

The Nantonian.

The
Nantonian

May, 1936

The Nantonian.

Nantiwch and Acton Grammar School Magazine

Editorial Committee:

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May 1936

New Series.

Vol, I. No. I.

The Nantonian

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Editorial.

The long-awaited "new Magazine" at last appears. Its inception is largely due to the initiative, enthusiasm and experience of Mr. Hey, the encouragement and full support of the Head Master and the assistance of Miss S. Evans-Hughes and a host of contributors, literary and artistic. In its new form we propose to issue the Magazine twice yearly—in May and September; thus we can incorporate in each volume our activities of the winter and summer terms in their entirety. Those who leave us during the school year need have no qualms as to their receiving the Magazine which they are entitled, provided they inform us of their desire to have a copy and leave us their addresses.

It only remains for us to appeal to everyone to assist us to the uttermost in maintaining the high standard we set ourselves. Of sufficient literary articles we are assured; but we should welcome any pictorial efforts or photographs which would brighten and illustrate the articles in particular and the Magazine in general. In this issue we are particularly indebted to J. Boulding, J. B. Hamilton, P. I. B. Ball, W. N. Glover, Adkin and S. Worrall for our drawings and lino-cuts. May others proceed to emulate the efforts of these pioneers.

R. G.

School Notes.

Our numbers still continue to rise, and at the beginning of the present school year there were 375 pupils on the roll. When these are all assembled in the Hall they can stand up fairly comfortably, but on the word "Sit!" considerable manipulation is necessary. It is perhaps fortunate that only on special occasions do both Senior and Preparatory Schools assemble and meet together in the Hall.

We now learn that the Hall and the School buildings as a whole may be considerably extended in the near future. On February 3rd, the Secondary Schools Sub-Committee of the County Council adopted the following resolution:--

"That the Committee adopt the Governors' recommendations in regard to the additions, as follows, required to the premises, viz.:-- 1 classroom, 1 laboratory, 1 lecture room, extension of assembly hall

And cloak-room accommodation and improvement of changing accommodation, and that the County Architect be requested to prepare plans, with estimate of cost."

The plans have now been made and have been discussed by the Governors and the Headmaster. It is perhaps too early to talk about them in detail, but we hope that they will be accepted by those in authority and that before long we shall be able to enjoy the advantages of the additional buildings, which will add greatly to our comfort and convenience.

Since the last issue of the Magazine we have received two visits from Mr. Lawrence Ray and The English Classical Players, who in December performed "Arms and the Man," and in March "Twelfth Night." Both performances were of high standard which we now know so well and both were greatly appreciated by the School.

Our own numerous activities are recorded elsewhere in this number. In connection with the School Concert our warm appreciation of the music, poetry and drama is expressed elsewhere, but we would here express especial satisfaction at being privileged to perform Miss Trentham's play, "Snkes and Ladders," concerning which we have received the following comment from one who has made a close study of the drama: "I admired the play very much. The two points of dramatic climax were excellently worked and the whole unwing seemed to me masterly—no scaffolding or unsightly joints visible."

We are sorry that Miss Trentham will have to be away during the early part of the Summer Term to undergo an operation, but we look forward to seeing her again completely recovered by the middle of the term. We welcome Miss. E. Hartt during Miss Trentham's absence.

We also sympathise with Mr. Caunt in his enforced absence during the latter part of the Spring Term owing to scarlet fever, and we look forward to seeing him with us again for the beginning of the Summer Term. We are very grateful to Mr. J. Evans for taking his place so efficiently.

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The Competition for the Music Trophy was held during the music Periods on Monday and Friday for two weeks in the Spring Term, and the Trophy went to Wilbraham.

We are indebted to our good friends Mr. A. O. Bevan and Mr. J. E. Bowers for further gifts to the School Library, which now contains an exceptionally fine collection of books of all kinds. To the Owen family we are indebted for a considerable addition to the fiction department.

Four pupils who left us at the end of the Sumer Term, 1935, have shown their appreciation by presenting gifts to the School as follows: S. Bennett, cup for best batting average; Marie Boffey, framed portraits of French writers; G. P. King, framed portraits of French writers, and Martyn's edition of Virgil's Georgics; Ivy and Olive Pooley, scientific apparatus (generator). These gifts are greatly appreciated and have been inscribed with their donors' names in order that the School may be mindful of their generosity.

J.L.

Preparatory Department.

It is some months since the publication of the last Magazine, and though much has happened in the Little School in the meantime, it seems to go less as one tries to put it on paper.

In October we had a very interesting letter from Mr. Middleton, Secretary of the Humane Education Society, in reply to queries sent by some of our pupils regarding membership of the Animals' Friend Society.

We paid a very interesting visit to the Manchester Art Gallery in June. The Assistant Curator took us in hand, and gave us an interesting though somewhat advanced lecture on different rooms of the gallery. We have since framed in passe partout and hung a number of black and white reproductions.

We finished the term in July with Hodgkin having won the highest number of House marks for the year with 596. Thrush came next with 586, and Wilbraham followed close at heel with 585.

Twenty-one children were promoted to the Upper School in September.

John Mills presented us with a beautifully framed copy of the "Sistine Madonna" as a leaving gift, and Joyce Kellow and Peter Bradshaw shared in giving us an oak spelling-plaque designed and executed by Mr. Mather.

Most of our new pupils joined the Animals' Friend society. On October 4th we celebrated World Day for Animals (St. Francis' Day) by special talks on Animal Welfare, and the exhibition and Bazaar held in the Memorial Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, 30th November. Barbara Gowdridge and Helen Bellamy are proud of having small articles published in The Animals' Friend, the Society's monthly magazine.

On October 7th, we had our Harvest Festival, the Rev., Canon Moore, M.A., kindly conducting the service. Parents were particularly generous in their contributions and the produce was again distributed among twenty of the unemployed, the recipients being selected by Mr. Alec Wood, Means Test Officer.

We had a very enjoyable Fancy Dress Christmas Party at the end of the term and we think the costumes were perhaps gayer and more original than ever. We afterwards gave the tree to the Hospital as last year.

We took a small part in the Carol Concert with only a "handful" of children. The dense fog, and coughs and colds accounted for our small choir, but it pulled through very creditably, we were afterwards told.

This term most of the children have joined the Society for the Protection of Wild Flowers. We have distributed good deal of interesting literature among them, and they seem proud of their badges and eager to keep the rules.

Since the death of the King, we have formed a society of our own which we have called the S.K.G.--the Society of King George. Members promise to read a small portion of the Bible daily, and are given a hectographed copy each week of the portions assigned. They attach the badge—a monogram in blue and gold—to the cover of their "Best Books."

Though we usually have a beautiful show of bulbs in the Spring, our collection this term excels any we have had for a long time. The School has been gay with flowers since the beginning of January. We planted forty-five bowls and all have flowered profusely.

We have again to thank parents for their gifts to us, which include a beautiful collection of books from Mrs. Wilson, a piece of pottery from Mrs. Dutton, bulb bowls from Mrs. Hassell and Mrs. Booth, flower cases from Mrs. Eden, and bowls of hyacinths, snowdrops, daffodils and scyllas from Mesdames Williams Alltree, Mullane and Robinson respectively. We also appreciate the help of Mr. Ferns in typing plays for us.

M.G.

Swimming Sports, July 15th, 1935.

The Annual Swimming Sports were held in the Little Baths under glorious weather conditions. The events were decided as follows:--

Champions.

Senior.

Girl.--D. Lake.

Boy.--Clayton, W.

Junior.

Girl.--B. Sheppherd.

Boy.--Henderson, P.

Champion House.

Thrush.

Events.

Girls. Senior.

Two lengths. Free Style.--I D. Lake; 2 B. Carr; 3 A. Walter.

25 3/5 secs.*

Three lengths. Two breast, 1 back.--I B. C

51 secs.*

One length for Beginners.--P. Porter.

Team Race.--I Thrush; 2 Hodgkin. 60 secs.*

Diving.--I D. lake; 2 B. Carr; 3 I. Pooley.arr; 2 D. lake; 3 F. Edwards.

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Girls. Junior.

Two lengths. Free Style.--I B. Shepherd; 2 E. Carr; 3 B. Morris.

24 secs.*

Two lengths. Breast and Back.--I B. Shepherd; 2 E. Carr.

One length for Beginners.--I M. Sambrook; 2 B. Jackson.

Team Race.-- Thrush; 2 Wilbraham. 66 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.

Diving.--I E. Carr; 2 B. Shepherd.

Boys. Senior.

Two lengths. Free Style.--I Knowles, W.; 2 Jackson, N.; 3 Saunders, C.

20 secs.

Two lengths. Breast Stroke.--I Jackson, N.; 2 Carr, W.; 3 Smith, R.

23 secs.

Two lengths. Free Style.--I Knowles, W.; 2 Jackson, N.; 3 Sanders, C.

27 $\frac{4}{5}$ *

Four lengths. Free Style.--I Knowles, W.; 2 Clayton, W.; 3 Carr, W.

46 secs.

Team Race.--I Thursh; 2 Hodgkin. 38 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

Diving.--I Clayton, W.; 2 Jackson, N.; 3 Knowles, W.

Boys. Junior.

Two lengths. Free Style.--I Henderson, P.; 2 Carr, P.; Denson, J.

24 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.*

One length. Breast Stroke.--I Henderson, P.; 2 Carr, P.; 3 Denson, J.

12 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.*

Team Race.--I Hodgkin; 2 Thrush. 1 min. 13 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

Diving.--I Carr, P.; Henderson, P.; 3 Denson, J.

