

The
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.
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School Record

December, 1933.



MR. C. T. L. CATON

HEADMASTER 1933

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 46.

DECEMBER, 1933.

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

L. HARRIS, J. LANE, BAYLIS i., LEDBURY.

Editorial.

Last term we were looking backwards over the twenty-one years of the School's history, with its record of steady progress and outstanding successes. This term we are looking forward in anticipation of continued advance and further honours. First and foremost, we extend a very sincere welcome to our new headmaster, Mr. C. T. L. Caton, who assumed the reins of office at the beginning of the term, coming to us from Warwick School, where he had been Senior Mathematical Master for the past two years. And with this welcome we join an equally cordial one to Mrs. Caton.

We are hoping to see Mr. and Mrs. Caton at the Old Scholars' Guild Reunion on Saturday, December 16th, and we trust that as large a number as possible of Old Scholars will avail themselves of this opportunity of meeting them.

School Register.

Valete.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| *Browning, M. A. (VI), 1926-33. | *Hodgkinson, B. (Upp. V),
1926-33. |
| Carratt, P. M. (VI), 1928-33. | Savage, W. E. (Upp. V), 1928-33. |
| *Greenhill, B. (VI), 1924-33. | Steele, G. (Upp. V.), 1924-33. |
| *Hicks, M. (VI), 1926-33. | Ross, G. (Low. V), 1929-33. |
| *Lloyd, T. (VI), 1926-33. | Valender, G. M. (Low. V),
1930-33. |
| *Sherwood, P. H. (VI), 1926-33. | Lane, M. F. (Low. IV), 1927-33. |
| *Skinner, M. E. (VI), 1926-33. | Parker, G. (Rem.), 1930-33. |
| *Yates, H. E. (VI), 1927-33. | Steele, A. (Rem.), 1928-33. |
| *Chambers, J. E. (Upp. V),
1927-33. | Steele, W. (Rem.), 1929-33. |
| Colegate, G. T. (Upp. V),
1928-33. | Villers, D. A. (i), 1931-33. |
| Duxbury, M. M. (Upp. V),
1928-33. | |

*Prefect.

Salvete.

Bryan, J. H. (III).	Godfrey, D. E. (III).
Bullock, G. (III).	Goode, D. C. K. (Rem).
Butt, A. J. (I).	Goulbourne, I. V. (III).
Clemson, A. N. (III).	Jordan, A. W. (Rem.)
Collett, D. G. W. (Rem.)	Jordan, M. E. (I).
Cowper, M. J. (III).	Orme, H. G. (III).
Crompton, M. (III).	Perrott, D. A. (III).
Gale, D. E. M. (III).	Roberts, A. M. (III).

Old Scholars' Guild News.

PRESIDENT—Mr. V. V. Druller.

SECRETARY—S. Bowen.

TREASURER—R. Smith.

The annual Summer Reunion was held at School on Saturday, July 29th, when over a hundred and fifty old scholars assembled to say good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Wells, who were attending a Guild Meeting for the last time in their official capacity. For the afternoon an American tennis tournament had been arranged, and this was organised in two sections, there being nearly fifty players. There were several interruptions caused by rain, and the final match between the section winners could not be played off. The two winning pairs were M. Sisam and F. Bunting, and K. Barley and J. Savage.

During the tea interval the short business meeting was held for the election of officers for the year 1933-34. The president, secretary, treasurer, and retiring committee members were all re-elected. The sports captains appointed were M. Baylis and F. Bunting.

When rain finally put an end to the tennis tournament, an adjournment was made to the hall for dancing which continued until midnight.

Shortly after half-past nine there was an interval, during which a presentation from the old scholars was made to Mr. and Mrs. Wells. This took the form of a "Minty" settee and easy chair, upholstered in blue. E. Bowen, who made the presentation, was supported by a half-circle of twenty-one old scholars, each representing one year of Mr. Wells' headmastership, and wearing the dates from 1912-33. He paid a high tribute to the work and influence of Mr. and Mrs. Wells, and a further tribute was paid by P. Perks. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wells suitably replied, expressing their heart-felt appreciation

of the handsome gifts, and Mr. Wells said that he was unspeakably proud of his "glorious band of old scholars."

