

Chenet



No. 2

Summer, 1960

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor: JOSE DALE

Sub-Editors:

PAULINE BUSHNELL, STEPHANIE DALE, JANICE LYCETT,
P. ELKIN, R. LEESE, R. SAFFHILL

* * *

Editorial

LAST year's editor bewailed the magazine's 'dearth of good, mature prose,' and expressed the hope that when the first Sixth Form came into being this year, the problem would be solved. Unfortunately, this was not to be, for the Sixth, remaining characteristically unresponsive, seemed too occupied with other affairs to contribute as they had been expected to. As for the Lower School, although many were willing to apply themselves to the production of verse, to most the delights of prose remained un-savour'd. As a result, the second half of the magazine once more looks like an extract from 'Uncle Tom's Verses for Little People,' and this year's editor will have to look to next year, when with the Sixth Form more firmly established, the two year dearth could be followed by a glut.

The School is now in its fifth year and many of its first pupils will be leaving in July. During these five years, much has been said and written about the problems of a school in its infancy, and we have formed a habit of using our youth as an excuse for our faults. This excuse is fast becoming invalid and we would do well to forget it and concentrate more on reform wherever it is needed. Much has been achieved in these five years and it is to be hoped that even more will come from the next five.

School Notes

SEPTEMBER 1959 found the school with 517 pupils on the roll. The school now consists of five year groups, each consisting of just under a hundred pupils, and its first sixth form. We regret to say that only three pupils now remain from what was originally Cannock High School, and we expect to lose those this summer. The Sixth Form is now in full swing after a rather shaky start and is making its presence felt in certain regions of the lower school.

When the school has its full complement of pupils in this coming September, it is hoped that we can settle down to establish and confirm the traditions that are so obviously lacking in a school which is yet in its relative infancy.

* * *

Since the last issue of the magazine we have said goodbye to Mrs. Morgan who is now teaching at Wolverhampton High School. Also at the end of last summer-term Mr. Gofton left us and is now training for the ministry at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, in Yorkshire. We are very pleased to announce that Mesdmaes Bailey, Griffin, Haslam and Lloyd have presented their husbands with a baby since we last went to print. We would like to wish both parents and offspring all success in the future. We should also like to offer our congratulations to Miss Knight and Mr. Jones who have recently announced their engagement.

* * *

We have welcomed to the Staff Mr. M. J. C. Read, B.Sc.(Liverpool), Mr. M. G. Montague, B.A.(Nottingham), Mr. P. Browne, B.Sc.(Bristol), Mr. P. F. Barker, B.A.(Manchester), Mr. P. Haslam, B.A.(Manchester), and Miss I. M. Crofts, B.A.(Durham). We were glad to welcome Mr. Boot back after his long illness and were glad to see that he has resumed his duties with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

* * *

Our Annual Speech Day Ceremony was held this year on April 7th. As usual, the whole School made its way in the morning to Cannock Parish Church for the Speech Day Service, which was conducted this year by the Rev. R. Oliver, M.A., Superintendent Minister, Cannock Chase Methodist Circuit. The lessons were read by the Rev. D. K. Robertson, B.A., Vicar of Cannock, and the Rev. C. C. D. Lewis, Vicar of Hednesford. The intercession was led by the Rev. M. L. Collings, Hednesford Section Cannock Chase Methodist Circuit, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. D. A. Hodges, Rector of Stafford.

A report of the evening's proceedings occurs later.

This year as in the past, the school milk tops have been collected and sold. Already this year Mr. Madge has received £1/7/3d. for them, which has been paid into the General Fund. We thank all those who have helped by collecting tops and silver paper at home, and hope that they will continue to do so and that others will join in.

Since the beginning of the year several trips of educational interest have been organised for members of the 6th Form.

During the Christmas holidays members of the 6th Science, together with some of the 4th and 5th years attended two chemistry lectures at Birmingham University. The 6th Science also attended a physics lecture at Hanley sometime later in the year.

Representatives of both 6th Forms attended a lecture at Wolverhampton Technical College on the subject of 'Weather Forecasting.'

* * *

On Friday, 11th March, the first Physical Education Evening was held in the gymnasium. Owing to space restrictions only a small audience of parents and governors attended. The programme began with a demonstration of circuit training by the 4th year boys followed by specimen lessons by the 2nd year girls and 1st year boys. The first half of the programme was concluded with Folk Dancing by members of the 5th and 6th forms, Soccer training by 2nd and 3rd year boys and a demonstration badminton match by four members of the 6th form Badminton Club.

After a short interval, there was a basketball match between a team from Abbotsholme and a team selected from School, resulting in a win for Cannock, 39-29.

* * *

On 3rd July last year the 1st forms celebrated the end of the examinations in the customary way with the geographical coach excursion to Dovedale. The route aimed at covering as many of the variations in Staffordshire landscape as possible, including lowland and hills, farmland, bleak moorland and the Potteries. The village of Alstonfield just above Dovedale, suffered our annual invasion in good heart, somewhat compensated by having done a roaring trade in ice-cream.

* * *

To celebrate the advent of our new organ and grand piano, the School and Junior Choirs, the School Orchestra, the Recorder Club and a number of soloists combined to produce a concert. This proved a most enjoyable occasion; a more detailed report of the proceedings occurs under the Music Society notes.

* * *

At the end of the Autumn Term the customary 1st form party took place, accompanied by much noise and jubilation. The Christmas film, shown to the whole school, was 'Genevieve.' This year the 6th form

produced their first dance to which were invited members of staff and members of 6th forms of other schools. I think it is true to say that 'a good time was had by all.' We look forward to making this an annual occasion.

* * *

The qualifying rounds of the form Speech Competition have recently taken place and 2A, 2B, 3A and 3 Alpha have won their way through to the final which will be held at the end of term.

* * *

During the year two visits have been paid to the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, to hear orchestral concerts.

The first visit was in November when the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. The soloist in the Vaughan Williams Piano Concerto was Colin Horsley and the other major work was Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony.

The second visit was in February when George Weldon conducted the Halle Orchestra in a popular programme including movements from 'The Planets' Suite by Holst.

Both concerts were well attended by members of the school and staff.

Janice Lycett, L6th Science.

Valete

Lower 6th. Arts.

Mary Flynn, Valerie Jones, John Wardle.

5F.

Margaret Seabridge, Eric Ward.

5B.

Janet Harris.

5A.

Jennifer Hallum.

4F.

Donald Price, Patricia Piper.

4T.

Janet Bridgen, Hazel Clarke, Carol Davenport, Jeanette Horton, Iris Perry, Dylis Wright, Alan Barker, Philip Brindley, Robert Cartwright, Duncan Haley, Martin Holmes, Barry Lomas, Arthur Portsmouth, Terry Smith, Anthony Turner.

4Alpha.

John Gregory.

4B.

Denis Hodgkiss, David Judson.

2B.

John Davies, Terence Winfield, Colin Howard, Robert Taylor, Ian Phillips.

1D.

Trevor Jones.

1A.

John Bartkowiak, Andrew Ellis.

1C.

Robert Ellis.

Salvete

6th Form

Hilary Charlesworth, Deirdre Thacker, Glenys Wall, Jean Whilton.

3B.

Rita Rogers.

1A.

Mavis Belcher, Wandy Birch, Patricia Boddy, Maureen Coombe, Christine Ecclestone, Glenys Edwards, Elizabeth Harrison, Linda Haywood, Ann Heeps, Rita Proud, Margaret Russell, Barbara Smith, Linda Spooner, Jennifer Thomas, Jean Topliss, Susan Willetts, Brenda Winfield, Pamela Winfindale, Keith Aanensen, John Bartkowiak, Brian Bradbury, Andrew Ellis, Gerald Goard, Malcolm Griffiths, Philip Haytree, David Holt, Peter Kendrick, Patrick Larner, John Norton, Frank Perkins, Robert Powell, William Rhodes, David Spencer.

1B.

Susan Allen, Kathleen Aspley, Jean Baker, Carol Brickley, Jacqueline Cartwright, Elizabeth Gilbody, Patricia Gough, Paula Hill, Cheryl Massy, Carol Perkins, Ann Perry, Jennifer Pritchard, Susan Smith, Jane Swanson, Diane Taylor, Mary Wallace, Judith Whitehouse, Janet Withington, Robert Ashforth, Kenneth Austin, Keith Barnett, Anthony Broadbent, John Gill, Alistair Gourlay, Philip Griffin, Maurice Hattersley, Leslie Hurmson, David Kennedy, Brian Morris, Marshall Richards, John Roberts, Derek Sheasby, Alan Wrotchford.