*Constitutes a record for the School.

Sports Day.

We print the following account of Sports Day which appeared in the columns of The Guardian, Friday, July 26th, 1935:--

"Delightful weather favoured the annual sports, on Wednesday, of the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, and a larger crowd than usual lined the enclosure of the School Play Field. Among those attending were Mr. Henry Tollemache, of Dorfold Hall; Mr. Wilfred Harlock (chairman, and other members of the governing members of the governing body; Mr. H. J. Dickenson, Head Master of College Street School, East London, South Africa (an old boy of the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, 1902-1905), Mr. Robert Walley, son of Mr. W. Walley, of Dysart Buildings, Nantwich (another old boy, who has been 25 years in Canada).

The programme included some 50 events, and the spectators were entertained for five hours with very excellent and keenly-contested sports. From the public point of view it was one of the most attractive athletic meetings seen in Nantwich for some years and the School worthily maintained its reputation for turning out first-rate young athletes. The chief interest of the School was centres on the house competition, thrush taking the lead with the substantial margin of 54 points over Wilbraham, the runners-up.

Championships.

The School Championship for the senior boys' cup (presented by the late Dr. C. Lapage), the senior girls' cup (presented by Mr. W. J. Dutton) and the junior girls' and boys' cups (presented by the School sports fund) had previously been decided as follows:--

Junior Championship.--Boys: winner, W. Davies (16 points), runner-up B. W. Haining (13 points). 100 yards, B. W. Haining; 220 yards, B. W. Haining and W. Davies (tied); 440 yards, P. Carr; high jump, W. Davies (3ft. 8in.); long jump, B. W. Haining and N. Furber, tied (12ft. 10in.); cross-country, L. T. West.

Girls.--Winner: J. Armstrong (18 points); runner-up, I. Rowe (13 points). 100 yards, J. Armstrong; 220 yards, I. Rowe; 440 yards, S. Lindley; hurdles, J. Armstrong; high jump, J. Armstrong (3ft. 10in.); long jump, M. Butt (12ft. 9in.)

Senior Championship.--Boys: winner, H. Newell (30 points); runner-up, C. Sanders, 23 points. 100 yards, H. Newell; 220 yards, H. Newell; 440 yards, H. Newell; 880 yards, H. Newell; 120 yards

Hurdles, P. Pelper; high jump, C. Sanders (4ft. 8in.); long jump, N. Jackson (17ft. 1/2in.); cricket ball, W. E. Knowles, 76 yards; cross-country, H. Newell.

Girls.--Winner, K. Cooper (26 points); runner-up, B. Brassington (12 points). 100 yards, K. Cooper; 220 yards, K. Cooper; 440 yards K. Cooper; hurdles, B. Brassington; high jump, B. Brassington (4ft. 2in.); long jump, K. Cooper (13ft. 2 ½ in.).

Record.

The School records established this year were:--Boys: 100 yards, H. Newell, 11 secs.; 220 yards, H. Newell, 25 1/5 sec. Girls: 220 yards, K. Cooper, 32 4/5 secs.; hurdles, B. Brassington, 18 2/5 sec.

Results

The following are the results:--

Boys' 100 yards (senior).--I, C.Sanders; 2 (tied), J. Bibby and J. Hamilton.

Boys' 100 Yards (sub-senior).--I, N. Jackson; 2, M. potter; 3, K. Ankers.

Bys' 100 Yards (junior).--I, W. E. Davies; 2, T. Gostick; 3, N. Furber.

Boys' 100 Yards (sub-junior).--I, B. W. Haining; 2, K. Chadwick; 3, O. H. Blacklay.

Girls' 100 Yards (senior).---I, B. Carr; 2, I. Pooley; 3, C. Cowell.

Girls' 100 Yards (sub-senior).--I, P Ball; 2, D. Edwards; 3, P. Portert.

Girls' 100 Yards (junior).--I, J. Armstrong; 2, S. Lindley; 3, , M. Butt.

Girls' 100 Yard (sub-junior).--I, L. Bowyer; 2, S. Arrowsmith; 3, E. Davies.

Boys' Hurdles (senior).--I, C. Sanders; 2, R. Dutton.

Boys' Hurdles (sub-senior)).--I, P. Pelper; 2, E. Burton; 3, J. Brown

Girls' Hurdles (sub-senior).--I, B. Brassington; 2, P. Porter; 3, O. Edwards.

Girls' Hurdles (senior).--I, A. Williams; 2, B. Carr.

Boys' Hurdles Relay (sub-senior).--I, Thrush; 2, Hodgkin.

Girls' long Jump (senior).--I, K. Cooper (13ft. 2in.); 2, G. Hughes; 3, B. Brassington.

Boys' High Jump (senior).--I, Jackson (4ft. 11 in.); 2, C. Sanders; 3, J. W. Clayton.

Boys' Mile (senior).--I, H. Newell; 2, J. W. Clayton; 3, R. Dutton.

Boys' 880 Yards (junior).--I, P. Carr; 2, R. Henshall; 3, B. W. Haining.

Boys' Long Jump (junior).--I, T. Gostick; 2, N. Furber; 3, C. Clayton.

Boys' High Jump (junior).--I, T. Gostick; 2, W. Davies; 3, C. Clayton.
Girls' High Jump (junior).--I, M. Moore; 2, B. Morris; 3, J. Catterall.
Girls' Long Jump (junior).--I, J. Armstrong; 2, M. Moore; 3, M. Butt.
Boys' 100 Yards Multi-Relay.--I, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush; 3, Hodgkin.
Boys' Pick-a-back.--I, J. Dutton and N. Jackson; 2, R. Johnson and T. Gostick.
Girls' Slow Bicycle.--I, B. Knowles; 2, J. Pelter; 3, D. Edwards.
Girls' Skipping Race.--I, P. Ball; 2, D. Hinde; 3 (tied), J. Armstrong and I. Pooley.
Girls' Egg and Spoon Race.--I, B. Cooper; 2, P. Watkiss; 3, D. Bebbington.
Girls' Three-legged Race.--I, Betty and Ena Carr; 2, J. Pearson and M. Davies; 3, A. Pickerill and H. Jenkins.
Old Girls' Race.--I, Audrey Hall.
Old Boys' Race.--I, H. T. Johnson.
Girls' Sack Race.--I, J. Pelter; 2, B. Carr; 3, I. Pooley.
Boys' Sack Race.--I, N. Jackson; 2, P. Carr; 3, O. H. Robinson.
Egg and Spoon Race (under 10).--I, P. Bricker; 2, H. Robinson.
80 Yards (under 10).--I, H. Gostick; 2, D. Mullane.
Potato Race.--I, D. Alltree; 2, D. Mullane.
Sack race.--I, D. Alltree; 2, P. Bricker.
Girls' High Jump (senior).--I, B. Brassington; 2, K. Cooper; 3, P. Porter.
Boys' 440 Yards (senior).--I, P. Pelter; 2, R. Dutton; 3, F. Eley.
Boys' 220 Yards (junior).--I, B. W. Haining; 2, W. E. Davies; 3, N. Furber.
Girls' 220 Yards (senior).--I, P. Ball; 2, K. Cooper; 3, M. Moore.
Girls' hurdles Relay.--I, Thrush; 2, Hodgkin.
Boys' House Relays (senior).--I, Thrush; 2, Wilbraham.
Boys' House Relays (junior).--I, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush.
Girls' House Relay (senior).--I, Thrush; 2, Wilbraham.
Girls' House Relay (junior).--Hodgkin; 2, Thrush.
Girls' Hockey Race.--I, I. Pooley; 2, M. Moore; 3, R. Hardern.
Mile Race.--I, R. Barnett; 2, S. Adams; 3, A. Crosby; 4, J. W. Clayton.
Boys' Football Race.--I, W. Knowles; 2, R. Smith; 3, R. Benson.
Girls' Obstacle Race.--I, J. Armstrong; 2, P. Watkiss; 3, J. Plumb.
Boys' Obstacle Race.--I, M. Butt; 2, J. Clayton; 3, F. Eley; 4, N. Jackson.
Tug-of-War.--I, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush.
Handicraft Race (mixed).--I, P. Ball and Bibby T.; 2, D. Hannon and Adams D.; 3, M. Moore and Brown J.
House Points—Thrush, 263; Wilbraham, 209; Hodgkin, 162.

At the conclusion of the Sports, the prizes were distributed by Mr. H. J. Dickenson."

Examination Successes.

The following pupils were successful in the Examinations of the Northern Universities' Joint Matriculation Board, held in July last:--

Higher School Certificate.

D. H. Harrap (e), King, G. E. D. Norman (f), I. Pooley, Sanders, C. (e,h,g), Wood, C. A.

Higher School Certificate. Subsidiary Subjects.

Comley, K. W.

School Certificate.

Form V u.a.

Boys.--Bebb, C. W. (M,e,f,b), Bimson, R. G. (h,g,m,b), butters, W. E., Cooke, D. W., Eley, F. W. (b), Hamilton, J. A. (E), Kingston, W. R. (B, e), Lloyd, D., Owen, R. A. (M), Welch, W. N., Williams, R. W.

Girls.--M. A. Boffey, E. M. Carr (e), B. J. Clarkw, R. Hardern, I. Martin, G. Owen (M; E. .B.; h,f,m,s), J. Pearson, J. Pelper (e_, J. Plumb, G. B. Roberts, N. Tomkinson (m), J. White (f).

Form V u.b.

Boys.--Butt, M. G. (w), Dutton, R. T., Large, D., Roberts, T. V. C.