The old scholars' present to Miss Wells—a pewter rose bowl—was handed to Mr. Wells, as Miss Wells herself was unavoidably absent.

The Reunion closed with "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King," and all present shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Wells.

The Winter Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, December 16th, commencing at 7.30 p.m. A large gathering is anticipated to spend the evening in dancing.

A dance is being arranged for Thursday, December 28th, to commence at 8.30. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, (including refreshments) may be obtained from the Secretary, Treasurer, any committee member, or district representatives. Old scholars and friends are asked to turn up in good numbers, in order to make this dance a thorough success.

We were very sorry to learn of the misfortune which has befallen Mrs. Smallwood (née K. Perks), who was president of the Guild for the year 1927-28. Last July, her home in New Zealand, where she has lived since early in 1928, was burnt to the ground, most of her belongings being utterly destroyed by the fire.

A very admirable response was made by the old scholars to the appeal for subscriptions to Mr. Wells' Testimonial Fund, a sum of £29 17s. being collected.

The Football Match against the School XI will be played at School on Saturday, December 9th.

The Hockey Match will be played against the School XI on Saturday, December 16th.

K. Jagger (scholar 1927-31) has been appointed Assistant Labour Manager at "Boxfoldia," Birmingham.

Congratulations to S. Gothard (scholar 1913-25) who has obtained his A.M.I.C.E.

Births.

On July 29th to Mr. and Mrs. A. Finnemore (née V. Bunting)—a daughter.

On October 3rd to Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris—a son.

On October 14th to Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Browne (née M. Walker)—a son

Marriages.

On April 15th, at Alcester, Ernest Edward Devereux to Kathleen Holworthy (scholar 1921-25).

On July 15th, at King's Heath, Edward Bowen (scholar 1915-22) to Kathleen Minns.

On July 29th, at Northfield, Eric Nicklin (scholar 1915-19) to Suzanne Newbold.

On September 16th, at Great Alne, R. H. Falkiner to Margaret Anne Spencer (scholar 1921-24).

On September 28th, at Studley, Arthur John Rook (scholar 1923-24) to Mildred G. Blundell.

On October 7th, at Salford Priors, James Freeman Gummow to Elizabeth Gertrude Lane (scholar 1918-27).

On November 6th, at Alcester, William John Shorey to Ellen Elizabeth Derrick (scholar 1918-25).

We have Electric Light Installed.

Bang! Crash! Bang! These are the sounds that greeted our ears on our first return to that beloved place—school. What is the first thing that ought to greet your eyes on this joyous occasion? The cloak-room, surely, with its air of delighted welcome; or, perhaps, the inviting rows of hockey sticks. But no! the first thing that I saw was a long ladder with some blue overalls at the top! I gazed and gazed, and suddenly, to my surprise, the blue overalls began to move; I saw some boots, a hammer, then an arm, and finally a face—it was a man! Completely mystified, I crept into the cloak room and silently pointed to the

individual whose feet could just be seen apparently suspended in space above the door. A kind friend whispered in my ear the cause of this strange occurrence—the Electric Light was being installed!

I think that there cannot be any more terrible ordeal than that of having electricians at work in a large building. From morning till evening a ceaseless hammering drums in our ears. Strange forms, rendered grotesque by the ground glass, glide silently past the door; subdued crashes echo and re-echo through the silent corridors. The other morning, as we were laboriously conning a most difficult but nevertheless important geometry proof, our Herculean labours were interrupted by a sudden stream of sawdust, falling, apparently from the sky, upon the desk and books of an absorbed pupil! All eyes were immediately directed upwards, and to everyone's astonishment a round black patch appeared on our otherwise spotless ceiling. For some time our studies had been slightly interrupted by mysterious scuffling overhead, and queer thuds had been heard coming from regions unknown above our heads; from time to time strange voices had been heard demanding various tools in stern manly tones.

But the speed at which the work was done was really remarkable. Long black pipes appeared as if by magic in all corners of the room; switches grew like mushrooms round every door, while ends of wires protruded like whiskers from every conceivable point. But what does this passing discomfort matter when compared with the lasting comfort that electric light will bring? No longer will lessons have to be stopped on account of the dark afternoons; no longer will anyone be forced to creep "à tâtons" up the stairs after a hockey match. There will be no need now for the taper on the end of a stick—a switch will control everything.

