

The

Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.



School Record

December, 1934

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 49

DECEMBER, 1934

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER

COMMITTEE—

L. HARRIS, D. HUNT, LEDBURY, PARSONS.

School Register.

Valets

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| *Baylis, C.H. (VI.), 1926-34. | Smith, E. L. (Low. V.), 1931-34. |
| *Lane, J. (VI.), 1923-34. | Collett, R. G. (Upp. IV.), 1931-34. |
| *Clark, B.I. (Upp. V.), 1927-34 | Foster, W. H. (Upp. IV.), 1930-34. |
| Wright, W. (Upp. V.), 1926-34. | Hill, H. J. (Upp. IV.), 1930-34. |
| Bomford, R. (Low. V.), 1927-34. | Savage, R. G. (Upp. IV.), 1932-34. |
| Goulbourne, C. D. (Low. V.), 1927-34 | Collett, G. O. (iii.), 1931-34. |

*Prefect

Salvets

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arnold, R. H. (iii). | O'Neal, J. A. (Low V.). |
| Aspinwall, E. A. (iii). | Peel, S. M. (iii). |
| Aspinwall, G. B. (Rem.) | Quiney, L. M. (Rem.). |
| Aspinwall, E. J. (i). | Salt, G. D. (iii). |
| Battersea, E. J. (iii.). | Slaughter, B. M. (iii). |
| Blundell, G. G. (iii). | Snow, W. S. (Rem.). |
| Bullock, D. (iii). | Stevens, S. A. (iii). |
| Cale, P. E. (iii). | Stevens, G. L. (Rem.). |
| Cotton, M. A. (i). | Stevens, V. M. (i). |
| Gaydon, A. H. (i). | Styler, R. G. T. (iii). |
| Horton, F. R. (iii). | Swift, G. H. (iii). |
| Horseman, P. (Low. IV.). | Taylor, W. M. (iii). |
| Horseman, D. (iii). | de Whalley, A. J. (i). |
| Ligat, H. L. P. (iii). | Whitehouse, J. R. (iii). |
| Nall, M. M. (iii). | Williams, M. (Low. V.). |
| Naylor, P. S. (i). | Yapp, J. P. (iii). |

Old Scholars' Guild News.

PRESIDENT—E. A. FINNEMORE.

SECRETARY—S. STYLER.

TREASURER—R. SMITH.

The Summer Reunion of the Guild took place at School on Saturday, July 28th, when, during the afternoon and evening, some ninety old scholars attended. There were also present Mr. and Mrs. Caton and Mr. and Mrs. Wells. The afternoon was devoted to outdoor games, the chief feature being an American Tennis Tournament, in which sixteen pairs participated. The tournament was arranged in two sections, and in the final match M. Sisam and F. Bunting defeated R. Smith and B. Wells. For those who did not wish to play tennis, the opportunity was provided of playing croquet and clock golf. After the completion of the outdoor games there was dancing in the hall until midnight, when the Reunion closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

At the tea interval the business meeting was held for the election of officers for the year 1934-35. The following appointments were made:—President, E. A. Finnemore; Secretary, S. Styler; Treasurer, R. Smith; new members of Committee, M. Baylis, B. Oliver, C. Corbett; Sports Captains, K. Bailey and R. Bunting.

Congratulations to E. L. L. Earp (scholar 1915-27) who has obtained the A.M.I.C.E.

And to A. Hudson (scholar 1922-31) who has gained the Board of Education Teacher's Certificate.

The Winter Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, December 15th. A football match with the School XI. is arranged for that afternoon, and the evening programme is as usual.

A hockey match with the School will be played on Friday, December 14th.

A dance will be held in the Town Hall on Monday, December 31st, from 8.30 till 1.0. Tickets are 2s. 6d.

An attempt is being made to run an Old Boys' Football XI. Several fixtures have already been arranged, and, should the project prove successful, the scheme will be extensively developed next season. Will old scholars who are willing to turn out when required immediately communicate with either the Captain, K. Bailey, or the Guild secretary.

Here is some news of Old Scholars at Oxford. D. Gwynne-Jones (scholar 1925-32) is secretary of the Oxford University Archaeological Society, of the Keble College Debating Society, and of the Keble College Centrals (College Finance Board).

M. Browning (scholar 1926-32) is Deputy Librarian of the Oxford University Labour Club.

C. H. Baylis (scholar 1926-34) has in his first term played in the Keble College Association Football Club's 1st XI.

Birth.

