

The  
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.

NOBISCUM

CHRISTUS

STATE.

School Record.

1929-30.

# Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 33

JULY, 1929.

EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

## Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

The end of another School year is rapidly approaching, bringing with it the usual round of examinations and the final departure of some whose school days are now closing.

This year will, I think, be chiefly remembered for the spell of intensely cold weather during the Spring term, when the spirit in our Schoolroom thermometers was not unfrequently found to have retired into the bulb, refusing to register at all. It has, also, I am sorry to say, been marked during each of the three Terms by many absences through illness. However, we have rejoiced in the fine weather of this Summer term, though, for the first time in our history, the Sports had to be postponed owing to rain on the appointed day, to be carried out a week later with the usual success.

The Scouts were favoured with a glorious day for their expedition to Church Stretton.

Quite early in the term I received a copy of an Australian illustrated paper, on the first page of which were full page portraits of the little sons of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Perks and of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Collins, taken upon their arrival in Australia, whither the two families have gone to try their fortunes in that colony. May good luck attend them! My sincere thanks also to the sender of the paper.

Reports of severe earthquake shocks in New Zealand made one wonder how our old scholars there were faring.

Ernest Betteridge has sent an interesting account of a good start made in Alberta.

All these old scholars, who have gone abroad, are showing the way that lies open to all those young people who, having health and strength and the will to work, are finding difficulty in obtaining work at home.

It will interest some to learn that R. H. Mander (scholar 1915-1921) has been appointed History Master at the

Kelsick Grammar School, Ambleside, of which Mr. J. F. Gibbons, who was a master here 1912-1919, is head master.

Old Scholars who were with her at school will have heard with much regret of the death of Gladys Williams, after a painful illness. She will be remembered for her bright and cheery spirit when at school, and one cannot but regret that one, who seemed to have so useful a career before her, should have been called away so soon.

It is already known in the School that Miss Fletcher and Mr. Hutton are leaving us at the end of the term. Both will be much missed, and I am sure we all wish them success and happiness in their new spheres of work—Miss Fletcher at Nuneaton, and Mr. Hutton at Hereford.

My mind very naturally turns at this time of the year to those who are finally leaving school and are about to enter on another stage of life. It is my sincere hope that the recollection of their school days may constantly help them, wherever their lot may be cast, to maintain a high standard of work and conduct, and so gain for themselves that invaluable possession, a good name, and help to build up for the School the reputation of sending out year by year the sort of men and women that are wanted in the world.

Best wishes to all.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

### The School Register.

#### Valete.

Parker, W. (IVa), 1927-29.

Baylis, N. (IVb), 1921-29.

Fisher, D. L. (I), 1929.

Masters, F. J. (Vb), 1925-29.

Stanley, R. E. (I), 1928-29.

Chambers, M. (Vb), 1923-29.

#### Salvete.

Coleman, L. H. W. (I).

Hunt, W. G. (I).

Fowler, C. C. (II).

Stone, M. G. (I).

Hodgkinson, G. D. (IIIb).

Stone, R. M. (I).

### Old Scholars' Guild News.

President—E. BOWEN.

Secretary—S. BOWEN. Treasurer—R. SMITH.

On Friday, April 5th, the last of the season's dances was held in the Town Hall, the music being provided by the Royal Artillery Band (of Leamington). There were only fifty-one present—a very disappointing attendance—and as a result there was a loss of £1 15s. Unless better support is given by Old Scholars, it will naturally be impossible to carry on with dances on the present lines.

The annual tennis match between Old Scholars and School was played during the evening of Monday, June 24th. The Old Scholars' team consisted of M. Sisam and H. Hodgkinson, D. Sisam and J. Hemming, E. Clark and C. Bunting. The match resulted in a victory for the Old Scholars by 41 games to 31. After the match an impromptu dance was held in the Hall.

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The Summer Reunion will be held on Saturday next, July 27th, at the School, and will commence at 3 p.m. By way of variety, a programme of Sports has been arranged. Entries for the various events are to be made on the day, and all members are urged to come early and to participate, in order to make the programme a thorough success. Ordinary dress will be worn, and no special running kit will be allowed. Those taking part will score points for their sides, as at School. So come along, Brownies, Jackals, Tomtits, and don't let your old sides down!

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A hearty invitation to all Old Scholars is extended by the Guild on the occasion of Reunion. Whether you have received an official invitation or not, come along and join in the Reunion.

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As usual, the courts will be available for those who wish to play tennis. The evening will be given up to dancing in the Hall, and proceedings will be brought to a close just before midnight.

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We should like to remind members that subscriptions (2s. 6d.) for the year 1929-30, fall due at this meeting. The Treasurer will be pleased if members will hand their subscriptions in as soon as possible.

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The annual Cricket match with the School will be played in Ragley Park, on Monday next, July 29th, and is timed to begin at 6.30 p.m. S. B.