But one day—a dreadful day—the crashing and bumping seemed to reach its climax. Hammers thundered, ladders fell, iron gates seemed ceaselessly to be thrown down the stairs, voices called, plaster fell on to people's heads, and judging from the noise, someone seemed to be hurling cart loads of coal into a huge tin receptacle! Being superstitious, I spent my time during break in continually crossing and re-crossing my fingers, for where ever you went you either had to slip stealthily round the end of a ladder or creep cautiously underneath it, and you were always in dire

peril of getting in the way of some falling nut or bolt. For one hectic day a pneumatic drill drilled ceaselessly and with great determination into the wall of Form I classroom, and the occupants were practically forced to desist for a while from their arduous task of plasticine modelling and turn to some that required less consideration—such as dominoes. One brave man stretched himself like a pair of compasses across the stairs high up above everyone's heads, and with seeming ease proceeded to do wonderful things with a wire and a pair of pliers.

Now all is quiet; gone are the ladders, gone the tables spread with generous implements. It is now necessary to watch every step lest you fall into some strange abyss that gapes before you. No longer will your studies be interrupted by falls of sawdust, by thuds, crashes, and creaks. If you stand in the corridor, silence reigns about you. The only sounds that you will hear are the dim murmurings of some class reciting French poetry, or the "pad-pad" of marching feet in the hall. All is still; but not for long. A bell rings; the murmuring ceases; doors fly open and crowds of scholars, great and small, stream out to enjoy a few minutes' respite from their beloved lessons. Perhaps some day when we, as Old Scholars, return to school once more, we shall remember the chaos and confusion that accompanied the installation of the electric light.

R. E. W. S.

Notes and News.

The Head Boy this year is again Baylis i; the new Head Girl is J. Lane.

Two new prefects have been appointed this term. They are L. Harris and J. Jackson.

In addition to these, Perrott i, Baylis ii, Warner, B. Clarke and M. Bryan have been appointed Junior prefects.

This year's Sides captains are:—*Brownies*, Baylis ii, B. Clark (arts and crafts), W. Wright (sports); *Jackals*, Bailey, J. Jackson; *Tomtits*, Baylis ii, J. Lane (arts and crafts), M. Bryan (sports).

The Football captain is Bailey, the Hockey captain W. Wright.

Half term was Monday, November 6th.

The annual presentations were made at the closing ceremony last term. The cricket bat (the gift of Mr. S. Stone), awarded for merit was presented to Hodgkinson; the cricket bat (the gift of Mr. A. Baylis), awarded for improvement, to Richards; and the tennis racket (the gift of Mrs. Wells) to I. Tombs.

Colours have been awarded as follows:—Cricket, to Richards and Savage; tennis, to M. Skinner and W. Wright; hockey, to M. Bryan and M. Sisam.

The Gold Medal for tennis was won by W. Wright, and the Silver Medal by M. Skinner.

Congratulations to P. Carratt, who has been awarded by the Warwickshire C.C. a scholarship for Domestic Science for three years.

During the greater part of the term, the electricians have been busy with the installation of electric light in the school buildings. Their work, however, is still unfinished.

The school is now on the telephone, the number being Alcester 94.

Mr. S. F. Bates, who is the Music Master at Warwick School, visits us each Thursday to give pianoforte and violin lessons.

Mr. Jones has been succeeded as visiting Woodwork Master by Mr. J. Moizer.

We are sorry that Mrs. W. Walker, our visiting Cooking and Needlework Mistress since 1929, is leaving us at the end of the present term.

Dancing classes have been revived this term. Three classes are being held during Friday afternoons and evenings, and are conducted by Miss B. Carey.

The dining room has been re-seated and re-arranged, with the object of accommodating a larger number of diners. There is now only a very small overflow to the hall.

Various alterations have been effected in the timetable this term, the most noteworthy, perhaps, being the change of the Scout period from Friday to Thursday, and the arrangement of two short periods at the beginning of Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

One very familiar figure has been no more to be seen on our premises this term. The elm tree, which has afforded shade to so many classes during the summer months, was considered unsafe and was consequently felled during the summer holidays.

