

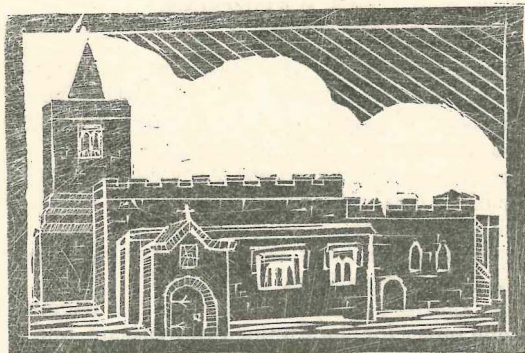
Printed in

The Wathonian



JULY, 1935. NO. XXXVII.

MEXBOROUGH
Times Printing Co., Ltd., High Street,
1935.



The Mathonian

JULY 1935.

School Notes.

WE are glad to welcome back Mr. Williams after an absence of nearly ten months, and hope that his restoration to health will prove permanent and complete.

We are also glad to see Miss Spencer back again after her six months' stay in France. We have lost Mr. Stephens and Miss Purchon, but happily before they left they had both obtained permanent posts. We hope they will be successful and happy in them.

The exciting features of this term were at the beginning. First there was the Silver Jubilee with two days' holiday, enjoyed in really royal weather. The West Riding County Council sent as a souvenir a fountain pen for every boy and girl, and Mrs. Poiner, the Chairman of the Governors, presented them.

After the Jubilee came the Sports, when the House competition was only exceeded in keenness by the wind. The cold weather kept many parents away, but those who were there saw a very close contest which was not decided until the finish of the last race.

The Scholarship Fund has made a little progress since our last issue, and has now reached £245. We hope that by Christmas £300 will have been reached.

We congratulate C. H. Cook on winning an open exhibition of £30 in English at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and W. Rowlinson on gaining an exhibition of £25 at the University College, Hull.

We are now passing through the valley of examinations: how many of us reach the summit of success will be found in our December number.

The competitions have been very badly supported this term. The Art Competition was won by C. H. Cook, and the Junior Literary Competition by D. Higgins. There was only one entry for the Junior Competition, and therefore no prize was awarded.

House Notes.

ATHENS.

The School Sports of 1935 almost succeeded in making history for the athletic associations of the House. We had never previously won the cup, but came very near on this occasion, eventually turning out second to Carthage, after a great struggle: in fact, the issue was left in-doubt until the very last event, the Senior Boys' Mile, at which point Carthage, Athens and Rome were all possible winners. However, Findlay added the mile to his cross-country success, and the cup went once again to Carthage.

At a meeting held at the beginning of term several boys agreed to spend a few hours each week preparing a new building site on the girls' side of the school. It is regretted, however, that very few have carried out their promises in this respect, and the work has been left to other Houses. At the same meeting it was suggested that the practice of arranging a House excursion during the summer term should be recommenced. Knaresboro' was chosen for the outing, and arrangements were actually set on foot. Although the girls seemed quite enthusiastic, the boys could not be encouraged to raise the required number, and unfortunately the proposal had to be dismissed.

The Senior Boys' Cricket has been the most successful feature of the various sections of the House games this term. Having defeated Sparta and Troy, they will oppose Carthage in the final.

An unusually large number of Athenians are engaged in the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations at the end of the summer term; we take this opportunity to wish them success.

CARTHAGE.

Once again we extend a hearty welcome to Miss Spencer as our House Mistress, after an absence of six months. May we take this opportunity to thank Miss Henderson for the keen interest she took in the House during Miss Spencer's absence.

We won the Sports Cup. Thanks to all Carthaginians who enabled us to outrun Rome almost at the winning post. Similar promising results have been obtained towards the Spraggon Cup. Perhaps Carthage will break her long-standing record and emerge triumphant with two cups : who knows ? There is certainly no danger of her acquiring the Work Cup.