On August 2nd, to Mr. and Mrs. Alleley (née G. Bishop, scholar 1920-26)—a son.

Marriages.

On July 21st, at Alcester, Harold Thomas (scholar 1912-15) to Winifred Edith Andrews (scholar 1913-17).

On July 28th, L. F. Clift to Kate Berry Wilesmith (scholar 1912-22).

On August 6th, at Shottery, Eric Bunting (scholar 1912-20) to Evelyn Mary Norman.

On August 13th, at Alcester, Leslie Thomas Daw to A. Mary Sheppard (scholar 1918-30).

On September 6th, at Wixford, Frederick Bunting (scholar 1913-24) to Winifred Mary Sisam (scholar 1915-24).

On September 6th, at Moseley, Edward F. Adkins (scholar 1913-18) to Kathleen Young.

On September 11th, at Bidford, William J. W. Canning (scholar 1919-23) to W. Goddard.

On October 9th, at Alcester, Archibald John Lindo Ferguson to Annie Meryl Thomas (scholar 1924-25).

On October 22nd, at Blackpool, Robert H. Buggins (scholar 1917-25) to Edith Hayward.

A Lament.

Noise! Noise, and again Noise! Everywhere you go the air is filled with murmurs which, at every conceivable opportunity, swell into an uproarious clamour.

From 8.45 in the morning, till the last belated scholar leaves the building, your ears are ceaselessly bombarded with a medley of noises. Even when you seek the privacy of an empty class room the sound of wooden stools being dragged protestingly across a polished floor, grates upon your ears while, from under the window, comes the monotonous, metallic buzzing of the lawn mower. In desperation you betake yourself to the cloak-room, where a temporary refuge is found.

Suddenly, however, a bell clangs lustily; doors are thrown open; desk lids bang down; the clatter of many feet hurrying down the corridor is heard while, above all, rises a relentless wave of eager conversation. Excited voices proclaim that they cannot find their books; that they have not done their homework or that books have been left at home. Files of boys and girls pour out of doors or down the staircase into the corridor. Slowly the noise subsides, but alas, it is only the calm before the storm, for, with the pealing of the same bell about 40 minutes later, the clamour is renewed with added vigour.

Day after day, week after week, in prayers and in line the noise never seems to cease. Harassed prefects, with unflagging energy, try to create a little order out of chaos but, worst of all, is the commotion which, three times per day, is to be heard issuing from both cloakrooms. In the middle of the morning the cloakroom is invaded by hordes of shouting and gesticulating pupils. Subdued mutters burst, every few minutes, into a tornado of eager shouting, while every now and then a

voice, pitched slightly higher than the others, is heard, high above the din, complaining that someone has taken away their gym-shoes. Sometimes a few more sober minded people, in a vain endeavour to discuss the topics of the day in more modulated tones, gather together in a group, but the rest of the community seem to combine in spoiling their amusement

“ By drowning their speaking
With shrieking and squeaking
In fifty different sharps and flats.”

If, perhaps, those thoughtless, but well-meaning, disturbers of the peace, could realise what a plague they are to the rest of the community, there would be fewer nervous breakdowns in schools than there are to-day.

Oh for a Silence Zone!

‘ LES MISERABLES.’

Notes and News.

The head boy this year is Sherwood, and the head girl is Joyce Jackson.

The prefects are J. Jackson, L. Harris, M. Bryan, Sherwood, Ledbury, Perrott i., Warner. The junior prefects are K. Collins, M. Jones, M. Rowles, R. Spencer, M. Tombs, Bayne and Richards.

The football captain is Warner, and the hockey captain M. Bryan.

Sides captains are as follows:— *Brownies*, M. Sisam and Richards; *Jackals*, J. Jackson and Hewlett i.; *Tomtits*, M. Bryan and Warner.

J. Lane was awarded a State Scholarship on the result of her Higher School Certificate Examination.

To mark this success, the School was given an extra half day's holiday at half term at the week-end, November 2nd to 5th.

At the assembly at the close of last term a number of presentations were made by Mr. Caton.

Drawing certificates were presented to the winners in the junior divisions.

The tennis racket (the gift of Mrs. Caton) was awarded to K. Collins.

The cricket bat (the annual gift of Mr. A. Baylis) was awarded to Grubb.

