

The  
Alvester Grammar



M.D.C.  
CHRISTUS NOBISCUM STATE.

School Record.

1925-26.

# Alcester Grammar School Record.

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No. 24.

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EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—M. SHERWOOD, B. WELLS, L. SMITH,  
PARTRIDGE i, BAILEY.

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## Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

It is always gratifying to hear of the success of our Old Scholars, and I am very glad to congratulate E. H. Mander on gaining his B.A. Degree at Sheffield with First Class Honours in History, and also E. Bowen on obtaining his Diploma in Education at Birmingham.

I understand, also, that others who are at an earlier stage in their University careers are doing very well, and bringing honour to the School that sent them forth. This is good hearing, and brings me to the point that I want to emphasise in these few lines.

Is it not the case that those who are most successful after leaving School are the ones who entered most heartily into school life, and took the fullest advantage of all that the School had to offer?

I want those still in the School to consider whether they are really making full use of all that the School can give them.

Observation and experience have convinced me that the boys and girls who regard their school life and its duties as having the first claim upon them, and who put these before their private and individual pleasures are the ones who not only get more from the School, but who bring her the greatest honour in return. And in saying this I am not thinking of success in examinations only, but of success in every field of life.

I should like to see a still stronger spirit of enthusiasm and loyalty to the School showing itself by an unselfish devotion to all its concerns, and I want this because I

am sure such a spirit will result in the greater success of the School now, and in our turning out the best kind of citizens in the future.

Every day opportunities occur of showing the kind of spirit I mean. There are School Societies to which many of you belong. Members should regard it as a duty to attend the meetings, for your presence helps even though you may not be star performers. There is the Scouts Troop, instituted because the training boys get as Scouts is invaluable; and yet there are quite a number of boys who are not Scouts, and so are missing the training and failing to support a good School concern.

Did I hear a rumour that someone, when chosen to play for a school team last season, expressed unwillingness to play, wanting to go off on some private jaunt? That is exactly the kind of spirit I do not want—the putting of the selfish pleasure first and the duty to your School second. Nothing but good can come from making a practice of putting self in the second place, and I am sure that in the past our best boys and girls have tried to carry this out.

At the present time there may be boys—and girls, too—who are daily wasting their chances and letting opportunities slip. When it is too late they will come to their senses, and realise what they have missed.

I urge all who still have some school days before them to take the gifts the School offers, to make use of all the opportunities she provides, to give her your unselfish service, and I can assure you that in return she will make you men and women of whom we shall be proud.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

### **The School Register.**

#### **Valete.**

Hodgkinson, R. H. (VI), 1919-26.  
Francis, E. M. (VB), 1921-26.  
Davis, W. J. (IVB), 1925-26.

Williams, R. K. (IVB), 1922-26.  
Selman, D. G. (IIIA), 1924-26.  
Smith, M. M. (IIIA), 1919-26.

#### **Salvete.**

Antrobus, E. (IA).  
Horton, D. E. (IIIB).  
Osborne, I. (IIIA).  
Purser, A. (IIIA).

Steele, J. (IB).  
Wright, R. V. (IIIB).  
Wright, W. (II).

### **Old Scholars' Guild Netuz.**

After numerous requests the Guild organised another dance, which was held in the Town Hall on Saturday, April 3rd. A record number of people were present, including several from the Redditch Old Scholars' Association. When all expenses had been paid there was a profit of over £6. This has been given to the School Fund and the School Games Fund. Actually, the gifts have been in kind, the donations to the Games Fund being, in the form of a seat for the front tennis court, and the balance has been used to buy books for the Reference Library.

The annual tennis match against the School was played on Monday, June 21st. The Guild team consisted of:—F. Smith and A. Anker, M. Sisam and E. A. Finnemore, W. Beasley and L. Sisam, K. Perks and E. Bowen. Unfortunately, rain prevented some of the sets being played, but when abandoned the School had won 60 games to 48.

On the following Monday, June 28th, the Guild played another tennis match against Mr. Wells' team. The Guild was represented by:—Mrs. Caldwell and R. Jephcott, C. Holder and E. Bunting, K. Bomford and H. Hodgkinson, M. Thomas and C. Bunting. The match resulted in a win for Mr. Wells' team by 74 games to 54.

The Re-union will be held on Saturday, July 24th. In addition to tennis, there will be other novel games, and dancing in the evening.

We hope to see a large crowd of Old Scholars at the annual cricket match against the School, which will be held at Ragley on Monday evening, July 26th.