The House Outing—or rather a party of girls with three brave youths to make up the number—journeyed to Knaresborough on the 15th of June. The weather favoured us ; the river proved to be a great attraction, and certainly the holiday spirit could not have been keener. Not one of us was disappointed. We thank Miss Henderson and Mr. Gear for their continual efforts towards making the outing a success.

In concluding, may we wish good luck to all who have taken Higher School Certificate and Matriculation examinations. We must also say good-bye to those of us who are leaving, including our two House Captains. We wish them all every success in the future. To the rest we can only hope that you will enjoy the summer holidays !

ROME.

“ . . . All instincts immature,
All purposes unsure,
That weighed not as his work, yet swelled the man's
amount.”

In Browning's lines we may perhaps find consolation for our failure to capture the Sports Cup. We were defeated by a narrow margin, but only after a good fight, a fight worthy of admiration. We may justifiably be proud of our effort, unsuccessful though it was.

Apparently, however, and for this not even Browning can offer consolation, a few girls consider not the House but their own individual whims. They refuse to sprint or “don't like” to take second station in the Relay. Then, if they can't have what they want, they sit down like the proverbial ass and refuse to do anything. Well, its pretty feeble for a Roman, that's all.

Then there's the "House Outing." Far too many consider this, not as one of the rare opportunities for the House to be united, but as a "trip." They have a wrong conception of the whole purpose and use of a "House Outing," and one that they will have to change if there are to be any more outings.

Detentions have not been so numerous this term; apart from the two namesakes who are apparently having a contest to see who can get six first, the boys have done well. The girls have not done so well, yet, somehow, seem to have escaped blame. The majority of their detentions are for talking. We are willing to admit this is a very common feminine failing, but that does not justify it. There are times to talk and times to keep quiet, and if these particular offenders feel they must communicate their valuable ideas to the world, let them do so through the medium of this magazine. The committee will be only too glad to accept and consider any manuscripts submitted to them.

On the games field, of course, it is allowable to talk and perhaps that is why the tennis has been so good. The cricket was not so successful, but it did provoke considerable keenness.

And so, in spite of our complaints, and since the general spirit in Rome is not that of the feeble few, as we bid good-bye and good luck to our captains, who, unfortunately, are both leaving us, we can honestly say they have done their share towards making Rome a good House.

SPARTA.

House activities this term have included tennis and cricket matches, Sports, and last, but not least, the annual House Outing.

In their tennis matches the Senior Girls beat Troy but lost to Athens. The Junior Girls beat Troy and Athens, but lost to Carthage in the Finals.

Sparta was placed fourth in the final positions in the School Sports. In some individual events, however, Spartans came off very well. Youel came in second in both the mile and the cross-country; Scholey came in second in the 220 yards and also won the Senior Boys long jump. The Senior Girls' high jump and relay race were also won by Spartans.

On June 22nd Sparta was favoured with glorious weather for the House Outing to Matlock. In spite of the extreme heat all who went agreed they had spent a very pleasant day. The river was well patronised and some very energetic girls climbed to the top of the "Heights of Abraham" to get a fine view of the surrounding countryside.

After a review of all pleasant events we return to that eternal bugbear, the detention list. Spartans still figure in this to a great extent and we would ask them, as we so narrowly missed the Work Cup last term, to keep out of Detention if they possibly can.

THEBES.

Well, Thebes, on the whole, this term has not been too good. Our records, both in Work and Sport, still leave much to be desired. We are far too prone to leave until to-morrow what ought to have been done yesterday. Without pretending to be "prophets," we think we can safely say that other Houses will capture the Cups this time.

Strangely enough, many Thebans appear quite willing to spend Saturday morning at School, working hard. However, seeing that the work is done in the Detention Room, the result is not beneficial to the House. Thebes, although not wishing to prevent any of the members from working, begs to advise them to work at the proper time.

In our House matches, too, we have not shone very well. What is needed is more "team spirit." We hope that next year Thebans will continue to turn up on Saturday mornings, but, instead of working hard at "detention," they must play hard on the games fields.