The other cricket bat (given each year by Mr. S. Stone) was awarded to Baylis ii.

A pair of batting gloves, given by Mr. Cooke, was presented to Warner.

The medals for tennis were presented to the winners in the tournament, the gold medal to W. Wright, the silver medal to M. Sisam.

The sports gold medal was handed to Warner.

Hewlett ii. received his cricket colours.

Mr. Caton made a personal gift of books to Baylis i. and J. Lane, in appreciation of their work as head boy and head girl.

The assembly closed with the singing of "Forty Years On."

There have been a number of lectures at School this term, beginning with one on Thursday, October 11th, on the subject of "Vocational Psychology," by a member of the staff of the Institute of Industrial Psychology.

On Friday, October 12th, a recital of Works of Bach and Handel was given to the Musical Society by Mr. and Mrs. L. Bennett.

On Monday, October 15th, Mr. Rowntree gave a lecture on "Animal Camouflage," illustrated by some excellent lantern slides.

On Thursday, November 8th, Mr. Bates entertained the Musical Society with a talk, illustrated on the piano, on "The Development of Pianoforte Music."

On Friday, November 9th, a lecture was given to the Scout Troop on "Methods of Life Saving." Non-scouts were also invited to the lecture, and, as the afternoon was very wet, the girls also attended.

A collection taken for the fund for the relief of sufferers from the Gresford Colliery disaster realised £4 1s. 2d.

Baylis i. and Warner attended the Warwickshire Public Schools County Trial games at Edgbaston during the summer holidays.

J. Jackson has now the distinction of holding a certificate in every division of the Royal Drawing Society's Examination. M. Sisam achieved the same distinction earlier this year.

We regret that through an oversight on the part of the writer of the report on Sports Day last term, no mention was made of the Girls' gymnastic display and the dancing display, which took place on the School field at the conclusion of the boys' sports and before the presentation of medals.

The School was given a whole day's holiday on Thursday November 29th, on the occasion of the wedding of the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina.

Tobacco Planting in New Zealand.

Although tobacco has been grown in New Zealand for about 15 years it is only during the last five years that the industry has taken on serious proportions. After numerous experiments it has been found that only two comparatively small districts in the whole country can grow leaf which is suitable for manufacture. Both districts are in Nelson Province, one being Riwaka and the other Dovedale. We happened to settle in the latter just prior to the development of the tobacco industry. Now several companies are operating, some requiring air dried and some kiln dried leaf. Amongst the latter are the well-known firm of W. D. and H. O. Wills, with whom we have a contract.

Tobacco is a tropical plant, but can be grown in a much cooler climate ; in fact, at certain stages in its growth it will stand light frost, but under favourable conditions is one of the most rapidly growing plants known. The seed, which is particularly minute, a teaspoonful being sufficient to plant 5 acres, is sown in boxes and placed either under oiled calico or in a glass house. During the early stages the growth of all the numerous varieties is slow, some taking a fortnight to germinate. In approximately two months the seedlings which now have four leaves, the two longest being the size of a threepenny piece, are ready for pricking out into beds which are covered with fine calico. Constant attention and frequent watering are necessary. In six weeks the plants are about six inches high and are not unlike cabbage plants in appearance ; they are then planted out into the fields two feet apart, the rows being three and a half feet apart. Although machines have been tried they have been found unsatisfactory, and planting is done by hand. As it is essential to obtain an even crop, planting is as rapid as possible, our own 8 acres usually taking about four days, ten people being employed. There are approximately seven thousand five hundred plants to an acre.

Planting is done during the first week in November, and as the weather is usually very hot and dry shortly after, continual hoeing both by horse and hand is necessary to retain the moisture. Once the rooting system is established growth is very rapid, plants often growing inches a day under favourable conditions. By Christmas they are about three feet high. During the next month the growth is still more rapid, the plant running up to flower and numerous laterals forming ; by the middle of January they are often six feet high. Once the flower bursts, the laterals and tops are broken out leaving the plant about four and a half feet in height, having about fourteen leaves. Leaves naturally vary in size according to soil and variety, the largest we have grown being forty-six inches long and thirty inches wide ; these were unusually large. The process of topping causes the plant to ripen off, and harvesting commences at the beginning of February.