1C.

Kathleen Bennett, Margaret Binnion, Linda Brickley, Elaine Busby, Janice Evans, Susan Fisher, Marlene Gadsby, Jennifer Gallatley, Patricia Gannon, Phillippa Hall, Margaret Holt, Mary Humphreys, Yvonne Ingameills, Rita James, Francine Kendrick, Gillian Pointon, Brenda Spencer, Jane Webster, Keith Alderson, William Anslow, Alan Biggins, Frederick Dawson, Hansen Draper, Robert Ellis, William Emberton, Edward Horobin, John Myers, Philip Perks, Peter Rogers, Arnold Rowlands, Geoffrey Sollom, Roger Sutton, David Wright.

PREFECTS FOR THE YEAR

GIRLS

Nora Charlesworth (Head Girl)
Eileen Astbury
Jeanette Briggs
Christine Brown
José Dale
Stephanie Dale
Ruth Fereday
Margaret Hughes
Anne Swanson
Jennifer Tonks
Susan Wilkinson

BOYS

Roger Leese (Head Boy)
Robert Barker
Melvin Cooke
Paul Elkin
Roy Saffhill
Geoffrey Shakespeare
Andrew Smith
Eric Wilkinson
Philip Woolridge
Ian Wright

Speech Day

APRIL 7th witnessed the holding of the School's annual Speech Day. As usual a large audience of parents and friends of the School was present for the occasion. The Chairman of the Governors, Alderman A. Hampton, O.B.E., J.P., presided at the ceremony and the prizes and G.C.E. certificates were presented by Professor A. G. W. Flew, Professor of Philosophy at the University College of North Staffordshire.

The Headmaster in his annual report spoke of the School's development in various fields. He mentioned the fact that the School had almost completed its full cycle of educational work, which it had been building up since the School was opened four and a half years ago, and had had its first normal entry for the General Certificate of Education at Ordinary level. At the beginning of the present school year there were 517 pupils on the roll, with a Sixth form of about 35, most of whom were preparing to take G.C.E. at Advanced level. After referring to the recent installation of an electronic organ, the Headmaster said he thought the next objective might be a trampoline for the gymnasium.

Alderman Hampton spoke of the governors' concern over the School's inadequate dining facilities, and said that, although approaches had been made to the Education Authority, the problem would probably worsen before it was improved as the School was still growing. He referred to the hope which had been entertained that the School would have its own playing fields within five years of being opened, and said that he would have liked to be able to give a more satisfying report on their progress. Speaking of the considerable development yet to take place, Alderman Hampton said that the School would ultimately have places for about 850 pupils, and he expressed the hope that the School would have more to be proud of than it had today.

Professor Flew then presented the prizes and gave an interesting and witty talk embracing many aspects of school life, addressing his remarks to parents, pupils and staff. He was thanked by the head girl, Nora Charlesworth, who presented him with a book token.

Pauline Bushnell, L6 Arts.

PRIZEWINNERS

1st FORMS

Sandra Aston, Sylvia Fereday, Mavis Hampton, Elizabeth Heath, Sheila James, R. Donithorn, M. Groves, R. Metcalfe, D. Rhodes.

2nd FORMS

Margaret Bartram, Jeanne Salmon, Marjorie Wassell, Verity Wilkinson, T. Bond, T. Follows, W. Massey, J. Powell, W. Roberts.

3rd FORMS

Rosalind Craddock, Margaret Donaldson, Monica Griffiths, Kathleen Haycock, Annette Leighton, C. Heath, A. Roberts, R. Tranter, B. Woodhouse.

4th FORMS

Dorothy Bailey, Susan Lane, Ann Middleton, Audrey Powers, Margaret Rowley, R. Bates, A. Humphreys.

G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) PRIZES

Pauline Bushnell, Ruth Fereday, Margaret Hughes, R. Barker, M. Cooke, P. Elkin, R. Leese, R. Saffhill, A. Smith.

CRAFTS

Pauline Mudd, Elsie Sherwood, B. Humphreys, J. Spraggett.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Judith Clowsley, Ann Hickinbottom, Margaret Street.

The School Play, 1959

FOR the past five years the School has been engaging in various activities 'for the first time,' and no doubt this will continue for a number of years though to a diminishing extent. The year 1959 saw the School's first production of a three-act play, the choice being 'The Imperial Nightingale.' This is an adaptation by Nicholas Stuart Gray of the story by Hans Christian Andersen.

Since G.C.E. candidates were not considered for the cast there was again a limitation of available talent, and since there was no sixth form a number of middle school pupils had to assume the responsibility of playing roles which would have been more easily accomplished with greater maturity. The theatre, however, both professional and amateur, is traditionally faced with challenging difficulties whatever the circumstances (it being characteristic of human nature never to be satisfied), and it can be fairly stated that the Dramatic Society continued the promising performance of the previous year in overcoming the peculiar handicaps of our present stage of development sufficiently well to earn merited praise for an entertaining production.

Young fishermen, even in 200 B.C. and in China, spoke with a marked Cancock accent and with the speed of a radio race commentator! The Green Dragon Guards, whose chief preoccupation was obeying the Emperor's command, 'Off with his head!' were clearly quite devoted to their vocation and appeared to enjoy every gory minute of duty. The Court Poet, one of their frequent clients, mused and dreamed delightfully in uniambic x-ameters, and gave a clear and convincing performance both in speech and movement.

Among the rogues the First Suspicious Character masqueraded with a natural ease, and his was obviously a triumph of casting rather than of acting. His companion in dishonour, however, was called upon to play a part quite foreign to his observed normal mode of life; that he succeeded in reaching the depths of gentle villainy was commendable, though it makes one wonder how deep those still waters run!

Lady Purity and Lady Honour achieved an impressive show of aristocratic affectation, while Flower, the gardener's daughter, flitted charmingly along her one-track journey, speaking with clarity and sincerity. Weaving his web of magic, to the accompaniment of jingling incantations, Black Circle, the Astrologer-Magician, brought light relief whenever he appeared and agreeably bemused the audience, the Court, and sometimes himself, and threw himself whole-heartedly into the part.

The main criticism is the perennial one of not speaking sufficiently slowly or deliberately, and this was particularly true of the Emperor and the Imperial War Lord who on occasions snarled their lines in the best Hollywood tradition of the big-time American gang-boss. The Emperor's part, however, was the most onerous of all and called for the aforementioned elusive maturity, and it is greatly to his credit that he held the play together by his determined effort. One of the clearest and most confident performances was that of the White Princess whose poise and assurance lent emphasis to her message of judgment.

A certain novelty of scope was presented by this play in the spheres of sound effects and music. The former produced a variety of strange sounds recognisably associated with the inhabitants of silent lakes and gardens, thanks mainly to a happy combination of versatile pedagogic vocal chords, liquid from the public water supply, and the mysteries of modern science concealed in an amplifying unit; a weird mixture, but with convincing results. The Honourable Musicians, playing previously unplayed music, helped to generate an appropriate atmosphere and seemed to enjoy their discordant labours.

Scenery, costumes and lighting were again effective and attractive and made a considerable contribution to the audience's entertainment. There was plenty of movement, where necessary, and the cast were largely successful in playing parts rather than merely speaking lines.

It was, altogether, a most enjoyable occasion, made possible by a com-

bined operation involving a large number of staff and pupils, more unseen than seen. All connected with it can feel pleased that further solid foundations have been laid for the time when the cast can be drawn from the complete school age-range and the right combination of maturity, experience and talent will no doubt result in ever greater achievements.

J.P.

Sports Notes

BOYS' GAMES

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

	Under 14 XI	Under 13 XI
Brewood G.S.....		Lost 2-3
Royal School, Wolverhampton.....	Lost 3-9	Won 3-2
Joseph Leckie School, Walsall.....	Won 5-0	
Churchfields.....	Drawn 3-3	Won 3-0
West Bromwich G.S.....	Cancelled	
T. P. Riley, Bloxwich.....	Won 3-2	Lost 0-9
Regis School.....	Won 9-2	
West Bromwich G.S.....	Cancelled	Cancelled
Joseph Leckie.....	Cancelled	
Churchfields.....	Drawn 3-3	Drawn 4-4
T. P. Riley.....	Drawn 2-2	Drawn 1-1
Under 14	Won 3 Lost 1 Drawn 3	
Under 13	Won 2 Lost 2 Drawn 2	

UNDER 14 XI

Regular players were: Dean, Follows, Bond, Nash, Bailey, Scorey, Gee, Johnson, Williams, Chilton, Hill, Dudley, Swann.