With great pleasure we learned that we were to go to Knaresboro' for the House Outing, but we were soon to find that it had been cancelled because very few wanted to go. It is a shame that we don't make the most of our opportunities. However, we are not going to grumble all the time—we know we tried our best at Sports Day, even though we were well beaten.

We hope all our members who have taken exams. will be successful: we also give our best wishes to L. Horsfield and P. Crockett, who are going to College, the former to Derby and the latter to Durham. We hope that next year will prove more successful than this has done. If only we all try harder—and we are going to, are we not?—we know we

shall do better. Can we say that we have drawn back this year "pour mieux sauter" ? At any rate, we hope Thebes will do better, in everything, next year.

TROY.

"Frailty, thy name is woman !"

This term the weaker sex have given a further proof of their weakness. Not satisfied with getting at least six detentions per week, they have crowned their achievements by failing to turn up to tennis matches. I would like to remind them that the grandeur that was Troy's consisted of their ability to turn out a full team. If this state of affairs continues the remotest chance which Troy may have of winning any of the School Cups will disappear.

Nor have the boys any cause to be satisfied with their own efforts. Detentions have by no means been few, and the Senior Boys have failed to obtain any success in the cricket matches. They did, however, succeed in turning out a full team and tried their best to win. The Junior Boys alone deserve our congratulations ; they have succeeded in winning their way through to the cricket final.

A further cause for complaint is the fact that there is little enthusiasm in buying the School magazine. The sale of magazines in Troy has steadily decreased. This shows a very poor spirit, and I would like to remind them that the bigger the sale, the better the magazine will be.

This term is rather an uneventful one, most of the time being spent in sleep, both in class and out of it. As usually is the case, Troy failed to gain any success in the Sports.

We are hoping to hold our annual House Outing towards the end of the term, when once more we shall pay a visit to the Derbyshire moors.

We should like to congratulate the Trojan boys on their zest for "navvying" which seems to be absent among other Houses.

We should like to wish all those who have been toiling under the heavy yoke of public examinations every success, and may it prove an incentive to further efforts. We should also like to bid a fond farewell to all those who are leaving us this term. May the rest of their days be as happy as those spent at School.

School Societies.

LITERARY SOCIETY.

Inspired by a very successful session, the VIth Form ambitiously undertook the production of "Antony and Cleopatra." This play presents innumerable difficulties to modern producers, for many of its forty-two scenes are only a few lines in length. Then there were no stage properties, and no costumes available, and such a huge caste that many people had to "double."

Add to these an audience apparently incapable of sympathetic and imaginative attention, an audience criticising an Elizabethan play according to modern standards, and blaming the play for not reaching those standards, and it is easy to account for the disturbing failure of the tragedy as a tragedy.

In spite of the audience, however, and the best plays are often box-office nightmares, the play was well tackled. There is no need to mention individuals, for all the caste worked well and carried on in armour that refused to hang together and make-up that had become unsuitable through the actors adopting new roles.

Scout Notes.

This term we have been able to use the Gymnasium again, as there are no rehearsals for the plays. The usual routine has been carried out and numerous tests have been held. We have had many new members who are now doing good work. Some Scouts have become so efficient in Ambulance work that they are now working for the Ambulance Badge.

We are hoping to hold a Field Day soon, at which we shall have competitions in all branches of Scout Work.

Throughout this term we have had outings on Saturday afternoons, to Hooton Roberts, Barnboro' and Storr's Mill. The attendances at these outings have broken all records. This is mainly due to the fact that free sausage and bacon have been given away. We regret to say that some Scouts came out to "hike" on bicycles. Perhaps they feared the after-effects of the free sausage.

This year the Summer Camp is to be held at Kirk-michael, on the West coast of the Isle of Man. All Scouts are now busy preparing for the camp, and the Patrol Leaders have done good work, examining tents. The attendance at this camp looks like breaking all records, as many old Scouts have decided to come with us.