It is likely that a Flannel Dance will be held during August. At the time of going to press full arrangements have not been made, but only a limited number of tickets will be issued. A first-class band will be engaged, and the tickets will probably be half-a-crown each, including refreshments. Further information will be given at the Re-union, or may be obtained from E. Bowen, Alcester.

Congratulations to E. H. Mander on obtaining First Class Honours in his B.A. examination at Sheffield University.

And to E. Bowen on obtaining his Birmingham University Diploma in Education.

### Marriages.

On April 3rd, at Studley, Edith Annie Fenn (scholar 1912—17) to George Loxdale Harris.

On April 19th, at Bloxwich, William Kenneth Hall, M.P.S. (scholar 1912—16) to Winifred May Wheeler.

On June 7th, at Temple Grafton, William Edward Corbett (scholar 1912—14) to Fannie Blackford.

On June 14th, at Inkberrow, Gerald E. Farmer (scholar 1915—17) to Isabel Dorinda James.

On June 19th, at Redditch, Ernest Robert Richardson (scholar 1912—15) to Kate Elizabeth Tongue.

### The First Bathe.

Summer fell on a Monday this year, to wit, on Monday, the 7th of June; at least, that is the only day on which Old Sol has decided to smile on us as yet. On this particular day, however, he certainly did smile, and I for one was most sincerely thankful that the people who specify those abominably uncomfortable seats of penance for use in classrooms had decided that it was time we had a rest from our arduous labours. Thus, instead of swotting Conics and that enlightening fellow Watson (who most certainly was no relation of Dr. Watson, of Sherlock Holmes fame), I wandered away in search of a cool spot, armed with a bottle or so of "pop" and a packet of "humbugs." Having dozed away most of the day debating lazily whether the water was warm enough for a bathe, I finally decided to return home and beg—or failing that, appropriate—a towel from the powers that be. After having acquired this rather necessary article, I interrogated two friends on the subject of a "dip," and eventually set off for the lake.

Now it is a most astonishing fact, but nevertheless quite true, that no matter how hot you are when you leave home, as soon as ever you get into bathing togs and take up your position on the spring board, you feel—well, you don't know whether it's wise to bathe so soon after tea.

There we stood arrayed for the plunge, first one and then another of us venturing on to the diving board, "just to see if it had lost any of its spring, you know." Of course,

we should have dived straight in, only we were hot, and it is always best to cool down before taking a dip—the cause of cramp and all the rest of it.

Our teeth began to tap out “ iddy umpty.” But then we could not go in because that old swan was rather too near; nasty things, swans, especially in the nesting season. The swan moved over to the other end of the lake, and then we did not like to deprive each other of the honour of being the first of the season; otherwise, we would have loved to lead the way.

At last I ventured on the board and started a good swing, to the accompaniment of “ brave man,” “ plucky fellow,” and the like. Suddenly I desisted from my swaying and returned to a safer foothold. “ I don’t think that board is safe. I reckon if I were to give a good spring it would break in two. Here, A—you’re lighter than I—you try it first.” After a few moments A got on the board, tried a few preliminary swings, exclaimed “ Here goes,” took another swing, and then returned to the landing stage. “ My bathing dress isn’t fastened very securely. I’m going to adjust matters.” Finally, B took his stand on the fateful board, and after we had threatened to “ chuck him in ” if he didn’t show himself a man and “ get into it,” he took a header, and on reappearing was immediately assailed with “ What’s it like? ” “ Is it cold? ” To which he replied, “ topping.”

Finally A plucked up courage and took the plunge, leaving myself alone on the bank. B then climbed out and advanced threateningly towards me. Now, if a fellow is comfortably dry, it is not particularly pleasant to be taken into an endearing embrace by a man about two stones heavier than oneself who has just emerged from water at about 10 degrees above zero, especially when that fellow means business. Since I had to choose between two evils—either a cold embrace and a hurried and rather undignified fall or a voluntary plunge—I choose the latter; but in my haste I slipped, and there was a sound like a pistol shot, and I reappeared spluttering and choking, and resembling a boiled lobster in colour. My friends cried, “ Topping, isn’t it? ” I gasped, “ S’lovely,” and made haste to reach the landing stage. I do not like the taste of lake water when the tadpoles are about.

Thus was my first dip of the season begun.

