: E. Pugh and L. Holyoak, G. I. Forster and V. Brown, N. Carter and V. Carroll, B. Gill and M. Cameron, H. Howard and K. Dickinson, D. Cresswell and D. Hill.

House Notes,

ATHENS.

Last term Athens was far away from the Work cup. We hope to have improved greatly this term, although, so far the detention list has been much too long.

Athens took third place in the Sports at the beginning of the term. We were rather disappointed because we held first place at the beginning. However, we are not down-hearted but full of hopes for next year. Although we were

not successful in winning the cup, we are proud to say that we hold the record for High Jump—won by N. Eades—of the Middle Group, who jumped four feet five and a half inches.

On June 20th an enjoyable day was spent wandering across the moors at Hathersage and Hope. Considering that for weeks it had rained almost every day, we were highly favoured with a glorious day. Everyone started the day in the highest of spirits and returned tired, but having thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

The girls have been unlucky in their House Match against Rome. The first set of Seniors won one and lost one, but unfortunately the second set lost both games. All sets hope to be successful in defeating Troy in the coming match. The boys were successful against Sparta.

CARTHAGE.

The House Outing took place on June 24th, when more than fifty girls and boys travelled to Edale, and returned home via Castleton and Hope.

There have not been quite so many detentions this term, only a few people being responsible for those we have obtained.

We seem to be doing quite well in games, too, so far, though we were not very successful in the Sports.

There has not been much house activity this term, because everyone has been working for public or School examinations, but the tennis practices have been keenly attended both by juniors and seniors.

We wish good luck to all Carthaginians who have taken Higher School Certificate and Matriculation Examinations. We must also say good-bye to those who are leaving for training colleges or other places, and thank them for their interest and work for the House. Especially we wish prosperity to Phyllis Soar, who has been our House Captain for three years, and has worked untiringly for us.

ROME.

At the beginning of this term we held our annual Sports Day and Rome proved itself to have some fine athletes. E. Reeve, Pears and Frost all brought credit to the House in winning their different events, and all the Romans worked hard to win the Cup for us.

This term the Romans have been more successful at games. The Senior girls have won both their tennis matches, while the Junior girls have lost one. The Senior boys have won their two cricket matches, and the Juniors have won one

and lost one. Thus we have a good chance to win the Games Cup.

Detentions are not quite so frequent this term as last, and it appears that the Romans are settling down to hard work for the examinations. Several Senior members are taking School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations and we wish them every success.

Some of our Senior boys and girls are leaving and going to college. We wish them every success in their new surroundings. Frost, the captain of the boys, has been successful in gaining admission to York Training College. We regret to lose him, for he has captained the boys quite well.

SPARTA.

“Quantum mutatus ab illo ‘House’ore

Qui in agris ludorum tantas victorias acquisisti!”

We scarcely recognised ourselves, indeed, as the House with the least number of points in the Sports at the beginning of term, and we hope that all members are determined to improve their form in athletics before the next contest. The only bright spark in what was to us a rather dreary day was the jumping. It is to be hoped that Sparta will make a very big jump next year. Steer established a new record for the high jump, and was second in the long jump, having previously obtained sixth place in the cross-country. Scholey did well for the Juniors, putting up a record for the long jump, while, among the girls, Joan Smith won the long jump, Mary Cameron the net ball shooting, and Nancy Midwood the hockey ball dribbling.

Our Junior cricket team has done well, defeating Rome easily, as a result of which they have to replay Athens. The Seniors have been unlucky; they lost to Athens and to Rome by only 5 runs in two good matches. The girls seem to have fared no better, Thebes beating them by a narrow margin. Hopes for the Work Cup have diminished in proportion, as the detention list has gradually increased throughout the term; Sparta, who can score 90 points for work in a term, with a membership of 87, is simply throwing it away. The Junior boys are not now the only culprits, for many Seniors and girls have had detention.

The House Trip will be held on July 18th. We only hope that the number who turn out will be as great as the number of detentions we have had; if so, the outing will be a great success.

In conclusion, the House would wish the best of success to all those taking the public examinations this year, and also to our two House captains who are leaving to go to the University—Joan Smith to Manchester, and Scholey to Cambridge, both to read History.

THEBES.

There is very little to report about this term, as all are busily preparing for examinations, both School and School Certificate Examinations. We heartily wish good luck to all Thebans who are taking the latter one.

For a term in which everyone puts in extra work, the detention list has been rather high—chiefly due once more to a small band of people who are always the offenders. If this continues drastic action will have to be taken, for they seem to have no loyalty to the House.

The boys have played two House matches at cricket, losing to Carthage and drawing with Troy.

TROY.

Some of our members have been taking the School Certificate Examination this term, so we will take this opportunity of wishing them every success. We hope that those who are leaving us will be successful in their future life, and that they will not forget the School where they were educated, and the House to which they belonged.