Girls.--G. E. Hughes, M. Moore (f), M. S. Smith (E), A. Walter.

Separate Subjects.

B. Watson (Latin).

Christ's Hospital Scholarship.

A. J. P. Gowdrige.

M denotes Matriculation; capital letters, distinction; small letters 'good.' b—Botany, e—English, f—French, g—Geography, h—History, m—Mathematics, w—Handicrafts, s—Religious Knowledge.

Progress of the School.

The following account of Speech Day appeared in The Guardia of Friday, November 29th, 1935:--

The important event of the year in connection with the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School—Speech Day and Prize Distribution—took place on Wednesday afternoon, November 27th, at Nantwich Town Hall. Mr. W. Harlock (chairman of the Governors) presided over a large attendance, supported on the platform by the Bishop of Chester (Dr. G. F. Fisher), Mr. Henry Tollemache, Mrs. Frank Dixon, Canon Moore, the Rev. C. W. M. Bromley (Rector of Nantwich), Mr. G. K. Evans, Mr. L. Vaughn, Mr. T. M. Boardman (chairman of the Nantwich U.D.C.), Mr. D. H. McCurtain, Mr. John Lodge (Head Master) and Mrs. Lodge, and members of the School Staff.

Head Master's Report.

In the course of his remarks, the Head Master, who mentioned that this was the fourth annual report he had had the honour of presenting on Speech Day, said: "At the present moment there are 374 pupils in the School, 193 boys and 181 girls—as compared with 293 three years ago. During the present year these increasing numbers have led to increases of staff. Mr. P. B. Caunt, B.Sc., has joined us to take mathematics and some physical training; and the county's policy of substituting full-time teachers for visiting teachers has led to the retirement of Mr. R. A. Taylor and Miss H. Jones, to whom I would express my gratitude for the valuable service they have done for the School; in the case of Mr. Taylor over a space of 16 years, and in the case of Miss Jones for the last four years, during the last two of which she has had the satisfaction of seeing the School Hockey team unbeaten. This is a suitable occasion for me to congratulate Miss Jones on being Mayoress of Crewe for the current year. Her place on the staff is taken by Miss M. S. Burletson. Miss Holmes has also left us for a larger school in Liverpool. She had for five years been our valued domestic science mistress and had made country dancing a thriving institution in the School. Her place is taken by Miss E. M. Uttley.

"The outstanding achievement of the year in the sphere of open scholarships is that of A. J. P. Gowdridge, who, in the examinations for entrance to Christ's Hospital, was placed high in the list of competitors

From endowed schools—how high the terms of a confidential letter forbid me to disclose.

Old Grammarians' Memorial Exhibition.

"In this year of Jubilee the Old Grammarians have inaugurated a Memorial Exhibition Fund, which is designed to afford financial assistance to a deserving pupil who is leaving the School for the University. Owing primarily to the prior calls occasioned by the Jubilee itself, the circularisation of Old Grammarians and others has recently taken place, but there is already £25 to the credit of the fund, and we hope that this will rapidly increase to a really substantial capital sum.

What is Education?

"'What is education?' some one asked a fellow Head Master a few weeks ago in my hearing, and the emphatic reply was 'Life--or rather,' he went on, 'the process begins before you are born, and will continue after you are dead.' Possibly he had in mind the words which a modern writer puts into the mouth of Plato: 'Rising out of the deep abyss, the long ascent of life reaches up into the heaven of heavens; and of that chain we, on our little step are but one small link.' It is certain that we, at Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, seek to obey the behest which Plato himself puts into the mouth of Socrates: 'Let your youth dwell in a land of health, amid fair sights and sounds, and receive the good in everything and beauty, the effluence of fair works shall flow into the eye and ear like a health-giving breeze from a purer region, and insensibly draw the soul from earliest years into likeness and sympathy with the beauty of reason.' To which Glaucon replies: 'There can be no nobler training than that.'

"It is certainly our aim, while preparing our pupils for examinations and equipping them for the more practical business of life, to surround them with fair sights and sounds, and to make them conscious of the eternal verities of goodness, truth and beauty. To that end our gardens and grounds receive constant care, to that end our building has been enriched with beautiful pictures and beautiful furniture, to that end music, which delights the soul with its rhythm and harmony, and gymnastics which rightly educate the body, have found an increasing place in our curriculum. In furthering these aims, and in furthering the many social activities of the School, I have received the loyal support of the boys and girls themselves,

And of their parents, of the prefects, and of y colleagues on the staff. I owe much also to the members of the governing body, and to the Director of Education. O all I tender my sincerest thanks.

Need For New Buildings.

"It is only fair, however, to add that our efforts to foster beauty, or even neatness and tidiness, will be thwarted, or at least seriously hampered if the much-needed extension of our school buildings is delayed much longer. I understand that there is now some possibility that his extension may be undertaken in the near future, but it would indeed be a joy and an encouragement if these vague hopes might become a definite assurance."

Chairman Congratulated.

The Head Master congratulated on his own behalf and on behalf of the School, the Chairman on his success last Saturday, when he was elected to the County Council. (Applause.) the whole town felt that the overwhelming majority he obtained was an indication of the feeling that the town had for him, and the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, of which he was the Chairman of Governors, was very proud of his success. (Loud applause.) the Chairman replied suitably, and the Bishop of Chester, after giving a most eloquent address, compact of wit and wisdom, distributed the prizes. At the end of the afternoon's proceedings votes of thanks to the Chairman and the Lord Bishop were proposed by the Head Boy and Girl (Newell, H., and E. D. Norman), and carried.

Prize List.

Vla.--Personal service: I. Pooley and H. Newell. Form prize: C. Sanders. Form prize and Head Master's prize for German recitation. Harrop; form prize and French recitation: E. D. Norman. Religious knowledge: G. P. King.

VI.b.--K. W. Comley.

VU.a.00Prizes awarded for matriculation and distinctions: (10 G. Owen, (20 C. W> Bebb, (3) R. Owen. Other prizes: Domestic science, I. Martin; art, J. Pearson; reading and speech, E. M. Carr, F. Edwards.

VU.b.--Form prize and handicraft: M. G. Butt. English and music, M. Sutton Smith.

VL.a.--(1) M. Dutton, (2) K. W. Sambrook, (3) J. O. Green, (4) J. B. Hamilton. Personal service: M. F. Butt.

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VL.b.--(1) P. Peters. Practical Ability in Science: W. D. Carr.

Remove A.--(1) E. Owen, (2) N. Pooley, (3) I. M. Rowe.

Handicraft: S. A. Jackson.

IVa.--(1) D. M. Adams, (2) A. J. P. Gowdridge.

IVb.-- D. Knowles.

IIIa.--(1) B. Haining, (2) R. M. Stanley, (3) E. Davies.

IIIb.---(1) D. Bebbington, (2) N. V. Craighead.

II. Upper.--(1) D. H. A. Ratcliffe, (2) H. F. Bellamy, (3) E. Knowles.

II Lower.--(1) B. M. Gowdridge, (2) M. D. Brydson, (3) D. H. Alltree.

I.--M. D. Morri.

Carol Concert.

On December 18th, a memorable act of homage was performed at the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, when the annual Carol Concert was given in the School Hall. Holly, greenery and candlelight provided a charming and appropriate setting, and a well-filled Hall was clearly moved by the music and the poetry with its message of peace and goodwill, conveyed in a spirit of reverence and simplicity.

The concert opened with beautifully spoken passages from "Hamlet" and Milton's Nativity Ode, followed by a dignified processional entry to the carol, "O come, all ye faithful." The choir then sang a series of traditional and lesser known carols, and these were interspersed with readings from the Old and New Testament, together with other kindred poetic passages. Particularly delightful were the carols and songs given by the Preparatory Department. Towards the end, a most convincing reading of "Scrooge on Christmas Morning" recaptured for a moment the Dickensian Christmas spirit, but the concert ended, one felt, on the right note of devotional homage.

Altogether the concert was a splendid yet simple tribute to the spirit of peace on earth and goodwill to all men, and the audience went away with the feeling that it had witnessed one of the most beautiful and most moving ceremonies ever presented by the pupils of the Grammar School.

House Notes.

Hodgkin House.

Captains: Girl—R. Hardern; Boy—R. Smith.

Vice-Captains: Girl—M. Butt; Boy—R. Bimson.

At the end of the Summer Term our House Mistress, Miss Holmes, and our Boy Captain, Sanders, left us. We hope that they are both finding their new life interesting and enjoyable

This season the Senior House hockey team defeated the Wilbrahams but lost to the Thrushes. The Middle school team gained a victory over the Thrushes 7 goals to nil. Many of our young players give us great hopes for the future.

In football we have done moderately well. Although the Middle School lost all their matches, the Juniors were completely successful; and the Seniors lost one, won one and drew two. Bailey and Burton, members of the School team, are to be congratulated on receiving their football Colours.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking Joan Bowley for her valuable service in the music Competition.

To Miss Burtleston, our new House Mistress, and to all new members of the House, we extend a hearty welcome.

R.H

R.S.

Thrush House.

Captains: Girl—G. Hughes; Boy—J. Boulding.

Vice-Captains: Girl—J. White; Boy—R. T. H. Dutton.

The Senior House hockey Team has met with success this season, having defeated the Hodgkins by a considerable margin. We have been less fortunate in the Middle School games, where the house team has lost to both the Hodgkins and Wilbrahams. We may hope for more success in the future.