L. E.

**Dictator Redibibus.**

Two thousand years! To-day, as yesterday,  
 A weary sun dips o'er the hills of Rome.  
 Gilding the rim of Concord's noisy dome,  
 And sickly gleaming down the Sacred Way.  
 Two thousand years! Brutus, thy spirit may  
 Wander a stranger in its ancient home,  
 Where Cæsar, dying, dreamt a time should come,  
 And Rome's Colossus show its feet of clay.  
 Thy liberty of liberties is gone!  
 And Cassius' patriotic arm must be  
 But vain. And many a cruel deed is done  
 To justify the claims of tyranny.  
 A lesser Cæsar Cæsar's cloak put on,  
 And tyrants rule thee, Rome, who once wast free.

**The Music of Mediæval Times.**

Though it had its origin with primitive man, and his experiments upon that oldest of instruments, the human voice, and though it was also practised by the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, music as an art began in the Church.

Pope Sylvester, in 328, founded the first singing school at Rome, and in 384 St. Ambrose introduced a new system based upon scales adapted from the Greeks. Antiphonal singing, or the chanting of psalms by two choirs alternately, also was introduced by St. Ambrose. Gregory the Great, who became Pope in 590, enlarged the authentic scale of St. Ambrose, beautified church music generally, founded a school for those learning singing, and is said to have used musical characters in writing his chants. The earliest attempt at part singing and harmony was made by Hucbald, a Benedictine monk, who took an accompaniment of fourths and fifths, or octaves—a very monotonous progression to the modern ear. Later, seconds and thirds were used with greater effect.

Guido of Arezzo, another monk, improved part singing, and also introduced a system of notation, and other eminent men experimented with the uses of the descant, while the idea of counterpoint was also begun.

Secular music was represented by the folk-song, which was sung by minstrels and troubadours, who composed melodies (many of them exceedingly tuneful) and also wrote words to these tunes. The secular musicians began at this time to throw off the restraint imposed by the Church, and

consequently made great advances in harmony, modern harmony being practically born amongst them. Conspicuous among the troubadours were Adam de la Hale and King Thibaut, of Navarre, who wrote songs of an exceedingly interesting description.

A great advance was also made in the art of representing musical sounds and combinations on paper. The Greeks had probably some method of writing down music by means of letters, but on the musical revival in the eighth century characters called neumes were invented. The stave at this time was unknown, the neumæ notation merely consisting of an arrangement of strokes, dots, and dashes. This inadequate method of notation was a serious drawback to the musical progress of the time. Guido of Arezzo, whom we have already mentioned, made many improvements in the system of notation, and founded our system of sol-fa singing. He also began to use lines on which to write the neumes. The neumes had before only represented the rise and fall of the melody. Guido introduced two lines, one red and representing F, another yellow and representing C, and he is even credited with the founding of our modern system.

So far, though musical sounds themselves have been represented, no means of distinguishing duration of time has been devised, probably because in church music the notes were of even duration.

Franco, of Cologne, however, in his treatise "*Musica et ars cantus mensurabilis*," set down for the first time a definite system by assuming names for notes of various length.

Thus it may be seen that a great advance was made in music from 800-1400 A.D. In this period was founded the basis of our modern system of notation, and numerous experiments were made in elementary harmony. During this period it must be born in mind that most of the music was vocal, the organ being only used as an accompaniment. Church music developed most quickly, all forms of notation proceeding from the Church, a fact which is not surprising seeing that the Church was the centre of mediæval learning. It may be also seen how slow was the development of music. Indeed, of all the arts it has developed most slowly, the eleven hundred years briefly described being very slow in producing any great musical development. The little that had been accomplished was, however, invaluable.

S. B.



**Notes and News.**

The present term began on a Thursday instead of the ordinary day, Wednesday.

The cross country races were run on Friday, March 26th, Farmer i. being winner of the Senior event.

The " Mile " races were contested on the Birmingham Road, as usual, on Friday, April 30th.

Rook has been appointed a Prefect.

At the end of the Spring term the members of IIIB entertained the rest of the School to a concert in the hall.

We are all very pleased to see Mr. Walker with us again after his illness.

The Games Subscription this term amounted to £6 18s. 3d.

On Tuesday, March 16th, Mr. Burrell gave us another of his enjoyable half-hours in the hall.

A party from Forms VI, VA, and VB attended the temporary theatre at Stratford-on-Avon to see " Coriolanus " on Wednesday, May 12th.

Miss Baker has taken charge of the girls' tennis this term.

The period of examinations has come round once again. The Oxfords commenced on July 13th, and continue till the 24th. The drawing examinations were held on June 30th and July 1st.