The boys have been successful in winning three matches out of the four which they have played. The girls have not had any success in their matches. Every member is looking forward to the House Outing, which is to take place on the last Saturday of term. It should have taken place earlier in the term, but it was postponed because of the weather.

The number of detentions is still too large, and many of them could be avoided. It was owing to detentions that we lost the Work Cup last term, and unless they are decreased we cannot hope to obtain it.

The Art Club

At the beginning of the term the Art Club elected a new committee. D. Odey and Dickinson were elected to represent the Art Section, Goudge and Sykes the woodwork section, and Fitch and S. Atkin were the two additional members.

On the results of the Exhibition held last term, J. Lockwood, D. Beckham, Petty and Abson, of IIa., gained their full membership. The Club now has an official member-

ship of sixty, and of these about half are showing interest in the Club's activities and attending meetings regularly. The attendance at the Art Section has been good this term, when compared with previous summer terms, but the regular attenders at the Woodwork Section have been few.

In the exhibition, pictorial work was conspicuous by its absence, but the Sketching Section contributed some interesting portraits. The Art Masters hope that next term members will settle down eagerly to produce good craft work for the Sale of Work which is to be held next December.

Boy Scouts

The summer term has been no more eventful than the winter ones with the exception of the four Saturday afternoon outings which we have been able to arrange. The Junior members have become quite efficient at cooking. These Saturday outings are the only opportunity we have for practical Scouting.

The meetings have been particularly remarkable for the absence of Seniors. Even though the Vth and VIth Forms have to swot for exams they might spare a small part of their time to support the troop.

The Summer Camp which has now become a tradition, of the troop is to be held on the Welsh coast at Dywygyfychli near Penmaenawr, and we hope to hold a most successful camp. We also hope that the great stress of the examinations will not prevent the Scouts from making a zealous effort to pass the camp qualifying test so that our numbers in camp may be even greater than they have been in the past.

Guides

This term we have had many more recruits, and already Miss Taylor has enrolled some of them. Several more Guides have passed Second Class, and we have won six "Health" and two "Child Nurse" badges.

Nearly every Saturday about a dozen of us have been to neighbouring woods, and one afternoon was spent in fire making and cooking.

This summer we are holding our first camp. Nine of us are going to Bretton Park with another Guide Company. We are all looking forward to this first camp, and we hope that it may lead to many more.

The Cycling Club

It is pleasing to record that the Cycling Club has been more active this term than in the corresponding term last year. It is a sign that the oldest of the School Societies is still healthy and growing stronger. Although School cricket fixtures have curtailed the number of available dates, none the less several interesting runs have taken place. The runs to Ewden Beck, Wharncliffe Craggs, The Dukeries, Goole, Thorne and Grimsby were well attended, and in addition a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by two enterprising members, walking the hills round Stainboro'.

The runs to the Dukeries and Gringly took place on days when cycling conditions were perfect, and were greatly enjoyed. In addition to School members, this term has been remarkable for the number of old boys who have turned up for the runs; on the ride to Wharncliffe no less than five old boys turned out. This term has also seen the election of Webb as captain and a committee, consisting of Webb, Carr, Pease, Tunstall and Cresswell.

Hamlet

On the occasion of the Literary Society Social at the end of last term, the Sixth gave a performance of scenes from "Hamlet." This Social was rather a new departure. Members of the Society were considered to have earned a free ticket; to "outsiders" the charge was sixpence. In this way a small fund has been begun with the object of providing dresses for future School plays. A subsidiary part of the entertainment was a Whist Drive in the Art Room before the performance.

The part of Hamlet was played very effectively by Forster and Joan Smith backed him up ably as Ophelia. Violet Carroll and Riley were impressive as King and Queen, though, unfortunately, the King had a little trouble with his garters. The soldiers, recruited from the Science Sixth, had quite a martial air, and changed the watch in the first scene with true military snappiness. Scholey, as the ghost, was, some say, rather too substantial, but this was, perhaps, inevitable.

The play went smoothly and successfully through the first four acts, and the audience really enjoyed it. The tragedy and wholesale slaughter of the fifth act seemed,

however, to affect the audience in a very strange manner—perhaps it called to mind the burlesque of “The Critic” which was performed last December.

Old Wathonians Association

The Old Wathonians held their Easter Re-union on Thursday, April 2nd. Whist, dancing and supper constituted the programme, which proved very enjoyable. The “Wireless” Whist Drive provided great fun.

Dancing took place in the Hall with Hirst’s Dance Band in attendance. The hall in the new school was greatly appreciated by those who had not danced in it before. Supper came as a pleasant interval to the dancing, which was again continued until 11.45 p.m. We were very reluctant to leave at the end of the evening.