The football teams may be congratulated on gaining the Shield. Eight members of the Senior team have played in the First Eleven this year, and Dutton, our Vice-Captain, has this term secured his Colours.

We were unable to repeat the success of last year in the Music Competition, but managed to tie with Hodgkin House for second place. Our thanks are due to E. Carr for conducting the House Choir and to Willis for his accompaniment.

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The House is looking forward to the Sports Programme for the Summer Term, and also to the Cross Country Race, which closes the sports and games section. We hope to regain the tennis and cricket trophies this year and to retain the Sports Shield.

We extend a welcome to all new members of the House and wish them future success.

G. H.

J. B.

Wilbraham House.

Captains: Girl—E. Norman; Boy—H. Newell.

Vice-Captains: Girl—B. Watson; Boy—J. A. Hamilton.

During the last two terms we have more than “held our own” and can congratulate ourselves on several successes.

This year the Music Competition was run on a larger scale, and each House worked very hard to produce a good result. Our girls and junior boys are all to be heartily congratulated on their performances which won us first place and the Trophy presented to the School by R. Whittingham, Esq. We should like particularly to congratulate Barbara Morris on her excellent violin solo: the praises of Miss Williams show that we have a future mistress of that instrument in our House.

We must draw the attention of our members to the fact that we have achieved small success in personal service. All Wilbrahams must try to pull their weight in this matter, and we hope that in future our efforts will be much greater and more successful.

We congratulate Nora Tomkinson and J. A. Hamilton on receiving their School Colours in hockey and football respectively. It is noteworthy that the last three School goalkeepers—Adkin, Hamilton and Bibby—have all been members of the Wilbraham House.

We should also like to encourage the members of our House to practice for the forthcoming Sports, and we hope that a good many Wilbrahams will enter for the Swimming Sports. To those who are not so good in such activities, we say, “Work hard! Gain points for your House in examinations, and avoid conduct marks.”

In football the Seniors have played the Hodgkins twice, forcing a draw the first time and winning the second match 1—0, while they lost to the Thrushes 2—0 on two occasions. The Middle School defeated

The Hodgkins 3—1 and 5—1 and lost to the thrushes 6—3 and 3—0. In hockey, the Seniors have played two matches, winning the match against the Thrushes by 5 goals to 0, and losing to the Hodgkins by four goals to 2.

E. N.

H. N.

Hockey Notes.

Once again the School has completed a most successful season and the team deserves the warmest congratulations on its unbeaten record for the third year in succession.

Matches.

| Opponents. | Where played. | Result. | Score. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| v. Winsford, Verdin county School | Home | Won | 17—0 |
| V. Orme Schol for Girls, Newcastle | Home | Won | 9—1 |
| V. Crewe Secondary School | Away | Drew | 2—2 |
| V. City and County School, Chester | Away | Won | 4—3 |
| V. Crewe Permanent Way L.H.C. | Away | Won | 6—4 |
| V. Old Grammarians | Home | Won | 7—0 |
| V. Sir John Deane's School, Northwich | | | |
| | 1 st XI., Away | Won | 3—2 |
| | 2 nd XI. | Won | 3—0 |
| Opponents. | Result. | Score | |
| Cheshire Tournament: V. Birkenhead | Drew | 1—1 | |
| V. Tranmere | Won | 3—0 | |
| V. Lyme | Won | 2—0 | |
| Semi-final: V. Chester | Won | 1—0 | |
| Final: V. West Kirby | Won | 1—0 | |
| Opponents. | Where played. | Result. | Score. |
| V. Whitchurch High School | Away | Won | 5—2 |
| V. Sir John Deane's School, Northwich | Home | Won | 4—3 |
| V. Cholmondeley Ladies' H.C. | Home | Won | 4—3 |
| V. Orme School for Girls, Newcastle | Away | Won | 8—2 |
| V. Crewe Secondary School | Home | Drew | 3—3 |
| V. City & County School, Chester | Home | Won | 3—0 |

The Team.--The following girls have represented the School in the majority of the matches: B. Watson, K. Cooper, B. Brassington,

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H. Jenkins,* J. Barden, R. Hardern (Captain), G. Hughes (Vice-Captain), E. Carr, J. White, B. Carr, D. Lake,* A. Pickerill, N. Tomkinson.*

Erratum.--We apologise for the error which inadvertently appeared in the announcement of last season's hockey results. The fixtures against Sir John Deane's Grammar School, Northwich, should have read: V. Sir John Deane's School 2nd XI.

M. B.

*Indicates this season's Colours.



Football Season, 1935-36.

So far as results go, this season has been decidedly disappointing. Without minimizing this disappointment and without lessening our resolve for the future, we can bear in mind, in studying the results, the effect of injuries and illness, the abnormally large number of matches and the adult character of some of our opponents. With this last consideration

in view, the Committee has decided to shorten next season's fixture list.

| Opponents. | Where played. | Result. | Score. |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| V. Old Grammarians | Home | Drew | 1—1 |
| V. Chester City & County | Away | Lost | 0—5 |
| V. Crewe Training College | Away | Lost | 1—8 |
| V. Old Medians | Home | Lost | 1—4 |
| V. Reaseheath | Home | Won | 6—2 |
| V. Winsford | Away | Lost | 1—3 |
| V. Wem | Away | Won | 6—3 |
| V. North Staffs. | Home | Lost | 2—7 |
| V. Wolstanton | Away | Lost | 0—4 |
| V. Old Medians | Away | Lost | 1—4 |
| V. Winsford | Home | Lost | 2—3 |
| V. Crewe Secondary School | Home | Lost | 3—5 |
| V. Crewe Training College | Home | Lost | 0—5 |
| V. Market Drayton | Home | Won | 9—2 |
| V. Chester City and County | Home | Lost | 0—9 |
| V. Wolstanton | Home | Won | 1—4 |
| V. Wem | Home | Won | 8—1 |
| V. Wybunbury | Away | Lost | 5—2 |
| V. Old Grammarians | Home | Lost | 4—5 |
| V. Reaseheath | Home | Lost | 3—8 |
| V. Wybunbury | Home | Won | 6—2 |
| V. Audlem | Away | Won | 3—2 |
| V. Audlem | Home | Won | 6—1 |
| V. Nantwich Apprentices | Home | Won | 9—1 |

| Played. | Won. | Lost. | Drawn. |
|---------|------|-------|--------|
| 24 | 9 | 14 | 1 |

The following have represented the School: Smith, Hamilton J. A.,* Newell, Dutton,* Adkin, Bailey,* Burton,* Bimson, Boulding, Hamilton J. B., Pelper, Davies, Jackson, Ankers, Bibby, Potter, Eley, Butt, Lockett, Hope, Armstrong, Crosby.

*Indicates this season's Colours.

C. J.

Junior Football.

The under 14 team has had a very successful season. Ten matches have been played and only one lost.

| Results. | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| Opponents. | Where Played. | Result. | Score. |
| V. Audlem Juniors | Home | Won | 8—3 |
| V. Willaston C.S. | Home | Won | 11—0 |
| V. Manor Bank Juniors | Home | Won | 7—1 |
| V. Nantwich C.S. | Home | Drew | 4—4 |
| V. Betley School | Away | Won | 5—0 |
| V. Sandbach C.S. | Away | Lost | 1—7 |
| V. Sandbach C.S. | Home | Won | 7—0 |
| V. Willaston C.S. | Home | Won | 7—1 |
| V. Bedford St. | Home | Won | 2—1 |
| V. Scouts | Home | Won | 6—1 |

The following boys have represented the School in these matches: West, Pickerill, Denson, Glover, Furber, Henderson, Shenton, Henshall, Gardner, White, Carr, Appleton, Tomkinson F., Hinde, Worrall, Steventon, Leedham.

C. J.

Cross-Country Running.

The Cross Country Team and individual events were decided on March 30th. Barnett won the Senior race comfortably in the record time of 21 minutes 52 seconds, having taken the lead in the early stages of the race. West was the Junior winner, in 13 minutes and 12 seconds

Team Results.

Senior I. Wilbraham 37 points.

2. Hodgkin 52 „

Junior I. Thrush 51 points.

2. Wilbraham 61 „

Individual Placings (First 12).

Senior.

1. Barnett.
2. Newell.
3. Bailey.
4. Dutton.
5. Adams.
6. Lewis.
7. Johnson.
8. Lymer.
9. Butt.
10. Roberts F.
11. Hamilton J. A.

12. Pelper.

Junior.

1. West.
2. Henshall
3. Halsall
4. Millard
5. Worrall.
6. Adams.
7. Price.
8. Thomas.
9. Cooke.
10. Huntbach.
11. Glover.
12. Pickerill.

C. J.

Open-Air Club.

During the half-term holidays, our kind friend, Mr. Taylor, again conducted two parties of boys on delightful rambles. In both cases we were favoured by the weather.

On November 24th, 1935, a record number of pupils spent a most enjoyable day in the Vale-Royal district; and on February 24th, 1936,

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we repeated a favourite walk to Moreton and Mow Cop. We sincerely thank Mr. Taylor, to whom we are much indebted and very grateful for his kindness in arranging these excursions. "Thank you, Sir."

M. G. B.

J. A. H.

Guide Notes.

This term the Guides have been practising hard for the Netball Tournament, to be held in the near future.

The Patrol first-aid boxes are well on the way to completion. Guides are encouraged to take more interest in Badge work.

It is gratifying to know that the daffodils are progressing satisfactorily, and we hope to achieve some success in the Bulb Competition.

We extend our best wishes to Joan Doricott, who left us this term, and welcome Freda Edwards on her return to the School company.