Sports Day fell this year on May 20th, the earliest date on which it has been held. We were favoured with the customary fine afternoon.

Miss Brown, who has been with us since 1924, is leaving at the end of the term.

Half-term was Monday, June 7th.

## JUNIORS.

- 100 Yards.—1, Allen; 2, Bourne; 3, Hodgkinson i.; 4, Ison.  
 220 Yards.—1, Bourne; 2, Allen; 3, Ison; 4, Sutton.  
 Crab Race.—1, Sherwood i.; 2, Ainge; 3, Sutton; 4, Sherwood ii.  
 Half-Mile.—1, Ison; 2, Masters; 3, Walters; 4, Sheppard.  
 Obstacle Race.—1, Sherwood i.; 2, Ainge; 3, Bourne; 4, Hodgkinson.  
 Hurdle Race.—1, Sherwood ii.; 2, Sherwood i.; 3, Sutton; 4, Sheppard.  
 High Jump.—1, Sutton; 2, Harper; 3, Sherwood ii.; 4, Sherwood i.  
 Consolation Race.—1, Harper; 2, Duxbury; 3, Walters i.; 4, Hodgkinson.  
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Ainge; 2, Masters; 3, Duxbury; 4, Sherwood i.  
 Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Bourne; 2, Harper; 3, Sherwood i.  
 Cross-Country Race (3 miles).—1, Sheppard; 2, Duxbury; 3, Sherwood i.; 4, Sherwood ii.  
 Long Jump.—1, Bourne; 2, Sherwood ii.; 3, Harper.  
 Egg and Spoon Race.—1, Walters; 2, Morgan; 3, Sumner; 4, Corbett.  
 100 Yards.—1, Morgan; 2, Hodgkinson ii.; 3, Steele; 4, Sumner.  
 Obstacle Race.—1, Walters; 2, Hodgkinson ii.; 3, Sumner; 4, Smith.  
 Sack Race.—1, Smith ii.; 2, Walters; 3, Morgan; 4, Corbett ii.

## OTHER EVENTS.

- 100 Yards (Girls).—1, N. Baylis; 2, R. Antrobus; 3, K. Morom; 4, R. Bunting.  
 Jam-Jar Race (Girls).—1, D. Sparrow; 2, R. Bunting; 3, W. Wright; 4, J. Bourne.  
 Relay Race (Girls).—1, Tomtits; 2, Jackals; 3, Brownies.  
 Arch and Turret Ball (Girls).—1, Jackals; 2, Brownies; 3, Tomtits.  
 Skipping Race (Girls).—1, N. Baylis; 2, L. Antrobus; 3, W. Wright; 4, E. Ison.  
 Tug-of-War.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies; 3, Jackals.  
 Relay Race (Boys).—1, Tomtits; 2, Jackals; 3, Brownies.

## TOTALS.

- 1, Tomtits (507 points); 2, Jackals (351 points); 3, Brownies (330 points).

**Sports Day Indoors.**

How many sighs of relief were heaved in how many bedrooms as their occupants hastily flung apart the curtains on the morning of May 20th, 1926, and saw revealed to their foreboding eyes the sunny prospects of a really ideal day—how many I cannot tell; perhaps the calculation would be far too lengthy a process for one of an unmathematical turn of mind; it certainly would be too much trouble for one weighed down by the anxieties of Sixth Form life. To bring this down to plain English, we were all mightily pleased with the look of the weather. Oh, those days of alternating hope and despair, wonder, and depressing gloom! How carefully did we study the "Daily Mail" weather predictions for the next few weeks, and, with nervous fingers, trace along the fateful line until, on the

day of May 20th, a sudden rise and a dark blot indicated a thorough downpour. Those were, indeed, dark days!

After all these ponderings and misgivings, with what relief did we at last realise our joyous disillusionment! No day could have been more perfect. We all felt just as excited as we ever have felt on this day of all days—at least, I think everyone did, if one may judge by the occasional squeaks of delight and ostensible twitchings about the fingers and pedal extremities, signs which seemed to suggest to me that I was not alone in my internal unrest. However, everything turned out far better than we had expected, and indoors the results of our hard and anxious labours were wonderfully successful. Naturally (especially in the line of cookery), there were a few entries which hardly betokened the doubtless nerve-racking toil of the unfortunate competitor. This was especially so in the case of a number of plates covered with yellowish rather liquified elastic, which, according to the once neatly-inscribed label (now, alas! completely immersed in that "Slough of Despond"), was once "lemon toffee." Yet, in spite of a few such failures, the sale of articles of all kinds was excellent—in some cases, I fear, rather too excellent, especially when some poor innocent returned to reclaim her exhibit (which, as she explained, had been carefully marked "Not for Sale"), a complete mystery surrounded the whole dread circumstance. All immediately pronounced themselves "Not Guilty," and the only solution possible was that it must have been sold accidentally. Alack! such evils will occur. But to return to the main theme.