The method of harvesting depends on whether the leaf is to be kiln dried or air dried. The former process is much the more complicated, but the price obtained for leaf is relatively higher. A kiln is a specially constructed building 16 feet by 16 feet by 21 feet, of either concrete or corrugated iron, lined with a type of asbestos and insulated with pumice or earth, and contains seven tiers or racks each holding one hundred sticks of tobacco. The heat is derived from pipes running

from a furnace which is stoked from outside the kiln, a special stoking shed being attached for this purpose. To harvest sufficient leaf to fill a kiln about twenty people are required for eight or ten hours. The stripping of the ripe leaf is an expert's job, the utmost care being necessary as leaves of uneven ripeness will not dry evenly. Usually from one to two leaves, starting from the bottom of the plant, are taken each time; these are conveyed on stretchers to the tying stands where eight girls are employed in tying the leaf on sticks a little over four feet long. About thirty six bundles with three leaves in each go to a stick, a very fine twine being used for tying. From here they are taken and placed in the kiln.

Drying is a most intricate business, requiring constant attention both day and night, expert knowledge being absolutely essential. A steady even heat is the most important factor, a kiln of tobacco valued at about £100 can be completely ruined in a very short time by incorrect temperatures. Two thermometers are suspended on either side of the kiln, an hydrometer also being used in the early stages of colouring; these can be observed by torchlight through tiny windows.

The first process is to colour the leaf; this takes from 36 to 60 hours according to ripeness. The kiln, which is at a temperature of 85°-95° F., must be absolutely airtight to retain the moisture. The leaf gradually turns from a light green to a pale lemon at which stage the colour is fixed by opening up all ventilators and increasing the temperature by 5° an hour until 120 is reached. This is maintained until the leaf is dry, which usually takes twenty-four hours. Then the temperature is again gradually increased. Expert knowledge is particularly necessary now, as fluctuation or a too rapid increase will scorch the leaf. At the end of another twenty-four hours 180° is reached, this temperature being necessary to dry out the mid rib which is very heavy, being one-third the total weight of the dried leaf. Thirty-six hours are usually needed to complete the drying.

When the curing is finished the leaf is steamed down until pliable, then the kiln is unloaded and the sticks of cured leaf, averaging about two pounds, are bulked down in sheds, two bulks being kept as airtight as possible. The whole drying process takes five and a half days, steaming down and unloading being done on the sixth day ready for the next day's harvesting. The harvesting usually lasts for about eight weeks. Each kiln of leaf is bulked and graded separately, as the lower leaves are of more value than the higher. Grading starts a few weeks after harvesting ends, and is a long and

tedious job. The leaf is graded according to texture, colour and size. This means that each kiln has about eight grades apart from leaf completely rejected through damage or discolouration. From ten to twelve leaves are tied together forming what is called a hand. Each grade is kept separately and packed into crates to be sent to the buying sheds which are seventeen miles from us, where it is bought on grade at prices fixed by contract, which vary from 1s. to 3s. 6d. a pound, the average price being 1s. 8d. The cost of production is from ninepence to tenpence a pound, without the initial outlay of £250 for the kiln (£200) and other equipment or ground rent.

The air dried method is much simpler. The plants are cut off close to the ground and hung in pairs on sticks which are placed on racks in sheds. The leaf gradually turns yellow and then a rich brown. When the mid rib is dry, which is in about three months, the leaf is easily broken off the stem and tied in hands. The average price obtained is 1s., the cost of production is considerably lower than with kiln dried leaf, but it is impossible to handle more than a small acreage owing to the amount of space taken by the whole plant.

Although tobacco growing is very profitable on the whole, the plant is very susceptible to changes in the weather, both excess and lack of rain causing blight, and once the plant is ripe even a light frost will completely ruin it. As this district is very close to the mountains we are liable to get any of these conditions at any time. Last season £500,000 of leaf was destroyed by frost in one night in January, which is midsummer. This, of course, was very unusual ; in fact it was the first serious loss since the industry was established.

Tobacco is an extremely interesting thing to grow and handle and taken over a period of years brings in a very good income. During the last few years while the rest of New Zealand in common with all other countries has been suffering badly from the slump, Nelson has been very prosperous. Just now, due to last season's losses and slightly lower contracts owing to the deflation of the American dollar, which makes the price of imported Virginian leaf very low, it is rather less lucrative than usual, but as several more companies are starting to manufacture entirely New Zealand grown tobacco, prospects are very good and there is every indication that the industry has an extremely bright future.

K. S.

Olla Podrida.