Cycling Club.

The first run of the term decided upon by the new officials was to the Dukeries, the weather being particularly favourable. A view of two ducal estates to the south of Blyth and Worksop was obtained. The following Saturday the Club had another all-day run, this time to Castleton, where some members explored the recesses of the Peak Caver whilst others, equally enterprising and more energetic, scaled the heights of Mam Tor. The scenery on this run was almost as imposing as the hills we had to climb. A series of half-day outings followed: to Wharnccliffe Crag, Woolley Dam, and other places of interest in the locality. On one occasion Mr. Ledley took the architecturally inclined round several Churches in the neighbourhood of Campsall, whilst another Saturday afternoon was spent at a new venue near Bawtry. Under the captaincy of Youel, supported by a vigorous committee, and with the cordial assistance of the sun, the Cycling Club has enjoyed a very prosperous season. On many runs more than twenty members have turned out.

G. COLLINS (Hon. Sec.)

Guides.

This term has been one of activity for the Guides. Early in the session we held Guide Sunday, on May 26th. There was a Church Parade of the District Guides at Bolton, where we rehearsed our marching in readiness for the coming parade at Stainboro'.

On June 1st, at Stainboro', Jubilee celebrations were held and enjoyed. A March Past of Colours was followed by Brownies and Guides, and Miss Carr took the salute. A short service followed, conducted by the Rector of Castleford. After this we had games, and tea was provided for us later. A number of displays were organised—one performed by each District to represent one unit of the British Empire. The revels were wound up by the lighting of a camp fire.

Quite a number of badges have been competed for this term. Three Guides have gained their Athlete Badge, while three have been examined for the Gymnast, and five for the Book Lovers' Badge. The results of these last two are not yet known.

Many of our number are now looking forward to the Summer Camp to be held at Stainton Dale, near Scarborough'.

Sports Day.

The Greeks held their Olympic games only once every four years, and perhaps we ought to follow their example. Certainly our optimism in hoping for fine weather every year seems but rarely justified. This year it snowed on Sports Day; Sparta ought to have had a distinct advantage . . .

Yet, in spite of unfavourable conditions, Sports Day was successful. A good number of spectators came, and the competitors, in most cases, seemed to have trained well. The records for the Junior Girls 100 yards, the Junior Girls high jump, the Junior and Senior Girls relay races, the Middle Boys 220 yards, high jump and half mile, were all broken. Although the mile record was not broken the race was by far the best, closest, and most exciting the School has ever seen. Findlay came up for the finish in true Lovelock style, and none of the other competitors were far behind.

Carthage actually won the cup, but it was by no means an easy victory. Rome for a long time held the lead by twenty points, and only dropped off towards the end. As the entrants went to their marks for the mile Carthage and Rome were first equal: but the end of the race, the last of the day, brought Rome to third with 155 points, Athens to second with 156½ points, and Carthage to first with 160 points.

Cricket.

School v. Goole (Away).

Result: Won by 5 wickets. School 164 for 5 (dec.), Goole 158

The weather for this match was characterised by short heavy showers, so that play had to be conducted in the bright intervals. The School lost the toss, batted first, and lost Horn and Ankers very soon to good bowling that kept the School batting subdued for a considerable period. Ward came in to play a steady and valuable 13, and was followed by Hardy and Scholey. Hawke, after a nervous first over, then settled down to sound quick scoring, playing very confidently and getting some lovely shots on the leg side. He had made 33 not out when the School declared. Thompson batted through for 71. He employed a considerable variety of strokes, especially powerful drives and cuts.

A heavy downpour during tea made the fielding conditions almost impossible, for the players could hardly hold their balance. Goole collected runs very speedily, with the

greasy ball and pitch very much in their favour. Hardy, Hawke and Davison bowled well under the circumstances, but the real hero of the match was J. W. Ward. Taking a tremendous run, Ward bowled with consistent accuracy, coming quickly off the pitch, and coming out of the match with a fine analysis of 11 overs, 30 runs and 8 wickets. The match became very exciting towards the end, and Goole's last man was dismissed when the score stood at 158 through another spectacular catch in the slips by Howdle.