We must all heartily congratulate the Tomtits this year. They have certainly made up for previous years of ill success, and have majestically carried off both shields and the cup. Though we other poor mortals are very much left out in the cold, and naturally feel just a faint touch of envy, we nevertheless heartily congratulate them on their splendid and hard-won success, and perhaps secretly hope that we may follow their good example in future years.

The results of the Arts and Crafts Competitions were as following:—

Tomtits, 1,001 points (of which the boys scored 138).

Brownies, 932 points (of which the boys scored 70).

Jackals, 791 points (of which the boys scored 193).

The following were awarded silver medals in the Arts and Crafts:—

SENIORS.—B. Wells 201, Brookes 121, E. Lane 104, G. Bishop 97, B. Thomas 95, M. Sherwood 90.

JUNIORS.—M. Taylor 152, C. Dowdeswell 81.

The following were awarded bronze medals:—

SENIORS.—R. Jackson 63, M. Sheppard 62, M. Thomas 62, M. Bunn 56, M. Lane 52, S. Hodgkinson 50, C. Green 49.

JUNIORS.—M. Bomford 55, R. Walker 52, M. Inns 46.

E. L.

### Alfred and the Danes.

When plunderers from Denmark came  
To pillage in our land,  
Alfred the Great, that king of fame,  
Resisted with firm hand.

Every Saxon who had land,  
Money or power, domain,  
Was not safe from the pillaging hand  
Of the burning and plundering Dane.

At Ashdown Alfred and Ethelred  
Subdued the invading host;  
Wounded to death was Ethelred,  
And Alfred took his post.

A treaty of peace was made with the Dane  
But he broke it the very same day;  
So Alfred made ships to fight on the main,  
To drive the heathen away.

On marshy ground he built a home  
(Poor residence for a king),  
And thence as a minstrel he dared to roam  
To Guthrum to play and sing.

There he heard the warriors' plans,  
And made his own with care;  
And his Saxon subjects came in bands  
To fight for their freedom there.

The Saxon did subdue the Dane,  
And then did generously  
Give him a portion, o'er which to reign,  
Of English territory.

Thus by his courage and bravery  
Alfred did subdue  
The Dane with all his knavery  
And made him a Christian, too.

### Who Invented Mathematics?

I wonder why mathematicians are always butting in to an otherwise straightforward affair. Now let us pick up a wireless book. We read the first page—all serene; then, as we turn over we find at the top of the next, "Hence it is obvious that"—followed by an unfathomable equation.

The "obvious" is insulting: it is not obvious—in fact, far from it, to me at any rate. I truly and fairly dread the man who simply indulges in rows of queer symbols and figures, then, having no reasonable explanation, ends up with, "Hence it is obvious that," and a crowd of weird signs.

But, really, mathematics can be very useful. For instance, if a certain person contradicts an assertion, and goes on to prove a mathematical problem utterly wrong, you just bob up, and, smiling sweetly, you say, "My dear fellow, are you not forgetting Bumpelstein's equation?" He'll dry up like a spring in an Australian drought when you just jot down the favourite old jumble.

I must confess I have always been suspicious of mathematics from my earliest day. With what utter loathing did I tackle the questions of pipes and tanks—ridiculous things. Water is gushing into a tank by a pipe of given diameter, and escaping through one rather smaller. I used to find out that the tank would be full in 2 hrs. 40 mins.  $2\frac{1}{5}$  secs. Yet all the time I knew that in reality the company would have turned the water off, or a piece of soap would have rammed itself into one of the pipes long before that period expired.

Then, again, I remember the exploits of A and B on the cinder track. A can give B 200 yards in a mile; by how much will he beat him in a 100 yards? Working it out, you find that A will win by about 11 yards, while in real life A, although a good miler, will be beaten into a cocked hat by B in a hundred, for B is obviously a short-distance merchant.