"Will you allow a king who has been killed," translates A. S., "to go unpunished?"

A comet, explains M. B., is a small aeroplane. Doubtless she pictured Shakespeare flying from Stratford to London!

N. G., testing for the presence of oxygen, puts a pill into the test tube. Beecham's, we wonder?

S. J. L. tells us that the animal made a noise with its body. As the rattlesnake does, apparently.

Who was it who immediately set on fire, when he touched phosphorous with a hot wire?

Rivers, remarks a Form iii. geography expert, are used not only for watering cattle, but for many things, like milk.

B. I. P. inquires how Caesar is after his many funerals. Obviously "he is dead, but he won't lie down."

November.

November heralds the approach

Of Winter—silent, harsh.

The cruel wind has dashed the leaves

From elm tree, chestnut, lime and larch,

And in brown piles they lie.

The Summer's passed; the Winter's here,

Cold weather's come to stay.

The air is thick with heavy fog.

The sun is red; the sky is grey.

The lonely oak-trees sigh.

Now starlings cluster in the trees.

The cows and horses stand

So silent, patient and so still.

And swallows to a warmer land

O'er ocean swiftly fly.

And I'll not see the harvester,

Come, weary, home on foot,

From gathering pear or blackberry,

Or apple, damson, plum or nut,

Or from the field of rye.

L. A. H.

Air Operating.

In this article I am going to attempt to relate some of my experiences 'upstairs' while wireless operating. Training at the Royal Air Force Electrical and Wireless School to be a wireless operator mechanic, I had reached the stage in my course where one undergoes radio communication in the air.

My first experience was in the "Vic," an old Vickers Victoria bomber-transport twin engine machine, designed to carry twenty-four fully armed troops in addition to the crew. It has been fitted up with radio equipment and serves the purpose of "a schoolroom in the sky," as the Press have termed her. Incidentally, she consumes sixty gallons of petrol in an hour. While the engines were being warmed up, my fellow pupils and I strapped on our parachute harnesses, having received instructions on what measures to take in case of emergency, took our parachutes and hung them in the cabin of the plane. Before long we were bumping across the aerodrome, turned round into the wind and took off. I was watching Cranwell fall away below when I was tapped on the shoulder and told to sit in front of a receiver and tune in to a signal that was continually radiated for the purpose. The tuning was soon done, and I thought I would tune in to some broadcasting as well as admire the scenery below, if any part of Lincolnshire could be called scenery. Unfortunately, there was nothing exciting available, and I switched off the set in disgust. Although there was a five hundred horse power engine on either side of us, the noise was not at all objectionable; in fact, it was very much the same as travelling in a bus. As I was engaged for a large part of the time in tuning in receivers, I don't know where we went, but after a forty minutes 'flip,' we taxied in towards the hangars.

Soon afterwards, I started on three weeks in the aircraft wiring section which includes air operating. This is where the fun began, for the remaining flights were in aircraft of the "Atlas" type. These "crates" are two-seater army co-operation planes with the cockpits adapted for the fitting of machine guns, meaning the absence of windscreens. My first test was "A" test. In this test one has a transmitter and receiver already tuned in, and one has merely to go up and carry on two-way communication. I had first to put on parachute harness, proceed to the wireless cabin where I obtained a helmet with 'phones sewn in, and tested them. After receiving final instructions and advice I climbed into the plane, fastened myself to a cable which was fixed at the other end to the floor, plugged my 'phones into the jack

and sat down facing the tail unit. Mechanics then pulled the blocks away from the wheels and the next thing I knew was a terrific draught down the back of my neck, and the hangars becoming smaller and smaller. When we were well clear of the drome, the pilot tilted the wings from side to side to attract my attention and told me to reel out my aerial. One has a winch with various ratchets and fittings, and has to reel out a two-fifty foot aerial with a lead weight on the end, which trails below the plane. This I managed, after winding some of the aerial round the cockpit through leaving the plunger in. I asked the pilot to switch on the H.T. and L.T., which comes from a windmill driven generator on the lower port wing, hopefully tapped out a message asking for call sign to be transmitted, noticing that my instruments were reading correctly. After realising that I was trying to receive with my send-receive switch at send, I heard the ground transmitter after ducking down in the cockpit to escape what noise and wind I could, finished my repertoire and found that we were descending, though there was no need to notice it just afterwards. Well, not wishing to knock the weathercock off the top of the new cadet college with my aerial weight, I wound in one hundred and fifty turns for all I was worth, all while the pilot was doing a remarkable sideslip down to the 'deck.'