On December 13th, a concert of vocal and instrumental music is being given in the Alcester Picture House by boys of Warwick School, under the direction of Mr. S. F. Bates.

Miss Fletcher, who left us in 1929, was awarded a Walter Hines Page Scholarship, entitling her to visit America during the summer of 1933. She has recently been appointed lecturer in Education at Goldsmith's College, London, a position which she takes up in January.

New Ideas.

So much has been said lately of the necessity of keeping up to date, that the daring suggestion has even reached the Magazine Committee that we are behind the times and that the Record is old-fashioned and deadly dull. Something bigger, brighter and better is needed—or is it cheerier, chattier and cheaper?—do away with the monotonous repetition that has become so stereotyped; infuse its pages with new ideas, new arrangements, new everything. With all respect to the Editor, they say, we look for a more modern magazine. In an endeavour to start the fashion I propose, in my usual manner, to examine the question in a spirit of enlightened criticism and devastating witticism.

First of all, we show our learning—*quae quibus anterferam*, which, for the sake of the worthies who have

never met our Editor, simply means, how shall I begin?—a very necessary problem. I know. We want a Record, reminiscent of the Carnival Magazine. We want jokes, pictures, snappy articles and snippy advertisements. Ignoring cries of "hear! hear!" punctuated by rather less encouraging remarks, I proceed to imagine the future of the Alcester Grammar School Charivari, with apologies to "Punch," "Comic Cuts" and "The Daily Express."

The cover will be gaily decorated in red and black, designed by the modern school cubist with a prize of a term's exemption from detention for the first to discover what it represents. The title page will bear in big print the words, "Stupendous, Amazing, Marvellous," and in smaller type, "Try Beacham's Soap in your afternoon tea and see for yourselves." In still smaller print we shall find the words which admit of no altering "Alcester Grammar School Record," but also "a record of deeds done and sayings said; under entirely new management; copyright reserved." Delightful little caricatures of the Editor and Committee, strangely similar to the works of Strube and Tom Webster, will adorn each corner. The Editor will make his introductory remarks, making full use of exclamation marks, big print and blots—a very modern effect. He will put forth in clear words the aim of the periodical: (remember that I am not expecting to be the editor) "Fellow Grammarians, old fellows and young fags—are we downhearted? Echo answers—unless he's gone to take refreshment—not half! In an endeavour to prevent the nation from dwelling on the topic of war and private armament firms—no 'arm meant—we are offering to the muses a Magazine which will keep the staff from the fire and tobacco smoke, the old boys from the 'dole' and the children—bless their hearts!—from homework and Redditch pictures," and so forth. You can imagine the rest—even though I can't myself.

Next come the notes and news, births and deaths, marriages and assassinations—in rather brighter style: As witness "The head boy this year is that ass —; we look to him to do all the donkey work, to use plenty of horse-sense, and not to regard all those under him as mules." Again "The electricians have started to wire the School; we expect them to finish by the Greek kalends or the day when Hitler presents the prizes in a new Alcester Picture House." "Wit and wisdom the

School over" will strike the eye on the next page. I imagine the following—hoping that you've never seen it before—"Cromwell's Parliament was called the South Sea Bubble because he said about it, 'Take away that bubble.'"

Now to proceed to the serious work! The main article in the first number will be "Do we want homework?" by Leisure Hours, suitably treated in a highly dramatic manner. Need we say more? Minor articles will include "Does football need a goalkeeper?" by Peter Hibbs; "The art of forgetting books," by William Lane; "Should the boys have sailor suits?" by Nice Girl; "The value of mathematics," a discussion—authors unknown. The political page will include peeps into the notebook of the modern Pepys, and a discussion on the merits of propaganda in schools. The sections on competitions will probably include something similar to the classical problem: "If it takes an elephant two days to turn a double-somersault through the eye of a needle, how many beans make five?" Nothing so old-fashioned as prizes will be awarded, but solutions will be published in the next issue with the name, if desired, of the wonderul mathematician.