### **Marriages.**

On June 4th, at Ipsley, William Vale to Phyllis M. Richardson (scholar 1915-21).

On June 22nd, at Studley, Francis Eric Heighway (scholar 1915-19) to Ethel M. Hopkins.

### **Death.**

On March 17th, at Studley, Gladys Ellen Williams (scholar 1912-18).

### **Life and Conditions on a West Canadian Farm**

"Yes, sir! This is the most extreme country I ever did see." Such was the remark of "Old Sam," one of the first men to take up a homestead in this part of Alberta, some twenty years ago. "You've sure said it," agreed a neighbouring farmer. Old Sam was referring to the climate of Western Canada, and as he continued his reminiscences, he told of the crop failures he had experienced, caused by dry seasons, early frosts and hailstorms. And quite naturally he spoke also with a broad grin about his forty and fifty bushels to the acre crops, which, I feel sure, more than balanced the failures and the lean years.

I have started this short article on Canadian farm life with the words of one who knows it, because I do not want anyone to think that farming in Canada is easy, or that Canada is—as so many imagine it to be—a land in which to get rich quickly without much trouble. But I will say at the outset that farming conditions in Canada are far easier and much more pleasant than in England to-day. One great asset, of course, is the richness and fertility of the land; no fertiliser or manure of any kind is required to produce the crop, and this gives the Canadian farmer a flying start. Doubtless, after years of wheat-growing, the soil will need more attention, but out West that day is still a long way off.

It is now the first week in April and still Spring is not here; but Spring comes along any time between March and May. And it comes along almost overnight. To-day and for the last two days snow has been falling, but to-morrow the sun may break through and change the landscape into streams of running water; changing the scene, too, into one of hurry and bustle. We may be on the land with harrows and seed drills any time now, for two or three warm days will make the soil fit for work.

The last few weeks have been a busy time on the farms, occupied as they have been with getting things into shape for the Spring work. Seed has been cleaned, and all implements, machinery and harness have been repaired. Most of this work is done on the farm by the farm hands. All big farms have their own workshops, since it would be

far too expensive to call in the blacksmith, the carpenter, or the saddler, to do repairs. Consequently, every successful Canadian farmer must understand all farm implements and machinery, and be able to do a little blacksmith's work, some carpentry, and to mend his own harness.

Everything, then, is ready for Spring seeding, and everyone is, so to speak, rearing to go, after the long and easy life of the winter. The land which is to be planted is prepared the previous year, and only needs harrowing to supply a good seed bed. A little over one bushel of wheat per acre is all the seed that is sown—as compared with three or more bushels per acre in England—and in a good year anything from thirty or forty-five bushels per acre will be produced from good Summer-fallowed land. It is rare for the land to be harrowed after drilling, as is the case in the Old Country. After seeding is done, the crop is not touched until it is ready for cutting. There is no harrowing or rolling, no fertilising or hoeing.

But there are odd jobs in plenty to be done before harvest. All last year's stubble has to be ploughed ready for next year's crop. Then there is still some virgin prairie waiting for the special breaking plough. Often this land has to be cleared of brush and rocks. Some of the rocks are huge, and four good horses are needed to roll them from their long resting place. In some cases it takes two hours to dig around these rocks in order to obtain sufficient chain-hold to roll them out. All these rocks are put in big piles on some piece of useless land.

After this work is completed, the crops are ready for cutting. It is very striking to a newcomer to Canada how quickly the crops grow. Little more than a hundred days is taken by the wheat to mature after the seed has sprouted. Harvest time is a very busy time out here, and extra help is hired on all farms. No sooner is the crop cut and stooked than threshing begins. The threshing machine, or "separator," as it is called out here, is brought into the field, and the bundle wagons haul in the bundles. In most cases two men pitch the bundles into the machine; all that is necessary is to keep feeding the separator. The grain runs down one spout into the granary—never into sacks—and the straw is blown out through a long funnel to be burned; straw has practically no value in Western Canada.

We work very long hours during the threshing season, in fact, all through the summer; but threshing-time is the hardest time of all. There is no question of an eight-hour

day, which some emigrants from the Old Country seem to anticipate.

When threshing is over winter is very near at hand. As everyone knows, winters in Canada are very severe, with lots of snow and the temperature falling as low as 50°F. below zero. Farm work is practically at a standstill out West from the end of November until April. This fact naturally makes conditions for the hired man not at all rosy, as the farmer cannot afford to keep a bunch of men doing nothing. Many of the men go to the lumber camps; others go to the cities to spend their summer's earnings. A few are employed on the farms to tend the stock and to do such chores as are necessary on all farms. Some, again, obtain employment hauling grain to the nearest elevators. For this haulage sleighs are used as being cheapest.