School v. Barnsley (Home).

Result : Lost by 6 wickets. School 84 ; Barnsley 86 for 4.

The School batted first on a dangerous fiery wicket, and both opening batsmen were very uncomfortable against the Barnsley fast bowler, Storr. The first seven batsmen had all followed one another in a regular procession, with the score standing at 31, when Webster and James made a very valuable stand that produced 40. James left, having made 18, and the score was then taken to 84, Webster making a much needed 24 not out.

The Barnsley batsmen opened carefully and scored at a steady pace. Rowlinson bowled well from the Sandygate end, taking 4 wickets for 23 runs in 13 overs. Ward, Thompson and Scholey all bowled from the other end, but none made any impression, and Barnsley finally passed our total with 6 wickets in reserve.

School v. Mexborough. (Away).

Result : Won by 2 wickets. Mexborough 79; School 81 for 8.

The School won the toss and fielded first on a wicket still damp with morning dew. From the bottom end, Rowlinson with two perfect deliveries clean bowled Denham and Powell with his first two balls, and continuing the good work, took 5 wickets in 5 overs. Ward was bowling very well from the top end, but having no luck. Seven Mexborough wickets were down for 19 runs, but very poor School fielding allowed the score to be brought to 79. Rowlinson took 6 wickets for 13 runs.

The School opened badly, and three wickets were down for 11 runs, then Horn and Hardy scored steadily. Horn made a careful 12, then Webster made a vigorous 19, while Hardy contributed a valuable 29 at the opportune moment, including some nice leg shots. James and Scholey, who made respectively 8 not out and 17 not out, then carried the score safely past the Mexborough total.

School v. Barnsley. (Away).

Result : Lost by 43 runs. Barnsley 146 ; School 103.

Having been well beaten at home, the School were determined to make a better show away, and had the opportunities in the field been taken, the School might have won quite easily. Barnsley batted first on a fine well prepared wicket, and Thompson dismissed Harris in his second over. Rowlinson, Ward, Davison, and Scholey were all tried, but only Hardy and Thompson seemed dangerous with the ball, the latter, especially, suffering from poor fielding and dropped catches. Hardy took 4 wickets for 21, including the dismissal of Kesteven, who made 48, and Barnsley were all out for 146.

Thompson and Ward opened the innings, and each, after having a "life" practically before scoring, played the Barnsley opening bowlers carefully and confidently. At 44, Thompson, who had made 19, was clean bowled by a yorker, whilst Ward went on to score 34. Wickets then fell steadily, Horn making 16, Hawke 17, Scholey 12 not out, and the last man, Rowlinson, closed the score at 103, by pulling the ball on to his wicket from the last delivery of the match, thus turning a moral victory for Barnsley into a real defeat for the School.

School v. Thorne. (Home).

Result : Won by 7 wickets. Thorne 30 ; School 31 for 3.

Thorne won the toss and batted first, Rowlinson and Ward bowled practically throughout, and wickets fell quickly with runs coming extremely slowly. Rowlinson took 4 wickets for 10 runs in 8 overs, including 3 maidens ; Ward took five wickets for 19 runs in 8 overs ; Hardy took a wicket with his first and only ball.

The School opened badly, Thompson and Ellis being dismissed for no runs ; then Ward and Hawke batted solidly. Hardy finally made the winning hit, and then the School proceeded to get some batting practice. Ward made 35, and Scholey 16 not out.

Tennis.

Tennis VI. v. Hemsworth. (At Wath).

Result : Wath 51 ; Hemsworth 48.

Played at home, the weather was ideal for tennis, although the School team were no doubt handicapped by their tunics. The score remained even throughout till by the

last set Hemsworth were leading by only two games. However E. Hague and O. Chambers played steadily during the last set which they won by 8 games to 3. Thus the School succeeded in winning their first match by 3 games.