It must not be taken from the aforesaid that I despise mathematicians. Oh, no! I've a friend, a mathematical one, for whom I show great respect. When he wants the answer to a small sum he takes from his pocket a slide rule, and, after juggling about for some ten seconds, he gives an answer which he guarantees correct. After a time it struck me that such instruments were very useful, and so I purchased one and trotted round to my friend for tuition. He was delighted (so he said, though he did

not look it when my back was turned; he did not know I was facing the mirror!) But to return to business. I soon became very adept in its use, and by the end of the week I could divide 17 by 2 or multiply 165 by 8. I started so earnestly that I soon wore out my first rule, and had to buy another. However, I am now going so strong that I can, in five minutes, obtain the answer to  $175.368 \div 1.0031$ , although I have to work the problem out on paper to find where the decimal point comes.

Some day I shall, before learned societies, read a scroll upon the Metagabolous Promulgance of Exonematic Imbulgences, and receive applause every time I take breath, for my delightful little chat. No one is quite sure whether it is a safety signal device for railways or a cure for chilblains. Next day I shall receive the Order of the Bearded Goat from the Emperor of Whatsheonabout.

In the meanwhile I would just like to place on record my own disgust at those greybeards who delight in making the thorny path still thornier.

CABS.

### **Olla Podrida.**

It appears that there has been an influx of spiders in VA, but on good authority we are informed that they have no need of flappers.

Readers please note:—Mannequin parade between VA and Geography Room every Tuesday and Friday, at 10.30.

Smells issuing from the VIth form are due to neither sulphurated hydrogen nor excessive hair oil—merely a trifle.

“To make wood charcoal,” says J. H., “bury a piece of wood in the ground.”

### **Pa's Nightmare of Senior Papers.**

#### **MATHEMATICS.**

1. If it takes 10 minutes to dive through a brick wall 10 feet thick, how long will it take to clean the windows with a fire shovel? (Solve by means of Remainder Theorem.)
2. If a herring and a half cost  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., find by logarithms the cost of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. bun

GEOGRAPHY.

1. If the last man who swam the Channel only got half-way across, what were the prevailing winds which blew over the equator at 2.50 a.m. on the morning of April 31st, B.C. 99?
2. Draw the contours of the Holy Roman Empire (a) before, (b) during, and (c) after the Flood, showing submarine contours. Indicate sea level very distinctly.

CHEMISTRY.

1. Solve the equation:—  
$$6 \text{NH}_3 + 3 \text{HO}_2 + 3 \text{C}_2\text{S} = 2 (\text{N}_4\text{H}_2) \text{C}_2\text{S} + (\text{N}_4\text{H}_2) \text{CO}_2$$
  
Add hydro-chloric acid, and test for internal combustion.
2. If the specific gravity of molybdenum is 8.60, explain the difference between chloroform and chloride of formyle.

ENGLISH.

1. Give the context of the following, explaining all difficulties, and indicating all points of literary interest:  
“How doth the little busy bee  
Delight to bark and bite.”  
(The answer must not consist of more than 10 sheets of foolscap. Add sketch map if necessary.)
2. Explain the following, and illustrate meaning by putting it in a suitable sentence:—  
“Superincoherentanalytisticpneumaticism.”  
(No prizes are offered.) M. Z.

### The Invention of Wireless.

There was once a respectable flat-dwelling couple who were known by the names of Jack and Jill Wills—to you they are Mr. and Mrs. Wills. These people did not go to midnight revels. Oh, no! They were far too economic for that. Instead, Jill—at least, she said so—darned stockings, mended Jack's old clothes, or read a book. Jack, if not at business, would be shopping or keeping his wife company by the fire.

Their rooms were well furnished and always kept tidy; but at first they had one slight trouble, in that Jill found it hard to dry the washing. Jack suggested that, as they occupied the top flat, they could fix the clothes line between two chimneys on the roof. To this Jill could raise no objec-

tions, as the roof was flat and the two chimneys were a suitable distance apart. So Jack bought an ordinary rope clothes line, and fixed it up. With this Jill was very pleased until, one day, the line broke and distributed the clothes among the traffic far below.

Of course, Jill had a fit of hysterics on the spot, while Jack went dolefully in search of a new and stronger line. He entered an ironmonger's shop, and demanded "an iron clothes line." The vendor of iron scratched his curly head, and then produced a huge coil of wire. It wasn't as thick as the rope one, and so Jack was doubtful of its capability of holding those clothes. But at last he was persuaded to take twenty yards of "insulated copper wire."