Although tractors are appearing more and more in Western Canada, horses are still chiefly used on most farms. The teams are large, anything from six to twelve horses being handled by one man. All last year I was driving an eight-horse outfit, harrowing from seventy to eighty acres a day. Ploughing about ten acres a day, eight horses usually pull a three-furrowed plough.

With the advance of mixed farming and wheat growing, the cowboy has been driven farther and farther west to the foothills of the Rockies, but he is still to be found in Southern and Central Alberta. He can be seen at all the big fairs, where a Rodeo is the chief attraction, wearing his glad rags and "five gallon hat." In these days the cowboy is just as much at home riding a gang-plough as riding a Broncho. Very often one has to do a little of both on the Western farms of to-day. But please don't imagine that we all wear big hats; that is far from the truth.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I would never press anyone to come to Western Canada, for the life is so different from that of the Old Country. Climate and conditions to which the majority would find it hard to accustom themselves, the loneliness and the lack of sports and recreation all help to make Canada unsuitable for all except a certain type of man. Personally, I find this a wonderful country and a place good to live in. E. B.

### **Notes and News.**

Thursday, June 6th, the day fixed for Sports Day, was very wet, and the outdoor events were postponed until the following Thursday.

Half-term fell on Monday, June 10th.

The Games Subscription this term amounted to £6 15s. 2d.

Football colours were awarded last term to Harper, Masters, Sherwood ii., Horton and Bailey.

Hockey colours to M. Bomford, M. Chambers and M. Lane.

The Football (presented by the Bunting Brothers) was awarded to Parker; the Hockey Stick went to E. Wood.

The Scouts' Concert was given on Thursday and Friday, March 21st and 22nd.

The Cross Country races were run over the usual courses on Wednesday, April 24th, and the Mile races on the Birmingham Road on Friday, May 3rd.

Members of the Sixth paid a visit to Stratford on Wednesday, May 1st, to see "Richard II.," while Forms VA and VB attended a performance of "Twelfth Night" a fortnight later.

The Oxford Local Examinations began on July 15th.

On Monday, April 29th, members of VA Economics Class visited the Bournville Works of Messrs. Cadbury.

At the end of the term we are losing Miss Fletcher and Mr. Hutton, who are leaving us to take up other appointments.

A lecture on the work of Dr. Barnardo's Homes was given in the School Hall on Friday, April 26th.

Bernard Cuzner, who attended the old Newport Foundation School, was recently awarded the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

### **Preparations for Sports Day.**

Year by year we read accounts of the events on Sports' Day, but so far nobody seems to have written about the preparations for this great annual event. Old scholars know all about it; but other readers may not.



A list of articles which may be sent in for the next Sports' Day is put up on the noticeboard very soon after one Sports' Day is over. Before we break up for the summer vacation the notice board is surrounded by those people who copy down the list, intending to do so much work. When one returns to school in September one finds that very few people have completed or even started anything. It seems unbelievable that, after eight weeks' holiday, one hears girls saying, "O, I haven't had a minute to spare." The same excuse is given even by small people in the third forms. At Christmas time house captains remind the younger ones about their sports' work. Lenient captains merely ask the small people to try and do some work, while the very keen ones tell the younger ones exactly what they are expected to do. Mary Jane is capable of knitting a baby's bonnet and a pair of men's socks, and possibly she could manage to make a tray cloth. All efforts to evade this work are useless; the captain is ready with her answer. If you haven't a baby at home, give the bonnet to a small cousin, the socks would make an excellent present for father, and a tray cloth is always useful at home. Having been told that the House must win the Shield the child leaves, usually determined to do her best work.

Very little progress is made until about a month before Sports' Day. People then bring work to school, and sit during "break" and the dinner hour doing drawn thread work, the appearance of which is not improved by the "grubby" hands which handle it while their owners criticise it. Later, the boys think about their cookery, and the girls urge them to upset the kitchen at home. The boys are very enthusiastic, and always arrive on Sports' Day laden with a variety of confectionery. Having viewed and criticised the boys' efforts, we all wonder who will get the Arts and Crafts Shield—but I am wandering on to Sports' Day, an account of which I leave to another pen.

A JACKAL.

### **Nightmare.**

The next day was Monday. Along with Monday came the first day of the examinations.

**LATIN; GEOGRAPHY; HISTORY; ECONOMICS!!!!**  
Yes, please, Mr. Printer! as large a type as you can possibly find. (When I have anything to do with schools, it shall be one examination a day, and no more.)

Well, a certain mistress—no, I have decided not to disclose her name, but nevertheless a person whom it pays one to obey—advised us all to go to bed very early, and so wake up next morning “with the — feeling” (these were not her exact words). Church that night was quite out of the question, and so mother insisted I should be in bed about half-past seven! It is all very well to go to bed at such an hour, but it is a very different thing to go to sleep. This is a fact I soon discovered. The day had been hot, and before many minutes had passed by the bed clothes looked like the sea in rough weather. But all this is off the point.