It is hoped that at the next reunion we shall see more old boys and girls. It must be realised that we cannot have an entertainment on a really large scale until we are assured of a larger attendance than previously, as there is a great loss financially to the Association when supper is provided and a dance band is in attendance, if only a small number attend.

The Committee urge Old Boys and Girls to join the Association if they have not already done so, and if they are members, to become more active, and take the opportunity of meeting old schoolfellows. The subscription is small, being only two shillings a year, and includes the cost of a magazine which is sent to members every term. If, however, a member does not want a magazine the subscription is one shilling, but it is hoped that every member will buy a magazine. The subscription is due on January 1st of each year, and must be paid before March 31st to B. W. Catton, 89, Burman Road, Wath-on-Dearne (Hon. Treasurer) or to H. Willis, at the School, or to Winnie Rawlinson, 19, Burman Road, Wath-on-Dearne (Hon. Secretaries). Subscriptions of those who join the Association when they leave School in July are allowed to stand for the remainder of the year and the whole of the following year.

Old Wathonians’ Rugby Club.

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the School on Saturday, 28th March, 1931, and marked the close of a very successful season. The Club can

now claim to be firmly established in the local Rugby world, and we are looking forward to an even more prosperous 1931—1932 season. A full programme of fixtures has been arranged, and before the season's activities commence the Club will have become a member of the Yorkshire Rugby Union.

The officers for 1931—1932 season are :—President, The Headmaster; Captain, A. Parkin; Vice-Captain, W. Young; Committee, L. Cooper, I. A. Ibbotson, C. D. Elliott (College Representative); M. Birks (Players' Representative); Mr. H. Wilkinson (Staff Representative); Hon. Sec. and Treas. B. W. Cattoh.

Sports Day.

At the beginning of this term we held our annual Sports Day. This year they took place on our ground, and considering the conditions, the results were quite pleasing. There was a large crowd present, and the day was fine.

The competitions were for the Staff Cup, and were keenly contested. The six Houses fought well for the first place, and up to the last three events the leadership was uncertain. However, Rome came out on top with a small margin, and Thebes was a good second.

Despite the conditions, several new records were set up. Pears won the Throwing the Cricket Ball event and set up a record which will take some beating. Steer easily won the high jump, beating the previous record by seven inches, and set up a new record of 5ft. 3ins. On the whole, these Sports were much better than the last, and we are looking forward to better results in the future.

Speech Day

Speech Day was held this year on May 14th. The visitors were Professor Ifor. Evans, M.A., of Sheffield University, and Mrs. Evans, who later presented the Certificates. Only the parents of members of the Upper School were able to be present, owing to the size of the Hall. Mr. Thompson, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, presided.

Mr. Thompson, opening the ceremony, welcomed Professor Evans, and spoke of the progress of the School, which had acquired a School spirit in a year of real School life.

He spoke of the advantages of the new buildings, and trusted that the pupils of the School would make the most of their opportunities. He knew that they would build up character, since they were all proud of their School, "for if you are not proud of your School it cannot prosper." He concluded by paying a tribute to his colleagues.

After the School song had been sung with great spirit, the Head gave his report for the year. He said that there had been an increase of fifty pupils in the School in the year. He congratulated J. E. Scholey on having set up the worthy precedent of winning an Open Scholarship in History at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Both Scholey and Tennyson had won County Major Scholarships, and there had been an improvement in the results of the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations. More pupils were taking part in the School games, and in inter-School matches. There had been innovations in the curriculum, woodwork for the boys and housecraft for the girls. There had been three dramatic productions, the VIth Form producing the "Critic" and the "Admirable Crichton," and the Vth Forms producing "Twelfth Night." The productions, with other activities, had added £90 to the Tennis Court Fund.

The introduction of games at the end of the nineteenth century, and of the introduction of the prefectorial system had led to a closer union between teachers and pupils, and discipline was no longer discipline of force, but of the leadership of the pupils themselves. The Head concluded by regretting that his School was not so ideal as to carry on without school rules! But, he said, so long as teachers possessed strength of character, a sense of humour and fairness, and enthusiasm for the subjects they taught, they were certain to find discipline an easy matter.

Mrs. Evans presented Certificates, and "Forty Years On" was sung. Then Professor Evans gave an inspiring address. He confessed his apprehension at addressing so mixed an assembly, parents, children, teachers and governors. He regretted that an address on discipline was of no use to the governors! He revealed his knowledge of the peculiar aptitude of children, "who have a wonderful capacity for sitting in an attitude of listening, with an enormous capacity for thinking about something else!" He was reluctant to talk about teachers, since his remarks could be turned against himself. He strongly advised parents to let their children take the Higher School Certificate, since the two years subsequent to Matriculation were the richest in the whole

School course. He spoke very enthusiastically about world conditions, which was very interesting, since a visitor rarely speaks about matters not directly associated with the School. He urged children to try and ameliorate the terrible conditions prevalent, and to make the world a better place than they found it, "for the only definition of wickedness I know is the person who is willing to take more out of life than he is willing to put into it."