'B' test was after much the same style as 'A,' but the receiver was a much older and more difficult instrument, and the transmitter and receiver had to be tuned in while flying. During the test the operator is instructed by wireless to change the wave-length to a given setting. I heard later that they received my transmission, but as my phones were rattling in the slipstream, I could not receive anything, and landed. Next time I tried, I just heard the signal, and on landing was thoroughly chewed up by the signals officer, and what he forgot was inserted by a noisy flight-sergeant, whose bark is worse than his bite, though he does not realise that we are all fully aware of the fact. The third time was not lucky. After landing, I found that everybody had gone to dinner and I had been sending in vain. When I eventually got through on the fourth attempt, 'B' test seemed the easiest thing in the world to carry out. During my 'B' test, I must have travelled well over one hundred miles, combining business with pleasure at the poor taxpayer's expense, as a good thirty-five gallons of petrol must have been used. All the same, I was glad to have acquired the knack of operating at last.

(To be concluded)

L. DALES.

All's Well that Ends Well.

"Blow this weather!" growled Lieutenant Langdon, wrinkling his eyes in a vain endeavour to see through the murk. "We've been forty-eight hours on patrol, and now we're due to go in harbour this beastly fog comes down and delays us. It is the limit!"

Sub-Lieutenant Grainger agreed.

"We shall have to coal when we arrive," he observed mournfully. "That'll take us two hours, and, by the time we've finished, made fast to the buoy and made ourselves presentable, it'll be two o'clock. I take it we put to sea at the usual time this evening, sir?"

"Bet your life," said Langdon with a sigh. "Off again in the old hooker at eight. I was looking forward to a decent lunch on shore for once," he added.

"Huh! I'm fed up to the neck with the grub on board."

"Tinned salmon for breakfast," murmured the Sub. "Curried salmon for lunch and tinned rabbit pie for dinner. My only,—well, the Ritz and Carlton aren't in it,"

The skipper laughed.

Because of the thick weather at sea, and to avoid colliding with anything which they could not evade at greater speed Langdon had been forced to ease down to eight knots; and eight knots is quite irritating to a fast T.B.D.

Time and tide wait for no man, and, fog or no fog, enemy submarines in the vicinity or not, merchant ships must run. That day, the sea seemed full of ships, judging by the howling, yelping and snorting of their steam sirens here, there and everywhere.

But the little T.B.D. managed to avoid them and, shortly before noon, she slid slowly past the entrance and groped her way into harbour.

It was still as foggy as could be, but she found the collier ship, and, after the coaling was finished, she secured to her buoy. Ten minutes later, Langdon and the Sub were talking together in the small wardroom, when there came a knock at the door.

"Signal just come through, sir," the signaller announced with a smile on his face. "This T.B.D. will proceed to Portsmouth at daylight tomorrow to refit. She will not be required for patrol tonight."

"The old hooker" had been long overdue for the dockyard, but the skipper and Grainger looked at each other, hardly able to believe their ears.

"Well, I'm blowed," muttered the former. "That means a week's leave, Sub. D'you realise that?"

"Do I not, sir?" answered the Sub, as the signaller retired with a grin.

E. BLACKMORE (Low. IV.)

The Mystery of Featherstone Grange.

People said that old Silas was a miser; others mentally deficient; and others afraid. But no one knew anything certain, and no one was far wrong in his estimate.

The fact is that Silas had a twin brother whom he cheated of a great deal of money. This brother went abroad to try his fortunes there and Silas was left, gloating over his money. He was extremely miserly and secretive. As he was alone in the Grange those jobs which wanted doing, he did himself.

One night when going to his bed, which was in a drafty, old room, filled with cobwebs, with the moon supplying the only light, he thought he saw the likeness of his brother in the room. This mysteriously vanished, however, when he moved on. Many doubts arose in his mind and he became very uneasy. Next night, with a determined look and armed with an old-fashioned game rifle, he went to his room, and exactly as the previous night he saw, as he thought, his brother. He stopped, and with a steady hand cocked the gun and pulled the trigger. A terrible bang was heard and everything was then silent.

Next morning Silas awoke and, in the first rays of sunlight, looked about. He saw a shattered mirror, and on approaching this he saw nothing reflected back. He looked down and saw near the bed a body—

—it was his own lifeless corpse!