Eventually, I must have gone to sleep, for the next thing I realised was that it was very dark. Nevertheless, it was not too dark to see contours, or were they isotherms floating about the room? Qui, qua, quod—no—oh!—quis, qua, quid—alas! An anti-cyclone centred over us. Let me see, what is that, a centre of low pressure, or is it a fault in the earth's crust. Maybe, it is in the passive voice! Of course, Magna Carta was signed in 1066 on the seashore by William the Conqueror, who bade the waves not to advance further. Innocent the Third, on a boiling hot day, climbed up a rough mountain slope to do penitence at Conossa. Then, Gresham's law —?—?—?—of course, how stupid of me—the earth is round; the poor man was imprisoned because no one believed him.

St. Augustine—or was it St. Augustus?—arrived in Britain in 55 B.C., “shedding copious tears.” Poor Cicero followed him, escaping from the traps set by the panthers. Adam Smith—let me see. I know, he was a pin manufacturer; his son was drowned off the shore of Spain, in the Pacific ocean; he was never known to smile again. Palmerstone, at ease always with Queen Elizabeth—or was it Queen Anne? Anyhow, it was some queen; supported the Channel Tunnel Scheme, but met with keen opposition from Gladstone, noted far and wide for his lace and his ringlets.

Very rudely, at this point, I was awakened by another member of the family, and it was really very fortunate that the Alcester Water Works Company had decided to turn off the water that night. And then we wonder, as a certain master of the school is wont to say (his name, also, I refrain from disclosing), why teachers grumble occasionally.

K. J.

**Sports Day, 1929.**

For the first time in the records of the School the ominous rainclouds, which not unusually darken the sky during the final preparations for our event, refused to give place to a watery sun, which eventually, with a few apologetic glimpses through the clouds, gave up the unequal contest, and let it rain. And with a will it rained, throughout the two hours through which our respective courses were appointed to be run.

Thus, in the parlance of some of our juniors our first attempt at Sports Day was a "washout." A week after, however, our attempt was more successful. A brilliant morning developed into our usual hot afternoon.

Again we have to thank Mr. Hall and the other members of the staff for their help in the preparation of the field and in the organisation of the sports. Not only did the aforesaid rain sadly mar the proceedings of the day, but also greatly hindered the preparing of the field, and considerably increased the work entailed.

After the sports an exhibition of dancing was given by the girls on the front lawn, after which the whole school assembled for the presentation of the cup, shield and medals. Cheers for Mrs. Jephcott, who kindly made the presentations, and for the Staff, brought the afternoon's proceedings to a close, and thus the seventeenth Sports Day passed into the history of the School.

The results of the events were as follows:—

**OVER 14.**

- 100 Yards.—1, Sisam; 2, Summers; 3, Partridge; 4, Purser.  
 Half-Mile.—1, Summers; 2, Sherwood i.; 3, Walters i.; 4, Partridge.  
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Sisam; 2, Hodgkinson i.; 3, Walters i.; 4, Lloyd.  
 Obstacle Race.—1, Sisam; 2, Plevin; 3, Purser; 4, Walters i.  
 220 Yards.—1, Sisam; 2, Summers; 3, Partridge; 4, Purser.  
 Quarter-Mile.—1, Wigley; 2, Partridge; 3, Summers; 4, Harper.  
 Hurdles.—1, Sisam; 2, Summers; 3, Sherwood i.; 4, Wigley.  
 Consolation Race.—1, Hodgkinson i.; 2, Lloyd; 3, Sherwood ii.; 4, Pinfield.  
 High Jump.—1, Sisam; 2, Purser; 3, Harper; 4, Summers.  
 Throwing Cricket Ball.—1, Sisam; 2, Harper; 3, Sherwood i.; 4, Wigley.  
 Cross-Country Race.—1, Summers; 2, Masters; 3, Sheppard; 4, Wigley.  
 Long Jump.—1, Sisam; 2, Summers; 3, Harper; 4, Wigley.  
 Mile (over 16).—1, Summers; 2, Wigley; 3, Sheppard; 4, Sisam.  
 Mile (14-16).—1, Purser; 2, Sherwood ii.; 3, Plevin; 4, Lloyd.

12-14.