Mr. T. Vaughan and Mr. W. G. Bennett proposed and seconded a vote of thanks on behalf of the governors.

Cricket

1st XI. v. Goole Grammar School. At Goole.

Result : School 82; Goole 94.

This was the first match a School team had played for over 12 months, and the result was generally satisfactory.

Goole batted first on a wicket that did not help the bowlers, and were progressing steadily when a fine return from the "country" by Pears resulted in the loss of a wicket, the batsman being run out. The score then rose steadily as the result of a stand, and finally closed at 94.

Pears and Howard opened for the School and put on 12 runs before being parted. The School then lost wickets quickly, and were 7 wickets down for 39 runs. However, a fine stand by Singleton and Prendergast—both playing good defensive cricket—took the score past 60. It looked quite possible that the School might pass Goole's total until the last wicket fell.

1st XI. v. Thorne Grammar School. At Wath.

Result : School 72; Thorne 45.

The weather was admirable for cricket, being warm and dry. Thorne won the toss and elected to bat. The bowling was opened by Pears and Prendergast, and though the attack was keen runs came steadily. The School fielded smartly, the stumping being really good for most of the game. Clayton relieved Prendergast and Howard relieved Pears. Wickets fell steadily and the innings closed for 45.

After tea Pears and Howard opened the School innings—Pears being alertly offensive and scored a fine four with a forward drive. The School batting always was easy and generally above the bowling, but smart fielding on the part of Thorne kept runs down. Hollingsworth's knock of 21 was particularly good.

The School bowling honours went to Howard and Clayton, with 5 for 2 and 4 for 4 respectively.

27th June. 1st XI. v. Thorne Grammar School.

At Thorne. Result: School 26; Thorne 80.

The wicket at Thorne proved to be rather uneven and hard, and the ball rose nastily at times. The School won the toss and batted first, Carr and Howard opening. The ball rose awkwardly and one extra was scored in the first over. The wickets fell rapidly and Prendergast (8) and Haigh and Howard, with 5 each, were top scorers.

The School bowling was unsettled at first, as was the fielding, but later on settled down, and two or three times the bowlers were very unlucky. However, Thorne's batting seemed improved, and they made use of every chance of scoring in compiling their score.

Tennis

Rotherham v. Wath. At Rotherham.

Result: 55—44 to Rotherham.

This was the first match of the season, and owing to other important School activities, the School team had not had much practice. The wet weather of the preceding weeks had also prevented both teams from practising much. Perhaps this accounts for the close score. Rotherham had the advantage of being on their own courts. The first couple of the School team played well, but Rotherham managed to defeat the other couples, and gained the victory. During last season Rotherham had always defeated the School team, and even though defeated once more, the School team was considerably encouraged by the results which did not leave a wide margin. They were determined to beat them, as the next match proved.

Rotherham v. Wath. At Wath.

Result: 62—37 to Wath.

This match was played on the School courts, and both teams were handicapped by the unusual slant of the field. The School team had had a little more practice, and played better as a whole. Only the Rotherham 1st couple managed to defeat the 2nd and 3rd couples of the School team. The others were victorious sets. The play of the third couple improved considerably in this match. This is a notable match, as it gained for the School its first tennis victory. The team had never won a match before—this season or last.

Penistone v. Wath. At Wath.
Result : 72—39 to Penistone.

This was a crushing defeat for Wath. In spite of being unused to the School courts, the opponents were far superior to the School team. The beginning of the match seemed favourable to the School, since the first couple beat Penistone first couple, and the third couple beat Penistone third couple. However, as the match progressed, Penistone became more used to the courts and improved, and won all the following sets. The School team is looking forward to beating Penistone in the away match, and are determined to reverse the score in the next match.

French-Cricket

They're playing cricket just outside—wish I was there as well,
Instead of doing French. Oh dear! what is the verb to tell?
Oh yes, its "dire," of course it is, and really I don't see,
Why when she says, "Now please don't dream," teacher
should look at me.

Oh that one's hit a boundary! Hard luck, they've caught
him out!

They don't consider us at all, the way those players shout.
Now we've to read those sentences; I do hope this is right :
It isn't, and so that will mean I'm here at four to-night.
She's going round the class and I have not yet finished one,
The others have all finished two, and some have got three
done.