It can be seen that the team had a most successful season and in fairness it must be said that the one defeat was by an Under 15 team, the Royal School being unable to field teams of Under 14 and Under 13 on the same day. Scorey was selected to play for the District.

UNDER 13 XI

Regular players were: Brindley, Matthews, Morris, Thomas, Humphries, Bushnell, Rhodes, Donithorn, Lees, Westwood, Hinks. Humphries, Lees and Brindley played for the quite successful Cannock School's side. To replace this frequent loss of strong players, reserves were often called upon, particularly Gretton, Gliddon and Gunn.

The two teams practised at the Football Club meetings held every Wednesday throughout the season. It was pleasing to see the improvement of those players who made serious efforts to perfect the basic skills

of kicking, trapping, heading and dribbling. Mr. Morton and Mr. Browne always had plenty of ideas to make these practices most enjoyable.

Gilkes and Woolridge continued to play for Cannock Schools this year.

P. Chilton (Capt.), B. Scorey (Vice-Capt.).

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Stafford II	Lost	6-20	
Willenhall	Won	26-3	
Churchfields	Won	56-0	
Abbotsholme	Won	17-3	
Lichfield II	Lost	3-11	
Dudley	Lost	0-44	
Walsall Q.M.S. III	Won	36-0	
Regis	Lost	3-11	
Lichfield II	Lost	3-14	
Walsall Q.M.S. II	Lost	5-18	
Churchfields	Drawn	3-3 (Under 15 team)	
Played 10	Won 4	Drawn 0	Lost 6

The School has now passed through the second year of its Rugby life in which we have seen a marked development in the skill and tactics employed by the boys, both in games periods and in representative matches. Gradually the mode of play changed and out of last year's cavalry charges emerged the more subtle reverse passes, blind-side breaks, cross-kicks and 'push-over' tries. These touches of brilliance were, however, often left unnoticed amidst the enthusiastic 'foot-rushes' and hammer-like tackling. This latter aspect of the games periods was frequently criticised by Messrs. Ginn and Hosking, for, far from emulating the masters' advice and 'tackling hard and low,' the boys seemed to enjoy a greater affinity for each other's neck, hair and shirt.

We must now look forward to next season, and, at first glance, the problems seem to be as numerous as those encountered in September of last year. Many of the 5F and 5B members of the side will be leaving us in July, and a new set of forwards has to be found. Following the successful inclusion of 4th formers Davies and Nicholls into the back division, it was thought a reasonable risk to present Tolley with a first team place, which he filled with keenness and strength. There was also an Under 15 match against Churchfields which shed light on the possible talent we could draw upon next year. As for the backs, the losses can be replaced with worthy successors and the halves, Westwood and Bailey, will remain to carry on their successful partnership.

The following appeared for the team: Barker, Wilkinson, Bailey,

Bladon, Powell, Fryer, Westwood, Clenton, Hughes, Davies, Wardle, Pickstock, Weaver, Evans, Heath, Nicholls, Pee, Bates, Humphries, Sammons, Tolley, Smith, A., and Shakespeare.

R. Barker, L6 Science.

ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1959

Using the fine facilities of Cannock Festival Stadium, the School held its first Sports Day towards the end of the Summer Term. In the boys' events 'A' group had established a useful lead from standard points and went on to win with 493 pts. compared with C group's 435 pts. There was an inter-form competition between the 3rd and 4th year girls which was won by 4B.

The boys' competition was divided into three age groups, Minimus, Junior and Intermediate, which leaves provision for a Senior group which will be needed when the School is mature.

RESULTS

MINIMUS

	1	2	3	4	T/HT/DIS
100 yds.	Hill	Donithorn	Humphries	Brindley	12.8s
220 yds.	Hill	Donithorn	Brindley	Humphries	29.3s
High Jump	Bushnell	Lees	Matthews	Stevenson	4'1"
Long Jump	Dudley	Matthews	Hill	Clifton	13'8"
Relay	C	B			61.1s

JUNIOR

100 yds.	Davies	Tolley	Fereday	Gregory	12.0s
220 yds.	Davies	Hopper	Woolridge	Whitehouse	26.5s
440 yds.	Rollins	Griffin	Woolridge	Bailey	61.8s
Hurdles	Gilkes	Barker	Hallchurch	Roberts	
High Jump	Allen	Woolridge	Rollins	Fereday	4'11"
Long Jump	Gregory	Fereday	Griffin	Allen	15'11"
Discus	Davies	Barker	Griffin	Price	
Shot	Barker	Woolridge	Tolley	Gilkes	35'9"
Relay	A	C	B		52.6s

INTERMEDIATE

100 yds.	Heath	Garbett	Bailey	Pickstock	11.3s
220 yds.	Heath	Powell	Westwood	Bailey	25.5s
440 yds.	Clenton	Bates	Powell	Hughes	57.5s
660 yds.	Clenton	Evans	Benton	Shakespeare	1m. 30.2s
¾ mile	Evans	Garbett	Fryer	Brindley	3m. 37.7s
Hurdles	Westwood	Weaver	Pickstock	Pee	
High Jump	Westwood	Woolridge	Wilkinson	Elkin	5'0"
Long Jump	Shakespeare	Cooke	Bailey	Pee	
Discus	Bates	Powell	Benton	Pickstock	104'0"
Shot	Clenton	Benton	Weaver	Fryer	36'1½"
Relay	C	A	B		

3rd year GIRLS

100 yds.	R. Rogers	J. Thomas	S. Craddock	M. Donaldson	14.1s
Hurdles	G. Anslow	G. Smith	A. Harris	M. Gourd	14.3s
Relay	3 Alpha	3A	3B		61.8s

4th year GIRLS

100 yds.	P. Reynolds	J. Rimmer	A. Powers	J. Ensor	13.6s
Hurdles	B. Croome	A. Powers	M. Wood	G. Pearce	
Relay	4B	6th	4F		59.9s
Girl's Long Jump	B. Croome	S. Dale	M. Wright	J. Wright	

MID-STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS' A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year some twenty schools competed at the meeting which came to Cannock Festival Stadium. In spite of the fast improving standards of competition the School athletes enjoyed some success. Our winners were:

Intermediate Mile	Woolridge	5m 0s
Intermediate 110 yds. Hurdles	Weaver	15.5s
Senior 120 yds. Hurdles	Powell	18.5s
Intermediate 4×110 yds. Relay	(Heath, Evans, Westwood, Garbett)	50.0s

The following gained second places:

Junior 220 yds.: Hopper; Intermediate 880 yds.: Evans; Intermediate 110 yds. Hurdles: Westwood; Intermediate High Jump: Westwood; Intermediate 100 yds. (Girls): Susan Hames; Intermediate 150 yds. (Girls): Susan Hames; Intermediate 440 yds.: Bates.

Third places were gained by:

Junior High Jump: Chilton; Intermediate Javelin: Nicholls; Intermediate 4×110 yds. Relay (Girls): Susan Hames, Pauline Reynolds, Ann Middleton, Margaret Richards.

R. B. Clenton (Captain), T. A. Westwood (Vice-Captain)

ATHLETICS MATCH v THE JOSEPH LECKIE SCHOOL

The School was beaten by a school which produced good athletes in all events. The javelin throwers had an object lesson in an event which is new to the School.

The Cannock winners were:

Junior

High Jump	Bushnell	4'3"
100 yds.	Donithorn	12.4s (dead heat)
220 yds.	Hill	29.0s

Intermediate

80 yds. Hurdles	Williams	12.9s
Shot	Follows	30'5"
100 yds. Hopper		11.5s
High Jump	Chilton	4'8"
220 yds. Hopper		28.0s

Senior

110 yds. Hurdles	Westwood	15.5s
Shot	Clenton	40'5½"
High Jump	Westwood	5'4"

ATHLETICS MATCH v RUGELEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The season opened with the School gaining a handsome victory over Rugeley by 163 pts. to 95.

Cannock winners were:

Junior

100 yds.	Hill	12.4s
220 yds.	Brindley	30.3s
Long Jump	Dudley	13'0¼"

Intermediate

Hurdles	Pickstock	—
880 yds.	Evans	2m 13.2s
100 yds.	Pickstock	11.3s
High Jump	Allen	5'1"
Shot	Barker	38'10"
Long Jump	Fereday	16'1¼"

Senior

110 yds. Hurdles	Westwood	16.2s
440 yds.	Clenton	56.8s
100 yds.	Powell	11.4s
880 yds.	Wilson	2m 17.3s
Mile	Woolridge	4m 59s
Discus	Powell	96'6"
High Jump	Westwood	5'3"
Shot	Clenton	37'5"

All three relay teams were successful. The seniors won a close race in 49s.