- 100 Yards.—1, Bailey; 2, Sumner; 3, Sore; 4, Yates.  
220 Yards.—1, Bailey; 2, Horton; 3, Yates; 4, Savage iii.  
Crab Race.—1, Sherwood iii.; 2, Corbett; 3, Baylis ii.; 4, Mason.  
Half-Mile.—1, Horton; 2, Sherwood iii.; 3, Yates; 4, Corbett.  
Obstacle Race.—1, Bailey; 2, Summers; 3, Smith; 4, Chambers.  
High Jump.—1, Horton; 2, Bailey; 3, Sumner; 4, White.  
Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Hodgkinson ii.; 2, Goulbourne i.; 3, Sumner;  
4, Colegate.  
Consolation Race.—1, Smith; 2, Sore; 3, Baylis; 4, Styler.  
Hurdle Race.—1, Horton; 2, Bailey; 3, Styler; 4, Smith.  
Throwing Cricket Ball.—1, Ison; 2, Warner; 3, Hodgkinson ii.; 4,  
Horton.  
Cross-Country Race.—1, Sherwood iii.; 2, Warner; 3, Bailey; 4,  
Sumner.  
Long Jump.—1, Bailey; 2, Sumner; 3, Sore; 4, Styler.

UNDER 12.

- Egg-and-Spoon Race.—1, Fowler; 2, Luker; 3, Treadgold; 4,  
Baylis iii.  
100 Yards.—1, Baylis iii.; 2, Steele; 3, Lane; 4, Fowler.  
Obstacle Race.—1, Gostling; 2, Hodgkinson iii.; 3, Steele; 4, Morton.  
Sack Race.—1, Davis; 2, Gostling; 3, Morton; 4, Antrobus.  
Three-Legged Race.—1, Jackals; 2, Tomtits.

OTHER EVENTS.

- Donkey Relay Race.—1, Jackals; 2, Brownies; 3, Tomtits.  
Tug-of-War.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies; 3, Jackals.  
Relay Race.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies; 3, Jackals.  
The following boys were awarded medals:—  
BRONZE.—Partridge, Harper, Sherwood i., Masters, Sherwood ii.,  
Sumner, Ison, Baylis iii., Warner.  
SILVER.—Sisam, Summers, Wigley, Purser, Horton, Sherwood iii.,  
Bailey.  
GOLD MEDAL AND CUP.—Sisam (95 points).  
The Sports Shield was won by the Jackals, with 436 points. The  
Tomtits scored 377, and the Brownies 241.

W. A. P.

### Sports Day Indoors.

It is, I believe, usual when writing an account of "Sports' Day Indoors," to refer to all previous numbers of the SCHOOL RECORD containing reports on this subject. However,

"I've searched these pages o'er and o'er  
To see what others put before,"

but I have found nothing applicable to this Sports' Day. This Sports' Day is unique (so far!) For several years past certain members of the Staff have been calculating that, by the "Law of Averages," it was quite time we had a wet Sports' Day. They calculated once too often; it was wet. The morning was stormy, and towards afternoon a deep depression centred over Alcester. That day we distin-

gushed the optimists, who, despite waking in the morning to find the rain had blown in and soaked them during the night, persisted in believing that it would ultimately turn out fine, from the pessimists, who declared that they had known all along that it would be wet, because the date selected for Sports' Day was not, as is usually the case, the Thursday before Whitsuntide!

Owing to the impossibility of holding the races on the appointed day trade in the hall was brisk, a good sale for cakes and sweets continuing up to the presentation of the Arts and Crafts Shield and Medals by Mrs. Chapman. After the presentation, which took place in the hall, the country dancing, which was to have taken place on the front tennis court, was performed in the Art Room. Certain of the dances had been previously given during the afternoon. The full display was given the following week.

This year there were several new regulations in connection with the Arts and Crafts Competitions—all sweets were packed in uniform boxes—no girls under eleven and no boys under twelve were allowed to enter for the cooking competitions, and all late entries were disqualified.

#### AWARDS.

Silver Medals.—Seniors: R. Jackson (160), E. Wood (131), M. Bomford (120), B. Hughes (68), K. Williams (65). Juniors: J. Jackson (84).

Bronze Medals.—Seniors: N. Holder (49), M. Sheppard (45), R. Walker (37), V. Wood (37), K. Jagger (36), M. Colegate (36), M. Hicks (35). Juniors: W. Walters (48), J. Blakeman (45), M. Sisam (45), B. Greenhill (36).

The "Victory."—R. Jackson.

The Arts and Crafts Shield was won by the Brownies with 684 points, the Tomtits being second with 643, and the Jackals third with 563.

E. R. C. J.

#### **The Scout Concert.**

The Scout Concert this year was given on Thursday and Friday, March 21st and 22nd, to small but appreciative audiences. In the first half of the programme the French songs of the boys of VB and IVA were much enjoyed, and the dances were well executed.

The second part of the programme was a comedy, by V. V. Druller. This was voted by all an excellent entertainment, and so well written and performed that no one

in the audience was able to probe the secret of the elusive stamp. The finale was a pleasant surprise to the audience generally. We hope in the near future to see another effort from the pen of the same writer, to whom the Scouts are greatly indebted.