P. G. R.

3rd Nantwich Brownies.

It is with regret that we have to announce the temporary suspension of our meetings. This became necessary at the beginning of 1st term, when a new time-table made it impossible to squeeze in other than absolute necessities. We contemplated holding the meetings after School, but this too had to be abandoned as the majority of our members live away from Nantwich, and consequently there were always buses to be considered.

In the meantime the local Parks will be delighted to welcome any 3rd Nantwich members who would care to join them.

We are all truly sorry that Miss Hardman is leaving the district, and Guiders, Guides, and Brownies will miss her tremendously. We thank her for all she has done for us.

R. E. G.

Dramatic Notes.

"Arms and the Man."

Mr. Ray and his company paid their third visit to the School on Friday, December 6th, and enacted before a highly-appreciative audience George Bernard Shaw's play, "Arms and the Man."

This particular play has a n appeal to nearly every type of audience: the attraction of the blonde and beautiful Raina, played with delightful

Extravagance by Stephanie Ray; the obvious humour of Nicola and Sergius for the less sophisticated; the undercurrent of satire for the cynical; the direct common-sense of Bluntschli for the sensible; the double romance of Louka and Raina for the romantic majority.

The melodrama and extreme artificiality of the plot and characters prevent interest from waning and cause amusing situations. Lawrence Ray, as the hero, naturally showed to advantage in the affected atmosphere of the Petkoffs' two storied house despite his bedraggled appearance in the 1st Act. Nevertheless, the magnificent Sergius, raging up and down the stage, using most ungentlemanly language, was not quite 'cut out.' Louka also made a striking impression.

If the players did not do Shaw all the justice he deserves, it must be remembered in their favour that Shaw, although amusing, is so highly coloured that he requires over-acting. This offers difficulties even for the most finished actors.

"Twelfth Night."

"If music be the food of love, play on."

Music was a pleasant new feature in Lawrence Ray's production of "Twelfth Night." While we were all enchanted by the Clown's "O mistress mine," and "Come away, death," we also enjoyed the noisier rounds and revels in the kitchen.

The production was very good, especially the scenes with Malvolio and the three behind the box tree, and with Maria in the kitchen. The costumes were very striking, especially that of Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Lawrence Ray's conspicuous make-up was much appreciated.

I think that the acting in this production was better than that in "Arms and the Man," and that altogether it was the best performance which the company has given.

B. W.

Music Notes.

Once again we are hard at work preparing for the annual Schol Concert, and an look back upon a successful Carol concert. This year we have concentrated on the work of contemporary British composers. For the first time the boys are taking a responsible part and show promise of acquitting themselves with as much credit as the girls. It is to be hoped that more boys will take an interest in every aspect of this subject.

M. W.

Stamp Club.

The annual Competition of the Club was held on March 31st, the Headmaster acting as judge. Pelper P. was awarded the first prize and Williams R. the second; J. Pelper and B. Bennett were awarded Consolidation prizes.

The Club would welcome new members, especially from the ranks of the Lower School who, perhaps, do not realise their good fortune in having so able and enthusiastic a leader as Mr. Pelper. We hope to hear of a large increase in membership in the near future.

The Concert.

The annual Concert was given on two nights, March 31st and April 1st, to a packed Hall on each occasion. It is gratifying to be able to record that strikingly high standard of performance was maintained throughout. One felt that the singing and the verse speaking showed a marked improvement on that of any previous concert. The Senior girls, in particular, displayed confidence and control over a wide range of works, and showed that they had responded well to the training given to them by Miss Williams. The Choir's intonation left little room for criticism; even in pianissimo passages the pitch was maintained perfectly. There seemed to be more genuine feeling for the music, and the singers' greater technical control enabled them to respond most sympathetically to the wishes of the composer and the conductor. Not once was there any hesitation in the leads, the attack was crisp and true, and the parts well balanced and admirably blended. The singing, as a whole, was really alive and responsive, and surprisingly rich in vital nuances of tone-colour—the hall mark of good choral work. The programme was unusually varied and interesting. Selections from the works of Sir Edward Elgar formed the main portion of the musical items. Four songs from the "Bavarian Highlands" were delightfully sung by the Senior Girls' Choir, and B. Morris deserved the applause she won for her violin solo, "Salut d'Amour."

The second part of the concert consisted of English music and poetry, the former ranging from traditional songs and sea-shanties to modern

Works. The junior Boys' Choir made a promising debut on the concert stage with their spirited singing of "Three Merry Men of Kent" and other songs. The Junior Girls gave good interpretations of widely different types of songs, particularly of "Golden Slumbers" and Edward German's "The Camel's Hump," the latter revealing delightful clarity of enunciation and lightness of touch. The Poetry was spoken unusually well by B. Watson, Adkin, Price and Probert. Ethel Parrett and Furber, in costume, sang "The Keys of Canterbury" with exceptional grace and sweetness. Mr. Taylor, of course, was his usual excellent self at the piano.

The preparatory Department once again gave a charming series of songs, and Margery Beech, accompanied by Shelagh Simon, won all hearts with her singing of Brahms' "Lullaby." The percussion band showed a great improvement on their former performances: a March by Handel and a Gavotte by Sullivan, played on the Radiogram gave the performers fine scope for their percussion effects. It was surprising that performers of such tender years could work through so many rhythmical variations with the imperturbable accuracy they displayed.

Miss Trentham's one-act play, "Snakes and Ladders," was eagerly awaited and keenly appreciated by the audiences on both nights. One-act plays are, by their very nature, slight, but Miss Trentham succeeded in creating some very live characters, and in catching and reflecting the emotional ebb and flow of real life within the short time at her disposal. The characterisation was convincing and revealed a keen observation of life on the part of the author: the blend of humour and pathos kept the play close to earth and brought out its universality, for the luxury of kippers, sixpenny prunes, laddered stockings to be mended for the morning, inaccessible Ibsen and gossiping Mrs. Cagneys "getting the loan of a hegg" form the texture of life in all the Batterseas of Britain. The plot was cleverly contrived, working up to the first climax of the telegram announcing that the Deans had drawn the favourite in the Irish Sweep, then mounting gradually to the second climax that the telegram was a spiteful joke on Lorna's part. The final twist gave piquancy to the whole play, and left no doubt of the author's feeling for dramatic values. The acting was uniformly good: Mr. And Mrs. Lodge as Mr. And Mrs. Dean, the cockney greengrocers, were authentic in all they did, and Miss Ratcliffe, Mrs. Gowanlock, Mrs. Johnson and Newell all gave clear-cut interpretations

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Of their parts. Mr. Ware's production was excellent in every respect: the stage-management and lighting also contributed as unobtrusively as they should to the play's success.

The whole concert was one of outstanding merit, and the School has set itself a standard of which it may justly be proud.

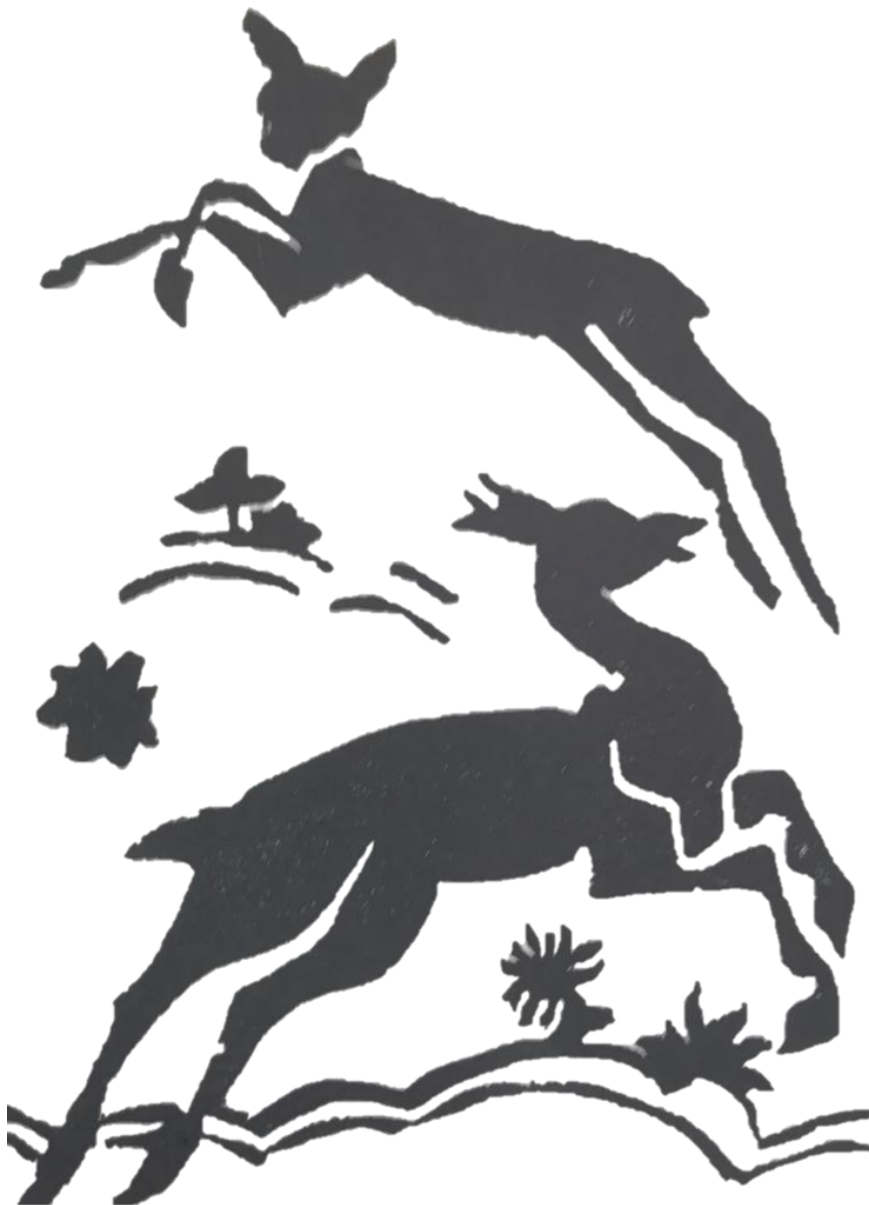
Interesting Find.