CROSS COUNTRY

The feature of the season was undoubtedly the excellent running of Philip Woolridge, the Captain. The School has expanded its fixtures this year and the season has been enjoyable. The results set out below tell the story.

MID-STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS A.A. CHAMPIONSHIP

Intermediate Race (3½ miles)

2nd Woolridge, 23m 12s; 9th Garbett, 24m 1s; 12th Arnott, 24m 13s; 23rd Evans, 24m 58s; 39th Wilson, 27m 40s; 40th Benton, 27m 41s.

Junior Race

7th Rollins, 17m 46s; 23rd Griffin, 18m 34s; 34th Allen, 19m 6s; 51st Lolley, 20m 4s; 58th Gilkes, 20m 50s; 64th Bailey, 22m 4s.

These races were held in December before the School's programme really began. Woolridge and Rollins went on to run in the County School's Championships.

SCHOOL v REGIS SCHOOL, BREWOOD G.S., RUGELEY G.S. AT CANNOCK

The School won the Senior (under 17) race but came second to Regis School in the Intermediate (under 15) and Junior (under 13) races.

SCHOOL v WOLVERHAMPTON G.S.

The School was beaten at three ages by this strong team. The races were run on road.

THE RUGELEY BOWL AND THE LICHFIELD RELAY

In these events the School team gained experience against boys very much older. In the former event the School amassed no less than 1276 pts., being 39th out of 46 schools. In the latter event the School was 21st out of 27 schools.

SCHOOL RACES

5th and 6th year race

1st Woolridge, 17m 50s; 2nd Garbett, 18m 32s; 3rd Clenton, 18m 36s.

4th year race

1st Nicholls, 20m 19s; 2nd Rollins, 20m 20s; 3rd Allen T. 20m 21s.

3rd year race

1st Griffin, 10m 31s; 2nd Hopper, 10m 34s, 3rd Baggott*, 10m 37s; 4th Johnson, 10m 38s; 5th Roberts W., 10m 59s.

2nd year race

1st Hill*, 13m 39s; 2nd Rhodes, 13m 42s; 3rd Lees, 13m 52s; 4th Donithorn, 13m 57s.

*These boys are over age for their age group.

P. Evans (Vice-Captain)

GIRLS' GAMES

The winter season has been an active one, especially in the first term, and some very enjoyable matches have been played. We were particularly pleased with our first win against Wednesbury Commercial School, and with the success of our new 2nd year team.

Two netball matches were played against the staff. In the Autumn term the 4th year team beat an all-ladies staff team by 10 goals to 1, and in the Spring term, the 5th years maintained this standard with a 13-6 win over a mixed staff team.

The inter-form netball competition produced much excitement, the semi-finals and final all being very close games. 5B were the winners after a hard game against 4A, the score being 22-21.

Three hockey matches were played by a new under 15 team and although all were lost, useful experience was obtained. The lack of practice was particularly apparent in hockey.

This term 14 rounders matches have been arranged, 2 matches against Rugeley Grammar School, 1 against T. P. Riley County School and 1 against Churchfields Comprehensive School. So far we have won one game and lost two, so we hope for more success in the future.

NETBALL RESULTS

T. P. Riley School.....Home	5th year	Won	15-6
	4th year	—	—
	3rd year	Lost	8-10
	2nd year	Won	25-8
West Bromwich G.S.....Away	5th year	Won	14-3
	Under 15	Lost	7-13
	Under 14	Lost	12-14
ChurchfieldsHome	Under 15	Lost	8-21
	Away	Under 14	Won 13-7
	Away	Under 13	Won 18-10
Wednesbury Comm.....Away	Under 16	Lost	1-17
	Under 15	Lost	1-12

In the Spring term the only games played were those against T. P. Riley School and these took place indoors. The 5th, 4th, 3rd and 2nd years lost.

HOCKEY RESULTS

ChurchfieldsAway	Under 15	Lost	1-3
Rugeley Grammar School.....Away	Under 15	Lost	0-11
T. P. Riley.....Away	3rd year	Lost	1-4

D.M.D.

Society Notes

ART CLUB

FOR the third successive year the Art Club has met on Wednesday nights. Its members continue to produce a variety of 'artistic creations,' some of which are exhibited around the School. Attendance, unfortunately, has dwindled. It is hoped that members of the A forms, who do not normally take Art during school hours, will take advantage of the Club facilities and reveal hidden talents.

Mrs. Morgan, our founder, has left, but we are grateful to Mr. Merrills who is continuing the good work.

Christene Dean, 3B.

BADMINTON CLUB

The beginning of this school year saw the birth of yet another new club. The Badminton Club is at the moment restricted to the Sixth Form, as the time taken in playing one game, makes it impractical for more than a dozen people to be present at one time.

At the start the Club met with enthusiastic support, and all settled down to learn the intricacies of the game. Since we began everybody has progressed at an alarming rate, so that at Easter most of the boys and some of the girls had become quite expert.

Each member pays a subscription, which goes to provide shuttlecocks and refreshments during the evening.

Finally the society is indebted to Mr. Morton, Mr. Hosking, Mr. Brown and other members of staff who have given their time to instruct us, for without them the Club could not exist.

Janice Lycett, L6th, Science.

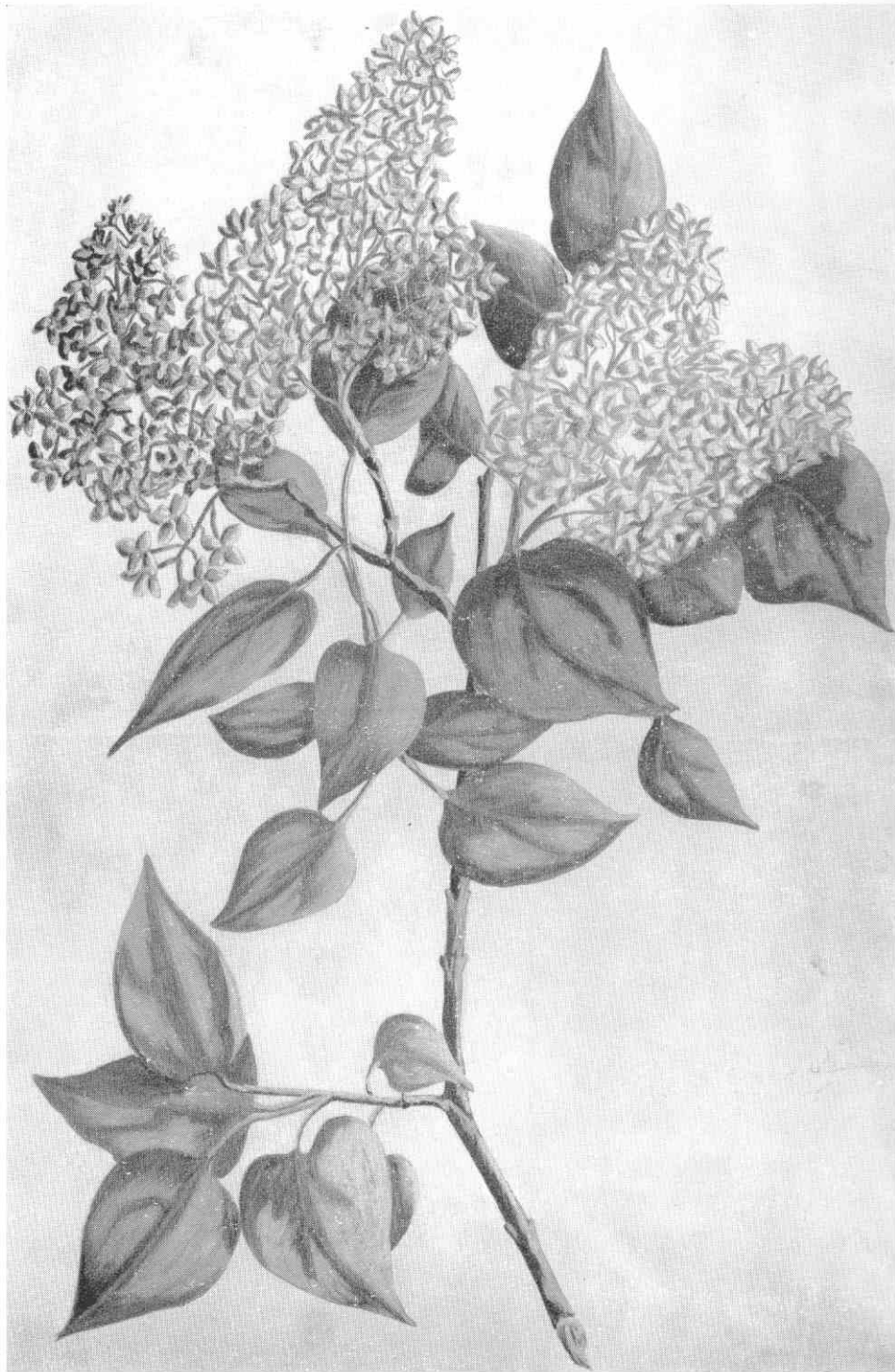
6th FORM BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The 6th Form Bible Study Group met in the Craftroom for the first time in October. The meeting was attended by eight members of the 6th, Miss Baker and Miss Crofts. The Gospel of St. John was read and discussed for the first four weeks.