E. S. WALKER (Scoutmaster)

PROGRAMME.

- 1. Jungle Play.
  - Scene 1. Baloo gives the Law.
  - " 2. Bagheera's Hunting.
  - " 3. The Dance of Kaa.
- 2. Dance ... "Eightsome Reel" ...
  - M. Perkins, N. Baylis, V. Wood, E. Ison,
  - Sherwood ii., Wilshaw, Plevin, Baylis i.
- 3. French Songs ... Boys of VB and IVA.
- 4. Recitation ... R. Spencer.
- 5. Nursery Rhyme ...
  - L. Collier, D. Hunt, M. Rowles, B. Bach,
  - Baylis iii., Treadgold, Keniston, Lane.
- 6. Dance ... "Gavotte" ...
  - M. Sheppard, E. Wood, Wigley, Parker.
- 7. Scout Play ... "Pheasants' Eggs" ...

CHARACTERS:

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Fred—Horton.       | Mr. Briggs—Sheppard.      |
| Billy—Sherwood ii. | Mr. Thompson—Harper.      |
| Lilly—Dales.       | P. L. Gibson—Chattaway.   |
| Bob—Sherwood iii.  | Scoutmaster—Hodgkinson i. |
| Joe—Baylis i.      | John Smith—Treadgold.     |
| Sims—Pellow i.     | P.C. Duncan—Savage i.     |

- 8. A Study Dance ...
  - E. Ison, V. Wright, K. Morom, M. Lane.

INTERVAL.

- 9. Comedy ... "A Sticky Affair" ... By V. V. Druller.

CHARACTERS:

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Professor—Partridge.     | Miggs—Sherwood i.          |
| Judson—Wigley.           | Police Sergeant—Parker.    |
| Mrs. Brown—I. Davis.     | Police Constable—Sheppard. |
| Mabel—A. Hudson.         | Cynthia—M. Lane.           |
| Colonel Bullet—Saunders. |                            |

### **A Wood in Spring.**

One day I thought I should like to see the spring growth in the wood behind our house. Half of our garden is similar to a wood, with flowers and trees, long grass, and ferns and all the wild flowers which children delight in gathering. But I was restless, I was not satisfied with the garden, and I wandered across the meadow between the house and the wood.

I opened the entrance gate and wandered among the sweet smelling flowers. It was quite early in the morning, and a drowsy hum of bees reached me as I wandered lazily along, thinking what a beautiful place the world was. I sat down on a fallen tree, covered with moss and wild ferns. I closed my eyes and fell into a reverie.

When I opened my eyes, I gazed and gazed, drinking in the silent wonders that surrounded me, the sky, a hazy blue which betokened a fine day, and the sun sending its slanting rays over the trees and grass and making the dew sparkle in all colours of the rainbow. I tried hard to realise fully the fact that it was I sitting in the chequered shade of the trees cast by the sun as the morning grew colder. I stood up and saw the trees making a cover over my head with the entwining branches, the almost emerald green of the hawthorn's young leaves, the very dark green of the holly, and then the pale tender green leaves of the late oak tree. Here and there the peeping blue of the morning sky showed through the trembling branches, stirred by a slight breeze.

At my feet nodding their shy-white faces were the delicate anemones, silvery pink ladysmocks, dotted here and there like stars in the long green grass. Pink champions craned their long stalks to show their sweet pink faces to the golden sun from the thick undergrowth which surrounded them. Far away I heard the tinkling of trickling water as it eddied over the oft-washed stones, and down through a stream along the meadow and so into our pond.

At last, as I wandered on, I saw a rising mass of blue, at sight of which I stood still in sheer delight. At first I thought I was back in Scotland on the holiday which I enjoyed six years ago. I thought I was gazing at Scottish heather on the Scottish hills. But, no. These were real English Bluebells. Oh, what a treat townspeople miss, if they never see bluebells in their natural garden, with a background of green and azure blue sky.

On I wandered, catching my hair on the low branches of the trees while the dew in the cups of the crab apple blossom sprayed over my face. Now and then I saw a squirrel scampering over the short uneven turf.

Very soon, I came to the objective of my journey, a small pool, round which violets grew and yellow Irises stretched their long necks elegantly over the water. Here and there the vain Narcissi leant over to catch the reflection of their delicate faces in the pool below. It was from this, that the stream which I had heard had its source. I followed the brook home, thinking the while of the lovely sights I had just seen in this wood in springtime.

V. W.

### **Lost, Stolen, or Strayed?**

“ Where is my pen, where can it be?  
I’ve lost it!” is the dismal cry,  
“ I thought I left it here, and see,  
“ It’s gone ” with this a weary sigh,  
“ I’ve hunted high, I hunted low,  
There’s nowhere else a pen could god.