Now, who would think that "savoir" had a participle "su"?
Or that the class would laugh at "J'avais revenu"?
I can't do French, I 'spose she'll say, "Write this lot out
again"

Oh, horrors ! now its raining : 'bout the game I must explain,
In French—er—yes, mam'selle—oh, now I've found an easy
thing to say—

"Je pense, mam'selle le wicket est trempe. Pas de play."

A Visit to the Houses of Parliament

It is a "red-letter" day in anyone's life to visit the Houses of Parliament. One only realizes how great is England when one sees the magnificent buildings which are

the very pulse and heart of our great country. The Houses of Parliament rise up, grand, stately, noble, with the Thames flowing by, the river of rivers, with ships sailing from our metropolis to the world.

On a sunny day we entered St. Stephen's entrance, vast, hallowed hall, with stained glass windows, which gave a sacred atmosphere to the lofty entrance. Then we passed into the "lobby," a huge hall which contained a post office, a cafe, and two "whip-offices." The same air of quiet richness, peculiar to the whole building, pervaded the lobby, which was beginning to fill in readiness for the afternoon session. If there is a disadvantage in visiting this historic building, it is the insatiable curiosity as to the identity of the people walking with the air of "habitues" in these noble corridors.

It is impossible to describe the whole of the building, but fleeting impressions are permissible in the space allotted. We went through richly carpeted corridors, lofty halls, and sumptuous chambers. On the wall were splendid tapestries and hangings, including a fine depiction of the death of Nelson, a portion of which revealed traces of shrapnel from a shell dropped during the Great War. The libraries in the House of Commons are wonderful rooms, upholstered in dark green, restful and rich. We saw the place where divisions are taken. The actual law-making chamber itself was scarcely as big as we had imagined, but it was a chamber of great dignity, and we carefully noted where the various members of the Cabinet and opposition would sit, so that we might recognise them later from the Members' Gallery.

The House of Lords was sumptuously upholstered in dark crimson, and the throne room was particularly elegant. It was very interesting to see the renowned "woolsack," and the rich libraries.

Finally, we went on to the terrace, and saw the Thames gliding by, gleaming silver in the afternoon sun, with the magnificent buildings of St. Thomas' Hospital opposite. We were in the heart of London, with the Abbey rising up to noble heights at the side.

We returned to the lobby in time for the Speakers Procession, perhaps the most stately part of the daily assembly. The hall was filled, and we saw many notable people, including Miss Bondfield and the High Commissioner for Scotland. A voice echoed through the corridors, "Speaker!" All the members of Parliament stood to attention, and we saw a dignified little procession, with the mace

being carried before the Speaker, a venerable figure in wig and robes. The members bowed deeply as the erect figure passed, and a stentorian voice called "Hats off, strangers." Perhaps this moment was the most stirring of all, and in the Houses of Parliament everything stirs the heart.

Finally, we went up to the Members' Gallery and looked down on the House, with Mr. Neville Chamberlain attacking the budget of Mr. Snowden. The moment was one not easily forgotten, especially as one recognised the most famous people of the day listening, with signs of approbation or scorn, to the Opposition attack. Then we passed out from the precincts of the most wonderful building in England, out into London, with a glowing patriotism in our hearts.

VIOLET CARROLL, VI.

A Valediction

(After *Hiawatha*).

On a hillside, stretching upwards,
Stretching up towards the hilltops,
And the rain, and dismal quarries,
Lies the smoke-dimmed, Wath, the peaceful,
Once the Queen of every village,
Now an ordinary village.

Higher up towards the hilltop,
Nearer and still nearer heaven,
Stands a school, in adolescence,
Famous, modern institution,
Founded near 400 days since,
Famous for its staff, its students.

To this noble seat of learning,
Some have come from Oxford, Cambridge,
Others wait in expectation,
Viewing M.A.'s, M.P.'s, J.P.'s.
"Post nomen," in the near future,
Others stay at home to labour.

Many are the things have happened,
In this haven of the learned.
Every morning, all assembled,
Wait for to behold the Chieftain.
Then the black-robed chief, the prophet,
Told his message to the children,
Told them of their misdemeanours,

One from Athens, Carthage, Sparta,
Little knew they of their peril,
'Till morrow brought the verdict;
Or the angry, supreme being,
Raised his mighty rod of birch-tree.
Every twanging of the birch twig,
Was a war-cry, and a death-cry,
Feared by all the little children.

Yet, within this school of wisdom,
We have tried to do our duty,
Tried to make the progress better
Than it was when we first found it;
And since other duties call us,
Having passed our time of schooldays,
Leave it to our young successors;
Hoping they will still improve it.
Since their strength is in their union,
Let them squander weak supporters,
And as brothers live together.

IRENE I. BAKER Upper Va.

The Weather

How often is the English weather grumbled at, hut should it not be given some credit for being a constant source of conversation. "It's a fine day," "It is cold," "I think we shall have some rain," and so forth are expressions frequently used. This is because our weather is constantly changing, and we are always speculating on what is coming next.