"What's that, Mr. Editor? I've filled nearly all the space allotted to me." Why, dash it all (ahem!) I mean, Sir, this is a modern magazine. I am about to discourse on the beauties of the advertisements and cartoons which will adorn the pages of your Record. I am sure that you will agree that the magazine I have delineated in the barest of outlines will satisfy the cravings even of the modernists of the next generation. No one can charge us with being old-fashioned, and we in turn can charge everyone an extremely modern price to pay for the expenses of printing such an ambitious literary contribution. I have planned a system by which every page will contain a laugh, a throb and a sob, the advertisements will be as discreet as modernity permits, the cartoons will be quite original, the articles will be perfectly readable—Is this a specimen? Well it is rather good modern style . . . What? If that's the case you're glad you are old-fashioned? Very well then, I will also be old-fashioned. This article will not be continued in the next issue.

Editor—it certainly will not.

"COMMITTEE MEMBER."

The Autumn Fairy.

The Autumn Fairy sat in state
On a throne of yellow leaves;
Scarlet berries entwined her brow,
She gazed o'er golden sheaves.

Her loyal subjects round her stood,
Awaiting her command,
Arrayed in russet and amber suits,
With a wand in every hand.

Then forth they sped on every side,
Through all the pleasant land,
They touched the hedgerows far and wide,
A happy Autumn band.

The apples ripened at their touch;
The peaches plumper grew;
The farmers, from the far off fields,
Their harvest homeward drew.

The elves sent swallows far away
To lands beyond the sea:
They raised a mist from pool and stream,
And spread it o'er the lea.

They lulled the tired bees to sleep,
They shook the brown nuts down;
Then drew the blinds and lit the lamp
To banish Winter's frown.

D. A. P.

Plum Pudding and Postman's Knock.

By preparing material for another Magazine, one is reminded that another school-term is drawing to a close and that Christmas is approaching. Christmas is approaching—this makes one think of many things. To some people it brings pleasant thoughts, to others, the reverse. Some think of having to pay Income Tax after Christmas, and of the injustice with which they are assessed. Or perhaps they think of the year which they have had with poor crops and low payments. Above all they think of the very small amount which they can afford to spend this Christmas. At this thought there are many grumblings and long faces. But, for my part,

I console myself with the belief that all will turn out well in the end, and that we shall not really have to eat mutton and suet pudding for dinner on Christmas day. At any rate it is best not to dwell on the pessimist's view of Christmas, as most people have far more pleasant thoughts than these.

To some may come the thought of wintry weather—real wintry, Christmassy weather—with bare trees and hedges covered thickly with snow, frosty spangles on deserted roadways, walls hoary with the morning rime, crisp, frosty air under a cold, clear blue sky, and the noises of skates on the frozen lake.

Others may dream of Christmas parties, of rooms, brightly decorated with red-berried holly, ivies, mistletoe, coloured paper, ornaments and balloons; of Christmas trees laden with presents, of crackers of many colours, of dances and of games of postman's knock. These are the dreams which perhaps most usually come to younger people, but I believe that older ones think of and delight in these things too.

Many folks, remembering that Christmas is approaching, think first of the task of buying presents to suit the various tastes, the usual result being, of course, that they buy presents to suit no-one. Aunt Maud can find no use for that electric iron, because she has not yet had the electricity installed. Those bedroom slippers do not fit Uncle James. Mrs. Brown already has four umbrellas. Even cousin Louis does not like chocolates. Others, viewing many brilliantly lighted shop-windows, containing hundreds of articles, which they would like, think of the presents which they hope to receive—that customary pound note from Uncle John, either a box of chocolates or a tin of biscuits from Mrs. Jones, and that "something useful" from Aunt Madge—probably a pair of woollen gloves or a dictionary—at any rate, something which will never be used.

Concerning Christmas all these people have different thoughts, but my first thought is quite different—it concerns mince-pies and turkey. I think of plum pudding with a pretty sprig of holly to crown it. I think of hot mince-pies and iced cakes. But as these things float through my mind, I suddenly remember that no mince-meat or plum puddings have yet been made. Perhaps, however, I shall have the good fortune of being allowed to help to make them. You may think from this that I

am very kind, being so willing to help with the cooking. But I will tell you the secret. Cherries, sultanas and almonds are exceptionally good, and one can usually manage to get a few when no-body is looking. And, of course, if one is in the kitchen when mince-pies come out of the oven, there is a much greater chance of being given one or two. These are far more tasty when eaten steaming hot, straight from the oven, and well worth the task of helping to cook.