Jack fixed up the new clothes line, and, having a few yards left over, he fixed it near one end of the line and let it dangle through the skylight. He didn't mean it to break without letting him know, anyway. But this end was apt to sway about, and on one occasion Jack was floored completely by it. That would never do. So he obtained a huge lump of crystalline rock and tied it to the end of the wire, thus effectively keeping it taut.

All went well until the birds found a good roost on the clothes line, and the cats a good hunting ground. As things developed the cats used to hold concerts on the roof after supper. Jack shut the skylight, and did everything he could think of to keep out the volume of full chorus: but it came in just as loudly. At last the inmates of this noisy flat grew desperate, and old shoes and other handy missiles were being rained on the orchestra. A pound of soap hit the clothes line, and then the secret was out. It was that clothes line that was bringing in the sound.

Then Mr. Wills, being a sensible man, began to experiment. He caught the first cat that came within his reach, and deprived him of his whiskers. He stuck these to the crystalline rock, and started to add wires of all lengths. Lastly, he bought a telephone receiver, and fixed this on the end of his already lumbering "set." He then found that he had an efficient "set" to receive the famous "Cat's Orchestra" of the London tiles.

His next move was to fix the whole set in a box—no easy job. Then Jill suggested that they should fix two receivers together in a way that the 'phones would not need holding on to the head. He replied: "Yes, dear, if you agree to call it 'wireless,' because, you know, it would not be fashionable if we did not name it just the opposite to what it is."

T. H.



**Cricket.**

CAPTAIN—Harwood.

SECRETARY—Partridge i.

The cricket team this season is quite a satisfactory one, and has so far done very creditably. The season was opened well by a win over Temple Grafton by the narrow margin of five runs. The return match, however, was quite the reverse, and the less said about it the better. An interesting match took place on June 8th, against a team captained by Mr. F. Summers, but rain prevented further play early in their innings, after the School had made 88. The first proper School match, against Evesham, ended in our decisive victory by 104 runs. Earp is, so far, top scorer with 42, and Summers is credited with the best bowling performance for one match by taking five Evesham wickets for no runs.

RESULTS. •

	For	Agst.
May 22.—Temple Grafton (home) ...	69 ...	64
June 5.—Temple Grafton (away) ...	27 ...	101
„ 8.—Mr. F. Summers' XI. (home) ...	88 ...	5 for 2
„ 12.—Evesham P.H.G.S. (home) ...	128 ...	24
„ 26.—Redditch S.S. (away) ...	46 ...	42
„ 30.—Mr. F. Summers' XI. (away) ...	114 ...	87
July 10.—Redditch S.S. (home) ...	44 ...	86

**Tennis.**

In spite of the new weather prophet, and our hopes for a real summer season, it has rained incessantly, and, as a result, the spirits of the tennis enthusiasts have been considerably damped. The sides matches were played off between heavy showers, which greatly hampered the usual "Wimbledon" display, and the result was a double victory for the Tomtits.

On Monday, June 21st the School, represented by B. Wells and J. E. Farmer, E. Lane and H. Sisam, G. Hodgkinson and L. Earp, B. Thomas and G. Holder, played the Old Scholars, but unfortunately a storm cut short the enjoyable evening, and the match had to be considered a draw.

On Friday, June 25th, the Prefects challenged the rest of the School. The afternoon proved fine, and a very evenly-contested match ended in a victory for the Prefects by 37 games to 35.

In the final of the Gold Medal, B. Thomas defeated E. Lane in two sets, 6—2, 6—2. B. T.

**Football.**

Results of last season's First XI. matches are:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For	Agst.	Goals.	
13	...	4	...	8	...	1	...	42 73

The following boys played in the team:—Partridge i., Earp, Hodgkinson i., Farmer ii., Barnett, Holder i., Harwood, Harris i., Andrews, Sherwood i., Jones, Sisam, Savage, Rook, Summers i., and Bailey.

Colours were awarded to Earp, Harris i., Holder i., Jones, Summers i.

Sides matches results were:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For	Agst.	Goals.
Tomtits ...	4	...	4	...	0	...	0 ... 31 2
Brownies ...	4	...	1	...	2	...	1 ... 8 16
Jackals ...	4	...	0	...	3	...	1 ... 2 23

**Hockey.**

Last season's First XI. matches resulted as follows:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For	Agst.	Goals.	
13	...	12	...	1	...	0	...	62 8

The following girls played in the team:—B. Thomas, E. Lane, M. Lane, B. Wells, L. Smith, M. Sherwood, W. Mason, B. Bomford, I. Staff, G. Bishop, M. Bomford, G. Ainge, E. Francis, S. Hodgkinson, A. Lloyd.