On the morning of Friday, July 19th, 1935, Mr. Alec Latham, a bricklayer in the employment of Mr. Lewis Vaughan, while working on the new wall which has been set back in the garden of the Grammar School House in connection with the widening of Welsh Row, unearthed at a depth of about seven feet from the original surface, what would appear to be a cannon-shot of the seventeenth century. When this interesting relic first came to light it was covered with a thick crust, consisting of iron oxide and clay. When this was flaked off a spherical object was revealed, with the mark of casting visible at the circumference. The diameter is 4.4 inches (11.2 centimetres), and the weight approximately 11 ½ lbs. (5.2 kilos). This gives a specific gravity of 7.0, which indicated that the material is cast-iron, the usual material of cannon-shot and cannon-balls.

There seems little doubt that we have here an interesting relic of the Civil War of the seventeenth century, in which Nantwich took a not inconspicuous part, and this view has been corroborated by expert opinion. Possibly this cannon-shot (the name cannon-ball was not used until much later) was fired when the forces of Charles I. were besieging Nantwich in January, 1644. In the contemporary Malbon MS. (as quoted by Hall in his History of Nantwich, p. 163), we find the following:--

"upon Wednesday, the 17th January, the King's party shot every much against the town, and discharged their cannons four score and sixteen times (as was noted by some), but did neither execution nor harm at all."

Possibly we have here one of these four score and sixteen shots; and, according to their fancies, those who now see it at the Grammar School will be delighted or disappointed that it did neither execution nor harm at all.



Spring





Insert picture of person



The Philosopher

Cheshire Architecture.

The almost entire absence of any local stone in Cheshire has thrown the Cheshire craftsman upon the two remaining materials—brick and wood. During the Tudor and early Jacobean periods this particular style of building was fostered. The Renaissance designers and patrons demanded comfort in place of a more or less guaranteed security. Some of the finest examples of the half-timbered manor house or hall—"that piece of architectural patchwork," are to be found in Cheshire. Adlington Hall, begun possibly as early as 1505, shows the combination of Gothic constructional remnants with Renaissance ornaments—long stone mullioned windows flanked by the richly carved porch and wing. The same characteristic is again to be seen in Handforth Hall, Tabley Hall and several others. Certainly one of the

Most imposing examples is Bramhall, where long horizontal lines of decorative timber-work in alternative bands produces a striking if rather monotonous effect.

Nantwich possesses the jumbled remains of Tudor art. One such house, with a fine overhanging room, jostles with an equally fine Georgian example—a singularly pleasing contrast in which the yet vivid age of one is tempered by the quiet repose of the other. The Crown Hotel in Welsh Row is only rivalled by that of Brereton. Barthomley, Knutsford and Chester also have scarcely less magnificent examples. Tabley and Marple Halls are further advances from the half-timbered a style, representative rather of mature Jacobean than Tudor. They do, however, show the same haphazard design, not yet fully worked out, which was necessary in the gradual transition from one style to the other.

Moreton Hall deserves a book to itself. Quoted in innumerable reference books as one of the most perfect examples of the period, it is one of the most noted show places of the county. The long room, banqueting hall, chambers, long corridor, staircase, gate-house, courtyard and moat form a perfect background for the medievalist, who would appreciate the spirit of the rhyme, carved on the timbers of the Great Hall:--

The Nantonian.

“When the trees are white with rime,
And the ground is black and bare,
Warmth and welcome shall ye find
Underneath these gables faier.
Chaitie and jolitie
Carve on every beam of wood,
Mercy, truth, equalitie,
Man’s eternal brotherhood.”

J. Boulding,
Form VI.

The Royal Funeral.

Passing Through the Hall.

We were fortunate to arrive in London by 4.30 p.m., after a splendid journey down the road. By 5.20 we were making our way towards the end of the queue which we eventually found a mile past Vauxhall Bridge, and thus we commenced our long wait at about six o’clock.

We started at the rate of five yards a minute, but later progress gradually decreased and the queue became very squashed as we proceeded at the tremendous pace of five lamp-posts per hour! Adding to difficulties was the rain, though we always found something to interest us on our route to the Hall. Ultimately we mounted the very muddy steps and in two ranks of four abreast, filed down each side of the catafalque=. This was guarded by four Guardsmen (and not Lifeguards as the official photograph shows), four gentlemen of Arms and four Beefeaters. Just as we descended the steps down into the Hall the Guard changed and this was very impressive, for the Guardsmen went through their movements with very slow and quiet precision. Particularly striking were the four Guardsmen, who appeared to be statues in a wax museum; their breathing could not be noticed even under careful observation.

Though we loitered at the exit to catch a last glimpse of this colourful and magical scene which held us all spellbound, we were ushered out quietly by police into the cold night air. Truly the police displayed great patience with the crowds that night. As we left the Hall it was 11.45,-- about four miles in nearly a quarter of a day!--but it was well worth the

Time, and the experience will always be remembered. My account is utterly inadequate, but I have every detail of that scene inside the Hall branded into my memory—it will never be forgotten. As we passed through the streets of the route of the procession, we were very surprised to see people lining up along the kerb—ten hours to wait!

The Procession.

Though we set out at 7.30 a.m. Tuesday morning to get a good position on the route after a very brief sleep, we were delayed in the underground for two hours, and so were greatly relieved when we eventually saw the light once again at Lancaster Gate. On release we immediately dashed across Hyde Park, to come to the thickly crowded route near Marble Arch. With twenty to thirty people deep in front of us we had difficulty to get very near the route; nevertheless I stood on an upturned case which proved of great service. We waited hardly a quarter of an hour before the procession was seen coming round the bend in the road further up.

IN contrast to the sombre uniform of the officer of the War Office staff who led the procession, came the attractive scarlet tunics of the first two Divisions of the Escort following him. This colourful scene was continued when the picturesque Band of Household Cavalry passed, preceding the blue of the R.A.F., whilst tanned men of the Dominion Services and ark men from India walked in little detachments in the Territorial Army.

For minute after minute troops passed by,—in khaki and blue, winter grey with red and white cockades—showing a glimpse of steel from the backs of reversed arms. All the troops were dismounted, and thus much pomp was lost when the brilliantly dressed Horse and Life Guards passed. They followed the Foot and Life Guards detachments, tall and straight in their great winter coats, wearing their handsome busbies. The Marines in white helmets, and the dark ranks of khaki-belted sailors were followed by the uniforms of Foreign Forces—making a splash of colour,—emerald plumes, gold lacings on crimson and white. Next came the cockaded Field Marshals, each with his baton resting on his thigh, preceding the heads of the other Services. Then followed the spectacular massed bands and pipers, whilst the climax was reached as the Earl Marshal, preceding the Gun carriage, drew level.

The Nantonian.

The coffin was covered with a Union Jack, and on it the crown, the orb, the scetre, the insignia of the Order of the Garter and the Queen's wreath. Drawn by seven score sturdy sailors and surrounded by different ranks of military men, the Gun Carriage slipped by, and then all eyes on the King (following the Royal Standard Bearer), walking, erect, pale, looking straight ahead, with his lips set firm, his face showing signs of the great strain of recent days. His uniform was that of an Admiral of the Fleet, and tow yards behind him, his brothers formed a rank,--the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent, wearing Air Force, Hussar and Naval uniforms respectively. Behind the brothers came all the Kings and Princes, too many to mention; but the picture of their spectacular uniforms was magnificent.

But they passed as seven coaches approached, with scarlet-coated drivers and footmen. In the first, a glass coach drawn by two bays, sat the Queen, white-faced beneath her long black veil, upright and regal, a handkerchief clutched in her hand. However, I failed to recognise anyone else in the coaches, which were followed by Officers of the Household, more Divisions of the Escort, the Police and the Fire Brigade detachments.

As the last of the procession passed, the crowd, till now quiet and patient, immediately surged here, there and everywhere, talking little, but thinking deeply of the very impressive page of history just turned.

M. G. Butt,
Form VI.

Dove Cottage.

It was noon, and the village at Town End was by no means deserted, as walking up a cobbled path I admired the ivy-covered frontage of Dove Cottage and inhaled the sweet perfume from "the honeysuckle crowding round the porch." This cottage, which before Wordsworth's time was an inn, contains many articles of historical interest. Much of the furniture has been collected from Wordsworth's various homes and is in keeping with the setting of the old building. On the ground floor are three main rooms: the living room and a bedroom overlook the lake, and at the back is the kitchen, which, as the cottage is built into the hillside, has the dark and gloomy aspect of a cellar.