L. PARSONS.

A Faithful Dog.

It was the summer holidays, and Anne and Jim were going to the beach, for they lived at Brighton. They had taken their dinner, and the dog, Rover. Rover was a brown and white collie dog and very faithful to Anne and Jim. They were going to their secret place in the rocks. No one knew about this place which they had called Crusoe's Cave. Anne went into another cave to get the dinner. When she came back she found Jim almost in tears. Then she saw that the tide was coming in and they could not reach home, for the beach was covered with rising water. She was startled at first but she said, "We must send Rover for help." They found a smooth stone and scratched on it, "We are in Crusoe's Cave, come quickly." Then Jim tied it on to Rover's collar. "Home, Rover," said Jim, but Rover wagged his tail and barked. "Oh Rover, please go home," cried Anne, and Rover plunged into the water. He swam out of sight, and as the children watched, the waves came nearer. They were driven back against the rocks, and the waves splashed their feet. They wondered if Rover would get home, or if their father would be able to read it. The water wetted their faces now. Would help ever come? Yes, at last a boat came round the corner and father was in it, with Rover beside him. The children were put into the boat and rowed home. Rover wears a medal with "Rover, in memory of Crusoe's Cave" on it. Anne and Jim are now older and wiser, but Rover is just as faithful.

D. HORSEMAN (Form III.)

Oxford Examinations, 1934.

Higher School Certificate—

*J. Lane (distinctions in English and History);

W. E. Sherwood (distinction in History).

*Awarded State Scholarship.

School Certificate—

HONOURS: *P. J. Bayne (8 credits); *M. Jones (7 credits, with distinction in Economics); S. J. Ledbury (5 credits); *D. E. G. Richards (8 credits); *R. E. W. Spencer (6 credits).

PASSES: B. I. Clarke (3 credits); K. M. Collins (4 credits); M. Rowles (4 credits, with distinction in Economics); M. Tombs (4 credits); P. W. Warner (7 credits).

*Qualified to claim exemption from London Matriculation Examination.

Scouts.

Many new members have joined the Scout Troop this year ; the present number in the troop being fifty-four, which is an increase of twelve over last year's total. There has been very keen competition amongst the six patrols, and many scouts are now full second class. The Scout Band has not continued its practice this year, as there are not enough members left ; consequently there have not been many route marches.

We are glad to say that the rally at the end of last term was well attended by the neighbouring troops, including the new Bidford troop, one of whom had the misfortune to break his arm. The Alcester Grammar School troop, being the strongest in number, easily outpointed the others. The cup was presented to C. H. Baylis by Lady Throckmorton.

A very interesting lecture was given to the Scout Troop by Captain Daintree on the subject of life-saving. After the lecture Captain Daintree demonstrated the Shaffer method of life-saving to a class of twenty picked scouts.

Once again, this Christmas, a certain number of the Scout Troop are going carol singing round Great Alne, Haselor, Alcester and Bidford, in aid of the Scout Fund.

The points gained by the patrols up to date are : Kangaroos 255, Cobras 230, Peacocks 228, Owls 228, Eagles 243, Wood Pigeons 233.

L. B.

The Musical Society.

PRESIDENT—MR. C. T. L. CATON.

SECRETARY—LEDBURY. CHAIRMAN—MISS DEANS.

After a lapse of two years the Musical Society has again come into existence. The first meeting was held on Monday, October 12th, at 3 p.m., when Mr. and Mrs. Bennett gave a recital of selections from the works of Bach and Handel. At the second meeting, on Thursday, November 8th, Mr. Bates, the music master, gave a talk on the growth of keyboard music from the first predecessor of the piano, bringing us up to modern times. It is hoped later in the term to hold a Sing-Song meeting in which everyone can take an active part. There is a strong membership of seventy-two, from Upper IV., Lower and Upper V. and the Sixth Form.

Debating Society.

COMMITTEE: MISS EVANS, J. JACKSON, SHERWOOD,
PERROTT I., M. BRYAN, BAYLIS I., BIDDLE.

The Society has had one meeting this term which took place on November 1st. The subject debated was that "This House is of the opinion that the modern age is becoming too specialised and tends to produce dull people." The motion was proposed by Sherwood and seconded by Ledbury, while the opposition was led by Warner, supported by J. Jackson. The debate was keenly contested, and encouraging features were that nervous and younger members found the courage to express their opinions, while notes and written speeches were less in evidence. Rather more argumentative support was provided by members for the opposition, and the motion was rejected by 40 votes to 17.