Tennis VI. v. Thorne. (At Wath):

*Result: Wath 48; Thorne 51.

Played at Wath, the game was even, the School 2nd. couple, E. Rawlin and J. Lowcock playing particularly well. The School 3rd couple, however, were hopelessly beaten in two sets, but rallied again to win the third set by 6 games to 5. E. Hague and O. Chambers again played well.

Tennis VI. v. Penistone. (At Penistone).

Result: Wath 24; Penistone 70.

Played at Penistone, the School team, deprived of one of its former members, was easily outmatched by the opposing team. Both the 2nd couple, E. Rawlin and J. Lowcock, and the 3rd couple, S. Fletcher and N. Langford, were utterly unable to return the swift strokes of their opponents. The first couple, E. Hague and O. Chambers, did succeed in winning one set, but the School team was decidedly inferior.

Tennis VI. v. Rotherham. (At Rotherham).

Result: Wath 12; Rotherham 87.

The School team were no doubt handicapped by the fact that owing to the School Certificate Examinations, 4 members of the team were unable to play. The School representatives played well since they were all unaccustomed to their various partners.

Junior Competition

I came to an oak door and knocked, the door opened slowly and silently, yet nothing was to be seen. I slowly went forward into the dark passage cautiously feeling my way along. I heard a click behind me and realised that the door had closed. I heard a noise upstairs, so I felt for the bannister and had gone a few steps when something flew past me. I shuddered, but taking my courage in both hands, I mounted the rest of the stairs. There was a rustle of a dress and then a low eerie moan. I went forward with my heart in my mouth, and in the dim light of the corridor I could see doors on either side yet only one was open. Through this I entered and had taken but three steps when a mournful

moan came from the corner of the room. Then a frightening silence. Someone ran past, now back and—oh! horrors!—was entering the room. My hair stood on end. The form advances nearer, nearer; I could stand it no longer. I screamed. "Switch on those lights there," drawled a Yankee voice, "and say what do—, oh! I beg your pardon, I'm sorry if we gave you a scare, but we're rehearsing sound effects for a film." "How did the door open," I asked weakly. "Oh, you must have knocked on the electric switch; its convenient for if any of the company turn up late after we've started." I muttered an apology and went home feeling, to put it mildly, rather foolish.

M. ATKIN.

Excavations.

"Three hundred years ago the coal trade was centred in this district, which was thickly populated. The rapid decline of the industry, due to the development of hydro-electricity, made the locality quite deserted save for a few hamlets and farmsteads. Maps of the region are still to be bought, and it is thought that if the capital were forthcoming, it would be possible to remove the deep deposit of earth and rubbish from these towns and discover a little more of English life in those days."

Thus read Mr. Ichabod T. Blumenfelt, the American millionaire, out of a newspaper to his foreman Mr. Watlingbury, as they were supervising some workmen digging a deep hole in this deserted country district. Mr. Blumenfelt then drew a map from his pocket, and indicating a certain spot on it with his long beringed finger, he said: "That's where we are right now; guess we shall find that school if we get further down."

After long digging the workmen came to some bricks. When the soil had been removed it became clear that a large building of some kind had once been here. With much labour, large walls were revealed, pieces of rotting wood came to light, and at length a large hole appeared in the wall. Mr. Ichabod T. Blumenfelt, certain that this was the school marked on the map, had a ladder brought on which he and Mr. Watlingbury climbed down to the bottom of the forty-foot hole that the workmen had dug. The aperture in the brick wall was blocked up by a heap of soil mixed with coal dust, but when this was removed it was found that the interior, apparently a large room, was almost entirely free from debris.

Switching on an electric torch, Mr. Blumenfelt led the way round the room. "What on earth!" exclaimed Mr. Blumenfelt, and he picked up from the floor a rabbit's skull.