The beginning of the Spring Term saw a rearrangement of programme; more discussions were wanted. The questions for discussion were obtained from a book entitled 'The Way.' At times heated arguments prevailed, but the members concerned were friends again by the end of the meeting.

The highlight of the session was a talk on Evolution given by Mr. Pomfret. All the 6th form attended on this occasion, supplemented by various members of the Staff.

Nora Charlesworth, U6th Arts.





SCHOOL PLAY, 1959



THE PREFECTS



SCHOOL PLAY, 1959

THE DANCING SOCIETY

Last September, the Dancing Society resumed its activities under the supervision of Mr. Hosking. Attendance was at first good, but unfortunately numbers began to dwindle until only 'one longways set' remained.

Country dancing was our main interest, although we attempted to add to our knowledge of ballroom and old-time dancing, the more painful 'first-stage' having been overcome the previous year.

The climax was a demonstration, given during the P.E. Evening. Our programme included The Gay Gordons, Cumberland Square Eight, Haymaker's Jig and the American Mix-Up (a very apt title!). In order to have a sufficiently large set, we had to employ a number of 'recruits' from the School who dubiously remarked, 'We will never do it.'

However, everything went perfectly, proving that your name does not have to be Victor Silvester to join a Dancing Society.

P. Elkin, L.6 Sc., R. Saffhill, L. 6 Sc.

SCHOOL FILM SOCIETY

This year's programme has consisted of six films, with some supporting features. The first show, on 25th September, was 'Doctor in the House,' the well-known comedy of medical school life. Three weeks later Sir Walter Scott's novel 'Quentin Durward' blossomed out in glorious technicolor. Particularly memorable among the thrilling adventures and chivalry of this story was the sequence where hero and villain fought swinging on bell ropes above a raging fire. The plot of 6th November's film, 'Our Vines have Tender Grapes,' was more peaceful but none the less effective. It was the story of a poor family on a farm in Wisconsin, featuring the joys, heartbreaks and anxieties of their existence.

'Scrooge,' shown appropriately before Christmas, starring Sir Cedric Hardwicke, was an older version than that presented in 1958 with Alistair Sim, and proved how different artists can effectively interpret the same theme. 'Dirty Work,' a typical Laurel and Hardy comedy, gave light, but rather sooty, relief.

On 12th February, the Society gave its first continental performance with the French film 'Si Tous Les Gars ('A Race for Life'). The mysterious food poisoning which struck the crew of the Breton fishing boat, necessitating the supply of serum within a narrow time limit, the sequence of amateur radio messages through Africa and Europe, and the final last-minute supply of the serum by air, gave a high sense of drama. It was a great pity that the snow and ice outside cut the attendance, and prevented many from seeing this film.

The programme extended into March as a result of a postponement from January when the black-out curtains had been at the laundry. Alec Guinness as 'Father Brown' gave an effective lesson in amateur detection.

This was supported by a film in the 'World of Life' series, including the breeding and early care of young racehorses.

The completion of this year's series of films has continued to prove that there is much that is worth-while seeing in the realm of the cinema, but it still raises a question mark as to the prospects of future shows, since a lack of really regular support made the financial basis of the society very precarious.

M. Bave.

Yes, indeed. Income totalled £33/10/1d., while expenditure was £36/15/3d. The prospects for the future are clear-cut,—

- Either (1) extended membership
or (2) higher subscriptions
or (3) close down.

J. K. L. Madge.

GIRL'S GYM. CLUB

The Girls' Gym Club meets after school every Thursday during the Winter Term. The membership is drawn mainly from the First and Second year pupils. A meeting of the club usually begins with a netball match followed by exercises on the apparatus. We learn many new things but always continue to practise the ones we already know. Miss Dale is always there to supervise and help us over our difficulties. The meeting, which starts as soon as possible after 3.30 p.m., ends at about 4.30 p.m.

Jennifer Plant, 2B.

Music Society Notes

THE RECORDER CLUB

The meetings of the Recorder Club have been much more frequent during the last half term. Normally we meet every fortnight but due to the preparations for the School Concert we had to meet more often. There have been several new members this year and many of the older ones have rejoined the Club. Some of the new members are Carol Perkins, Jean Baker, Keith Aanensen and Robert Ashcroft, all from the First Forms.

The activities of the Club have been rather restricted because during the term we have been rehearsing our contributions towards the concert. Carol Perkins and Jean Baker played 'The Cradle Song' by Schubert as a duet. 'Greensleeves' was played as a solo for tenor recorder by John Spraggett and a descant solo 'Silent Worship' from Handel's 'Tolomeo' was played by M. Plant. The club played as an ensemble several folk tunes and also a Gavotte by Handel and the Rondeau from the 'Fairy Queen' by Purcell, our biggest achievement to date! Two hymn tunes were played in four parts by descant, treble, tenor and bass recorders, the

result being some rather quaint sounds reminiscent of an antiquated organ. The players were Robert Barnett, Jean Baker, Michael Nevill and John Spraggett.

After a great amount of work by Mr. Bailey, Mr. Draper and all performers the concert went off very well. I hope that soon our Recorder Club will have many new members when it commences activities in September.

M. Plant, (Club Secretary).

RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

The Recorded Music Society has continued its meetings this year. A small group of people, never more than eight, met on alternate Thursdays in the Hall to listen to well-known and not so well-known pieces of music.

At the beginning of the year a committee was chosen to arrange programmes for the meetings and to run the Society. In arranging the programmes the committee tried to include requests from other members of the Society but these were somewhat lacking.

During the Autumn Term the programmes were planned on a general basis but during the Spring Term particular attention was paid to various sections of the orchestra.

The programmes this year have included: 'Moonlight' Sonata—Beethoven; 'Tam O'Shanter' Overture—Malcolm Arnold; Variations and Fugue on a theme of Purcell (The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra)—B. Britten; 'Mars' and 'Jupiter' form the 'Planets'—Holst; Fifth Symphony—Beethoven; 'Surprise' symphony—Haydn; 'The Heaven's are telling' (The Creation)—Haydn; Prelude — Act 3 — 'Lohengrin'—Wagner, and the Violin Concerto—Mendelssohn.

R. Saffhill, L6th Science.

CONCERT OF MUSIC

The School's first concert of music was held on 13th May this year. The Choir, Orchestra, Recorder Club and a few soloists took part in what proved to be a very successful evening.

Everyone put in a lot of work towards the concert as some of the practices started last September. Serious work started at the beginning of the Spring term and there was a rehearsal of at least one item every evening during the last few weeks before the concert.

The concert started with the School Choir singing, 'Ye servants of God.' This gave the concert a good start which set the atmosphere for the remainder.

Mr. L. Bailey then played three preludes on well-known German chorales on the School's newly acquired organ. This was the first public performance on the organ.

A recorder ensemble followed, playing well-known tunes. Then Lesley Bigham, piano, played the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata Pathétique and Debussy's 'Golliwog's Cake Walk.' This was also the first public performance on our grand piano.

Joan Knowles, violin, then played two pieces, one by Svendsen and one by Porpora. The School Choir ended the first half of the concert by singing 'Ave Verum Corpus' by Mozart, 'God be in my head' and the well-known chorus from Haydn's 'Creation,' 'The Heavens are Telling.'

After a short interval the second half began with the School Orchestra. The Orchestra consists of eight violins, three violas two cellos and a double bass. Their programme included the fourth movement of the 'Trout' Quintet, the second movement of the 'Surprise' Symphony, the fourth movement of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and a piece composed by a member of the Orchestra.