It must be difficult, however, to commence a conversation in some parts of the world where the weather is not so variable. I should imagine a remark from an Eskimo, on meeting a friend, such as "I think we are going to have some frost" would be received coldly, but a greeting from an inhabitant of the Egyptian desert to the effect that a fine, warm day might be expected on the morrow would be received with heat.

The various comments one hears from people respecting the weather often gives one an insight into their character. There is the cheerful, jolly person who says, "Yes I feel sure we are going to have a fine day; the clouds are breaking, and the wind is in the right direction." I always feel grateful to such people; they at any rate have done their best. On

the other hand there is the one who always looks on the dark side and says "The wind is in a rainy quarter; we're going to have a very bad storm ; I remember similar conditions some years ago and it rained for weeks."

Then there are people who are astonished at the extraordinary weather we have at some particular time, "I've never known it before." At the beginning of May they ask, "I wonder if we really are going to get any summer this year?" but towards the end of October take comfort in the fact that the winter is getting on nicely.

Many people have taken a greater interest in the weather now we get the weather forecast by wireless. How often have we listened to something like this ? "A deep depression is approaching from Iceland, and another from the Azores ; a secondary is wandering about the Atlantic. Strong, South-West winds will prevail backing to the North-East. There might be rain or sleet in the North, thunder in the south; frost and snow may be expected in the high ground; mist or fog in the low. Channel rough. Further outlook, doubtful. Stand by for gale warnings."

G. COLLINS, Upper IIIa.

Omnia Mutantur

O thievish time that steals away our days,
 Leaving dim memories of past hours,
 And moments fraught with laughter and with pain.
 And now we stand, regret and hope
 Striving to gain mastery in our hearts,
 Ready to launch away into the throngs
 And tumult of that other world without.
 Hope for the future, and for the past regret
 That we are leaving now this place,
 Wherein we were accustomed to pursue
 Our daily round. Nor did erudition alone of yore
 Claim us, the playing fields, bathed in
 The dappled sunlight, had their call.
 But we must go, our time has gone,
 We are no more now part of that great whole
 Which strives upward to better things.
 We must say farewell; oh! glorious youth!
 And pass with trembling hopes into the world.

V. BROWN, Lower VI. Literary.

The Family Ghost

"Yes, Mr. Brown, 12 o'clock sharp, at 'The Manse' will be quite convenient. Thank you!" Mrs. Brown hung up the receiver with satisfaction; the Christmas Eve party would be now quite a success.

Indeed Mrs. Brown's party was a success, but at 11.30 p.m. Mrs. Brown suppressed a smile of anticipation, the "hit" of her entertainment was still to come. How different were the expressions on the faces of the guests, when Mrs. Brown announced that their family ghost usually appeared on Christmas Eve.

At 11.55 Mrs. Brown solemnly requested her husband to turn out the lights. The room was plunged into darkness, the ladies shuddered, suppressed laughter was heard. You could feel the darkness. A minute passed. Two minutes. Was the whole thing a joke? No. A jingle was heard. It increased slowly and was now a loud clank. The door burst open. How the wind howled! A silvery glow seemed to appear in the doorway. How the ladies trembled! The end of Mr. Brown's cigar trembled more violently. There was a flash of lightning and behold! There on the centre of the carpet . . . the Brown's Family Ghost. This was a huge monster, clad in a medieval costume and bound by heavy chains. The monster beat his chest to the rattle of chains. The ladies shrieked. Mr. Brown's cigar disappeared. The lights flashed on . . . the ghost had disappeared.

The telephone tinkled. Mrs. Brown picked up the receiver. "This is the Dramatic Company's Agent speaking; I'm afraid we cannot send the ghost, we——"

Mrs. Brown fell back in a dead faint. An eerie peal of laughter echoed through the house.

Shakespeare in the Library

- V.C. "I have almost slipp'd the hour"
 "Art not a poet? Yes."
- K.D. "I have those hopes of her good that her education promises."
 "I do say thou art quick in answers."
- G.F. "Mend him who can; the ladies call him sweet."
 "He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
 The fits of the season."

- M.G. "She is a lady so tender of rebukes that words are strokes."
"Enough, I read your fortune in your eye."
- D.H. "Of spirit so still and quiet that her motion Blushed at herself."
"She's apt to learn and thankful for good turns."
- R.P. "Thou dost snore distinctly; there is meaning in thy snores."
"I can keep honest counsel, ride, run, mar a curious tale in telling it, and deliver a fair message bluntly."
- C.R. "But screw your courage to the sticking-place And we'll not fail."
"The tongues of mocking wenches are as keen as the razor's invisible."
- J.E.S. "Fit for his turn, well read in poetry, And other books, good ones, I warrant ye."
"Have you not done talking yet?"
- J.L.S. "As sweet and musical
As bright Apollo's lute, strung with his hair.
"I would rather have a fool to make me merry than experience to make me sad."
- K.S. "Your answer, sir, is enigmatical"
"How may
A stranger to those most imperial looks
Know them from eyes of other mortals."
- E.W. "There's little of the melancholy element in her, my lord."
"A lady's 'Verily' 's
As potent as a lords.'"