Such are the first thoughts which I believe different people have of Christmas. And of all of them I am sure that mine are by far the most enjoyable.

L.A.H.

Olla Podrida.

"Winston Churchill is the ancestor of Marlborough." Perhaps P.W.W. hopes to take part in the battle of Blenheim next year.

H.B.M. tells us that a calorimeter has cotton-wool round it to keep it warm. We conclude that our Science Master puts a hot-water bottle for it at night.

How does M.J. draw a figure which looks like a circle but is not one?

M.S. informs us that strawberries are found in Cheddar caves. Eat more fruit, and become a cave-man.

Dido auras aegra fugit = Dido, sick at heart, was chasing the breezes, says K. B. Ll. B. Violent exercise is often a good remedy.

Some of us at least take our scouting seriously. F.S. recently brought a pound of sausages to cook for his lunch.

"He rode on a mare in a sleeveless coat," says M.R. In Chaucer's time, apparently, horses had to be in the fashion.

"Our gracious empress," remarks B.C., is the Pope.

Oxford Local Examinations.

All candidates entered by the school for the Oxford Examinations held last July were successful. The results were:—

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (Modern Studies).

C. H. Baylis (distinctions in English and History),
B. Greenhill, M. Hicks, J. Lane.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

HONOURS—*G. T. Colegate (distinctions in English, French, Geography and History), *I. B. Perrott, *W. E. Savage, *F. J. H. Jackson (distinction in English).

PASS—K. B. Ll. Bailey, D. C. Baylis, J. E. Chambers, *B. Hodgkinson, G. Steele, S. C. Styler, P. W. Warner, M. M. Duxbury, L. A. Harris.

*Qualified to claim exemption from London
Matriculation.

The Scout Rally.

On Thursday evening, August 3rd, a Scout Rally was held on the School Field, the 1st Alcester, the Studley, and our own Scout troops, and the Alcester Cubs gathering together for sports and Scouting displays before a number of parents and friends. The athletic events were keenly contested by juniors and seniors alike, in spite of the warm weather and the 'Scout uniform; points were awarded to individuals only, so that our own superiority in numbers gave no advantage. The obstacle, dressing race and high jump were rendered quite amusing by the antics of certain competitors, while the verbal message relay produced many striking results. The cup, presented by the District Association, was won by Styler, with Bailey as runner-up. At about 8.15 p.m. there was an excellent exhibition of Scout work. We gained considerable praise for a signalling display in morse and semaphore; the Alcester troops satisfied Dr. Spencer by their ambulance work, and the Cubs deservedly won applause for their jungle dances. Two members of the Alcester Scouts also gave a clever display of rope-spinning, but the Studley troop, unfortunately, were unable to prepare anything. All the Scouts and Cubs then marched past Mr. Walker, the District Commissioner, who took the salute. Lady

Throckmorton presented the cup, and expressed the wish, which we heartily echo, that the rally will in future be a yearly event, to promote the spirit of goodwill and fellowship among the Scouts of the district.

C. H. B.

Commemoration Day.

On July 13th, 1933, the Grammar School celebrated the 21st anniversary of its foundation in 1912, and combined with this, though very regretfully an affectionate farewell to our headmaster, Mr. Wells, who had been with us since the beginning, and had done so much for the success of the School.

A special commemoration service in Alcester Church, to which all friends and Old Scholars of the School were invited, was privileged by the presence of the Ven. J. W. Hunkin, D.D., M.C., Archdeacon of Coventry, who gave an address. Three hymns, specially chosen for the day, were sung, "Come Thou Holy Spirit, come," "The God of love my shepherd is," and "Now thank we all our God." Finally, the School was rededicated to God in a prayer, which was recited by the Scholars, standing, while the rest of the congregation remained on their knees.

After the service there was tea at the School for scholars and visitors. In the hall needlework and historical models, the work of past and present scholars for successive Sports Days, was displayed, and Art exhibitions were put up for general inspection in the Art room. After tea a physical training display was given by the boys and girls of the school upon the games field.