Passing up the stairs, one is shown the cuckoo-clock which doubtless

Inspired the poem of that name. Upstairs the most interesting room is the sitting room, where the Wordsworths entertained their friends and where some of the poet's greatest works were written. I walked to the window thinking of the great men who had perhaps stood on these same creaking floor boards gazing through these same diamond panes; Sir Walter Scott, Coleridge, De Quincey, Matthew Arnold, Clarkson and the many other distinguished visitors. What did each see in the beautiful scene without, and what thoughts came to each vivid yet differing personality? The walls of the sitting room are covered with portraits of Wordsworth at different periods in his life; at one side is a bookcase containing the original editions of his works, and on another are three chairs covered in wool-work by the daughters of three poets, Dora Wordsworth, Sara Coleridge and Edith Southey.

Another interesting room is Wordsworth's bedroom, containing his bed with the original red-coloured hangings. On the walls hang photographs and paintings of places associated with him. The newspaper room was added by the Wordsworths and earned its name because they papered it with copies of a local newspaper, as Dorothy relates in her diary. It was under the window of this room that she watched with so much concern the swallows as they built their nest. The remaining room was added to the cottage after the Wordsworths had left, and now contains letters, manuscripts and other interesting articles, including a lock of the poet's hair and a life mask of him by Haydon.

Half way down the stairs a door opens into the garden, "the fairest spot that man hath ever found," the garden that has been so well pictured in Dorothy's diary and in her brother's poems. It has been kept as nearly as possible as in the poet's day and is stocked with the flowers so lovingly chronicled by him and his sister. On either side, the quaint stone steps, which the poet himself fashioned, lead up to a moss-covered shelter where he wrote many of his poems:

"O happy Garden! Whose seclusion deep
Hath been so friendly to industrious hours."

What scenes this "little Nook of mountain-ground" must have witnessed. "In morning William cut down the winter cherry tree." "I sowed French beans and weeded," or "planed London Pride upon the wall, and many things in the borders"; so runs Dorothy's diary.

The Nantonian.

It is not surprising that Wordsworth managed to forget “the care, the pain, the disillusionment” of the noisy world in this “sweet Garden-orchard eminently fair,” and as I reluctantly left Dove Cottage with its unique garden, thinking over this tranquil and, not surprisingly, most fruitful period in the poet’s life, I could fully appreciate his attitude when he wrote--

“The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers,
Little we see in Nature that is ours.”

B. Carr,
Form VI.

The Studious Sixth.

In the dim and distant past a most unexpected incident occurred; actually, if my memory does not fail me, it was about a term ago, but I’ve passed through a period of exams since then and consequently have little faith in that faculty. The incident referred to is the memorable occasion whereon I, together with several others, became members of that most honourable section of the community of the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, in short, the Sixth Form.

It was a move which, if considered from the outsider’s point of view, would probably leave doubts as to the mentality of those responsible for it. I am unable to dwell on this, however, for strong ‘political reasons.

This was how a new lower Sixth was recruited. The members of the new order were each in due course presented with a time-table. Insignificant fact you say, but not so to one who for the first time sees the words "Free Period" inscribed thereon; for him it is a matter which calls for rejoicing and jubilation. A "Free Period," to give a Staff definition, is a period devoted to private study. At this point I hasten to assure you, reader, that all great minds do not think alike, at least not on the subject of "Free Periods." Opinions offered as to the most advantageous ways of spending them were many and varied, but there was a marked absence of "industrial" suggestions. I do not intend at this juncture to describe in detail how they are spent, as I think that would be a most unwise revelation, and would be far better left unknown until one has left school. To say that they are the most enjoyable periods of the time-table is the least that can be

The Nantonian.

Said in their favour, but that, as many no doubt will realise, is not saying much.

Another thing which strikes a new "Sixth Former" in the eye, as it were, is the existence of two distinct and rival factions within the form. They are commonly known as "Artists" and "Scientists." "Artists" conveys rather a wrong impression of the adherents that cause: most of them are hardly what one would call artistic, but believe me (though I don't suppose for a moment that you will), they're jolly decent fellows. The opposition, as the name suggests, is of a more scientific nature, although generally I theory only, and are led by one "Cokey," whose true identity I will not disclose.

Hostilities have long since ceased and the militant attitude of both factions has become blighted. It did, however, serve its purpose, for during those distant days a new club was formed. The club follows a policy of "collective security," but in peace time its entire energies are solely concerned with the termly banquet. The menu, I'm sure, ought to be included in every cookery book, and the antidote in every medical book. Upon these grounds, therefore, I will venture to assert, although many will think I ought we hanged, drawn and quartered for it, that life is at times really worth living, even at school. But what comes here? Alas, the reports!

F. W. Eley,
Form VI.

Landscape.

Leaning on a gate, I surveyed the stretch of country which lay before me. On the horizon the setting sun dipped towards a range of hills, which stood gaunt against the sky. At the foot of the hills a stream meandered through green pastureland and among dark woods, and finally emptied into a swiftly-flowing river. A picturesque bridge crossed the river at a

Point where the road descended from the hills. A shepherd crossed the bridge, driving his flock before him. Slowly wending their way towards a farm was a herd of cows, and striding towards a little cottage "a ploughman plods his weary way."

H. Hope,
Form VU.a.

Tripe De Luxe.

The master says he wants a ligne
Ou deux for the school magazine,
And so maintenant I ecris
Sur quoi I would just like to be.

I think I'd like to be a roi
Parce que I'd have the best of thigs;
I's have a chateau dans le bois
Et sur les doigts I'd wear gold rings.

At first I'd find it difficile
A usar, p'raps, de Privy Seal,
But I would pesne and scratch la tete
Jusqu a je susse regir the State.

I'd work all day at my devoirs,
Apres le gouter take my ease;
I'd go au theatre every soir
Poour voir girls dance and men trapeze.

To everypne I'd be tres douce,
Mais quand my ministers ran loose
I'd go and tell them quelque chose
Et frappe du pied sur toes.

If I were King of tout le monde
De huile I'd send to Abyssinie,
I'd buy une chaine and wrap it ronde
Le menton lourd de Mussolini.

E. Grundy,
Form VU.a.

Au Clair de la Lune.

Devotees of "Twelfth Night" will doubtless be acquainted with the opinion of Pythagoras—a gentleman also framed in Geometry—concerning the "music of the spheres." Whether he is right or not I am hardly qualified to judge; but let me draw your attention to more lowly music that will often pass unnoticed save for uncalled-for and callous comments. A grand opera is enacted outside your window every night!

The scene is a garden, and the time anywhere from ten p.m. to five a.m. (eleven-thirty and three-thirty being the favourite times). A long-drawn-out note heralds the arrival of T. Catt. His heart is beating fast. Will his Thomasina be here? Will she?—. She is; and acquaints him with the fact in no uncertain tones. T. Catt's bass voice next pierces the gloom and we visualise him kneeling before the coy Thomasina. The suspicious trembles and breaks in his voice inform us that he is pressing his suit, and a sudden triumphant note indicates that his lady-love has deigned to look kindly on him. In a sweet soprano, Miss Thomasina tells him of her undying love. They then perform a short Bacchic dance (to judge by the state of the flower-beds next morning).

But alas! Who is here? It is the bold, bad baron, Sir Thomas Pusskin, who has come to carry off the blushing Thomasina by force. T. Catt protests. A duel is arranged and fought, Thomasina acting as second for both sides. Shriek after shriek rends the air as T. Catt is ignominiously routed. He flees. The victor and the fickle Thomasina embrace and the former songs and dance are duplicated. There is one difference. The lonely moan, apparently coming from a neighbouring wall, is the heart-broken outcry of T. Catt.

Mary Munro,
Form VU.a.

Ireland in Autumn.

The clang of chains reached my ears and I dreamily realised that we must be in harbour. This was Belfast harbour. Our journey in the train to our destination (a place outside Enniskillen) was not exactly comfortable after being used to the comforts of English trains, but this was compensated for by the scenery.

After the flat plains of Cheshire the hilly country was most pleasant to behold. Immediately out of Belfast, a rather high green hill greeted our view through the morning mist. A little farther out, at a place called Richill, thousands of apple trees could be seen; at this time they looked especially beautiful as they were laden with fruit.

Occasionally we approached a bog where the turf is cut. It was stacked ready for gathering in for the winter, as most people in the country in this land use peat instead of coal for their fires. Thus accounts for the

Characteristic peaty odour which gently drifts on the breeze and which all true Irishmen love. The purple heather and the brown turf on the uneven boggy land, contrasting with the greenness of the grass in the fields around, looked lovely as we seemed to saunter through (our train was a stopping train). On these bogs goats could be seen peacefully grazing, out as far as their chains would permit them, or perhaps straining to go a little farther out.

All this appeared more beautiful owing to the downpour of rain of the previous night. The grass was greener than it would have been. We could not help exclaiming at the size amid the profusion of blackberries. Even before we saw any other beauties of the country we felt our holiday would be enjoyable.

Nancy Perkins.

Form VU.b.

Otter Hunting.

We arise early, for to-day we are going to follow the otter hounds. The hounds now are usually foxhounds or cross-bred hounds, but a few rough haired otter hounds are seen. We wander up the streams always behind the pack, for the worst fault one can do is to get ahead of the hounds. If an otter is found, watch the water carefully in front of you and do not "Tally" until you are certain there is an otter. The hounds splash upstream quickly whilst the followers pick the best way to get along. As soon as the hounds scent an otter they wag their tails and increase their speed upstream, and

when they find an otter or a holt they mark or bark. When the hounds find a holt they are taken out of sight and the terrier is put in. His barks get more indistinct until they are not heard at all. Suddenly there is a scuffling noise and out slips the otter, a brown flashing form. He plunges under water and a line of bubbles shows his course. As soon as the otter is seen the hounds are set free. He leads us up and down stream, across country and back to the river again, but on some shallow pebble-bottomed part of the river the hounds see him and are n him before he can get away. There follows a short fight and then the finish. The master weighs him, cuts off his mask, rudder and pads, distributes the trophies, and so ends the hunt.