From China

Two very interesting letters have been received from George Law, serving on H.M.S. Berwick, now stationed in Chinese waters. After expressing his pleasure at receiving the School Magazine, his interest in the Old Wathonians, and a passing wish that he could enjoy all the good things we now enjoy, he goes on to describe his experiences. The following extracts are taken from his first letter:—

"Since I came out here I have seen some rather wonderful things. Some beautiful, others gruesome and awful. You would have been delighted to have witnessed such things as the Suez Canal, with its visions of the desert or sights like those of Colombo with its dusky peoples and

labouring elephants, Hong-Kong with its seething bazaars and European pleasures.

"Wei-Hai-Wei, as you may have read in the Press, has recently been turned over to the Chinese, and England has no longer any piece of territory in China. It is, however, only a small island, used mainly for fleet exercises and as a recuperation spot from the Southern summer. We came here after a six weeks stay in Hankow. Things happen here that would appal England. Executions daily, executions which are horrible in the extreme. The victims, tortured previously, bound up all ways, are killed while the crowd looks on in fiendish delight. The Yang-tse river, itself, is a beautiful series of pictures from its source to the sea. The views are magnificent and the river discolours the sea for a distance of seventy miles from its mouth.

"To-morrow we leave for Nagasaki, in Japan and, after a few days there, Hong-Kong for a dockyard refit. It is hoped that after this we shall go to Singapore, and thence for a cruise round Borneo and the Pacific Isles. I am looking forward to this in anticipation of a splendid time."

Law's second letter alludes to the new name of the school, he says :—

"A few weeks ago I saw in the local "Times" that the old school has had its name changed and I was pleased. Don't you really think that this name sounds a lot better than the old one?"

He then continues with further experiences :—

"During these last few months we have had quite a pleasant time. After leaving Hong-Kong, we sailed for Nanking, where we stayed for two weeks. As you know this is on the river Yang-tse. The weather was terribly cold and it snowed all the time. Last year when we passed this city it was terrifically hot. Therefore I have experienced the two extremes in six months here. We had no leave, except to visit the Ming Tombs. These are the Ming Emperors' graves, and are just like ordinary tombs, but leading to them is an avenue of stone-carved animals, elephants, lions, tigers of immense height. As man is very small indeed alongside them and they are really wonderful to see.

"Shanghai was our next stop. This is noted for its 'nightlights' and we stayed here for six weeks. Shanghai

is a very busy port, but its pleasures are the more interesting. Its lighting is marvellous. The lights shine for a considerable distance and can be seen from the open sea. The city is a few miles up the river Whang-pu and not on the coast. It is a city of tears—tears hidden by the laughter of the cabarets, dance halls, and theatres. The indescribable poverty of the Chinese, and some Europeans, intermingles with the pleasure and luxury of white peoples. An amazing thing is the electricity which seems to light up the poorest hovel. It must be extremely cheap. The Chinese buy one thing I've never seen bought before—hot water. Just fancy buying 2d. worth of hot water to bath in!

“On leaving Shanghai we paid a visit to Japan, our first port of call being Nagasaki, a sacred Japanese city, with shrines of the holy. They say that no one is allowed to be born or to die in this place, except the holy priests. Meiyama is a very pretty little place though. Surrounded by wooded hills with a blue lagoon in front of it, it forms a very pleasing spectacle.

“Kobe was our next stop. Kyoto is the chief attraction at this place. The village is about thirty or forty miles inland and is reached by electric train. Here are the Imperial Palaces of Japan, the ancient palaces of the old Japanese princes. Whilst at Kobe we gave a concert to the British community ashore, which was greatly appreciated. In return, they gave us a very good time in the form of a dance. The British Women's Association in Shanghai were also very good to us, as they gave us a good dance twice.

“We came to Wei-Hai-Wei from Kobe, two weeks ago and we are strenuously training for the Fleet Regatta, held on June 30th and July 1st. I expect we shall stand a good chance of winning this. On the 8th of July we leave for Hankow, staying until the 8th of August. That will be when it is terribly hot up there and I am not looking forward to it with much pleasure. It's not the heat so much as the things accompanying it. Mosquitoes, flies and all manner of things. My mosquito net does its best, but I'm afraid it needs more than a mosquito net to keep these away, it's a tin suit.”