The events of the day were finally concluded by a gathering on the Girls' playground. Mr. Wells made a striking speech, thanking both present scholars and those old scholars who were among the throng of visitors for their support given to him during his period of headmastership, and he urged all members of the School to keep up the tradition built up gradually during those twenty-one years. Following closely upon his speech the whole gathering sang "Forty years on." Then, with the singing of "God Save the King," the day of Commemoration closed.

J. L.

The Reference Library.

The following books have been added to the Reference Library:—"Dryden's Poetical Works," "Emma" (J. Austen), "The Mercury Book," "Stories from the Faerie Queene," "Plutarch's Lives" (3 vols.), "Reynard, the Fox," "Essays" (Emerson), "L'ancien Régime," "Gesta Francorum," "Travels in France" (A. Young), "Abraham Lincoln" (Whitlock), "Political History of the United Kingdom" (2 vols.) (Goldwin-Smith), "Past and Present," "French Revolution" (3 vols.) (Carlyle), "Frederick the Great" (10 vols.) (Carlyle), "The Church in the Roman Empire" (Ramsay), "John Bright" (O'Brien), "John Bright" (Trevelyan), "Greek Literature" (Jevons), "Essays" (Macaulay) — all presented by Mr. Wells.

"Mozart" (Prout), "Beethoven" (Shedlock), "Growth of Music," vols. 1-3 (Colles)—presented by Miss Wells.

"Handbook to the University of Oxford"—presented by Gwynne Jones.

"Forsyte Saga" and "A Modern Comedy" (Galsworthy)—presented by the 1932-33 Upper VI.

"George Cadbury" (Gardiner), "Co-operation" (Enfield), "Local Government for Beginners" (Cole), "Alcester G. S. Record, 1927-31," "History of France" (Latimer), "Patriots of the 19th Century" (Malcolm Smith), "Student's France" (Griffith and Jervis), "Modern Europe" (Lodge and Horn), "Government of the British Empire" (Jenks), "Hampden" (Williamson), "What Everybody wants to know about Money" (Cole), "Introduction to Advanced Heat" (Hart), "Practical Physics" (Allen and Moore), "British Isles" (Stamp and Beaver), "Home of Mankind" (Van Loon), "Geography in School" (Fairgrieve).

Cricket.

Played	won	lost	drawn
9	3	4	2

The following boys represented the school this season:—Baylis i (capt.), Bailey, Warner, Hodgkinson, Styler, Keniston, Savage i, Richards, Baylis ii, Yates, Ledbury, Hewlett i, Luker, Sherwood i.

Hockey.

Captain—W. Wright. Secretary—J. Jackson.

Committee—B. Clarke, J. Lane, M. Bryan.

Both the First XI. and the Second XI. have lost several members since last season. All the time available has to be devoted to steady practice, and in consequence the tests connected with the Hockey Divisions have had to be dropped.

So far this term the First XI. have played only four matches. for the fixture with Bromsgrove—the first of the season—unfortunately had to be postponed owing to bad weather. Of those played, two matches have been won and two lost, while two matches remain still to be played. The Fourth Forms have had their usual match against the Alcester C. of E. School, which they won 2—0.

Two Second XI fixtures have been arranged for the latter part of the term.

The Sides matches, which have all been played, resulted as follows:—Brownies 7, Jackals 1; Jackals 4, Tomtits 1; Brownies 8, Tomtits 0.

The results of School matches are as follows:—

1st XI. v. Redditch C.H.S. (home), won 15—0.

v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), lost 1—5.

v. Studley Ladies (away), won 6—2.

v. Pershore Ladies (home), lost 1—8.

IVth Form v. Alcester C. of E. School (home), won 2—0.

F. J. H. J.

Debating Society.

COMMITTEE—Miss Evans, J. Lane, Baylis i, Sherwood, R. Spencer, Styler, Wheeler.

The society has held one debate this term. This took place on November 24th, when the motion that "We are firmly convinced that the present system of education is lop-sided, and is producing a generation that does not know how to live," was debated. The motion was proposed by Sherwood, and seconded by Warner, Baylis i leading the opposition. The subject was debated with vigour on both sides, and several quite clever and amusing speeches were heard. The opposition provided the better arguments and secured the rejection of the motion by 31 votes to 18.

C.H.B.

Stamp Club.