Colours were awarded to B. Bomford, L. Smith, M. Lane, I. Staff, and G. Bishop.

In Sides matches the results were as follows:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For	Agst.	Goals.
Brownies ...	4	...	3	...	0	...	1 ... 9 2
Jackals ...	4	...	2	...	1	...	1 ... 8 7
Tomtits ...	4	...	0	...	4	...	0 ... 1 9

**Bubbles.**

Big and small bubbles and of every size, they float through the air, and in a second they have disappeared, brightly coloured in red and mauve and pink and all other lovely hues, like a little round rainbow.

Children love to blow them from an old clay pipe and a big bowl of soapy water glittering and sparkling in the sunshine. They blow very, very gently, and watch the bubble getting bigger and bigger, and suddenly it breaks as though some tiny fairy thing had done it for mischief.

The child who blows the largest bubble gets a lovely prize. There are many happy shouts from the garden, and little cries of grief when a big bubble breaks, sending a little shower of rain into the fairy folk.

At last, a very big bubble is blown; it stays quite a long time until the wind gently puffs it away, full of little people going to Fairyland.

P. I.

### Wireless Society.

A general meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, March 9th. At this meeting Brewer was elected to the committee, and Harris i. was elected secretary, in place of Hodgkinson i. It was also decided that an exhibition of wireless apparatus, constructed by members of the Society, should be held, if possible, towards the end of the summer term.

A meeting of the Society took place on Friday, June 11th, when conditions were fixed for the exhibition, which is taking place from July 17th to July 24th.

P. H.

### For the Juniors.

#### The Talkative Old Woman and the Little Sparrow.

Once upon a time there lived an old woman called Talk-i-balkey. She was called Talk-i-balkey because she talked so much. One night when she was asleep a little sparrow flew in. The old woman woke up with a start. "What do you mean by waking me," she cried.

"Oh! please, Talk-i-balkey, do let me shelter here for the night; an owl is outside the window, and he will surely eat me up if I go out."

"All right," said the old woman; "you may stay." So the sparrow and Talk-i-balkey passed the night in peace.

One day, as the little sparrow was near an old witch's house he heard the witch talking to herself. She was saying, "Talk-i-balkey talks too much; I shall have to change her into a block of salt."

The little sparrow went quickly to the old woman's house, and looked in at the window. There she was gossiping as usual. The sparrow called to Talk-i-balkey, but she said, "Be off with you." So he went off with a heavy heart.

The next day he came to the house, and found a block of salt. The poor sparrow wept for Talk-i-balkey, for she had

saved his life. Away he flew to the witch's house, and asked if Talk-i-balkey could not be set free. But the witch said, "No."

So the little sparrow went and died at the foot of the block of salt because Talk-i-balkey had saved his life.

P. SMITH (AGE 10).

### Kitty's Adventure.

One morning a little kitten started to climb up a tree. The tree was very tall, but she got to the top at last, and then she fell down. As she fell she bumped against a tree, and through she went, for the tree was hollow. Down, down she went, farther and farther. She knew that she must have passed the bottom, but still she fell down.

At last she came to a sudden stop. She found herself in a long, dark hall. She felt her way to the door. It opened at her touch, and through she went. Inside she saw a big green field, with rabbits running about. They all seemed to be very busy carrying flowers and moss and other pretty plants.

The kitten asked one rabbit what he was doing. He answered, "To-morrow is the Queen's birthday, and we are busy making preparations. If you come again to-morrow you shall see the Queen." "Thank you," replied the kitten, and she went home.

Next morning the kitten went back to the green field and found the rabbits. Under a big shady tree there was a throne of moss, decked with beautiful wild flowers. On the throne sat a fine big rabbit, wearing a crown of flowers and holding a branch of cherry blossom. This rabbit, as you may know, was the Queen, and now she announced that it was dinner-time. She now led the way down a rabbit-hole. At the bottom, was a long hall, with a long table. One of the rabbits went to a cupboard and took out a saucer of cream for the kitten and a plate of corn, which they had saved from last harvest, for themselves.

When dinner was over they went into the field and played games till tea-time.

Just as they were beginning tea the Queen saw a fox coming, and they were all very much afraid; but the kitten said, "Follow me."

She ran on and on till she was in her own home. Then she looked back to see if the rabbits were coming. There was no sign of them, and she never saw them again.

JOYCE JACKSON (AGE 8).