These two letters show that Law is thoroughly enjoying the opportunities his new life affords him. He also seems very keen on promotion and intends to avail himself of every opening for which he may become eligible. He hopes to secure a good position in the service.

On Swotting

The proximity of school or public examinations has brought home the fact of how little has been learnt above that of compulsion during the last year. However much a student thinks he may know, it is surprising how much he ought to know, and the realisation is painfully experienced with only a very short time before the test arrives.

How the head whirls, how feverish one becomes, yet one needs to become calm and collected to plan a line of action. Available evenings are carefully counted, subjects to be revised are summarised and then an elaborate timetable is drawn up, allotting various times to each one. With such a well-planned attack, how easy it will be to go over every path and byway!

The time-table is pinned in a prominent place so that on no account shall one make other arrangements, or forget to bring home the necessary material. The first revision night arrives.

At ten minutes past four, a master breathlessly hurries into the form room, waving a paper in his hand. As best he can, he imparts the information that an essay must be handed in the following morning, on a subject which no one seems to really understand, first taking precautions to see that all members of the form are present. This is meant as revision.

Optimistically, the student carries home material for the set 'revision' and for that self-imposed, firmly believing that time can be found for both, although it sadly interferes with the proposed timetable. Of course the essay must be written first for has it not to be given in. The fingers of the clock journey round the face—one hour gone and with it all hopes of any Maths revision—two hours; no time for Chemistry—three hours gone; thank goodness there is not much more to do. At last the essay is finished. The time-piece is consulted. If the essay is not re-read surely an hour or two of revision can be done.

The chronometer continues to note the passing of time—one hour over; the Maths, or at least some of them, have been revised; the Chemistry is still untouched. Eyes begin to dim and eye-lids have the unpleasant habit of drooping. It is too late to begin a new subject now—a little more Maths can be done—and so on, until the eyes close altogether or parents think it is time to go to bed.

Awakening next morning, the sight of the time-table brings to mind the Chemistry not done. The optimist decides to cram it in tonight. Tonight arrives. Fortunately no definite 'revision' is set. The Chemistry must be done first, *but* for only one hour. The clock strikes—the hour has passed—why cannot time stand still? What a little Chemistry has been done and how much there is to do! A little longer can surely make no difference. The clock strikes—how quickly the hour has passed and not much progress has been made. No harm can be done if Chemistry only is done tonight. The proposed English and Physics can certainly be done tomorrow. Then more Chemistry.

Thus, until the very last week arrives; material is put off from night to night. How unfortunate that a scheme which seemed so good on paper should work so badly in practice.

Only one more week of revision! The student realises he knows nothing worth mentioning. Whatever will the Head think! Surely that he had wasted his time completely. Frantically the pupil pores over books and notes until his crammed head whirls, his eyes see anything but the print, and with the passing of each day the fear grows that everything will not be revised in time.

The fatal day arrives at last. Question papers are given out. The questions are read. Ah! did not the weary plodder read something about the 'Periodic System' last week, away scribbles the pen.

For a whole week this lasts; then all is over. True joy at last—no more swotting to be done—what do results matter now that the questions have been answered. But alas! the stumbling block to peace arrives, the thought of examinations has kept up the strain but now with all fears allayed, the belated swotter has to suffer from the effects of overwork—headaches and eyestrain are common occurrences. New resolutions are made. Next year everything will not be left until the last moment. Work hard all the year is the motto.

M. MITCHELL (VI. Science).

Durham Cathedral

Durham Cathedral is a very wonderful sight to see. It stands on the river Wear and is enclosed by the town on one side and the river and trees on the other three sides.

It was built as a small resting place for St. Cuthbert's bones. The church for the relics was raised in 999 A.D. and later on the spot the Cathedral was built. The Cathedral has noble solid towers the centre one is 218 feet and the two western towers 144 feet; the length of the church is 500 feet and it all took 300 years to complete.

The cloister has an oaken ceiling which is the only remnant of the original erection. By the side in the South alley is the refectory. The Crypt, originally the common room of the monastery, is extensive and has a finely vaulted roof springing from massive columns. The chapter house (1135), when built was esteemed the finest Norman specimen in England, but in 1796 it was almost destroyed and thereafter rebuilt, being restored in 1895.

In the Galilee Chapel, a XIIth century relic, the east wall is decorated with paintings, and the arches are finely carved. It holds the remains of the Venerable Bede, and the wonderful library. The effigies and brasses and monuments and sculpture are numerous and splendid, rewarding examination. The cloister gates are wonderful iron work and on the North Porch there is the famous XIIth century Sanctuary Knocker.

If you climb the spiral staircase you have a magnificent view of the old city with its narrow streets and looking further afield you see a good part of Durham county.

O. TAYLOR (1B).