"Some school this!" grunted Mr. Watlingbury, stumbling against a bottle of gooseberry seeds in methylated spirits. Completely mystified, the two men discovered the most remarkable objects: worms, preserved in alcohol, dried fruits, nutshells, beetles' legs, and a host of other natural curiosities. At last they discovered a label, and deciphered with difficulty the following letters: "JUN. LAB."

D. HIGGINS, L.VI.L.

One Attitude Towards Exams.

(With apologies to Browning).

All June I passed my days in swot,
 Now leaf by leaf I fill with rot,
 And give them in and hope to pass.
 I shall not have a chance? Alas!
 Let them lie. Suppose you're right?
 There is a chance they may be bright.
 How many a month I strove to train
 These stubborn fingers and my brain!
 To-day I venture all I know.
 They will not pass my papers? So!
 Pass the string; tie up the books:
 Despite my fears the master looks.

B. RUSHFORTH, L.VI.

The Law of Diminishing Ink.

And it came to pass that a fountain pen was in the habit of running out of ink at inopportune moments. However, this pen belonged to an august member of the Science Six who soon brought his mathematical genius to bear on the matter. As the time approached for finishing his exercise in class, he found that the acceleration of the rate of diminution of the ink varied as the square of his distance from the ink-pot; further complications were introduced when it was discovered that the rate of diminution varied also, directly as the cube of the urgency of the exercise in question, and inversely as the fifth power of the number of minutes before the bell would ring.

His remarkable discovery was ratified by the experiment of filling his pen twelve minutes before the end of the lesson, and having the ink-pot close at hand. Thereupon the law of urgency was established by the rate of diminution increasing so quickly that his pen emptied itself in a huge blot after eleven minutes thirty seconds.

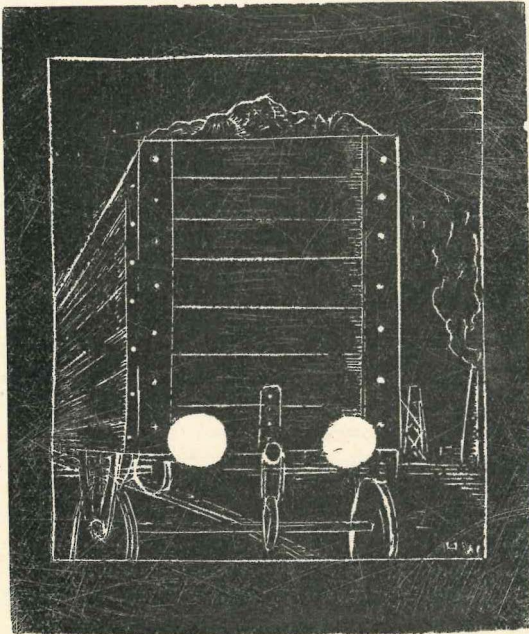
His experiment has been embodied in the following formula :—

$$A \text{ varies as } \frac{d^2 v^3}{t^5}$$

A—acceleration of rate of diminution
 d—distance of inkpot from writer
 v—urgency of finishing exercise.
 t—time before end of lesson.

At present our noted friend is wrestling with the laws connecting homework and the aptitude for leaving the correct book at school.

J. LOWCOCK, Lower VI.Lit.



How We Prepared a Play.

If Drinkwater had been present at some of the rehearsals of his "Oliver Cromwell" he would have received a very amazing impression of our literary taste and our interpretations of his play. We certainly did our best to relieve the Puritanic atmosphere.

Much of the humour was caused by the way the characters fitted the actual persons. Our "grandmother" of 80 tripped across the stage like a schoolgirl. Our rather cumbersome Oliver loudly proclaimed that he was "all for singing and dancing," causing great amusement. However, after a final "dress rehearsal" we felt fairly confident that we could suppress our giggles. At the performance, however, we received several setbacks. First, we could not use the curtains, and any stage managing had to be done in full view of the audience. Secondly the girls who held the stage for the first part of the play were so busy dressing up that they arrived ten minutes late. However, we excused them as their dress was quite worth while, although little was seen of Mrs. Cromwell's owing to the work-basket which she hid behind. Grandma controlled Henry Ireton very well and Bridget gave him some expert advice on shawl draping. Ireton gave a very good picture of a dashing young soldier, though he certainly seemed more at home on the battlefield than in the drawing room. Hampden was the picture of dignity. He controlled the House of Commons far better than the Speaker who tried to imitate a traffic policeman. Indeed he did it so well that the shouts which had been rehearsed most carefully went unrecognized as shy murmurs.