It has been decided that another debate will take place towards the end of the term, at which we hope to welcome late valued members.

W. E. S.

Football.

CAPTAIN—WARNER.

SECRETARY—PERROTT I.

Encouraged by their victory over Chipping Campden G. S. the First XI. soon settled down, and on the whole have been fairly successful. Despite the fact that one or two members of the team are not quite as efficient as they might be, the standard of the team is slowly improving. Keniston, in goal, and Warner, in the forwards, have made excellent contributions to our success.

First XI. results to date:

- A.G.S. v. Chipping Campden G.S. (home), won 8—3.
- v. Redditch C.H.S. (home), won 8—3.
- v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), lost 0—5.
- v. Stratford N.F.U. Second XI. (home), lost 2—6.
- v. Stratford N.F.U. Second XI. (away), drawn 4—4.
- v. King's Norton S.S. (away), lost 1—5.

A.G.S. Junior XI.

- v. Alcester C. of E. School, won 5—2.

The results of the sides matches were as follows: Tomtits 3, Brownies 2; Tomtits 8, Jackals 0; Brownies 6, Jackals 3.

Hockey.

CAPTAIN—M. BRYAN. SECRETARY—J. JACKSON.
COMMITTEE—M. TOMBS, R. SPENCER, M. SISAM.

This term the School is feeling considerably the loss of certain members of last year's First XI. There has also seemed to be less than the usual opportunity for steady practice. So far four First XI. matches have been played, of which only one has been won. Unfortunately the first match of the season—against Redditch C.H.S.—had to be postponed, owing to inclement weather, but it is to be played later in the term. Two other matches remain to be played during the latter part of the term.

The Second XI. have lost the only match which has yet been played, and they have one more match to play.

Sides Match results: Brownies 1, Tomtits 1; Jackals 2, Tomtits 0; Jackals 2, Brownies 1.

School match results:

1st XI. v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. (away), lost 1—5.

v. Studley Ladies (home), won 3—1.

v. Evesham Ladies (home), lost 1—10.

v. Evesham P.H.G.S. 1st XI. (home), lost 2—5.

2nd XI. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. 2nd XI. (away), lost 1—3.

F. J. H. J.

Cricket, 1934.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	3	2	5

The following played for the School: Baylis i., Warner Richards, Keniston, Sherwood, Ledbury, Hewlett i., Hewlett ii., Baylis ii., Bayne, Grubb, Down, Savage.

For the Juniors.**The Magic Vase.**

Many years ago, a little old man and his wife, lived in a tumble-down house, in the country. They were very poor and they earned their living by growing pretty flowers, in their tiny garden, and selling them to the people who passed by.

One day the little old man was digging in his garden, when he found a beautiful golden vase. His wife said, "Shall we sell it for a lot of money?" But the little old man said, "No, it may bring us good luck," and he put it in the window.

The next morning, looking at the vase, he was surprised to see it filled with beautiful flowers, which were all the colours of the rainbow. "Why! it must be a magic vase," exclaimed the little old man.

This happened every day and people came from far away to buy the beautiful flowers. The little old man and his wife became very rich and did not need to work any more.

A. BUTT (Form I.)

Two Rabbits and A Fairy.

(founded on a poem)

Once a little fairy was flying along, when she fell into a mole-hole. It was full of water and crawly things like beetles, spiders and frogs. The fairy had lovely golden wings and green glittering shoes, and she sparkled all over with diamonds. She could not get out of the mole-hole, for she had hurt her golden wings.

Just then a beautiful white rabbit hopped along. The mole said, "Do come and help; a little fairy has fallen into my nasty, sloshy hole." The white rabbit shut up her eyes and her ears grew red and she said "No, I won't come, it will spoil my beautiful fur and make me dirty," and she walked away.

A little brown rabbit popped up from the gorse and the mole asked him to help. "Of course, I will," said the brown rabbit. As he waddled in, his little tail bobbed backwards and forwards. But he got the fairy out and she kissed him on his little wet toes and on his nose. He laughed and took her home to fairyland.

Next morning that little brown rabbit was silvery white.

P. MIDLANE (Form I.)

ALCESTER:
THE CHRONICLE OFFICE,
HIGH STREET.