“ I’ve simply hunted everywhere,  
What? “ Have another look ” you say,  
“ I’m tired of looking now, but there  
I’ll look again to please you—why!  
It’s in my satchel, I declare!  
Although I’m sure I hunted there.”

And so it happens, every day,  
(I’m sure I’m just as bad myself),  
A book is lost “ Oh dear ” they say,  
“ I’m sure I put it on the shelf,”  
Or else a rubber, ruler, pen;  
But no one knows just how or when.

But almost every time that pen,  
Or book, whatever it may be,  
In desk, on shelf, turns up again,  
In some secluded spot, you’ll see,  
“ To keep it safe I put it near,  
And then forgot again,” you hear.



Is that a time we'll never see,  
 And will there never come a day,  
 When neither pen nor book shall be,  
 Just lost, mislaid, or strayed away?  
 Shall we be here when no such word,  
 " I've lost my book " is ever heard. M. A. B.

### **Scout Outing, 1929.**

Every Scout looked forward with pleasure to the annual Scouts' Outing, made this year to Church Stretton, on Friday, June 7th. As usual the journey should have commenced at 8 a.m., but as always happens a few privileged individuals turned up a trifle late. Droitwich was the first point for which we made, but, on the way, we stopped to pick up a nice little boy whose hair is never out of place, and whose " long'uns " are always irreproachably creased. And the most remarkable thing was that the youth was ready and waiting for us, a fact for which he excused himself by pleading that the clocks at home were fast. Nothing particular happened after this until we reached Droitwich, but, although most of the party were quite fit and well, in some cases the good things of yesterday (for not a few had sampled dropped scones or lunch baskets) and the excitement of to-day were struggling for the upper hand.

From Droitwich we passed through Great Witley and Tenbury Wells to Ludlow. One matter at least is worthy of mention—two small badly constructed bridges just out of Droitwich did not—or at least I should imagine they did not tend to give colour to the ashen features, or comfort to the internal organisation of the sickly ones.

Passing through Ludlow, after a hold-up by a traffic jam, and leaving the castle on the left, we proceeded to Craven Arms and Church Stretton.

Disembarking here, we found that the few persons who had felt rather funny inside, had at last subdued their rebellious breakfasts, and on the whole a jovial company, we set off along the valley, proceeding until an obstacle in the shape of a waterfall barred the way—for some of the party at least. Here, after some rock-climbing exhibitions had been given, the whole troop posed for the camera man. A strenuous climb was followed by an even more strenuous game of rounders, the pace of which proved too fast for at least one member of the party. A game of " hand-ball " was commenced, quickly developing into a " rough house,"

and everyone seemed intent upon inconveniencing his opponent, by tripping, kicking, biting, and scratching. These players were indeed no respecters of persons. After a time the game was abandoned for the day. The troop then broke up, and it was to be noticed that an unusual number betook themselves to the inevitable pop-shop for the purpose either of consuming an unwise quantity of aerated waters, or of enquiring the price of the sixpenny fountain pens. Some, I believe, went through the village looking for tarts, but as the village was found to lack a pastry-cook, the search was postponed. Most of the troop could not resist the pangs of hunger when the tea hour arrived, but a few patient late comers had their patience rewarded by the special attention of the pleasant waitress.

After tea we moved on into Church Stretton, where a skirmish took place between the small fry and the capable driver, armed with cherry stones and orange peel. At this juncture several mysterious stampless postcards were despatched, and this done, the party moved on its way towards Much Wenlock and Bridgenorth. Soon after we left Church Stretton an excellent view of the dome-shaped Wrekin was obtained. Without a halt we passed through Bridgenorth, with its interesting old and new towns, through Kidderminster, with its dirty streets, and indeed we should not have stopped in Bromsgrove had not the driver (good fellow that he was!) decided that the 'bus was punctured. The short stay in Bromsgrove over (and the stay was hardly so short as was intended) the party was once more upon the Alcester Road, and arrived home at about 8 p.m.

Then ended a most enjoyable day, with three cheers for Mr. Walker, and three for the capable driver.

On behalf of the Scouts, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking those members of the staff who so kindly gave their assistance at our concert last term. In the matter of authorship, rehearsals, make-ups, and general supervision of costumes and other stage property, no pains were spared.

H. S.

### **We Should Like to Know —**

Who proved to be the champion chatterbox during the ride to Church Stretton?

What was his main topic of conversation?