SECRETARY—Bailey.

Owing to the short time at our disposal in the dinner hour, the Stamp Club has not been able to hold its usual meetings at present this term. However, it is being arranged for these meetings to be resumed at an early date.

The Gibbons Stamp Monthly continues to circulate amongst the members of the Club.

K. B. Ll. B.

Football.

CAPTAIN—Bailey.

SECRETARY—Baylis ii.

The football XI this year has lost many of its stalwarts, with the result that two or three members of the team are not quite as efficient as they might be. This, we fear, is keeping the school from attaining the standard we so much desire, in spite of the fact that the more experienced members are holding the team together very well. Taking the games as a whole, the school has done quite well, and has recovered from a bad start. Bromsgrove were much too strong for us, but we were decidedly unlucky to be beaten at Evesham. We also did well against two grown-up teams—Evesham Co-op. Employees and the Astwood Bank Church XI. But we are sadly in need of talent from Lower Five, as we are unable to find any reliable substitutes for absentees. Three matches are still to be played this term.

The results of the sides matches were as follows:—
Tomtits 4, Brownies 1; Jackals 5, Brownies 3; Tomtits 7, Jackals 4.

First XI results to date:—

- v. Bromsgrove County High School (away) lost 0—11.
 - v. King's Norton S.S. (home), lost 2—4.
 - v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), lost 2—4.
 - v. Redditch C.H.S. (home), won 2—0.
 - v. Evesham Co-op. Employees (home), drawn 4—4.
 - v. Astwood Bank Church XI (home), won 2—0.
 - v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home), won 1—0.
- Other match:—Scouts beat non-Scouts, 7—3.

Scouts.

Scout meetings are now held on Thursdays in the bottom hut, which we have turned into an excellent Scout Room, and which can also be used in the dinner hour. Games of many kinds are provided, and a table tennis tournament is being played. The new boys this term were quickly sworn in as they obtained their Tenderfoot badge, and we are making a determined effort to turn all into second-class Scouts before Christmas. Tests are rapidly taking place in signalling, ambulance, compass work and Scout mile. One journey was also made in the countryside as an observation tour, but this was unfortunately marred by the bitterly cold weather. We all now have the same coloured scarf, and as many of the leaders had left, new patrols have been chosen.

Flute practice, under the direction of Baylis I and Bailey, is also being held. Several boys are showing greater keenness, and should be quite capable of playing in the band next term. Carol-singing practice has also begun, and a party of Scouts, who have gained such praise in the past, will again be visiting parents and friends this Christmas. As usual, Great Alne and Haselcor will be visited on December 23rd, Alcester on Christmas Eve, and Bidford, Salford and district on Christmas night.

P. L. EAGLES.

For the Juniors.

The Fairy.

Once upon a time there lived a most beautiful fairy, and her name was Rosebud. Always she wore a lovely satin dress with rosebuds all round it and little pinky-coloured stockings, and pinky shoes with little sparkles on them. Besides, everywhere she went, she carried a little wand, with a sparkle at the end of that. One day, however, when she was walking down the lane, a little boy passed her. He was looking very sad. Little Rosebud tapped him on his shoulder and said, "Why are you

looking so sad." "I am looking sad because I went home to look for my mother and I can't find her." "Oh, is that all," said little Rosebud, "that is easy to put right," and she took up her little wand and touched the little boy with it.

At once he was in his little home with his father and mother.

B. BAYLIS (7 years),
Form I.

The Old Dame and the Good Elves.

(A story from Pictures).

There was once an old dame, who lived in the middle of a wood in a little old house. And her house had ivy round it and she had little blue curtains and some lovely holyhocks in the garden. And the old woman was very, very bent and her fingers were wrinkled.

One night, while she was sweeping the rooms, she said to herself, "I am too tired to do this work." So she locked the door, said her prayers, and went to bed.

The clocky struck twelve, and in through the kitchen window jumped two little elves. They wore red tunics, green coats, and green pointed caps. They skipped up to the cupboard, got out the duster and broom, and started to work.

Soon the work was done, and next morning when the woman came down she was very surprised at this.

Next night she left a jug of milk and a plate of buns, and so it went on, as long as she lived.

S. JENKINS (Form I.) aged 8 years.