This was followed by the Junior Choir singing some popular airs. This choir consists of first formers and is conducted by Mr. P. F. Barker. Groups of various combinations of recorders then played solos, duets, etc.

'Say, ye who borrow' from 'The Marriage of Figaro' began the next group of items sung by Ruth Fereday, soprano. She also sang, 'Tell me, lovely Shepherd,' by Boyce and 'Oh, had I Jubal's lyre!' by Handel.

The concert ended with the School Choir singing, 'Three Hungarian Folk-Songs'; 'O, who will o'er the downs so free,' and 'The Viking Song.'

At the end the audience went home after an enjoyable evening. The performers too enjoyed themselves taking part, and everyone was pleased that all went well.

The Choir and Orchestra were conducted by Mr. Bailey and the accompanist was Mr. H. Draper.

R. Saffhill, L6 Science.

To this report of the concert I would like to add my own personal thanks to all those who made the concert such a success. I think we can be proud that about 120 members of the School took part and that we performed to a packed hall.

I would like to mention too the first performance of Roy Saffhill's 'Allegretto' for Orchestra. To compose music is not easy but Roy disciplined himself to write something playable for our small string orchestra and the result was eminently successful. Let us have more composers and more works and have another 'first performance next year!'

It has been an eventful year for music in the School; our first concert and the acquisition of a beautiful Steinway grand piano and the Compton electronic organ are all big events. We are already planning for next year so I hope to see more and more of you coming to the many musical activities which take place each week.

L.B.

WOODWORK CLUB

The winter's Woodwork Club has been as successful as that of the previous year. The club started with all the members coming on two evenings each week but because of the enlarged membership the club had to be divided. Beginners and inexperienced members were only allowed to attend on Mondays and the others with more experience came on Tuesdays. This gave the club members more working space, and they could receive attention and assistance from Mr. Morton.

This year there were many advances in the different types of carpentry done. There were rabbit hutches and bird boxes made for use in the garden. For the house there were coffee tables, stools, book shelves, trays and table lamps; some of the latter were turned on the lathe.

At the display in the Woodwork Room on Speech Day, many parents saw some of the articles made at the Club and they were very impressed by the design, workmanship and finish.

The Club has now ceased its activities for the Summer Term but will be starting again in the Autumn when it is possible that a sailing dinghy will be built. In addition the Club will be needing new members to replace those leaving this summer.

M. Bave, 5F.

En Provence

'WHERE are we Harry?' shouted Mrs. Draper across the coach. A respected member of 5 Alpha, not hearing clearly, turned round. 'I said Harry, not 'arry,' replied Mrs. Draper, and 'arry returned to his study of passing French girls.

Our coach was climbing a mountain road between Grenoble and the Mediterranean coast. We had already been on our way for two days and most of us were ready for a rest in the sun of Provence. We arrived at Grasse as it was growing dark, the lights along the coast showing us the way. The search party from the boarding school where we were to stay for the next few days soon found us and led us wearily to our beds, after persuading a few more of our travel-stained party to sample a French meal.

The following morning we were all up bright and early, ready to explore the town. We found it to be a delightful place, the one part very old and tranquil and the other part very modern and alive. During the day the temperature rose to somewhere close to 100 degrees.

While we were here we visited Cap d'Antibes and a nearby village where Picasso has a studio. Here there is a fine showroom full of beautiful pottery and an old shed where the potter coaxes the clay into wonderful shapes.

We all felt very much at home among the millionaires at Cannes; birds of a feather. It was here that the head of one of 5 Alpha's junior prefects

was seen on the beach, surrounded by a bevy of beauty. His body had been buried. 'Why only his body?' murmured one of the younger members of the party.

The following day Mr. Draper informed us that we were to visit the Grand Canyon. We all thought that the sun had affected him more than usual but we climbed into the coach. A few hours later we were travelling along a road cut out of the rock, nearly 2000 feet above a rocky gorge, a most impressive combination of natural beauty and modern engineering skill. It was here that we learned where one past member of staff had retired; a cry was heard as we were passing a particularly rocky spot: 'Come out of that cave, Mr. Gofton. I can see you hiding there.'

Later that day we found ourselves in the mountains with enough fuel for only 30 miles. 'You'll find some 'gas-oil' at Moustiers-St.-Marie.' we were informed. At Moustiers they said, 'Try Riez.' M. Brun had a tractor and might lend us a can. We had begun to look at caves as possible motels when a pump was sighted which proved not to be a mirage.

Soon we were spending three days in Annecy where it was hard to drag ourselves away from the lake even to explore the narrow streets of the old town or to climb to the top of Mt. Baron by the lazy man's téléphérique. We also visited the Chamonix valley and Mt. Blanc where some of us were sufficiently energetic to climb to a glacier.

All too soon we were travelling along the mountain road from Brownhills to Cannock wishing that Mr. Draper was saying, 'On the left is Mt. Baron,' instead of, 'On the left you see the wooded slopes of East Cannock Colliery.'

Home Sweet Home.

Margaret Winfer, 5Alpha.

The Swiss Trip

WITH anguished expressions, the Swiss frontier guards watched our coach enter their beautiful land of lakes and mountains—Switzerland.

Our school party had set out, late on Monday, 17th August last year and, travelling overnight to Dover, finally arrived at Boulogne, along with hundreds of other tourists. Our next stop was Rheims, where we spent the night. The following day we continued our journey, our attention being divided between the scenery and attacking a foot-long ham-roll. We finally arrived at Interlaken, where we were to spend an enjoyable week or so under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Madge and Mr. Hosking.

Our hotel was situated amidst ideal surroundings, and we soon discovered the joys of leisurely strolls viewing the Swiss scenery, and then refreshing body and soul with a glass of local non-alcoholic(?) cider in a nearby café, complete with genuine Swiss juke-box which incidentally did not yodel.

All four words of our extensive German vocabulary were fortunately not required, as the majority of the people understood English, and some even spoke American, they said!

Our palates may have been insensitive to the finer delicacies of Swiss cuisine but we did recognise chips, which made regular appearances in various guises.

Making full use of our coach, we ventured to surrounding areas, and our first sample of real mountain scenery came on a visit to Murren, a small Alpine village, reached only by a steep railway. We paid two visits to Grindelwald, a famous winter sports resort with a spectacular gorge nearby.

Abandoning our typical tourists' garb, we spent Sunday rather quietly, attending church in the morning and bathing in Lake Thun during the afternoon.

A knock-out table tennis competition aroused some interest, most of the party competing, if only to retrieve balls lost over the balcony.

Our last few days were fully occupied. On a visit to Lucerne and Bern, we had a glimpse of a typical circus parade,—a seemingly important affair in Switzerland.

Mountaineering was strictly 'out,' and so we travelled by a surprisingly steep mountain railway to Kleine Scheidegg on the slopes of the 1500ft. Jungfrau. Mr. Hosking had to put his cross-country training into practice to retrieve a camera left high on the mountainside. Did I detect the sound of unused muscles protesting?

Three of the highest passes in Europe, the Grimsel, Furka and Susten passes, were visited in a Swiss Postal Bus. As we gazed speculatively at sheer drops, a foot or so away from the edge, our experienced driver calmly gave a running commentary on the scenery!

Unfortunately, all too soon, we seemed to be engaged in that inevitable last minute rush, buying presents, and in preparation for the departure for home on Saturday, 29th August. No more did our money rattle as we passed Basel and the banks of the Rhine, our resources were exhausted. It seemed quite strange to think that as we stood on Calais beach on Sunday afternoon, the long, black line which we could see was in fact England; the pit-mounds have never had quite the same appeal, even with snow on them!

P. Elkin, L6 Science.

MAN'S DESTINY

OH dreaded progress, filled with dreadful speculation,
Is life to end as it began, a nothingness in
Chasms of space? Can man do justice to such wretched
condemnation?

This world, a world of intrigue, hate, mistrust,
Is but a stage, and life the play.

We, the characters, have failed our parts, for
Life was but a trust. What power, what audacity
Permits us to condemn such beauty? A loan unto
Our ancestors. Is man so disfigured, misguided,
That destruction is, by him misapprehended?

There was once a world where nature ruled supreme,
Yet even then disaster marred full joy,
For man dispersed with honesty and love,
Even before God, his one salvation. Must it be
So again? Will God forgive once more with tender mercy?
Such questions humans cannot answer, for master science
Indeed can but admit,
That the Lord who created life is but the One
Who can take thus away.

Deirdre Thacker, L6 Arts.