Why did Mr. Walker and Mr. Druller choose other seats for the return journey? \_\_\_\_\_

What has happened to the band of mouth-organists who used to entertain us on our outings? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was our sole musician on this occasion? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did a number of Scouts find that it suited them better to ride near the front of the 'bus? \_\_\_\_\_

Had the dissipation of the previous afternoon any connection with this? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the Scout who ate his dinner long before we reached our objective? \_\_\_\_\_

Did we appreciate our Science lesson on the return journey? \_\_\_\_\_

Who found one of Mr. Walker's toffees rather hard? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to three patrol leaders at tea-time? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it the strong air that accounted for the number of tumbles at "rounders"? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did some members of the party learn to play cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Would not one of our number make an ideal 'bus-conductor? \_\_\_\_\_

Was our driver so pleased with us on our Dovedale outing that he had arranged to drive us again this year? \_\_\_\_\_

Is he really contemplating joining our troop? \_\_\_\_\_

Did some of the Scouts welcome the halt for puncture-mending in Bromsgrove? Who failed to find the fish saloon? \_\_\_\_\_

Why were certain members of the troop so anxious to alight at Kidderminster? Was it to buy carpets? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Cricket.**

Captain—SISAM. Secretary—PARTRIDGE.

Up to the present the School eleven has met with fair success. Several good scores have been made. The batting has proved strong when the opening batsmen have given the lead, but has tended to collapse when the first few batsmen

have failed. The bowling has again been chiefly in the hands of Sisam and Summers, but Harper, our usual wicket-keeper, has proved himself a useful change bowler. Others who have bowled are Wigley, Plevin, and Hodgkinson. The fielding has, on the whole, been satisfactory, though there have been occasional lapses.

The following boys have represented the School this season:—Sisam, Summers, Hodgkinson i., Sherwood i., Sheppard, Harper, Ison, Wigley, Sherwood ii., Plevin, Savage i., Partridge, and Baylis i.

Results to date are as follows:—		For.	Agst.
A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. ...	(away)	41	64
v. Temple Grafton C.C. ...	(home)	197	58
v. Stratford G.S. ...	(away)	39	57
v. Temple Grafton C.C. ...	(away)	80	40
v. Evesham P.H.G.S. ...	(home)	108 for 7	72
v. Redditch S.S. ...	(away)	32	99
v. Coughton C.C. ...	(away)	68	68
		W. A. P.	

### Tennis.

The weather at the beginning of term was not altogether favourable for tennis. However, between the March winds and April showers, which seem to have joined forces with the glories of May sunshine this year, three sides matches were played. Of these the Jackals won two, and the Tomtits one.

An innovation in the form of a match against another school has been introduced this season. O. Lane, R. Bunting, N. Holder, M. Lane, E. Holder and M. Bomford represented the School against Evesham P.H.G.S., securing a good victory by 32 games.

In the VI and VA versus VB match on Friday, June 21st, VI and VA won easily. When the School met the Old Scholars on Monday, June 24th, O. Lane and Sisam, R. Bunting and Hodgkinson, K. Williams and Summers represented the School. The Old Scholars proved a little too strong and won by 11 games.

The Gold Medal challenges are at present being played, while the great day of the Girls' Tournament is arranged for Saturday, July 6th. We are all fervently hoping for a fine, bright day.

K. W.

### Hockey Season, 1928—29.

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Goals.	
			For.	Against.
13	6	7	38	30

**For the Juniors.****The Robins Choose a Home.**

Mr. and Mrs. Robin were very busy looking for a place to build a nest. One day, when he and his wife were flying around, they came to the cloakroom door. "Let's see if there is a place in here," said Mrs. Robin; so they entered, and they flew down the corridor until they came to the hall.

"Let's build on that furry thing against the wall," suggested Mrs. Robin.

"Good gracious no," said Mr. Robin; "that's where a lot of two-legged folks come and make a funny noise, and sometimes a two-legged thing plays on a very noisy thing indeed that keeps crying. That place wouldn't do at all."

So they flew out of the window until they came to the bicycle sheds. "Now that really is a lovely place," said Mrs. Robin.

Mr. Robin looked thoughtful, then he said: "Yes, but suppose a two-legged person came here; they do sometimes, and if they saw us they would kill us." Mr. Robin looked around, then he said: "I know! Let's build in one of those little houses in that field."

"But there are a lot of little two-legged people there who keep talking to a big one, and they make such a noise. Let's fly right away, and build somewhere else," said Mrs. Robin. So they flew away until they came to a park, and there they built their nest and hatched their babies.

M. S.

**The Magic Carpet.**

Once upon a time there lived in a lovely Castle a little princess, whose name was Silvershoes. She was loved by everyone. One day when she was sitting in the garden, she heard someone calling, "Do please help me," and there she found a little brown dwarf with a long white beard, which was caught in the branches of a tree and he could not get away. Silvershoes took out her scissors and set him free. "Thank you very much" said the dwarf, "If I had stayed any longer I should have died." He then gave the princess a little carpet that the fairies had made from leaves, and told her to sit upon it and wish. She did so, and wished she was in her bedroom. At once she began to rise and sail over the trees until she reached the castle, and then up the staircase to her room. She took great care of that magic carpet.

RUTTER (aged 6 years).