Oliver, sensibly dressed in a pair of fine leggings, which would persist in coming down, got through his long speech without a hitch (except, of course, of the leggings) much to the delight of Upper IVa, who had heard it so many times that they almost knew it as well as Oliver himself.

Then came an awkward moment. The old man, Amos, and Bridget were supposed to interrupt Cromwell holding forth in the House of Commons, but they were so overcome with admiration of his efforts that Amos forgot his part and there was some expert juggling with a book. In the scene before the battle of Naseby, General Fairfax and his staff looked magnificent in their breastplates—at least until Colonel Pemberton dropped his cloak and stood unashamedly in his tapes. They were bemoaning the non-arrival of Cromwell and this all led up to the dramatic moment when

Cromwell came in. First the scout who preceded Cromwell in his hurry fell up the steps, but this almost passed unnoticed because Cromwell entered, wearing a magnificent sword, which fell with a clatter that sounded like many horses arriving. We hid our confusion behind a large map of the "Naseby district" and then disappeared from the scene rapidly—leaving the worthy Oliver alone to receive a vote of thanks which we were not expecting. So we made our play and enjoyed its preparation and performance.

Old Wathonians' Association.

The Annual General Meeting and Social took place at the School on 21st March, 1935. An enjoyable evening was spent by members ("Pioneers" and new recruits) in a programme including Whist, Games, Plays and Dancing. At the meeting, which is always made as short as possible, the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and the following Officials elected:—President, A. T. L. Grear, Esq.; Vice-President, Miss B. C. Deeks; Hon. Secretary (Boys), F. M. Scholey; (Girls), K. Barr; Hon. Treasurer, H. Willis; Committee (with the above): Boys—T. Bottomley, C. Cutler, L. Wilkinson; Girls—A. M. Cameron, M. Knibbs, I. Midwood.

One of the aims of the Association is to keep members in touch with the School and with one another. To this end Socials, Dances and Sports Events are arranged. A printed list of members names and addresses and a diary of events is sent to each member yearly.

The subscriptions, a necessary evil, are small:—Membership only, one shilling a year; membership and School magazine each term, two shillings a year.

The subscriptions of those joining the Association on leaving School in July cover the remainder of the year and the whole of the next year.

Postmen that Swim.

A missionary who has recently returned from the Tonga group of islands in the South Pacific, gives an interesting account of a novel form of letter-carrying. Nind-Fu, one of the chief islands of the group, is the only place in the world where postmen swim with the letters. The island is encircled with coral reefs and strong currents, which render approach of any kind dangerous. Once a month the mailboat comes

from New Zealand, and for this the white inhabitants closely watch. The boat anchors quite two miles from the shore and the native postman must swim out to it. The first swimmer carries a short stick, at the end of which is a cleft. In this cleft is the small bundle of outgoing letters. As the swimmer approaches a basket is lowered from the ship and the letters are dropped into this. A closely-sealed tin, containing the ingoing mails, is dropped from the ship. The floating tin is then cleverly steered through the water by the swimming postmen and piloted in the direction of the shore as quickly as the wind and tide will allow. For many years the mails of Nind-Fu have been collected in this curious manner. The work is not without a considerable element of danger, for the sea is often infected with sharks. The islanders are, however, expert shark-killers and not one of the postmen has lost his life or even been seriously injured in following his employment.

J. CAMPS, Lower VI. Lit.

TIME'S PRINTING CO. LTD.
MEXBOROUGH