WHAT DEPTHLESS POOLS

WHAT depthless pools of evil green!
Mysterious, slanting, watching each small motion
Of the undergrowth! The long elastic body,
Gliding as water, twisting in an everlasting
Maze between the barbarous thorns
Silently, this moonlight creature moves, velvet pawed.
What cunning thoughts of evil and deceit
Pass through the scheming brain?
On dappled grey roofs in night's stillness
Does it mock the world? It's midnight yawling,
Like the devil's own disciple. Does it then
Despise these sleeping fools that it deceives?
How sweet, they say, as full of sweetness
It plays. But notice how red malice burns
In those unnatural eyes. Smouldering green
Fires that will suddenly narrow, claws
Extended, one sharp stroke will draw the
Blood. What evilness broods in those
Depthless pools!

Anna Griffiths, 5Alpha.

Sixth-Form Dance 1959

ABANDONING all work readily, the Sixth form prepared for the great event, pursuing pleasure with a vigour typical of the day. As an enchanted palace, the hall was given unimaginable glory, bedecked with garlands, furbished with paint, hung with cobwebs and bristling with balloons. Ambrosial delicacies were painstakingly prepared by the cuisine and Bacchanalian beverage was to flow freely from unknown sources.

The habitual lugubrious expressions and Amazonian gait of my colleagues were discarded for clown-like gaiety. Blossoms previously hidden from the world by the all enfolding green were coaxed into revealing their true glories. The shrunken and faded blazer of the male gender was replaced by apparel of sartorial elegance, whilst the staff donned carefully preserved dinner jackets in place of rumpled tweeds and threw off the crepe-soled brogues for Charlestonian dancing-shoes.

The fateful hour arrived; the lights were dimmed, masking in a rosy glow the structural defects of building and guests; in motley array the minstrels arrived; the word was passed and the festivities began.

All cares were cast away, all inhibitions lost. As we feasted by flickering candlelight, the watery liquid seemed like the juice of the vine. However, the more aged of those present found it necessary to retreat on high for 'something stronger,' which seemed to provide them with a new vitality for afterwards they attempted feats of unthought-of daring, successfully adding comedy to their many other accomplishments.

As gaiety grew, conversation became less restricted. An 'inconnu' in a red pullover confided in me that he came from 'ze Leechfeeld,' and then paused to look furtively behind as if expecting the appearance of dark-clad gentlemen who would transport him swiftly and silently back to the Fatherland. The riotous revelry continued, but too soon the clock struck; all was done and we parted into the cold night air.

Jose Dale, I6 Arts.

SONNET

TIME passes so quickly, that we do not realize
It has left us for ever, no more to return.
Each day something disappears, and how much we may yearn
For it to revert, to be seen by our eyes
Once more, there is nothing can ever revive
Our yesterdays. In our life we search to learn
How to do good in the world, and earn
For ourselves the most glorious Prize.
The days get shorter, and soon we ask
Ourselves whether it is too great a task.
From birth we die, in living we are dying
A slow death. Life is just a mask,
But time will outlive us all and bring
The glorious prize in our dying.

L. Lacey, 5A.

MEMORIES

How long since we last saw this place?
Scenes we no longer remember?
No more the cool, still air;
Smoke hangs low over every roof,
Chimneys tower around us,
Smoky, impassive, aloof.
The scenes of childhood games are gone,
Replaced by houses, churches, schools.
The impatience, the longing to return,
Dies not, but slowly cools.
Our new home, clean and calm,
Compares not with this place.
To linger here, to see some more,
Can only do us harm,
To return, to forget, to start again,
This is the new idea,
Forgetting old memories, too,
Though they have been so dear.

D. Hesbrook, 5Alpha.

LE PROFESSEUR

Je vais décrire un professeur,
Un expert en chimie;
Un grand géant, homme de feu,
Des lueurs folles dans ses yeux,
Sous ça chacun pâlit.

J'entrai dans son laboratoire,
Ce fut la première fois;
Sourire noir ornait sa gueule,
Comme il se tenait là, tout seul,
Et je le craignais, moi.

Et pendant les leçons suivantes,
Sous ce Gallois de fer,
Dans toutes choses auxquelles il pense,
Des brouillards de science, dansent
Des pensées de bière.

Dans l'armoire qui se dressait
Au fond de la grand' salle,
Ce qui me semblait toujours drôle,
Un grand flacon de vrai alcool,
Duquel il se fait mal.

Puis la leçon toute finie,
Il ne se tient guère,
Mais, la sueur sur son grand front,
Il se sert vit' d'une boisson,
D'un élixir si cher.

Il se dirige chez lui,
Cigares à la main;
Nous sommes, douloureux à peine,
Libres de la leçon, la sienne,
Jusqu'à jeudi prochain.

R. Tranter, 4A.

La Danseuse

SA mère venait de la quitter, car la petite Marie était presque endormie. La chambre était toute noire sauf que, près du lit, vacillait la veilleuse.

Fascinée, Marie regardait attentivement le mouvement de sa flamme. De son lit elle discernait au mur l'image du ballet—son image favorite. Elle croyait entendre chuchoter de nouveau sa mère,—Dors bien. Demain tu danseras. Il faut que tu dormes, ma petite.

Oui—demain elle allait danser dans le ballet pour la première fois. Sa robe, elle le savait bien, était sur la chaise près d'elle. Elle chérissait cette robe, blanche comme celle de la danseuse au mur. Elle regardait fixement la flamme—et derrière la flamme elle voyait l'image de la danseuse.

Elle était bien fatiguée. Ses yeux étaient presque clos. Puis, tout à coup, la flamme commença à vaciller plus que d'habitude et dans cette flamme la danseuse devenait de plus en plus lumineuse; elle semblait danser. Maintenant la danseuse, c'était Marie, la petite Marie, habillée de sa nouvelle robe blanche. Elle était Cendrillon—elle dansait . . dansait . . Comme elle était jolie! Comme elle était heureuse! Maintenant elle était au bal avec le prince; elle voulait danser, danser, danser toute la nuit. Mais sa mère lui disait, 'Il faut que tu dormes, ma petite.' Elle ne voulait pas dormir. Puis elle a entendu sonner un . . deux . . trois . . minuit.

Il faut que je me sauve! Mais elle était trop fatiguée pour courir. Puis sa robe s'est mise à se transformer, elle se sentait incapable de courir. Elle brûle—oui, sa belle robe brûle, les flammes l'étouffent . . .

On l'a saisie, quelqu'un la secoue en disant, 'Ma petite, ma petite, lève-toi. Tu ne t'en souviens pas? Tu vas danser aujourd'hui.'

Margaret Hughes, L6 Arts.

Pagina Latina

O FOUNT OF BANDUSIA

(Being a translation of Carmen XIII of the Third book of Horace's Odes)

O fount of Bandusia, than crystal more fine,
O worthy of flowers and sweet-tasting wine!
To thee on the morrow a kid we'll bestow,
whose horns all-a-budding life's troubles shall know;
In vain! For the nursling of that wanton strain
For thee with red blood thy cold streams it shall stain.
Set free from Canicula's fire thou shalt stay,
to plough-wearied oxen grant coolth craved all day;
Told 'midst the famed founts as of holm-oak I tell,
High-perched on crags whence rills babble and swell.

R. Barker, M. Lloyd, I6 Arts.

AENIGMA

Q. Scaphae latus ex mari aestus recessu quinque pedes eminent. Quot pedes hoc ex mari eminebit, ubi aqua altissima erit? Mare unum pedem duabis horis surgit, et ex aestus recessu ad aquam altam intersunt duodecim horae.

A. Nihil interest; scapha enim cum aqua surgenti ipsa etiam surgit.

K. Blackley, 3A.

Latro: Cave! Vigiles veniunt. Desili per fenestram!

Latro secundus: Sed hoc est tertium decimum tabulatum!

Latro: Desili! Hoc non est tempus superstitionem habendi!

C. Hinks, 2A.

VENANDI FABULA

Venator (glorioso): Per African et Hispanian et Indian venatus sum.

Amicus Cur? Quid amisisti?

Alison Room, 3A.

Spectator :Cur cavum in fundo tuae navis facis?

Nauta (amens) :Quod, ubi aqua in navem venit, per cavum excurrat!

C. Price, 3A.

Dominus: Tua dictata Latina erant tam turpia ut te iuberem ea vicens iterum scribere. Cur solum deciens scripsisti?

Discipulus: Quod mea arithmetica erant etiam turpia, O domine!

Marilyn Greensill, 3A.

Operis praefectus: Labora acrius, O faber!

Faber :Roma uno die non aedificata est!

Operis praefectus: Id scio. Ego illius operis non praefectus fui!

R. Gorman, 3A.

Puer: O mater, mei amici me 'caput ingens' appellant.

Mater: Noli eos auscultare, O fili, sed fer mihi decem libras olerum in tuo petaso!

Q. Si me nominas, me deles. Quid ego sum?

A. Ego silentium sum.

J. Powell, 3A.

Dominus: te omni die huius hebdomatis punivi. Quid dicis?

Discipulus: laetus sum quod hic est dies ultimus hebdomatis!

B. Roberts, 3A.

Comics

COMICS are called by many farcical rubbish, or a barrier stopping the average intelligent child becoming more intelligent, but, to the child the comic is the one link between him, or her, and a new world of excitement and danger.

I remember, as a child of about nine or ten years, that I used to have a weekly comic called 'The Eagle.' This comic would come each Friday then all troubles of school that morning would be lost or forgotten in the myriads of coloured adventure packed pictures. Almost hungrily, I would digest the daring and breath-taking feats of Dan Dare, ace-space pilot, and in his place there I was blasting my way through countless hordes of Venusian Treens.

I would make my way to school that morning still lost in the world of comic fantasy, still trudging through swamps with 'Luck of the region,' and fighting unscrupulous crooks with P.C. 49.

On arriving at school I would find a quad' full of jabbering boys also indulging in the nauation of their favourite character's deeds of that morning.

Of course, it wouldn't go very far before one person would boldly declare that 'Jet-ace Logan' could knock the pants off Dan Dare anytime. That was it; insulted, the ensuing battle, believe me, was most unholy and barbarous.

When I returned home that evening, I would read once more the different adventure stories until I know them almost off by heart.

The following few days would be torture for me; having tasted the

intoxicating wine of the comic I thirsted for more of this nutritious yet narcotic liquor.

I occasionally bought other comics, but none satisfied; I had to know how Dan Dare had escaped his dreaded enemy, the Mekon, and what Storm Nelson's terror stricken eyes had seen.

That week would be like slipping into a void, a black boring void, . . . until . . . Friday and I was rushing down the road towards the paper boy. I would fanatically grab my 'Eagle,' and rush home.

There I would sink into a chair with my comic, like an addict with his drug, I felt the blood almost rushing back into my veins, I felt stimulated I had my comic.

Oh yes, you Times and Guardian readers, you too, all of you who condemn the comic; the comic is the cigarette of the youngsters, the characters their pin-ups, and, as the old saying goes, 'Comics will be in when 'the pyramids turn to dust!'

P. R. Davies, 4A.

WITH APOLOGIES TO LORD TENNYSON

HALF a yard, half a yard,
Half a yard onward,
Slowly along the drive,
Trudged the five hundred.
'Walk!' was the prefects' cry,
Ours not to reason why,
Ours not to make reply,
Ours but to say and sigh;
Slowly along the drive,
Trudged the five hundred.

Teachers to right of us,
Teachers to left of us,
Teachers in front of us,
Shouted and thundered.
Stormed at with book and test,
Bravely we worked our best,
Having no time to rest,
Strove the five hundred.

Gamely we persevere,
Until a sound we hear
That ends our fright and fear,
The bell has gone.
Now we can shout and talk
Ignore the prefects' 'Walk!'
Our exit none can baulk,
Five hundred strong.

Daphne Appleby, 5A.

A RECIPE FOR SCHOOLS

DOUBLE, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble,
Round about the cauldron go;
In the poisoned diners throw.
P.D. and H.D. all that rot,
Boil thou next in the charmed pot.
Fillet of a rugger rake,
In the cauldron boil and bake.
Here I have a teacher's pun,
Wrecked before 'twas e'er begun.
Dreaded badge, detention lines,
Head's old supper, resultant whines.
For a charm of powerful trouble;
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.
Exam results and answers wrong,
Teacher's cuff and morning song.
Odours of Chemistry, problems of Maths,
Physical jerks and historical paths.
Musical airs, Geographical maps,
And a couple of prefects to fill in the gaps.
Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

Judith Clowsley, 3Alpha.

The Swotting Sixth . . I

THE giddy height of any school career is attained on entry into the sixth form. This is the very peak of achievement, and on reaching the longed for status of a 'sixth former,' you may feel that life has no greater joy it can offer. 'Sixth-Former!'—what visions of exalted glory these two words conjure up in the mind. What an honour it will be, you think, to become a member of that select body of society, and no longer have to wear the hated head-gear. Supposedly the years of hard labour are over once they have achieved their purpose in leading up to the brink of sixth form life. Perhaps you fondly imagine that your future school life will be easy, with very little work involved. Of course, you do intend to do some work during your years in the sixth, but then your teachers have assured you that it will be work you enjoy, for after all, you will be studying subjects of your own choice. Anyway, with only three subjects to study the amount of work required will be almost negligible compared to that necessitated by the ten or so, subjects which previously it has been your lot to study. To confirm this belief you have only to look at the present leisured members of the sixth form. Do they give the appearance of being hard worked? Indeed no, unless hard work involves

propping up the corridor walls during break and dinner times, or casually glancing over the pictures in a copy of the 'PARIS MATCH' during their seemingly endless free periods.

Until now your conception of sixth form life can only have been formed from the distant observations of an 'outsider.' However, on entering this upper class section of society, only too soon your rose coloured spectacles will fall away, and you will see sixth form life in all its stark reality. Although you have heard that the sixth former has a mere three subjects to study, your informer has probably ignored the fact that there are two teachers for each subject, each one giving quite a substantial amount of homework for his 'half' of the subject, so that the work involved is really that amount you would expect for six subjects.

The whole approach to sixth form work differs from that of the lower school in that you are no longer 'spoon-fed' information by your teachers, but instead left rather more to fend for yourself with just friendly 'guidance' from your superiors. However the threat of exams hangs over a sixth former's head just as heavily as it does over any other pupil's in the school. Because of this, although you are no longer driven to work hard by irate teachers threatening detention for failure to do so, the thought of the final reckoning of exams provides the impetus to make you work. As for the myth of the lazy free-periods, this will be countered by any sixth former with the claim that an occasional free period is necessary for some relaxation, and the perusal of literature of a lighter nature than that which occupies the majority of their free-periods .

Perhaps now you may be feeling that life in the sixth is not the bed of roses it first seemed, and you may even be feeling rather sorry for the poor, over-worked, harassed sixth-former with his examination complex. However, far be it for me to discourage the would-be-sixth-former, for it is, as the teachers never tire of pointing out, an experience, but what kind of 'experience' must be seen to be believed.

Pauline Bushnell, L6A.

The Swotting Sixth . . II

'Give me a title.'—One hundredth repetition of the bewail of a would-be subscriber for the School Magazine. The library was empty, but for five hard-working Sixth Formers engaged in (a) An Americanized article on sex, (b) rejoicing at having abandoned an A level subject, (c) giving utterance to adolscent wailings and (d) preparing for a lesson of Ancient History.

The aforesaid lesson abandoned, however, five prospective swots took leave of their intellectual environment and sought refuge in a corner of the school grounds under the watchful eyes of a number of male 'health

and beauty corps' who were displaying their anaemic, undeveloped torsos with obvious pride.

Whilst 'The Fortunes of Falstaff' lay rejected in an undignified dandelion patch and an antedeluvian bug abandoned its murky haunt in the Third Edition of Plutarch, I adopted bovine ruminating habits and cropped the 'l'herbe verte' in obvious agitation.

'Will somebody donne-moi une titre?' A well aimed grass stem, ejected from a grinding buccal cavity was propelled from the rapidly degenerating dandelion patch into the optical orb of the scavenging parasitic being.

A moan was forced from compressed normally full-blooded lips as a steel tipped stiletto descended on a newly nyloned tarsus. Discussion preceded heated verbalism as the merits or otherwise of the wicked and daring Victorianism of aquatic hooped petticoats under school uniform dresses, the undiscovered, unappreciated and unused realms of Sixth form 'savoir faire' and the cosmopolitan tendencies of fifth form hair-styles (popular adaptations of the French roll, or oriental bun etc.) were argued.

A repetition of an already mentioned journalistic plea was silenced with an unintellectual and definitely plebeian strong oath, and an unconventional adventurer was forced to abandon the idea of pillaging a certain rain-gauge and reminded of her position as a responsible member of the further educated class; in the distance the universally appreciated bell summoned the weary but undaunted quintet to a stimulating fifth period. Such is Sixth Form Life.

Angela Saxon, L6A.