H. Fyles
Form VU.b.

Sandbach and the Crosses.

Sandbach is a market town about five miles North-east of Crewe, in the South-east of Cheshire. It is believed the inhabitants were converted to Christianity in 623 A.D., but actual history begins in Domesday Book with the Norman Conquest. Richard Sandbach, son of Sir Richard Sandbach, was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1230, and his descendants sold the Manor of Sandbach to Sir Randolph Crewe in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This ancient town has a beautiful church whose old oak ceilings date from 1661. To the south of this building is the Old Hall; its picturesque appearance attracts many visitors. It is now used as an hotel.

The ancient crosses of Sandbach date from a very early period; they are said to be some twelve centuries old. They appear to have been demolished during the middle of the seventeenth century and doubtless great violence was used to get them down, as is shown by the way the socket stones were damaged. When the crosses were destroyed, pieces were taken away, and only by great efforts by those interested were the missing pieces retrieved, one of the pieces being found in a brook at Bradwall about two miles away. The re-erection of these valuable crosses took place in 1815-16, and the records show that both material and labour were extremely cheap, the masons being paid two shillings per day.

They were put up in the first place to commemorate the conversion

To Christianity of King Penda's son Peada in the seventh century. It is recorded that Penda and his retinue rested at Sandbach whilst on his return journey to Mercia.

Irene Rowe.
Form VL.a.

The Air Port.

I arrived at the 'drome at about 10 o'clock and made my way to the hangars to enquire what time the next air liner was due in. When I reached the hangars I was in time to see a small Avro "Commodore" being made ready for a trip; the mechanics were just filling her up with petrol and oil. When these operations were finished, the 'plane was wheeled out on the tarmac and the pilot squeezed himself into the cockpit; a mechanic ran to the propellor and cried, "Switch on." The pilot replied "Switch on";- "Contact," "Contact," and with a heave, the mechanic swung the propellor and the engine awoke to life with a roar. The pilot having armed the engine up, waved for the chocks to be removed and then he taxied out over the field, rose steeply off the ground, and having circled round the 'drome, dipped his nose and turned toward the West. Hardly had he disappeared than the 'plane I was waiting for dropped out of the clouds, landed, and waddled up to the hangers. Five people descended and hurried into the waiting-room to await their luggage, which having been unloaded was being checked over by the Customs Officials. I waited until the liner took off again and then proceeded home.

P. Price,
Form VL.a.

Excavating a Tumulus.

Among the many tumuli of Cheshire there is one near Tarporley which has been recently excavated. A party of students and lecturers from Liverpool University came down to excavate this tumulus. After many measurements had been taken by theodolite, digging was started. A section was marked out for this purpose, and the earth in the centre was riddled in very fine riddles. On the first two or three days nothing

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Was found except a few flints, which were kept. Innumerable bits of quartz were found but none were kept owing to their unimportance. Digging became hard owing to the presence of gravel, but after a few days small pieces of worked flints were brought to light. The actual mark of tools used in working them could easily be seen. At a depth of eleven feet excitement ran high when a hole made of stones was uncovered. By good fortune I was present at this moment. This was thought to be the remains of a funeral pile, although this cannot be confirmed. However, it was not until a week later that anything of great interest was found. This came unexpectedly at about ten-thirty in the morning. I had not long come when some bones were found. After much careful digging a full skeleton of an animal was unearthed. A root as thick as a man's wrist had grown right through it. When it was brought into the open a veterinary surgeon was sent for and he stated that it was the skeleton of a sheep. He was particularly interested in the undeveloped fore legs which bent outwards. It seemed to indicate that the "modern" sheep has altered. The chief excavator, after a deal of trouble, said the sheep had been buried for at least two hundred years. After this work began with greater enthusiasm, but it was of no avail, much to the regret of the workers, myself and a friend. Two more post holes were unearthed, but to everybody's disappointment no burial urns were discovered.

E. Howarth,
Form VL.a.

Snowdon.

We were spending our holidays within a few miles of Snowdon; so one glorious morning, a party of us decided in brilliant sunshine to make the ascent. We arrived at the foot of Snowdon about mid-day, but to our surprise we found clouds gathering, and on enquiring at Llanberis station, we were informed that we might find on the summit, either brilliant sunshine or dense fog. We climbed into tiny carriages with a very small engine, which was to push from the back. After waiting several minutes we began to ascend the mountain. At first as I looked out of the window I saw waterfalls and green fields, but later as the mountain railway became steeper, the grass changed into hard rock and grey slates, and the temperature became much colder. We saw several ambitious climbers

Struggling upwards. As we began to near the top a mist began to close round the train. On reaching the summit the fog became very thick until we could see hardly twenty yards down the mountain. WE went into the café and waited for the next train. We stopped several times on our way down for the ascending car to pass. When we were within 1,000 feet of the floor again, we came into brilliant sunshine. We had a glorious view of the distant mountains and fields, but it was lost in the oncoming mist.

Margaret Vernon,
Form VL.B.

Our Peter.

Our dog, Peter, is a pedigree smooth-coated fox terrier, and he has many amusing habits. He does not like me (or anyone else) to roll my eyes at him, or to blow out my cheeks near his face, and he springs up at me when I do this, but after this he makes an effort to lick my face, as if to say, "Sorry." Every tea-time he goes to mother, pats her lightly with his paw to attract her attention, and sits up, for he wants a saucer

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Of tea. This he will not touch until he sees her pour some extra milk into it.

He has caught many rabbits and hares with us lately, and we take the rabbit from him when he has caught it (the rabbit or hare always being dead by the time we reach it), taking it home supper or dinner. Of course, he frequently goes rabbit-hunting on his own, often proudly bringing home a half-eaten rabbit, and twice he has brought home a partridge.

Peter makes a very good pet, but he is also a reliable house dog; everybody likes him—except, perhaps, the paper-boy.

R. Allenby,
Form R.a.

My Canary.

As I look at my poor canary fastened up in a cage about one foot square, I often have a feeling that I would like to go around the world releasing all the birds in captivity.

But think what it would be like if I let my canary out even on a fine day. He would not know where and how to get food. Not being used to the open air, even on a fine day, he would feel cold after being caged up in a nice warm room. He would not know how to keep warm or look after himself in any way whatsoever. What a shame it would be if I released him! He keeps us merry at the dullest of times with his continuous and sweet singing. When he hops joyfully from one perch to another I think that he at least must be able to put up with captivity. When I am feeding him, he plays about with me and in doing so he convinces me that he is happy, and that is all I want to know.

John A. Leedham,
Form R.a.

The Angler.

Why doth the artful wait
Throughout each shining hour,
And whip the stream with tempting bait,
Till twilight shadows lower?

Right skilfully his rod he wields,
Ye vain is his display,
His labour hard no product yields;
Now wherefore doth he stay?

Then he at nightfall may repair,
When no many can descry,
To him who vendeth fish, and there
Some "speckled beauties" buy.

Then bear them home , and vaunt his skill
In language false and free;
For anglers find some story still
For those that curious be.

J. R. Cadman,
Form R.b.

Canals.

Although I am sure that in many lessons your roving eye has wistfully rested on the freedom of the canal bank, I doubt whether many of you think of the canal in any other way than as a place of escape from the tediousness of lessons.

Yet canals have played an important part in the history of English transport. . . .

After this imposing introduction I thought hard, sucked the end of my pencil, and then went to get an encyclopaedia. I covered my ears with my hands so that I could not hear the much-more-interesting music of the wireless, and diligently read the first page dealing with canals. I then discovered that I had not understood a word of it and went back to the beginning. This time my muddled brain began to function and I managed to absorb a little of the meaning, but I was pained to discover that the canals of England only dated back to the middle of the eighteenth century and that my next carefully prepared sentence, which stated that the first English was established thousands of years ago was utterly untruthful and no doubt would have corrupted the earnest minds of my readers.

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I lay back in my chair despairingly perceiving that all my mental effort had been in vain, and tried to think of another intellectual topic on which to write. Inspiration, however, refused to come, and as I wanted more and more to listen to the wireless, I slammed the heart-breaking encyclopaedia, drew a firm line under this effusion and hurled my books into my bag, announcing with conviction, that I had finished my magazine article.

Barbara Blud,
Form R.b.

A Swimming Lesson.

There goes Mrs. Moorhen, clacking at the top of her voice as she breaks through the reeds. A little ball of brown fluff, about two and a half inches long, rolled into the water as the reeds parted. Mrs. Moorhen made an awful noise, and out of the meadow came father. She seemed to be calling to him to go and see the family swim. Mrs. Moorhen became quite excited, as her seven balls of fluff tested their swimming ability for the first time. Round and round she swam, with her head and tail jerking at the same time, as she went. A cycle coming down the lane disturbed their swimming lesson; Mrs. Moorhen scrambled for land, calling all her young to follow, while father brought up the rear with a surprised cackle. Here and there the small chicks could be seen running through the reeds following their mother like a lot of sheep.

It is said that when Mrs. Moorhen lays another nestful of eggs, these chicks take the next batch of chicks and act as parents to them.

Winnie Harding,
Form IV a.

Snow.

O gentle snow descending
Upon the earth so still,
Disguising with your whiteness
The street, the field, the hill!

O robe of heavenly threads!
O beauty from on high!
Caught up from earth unspotted,
And woven in thy sky!

The Nantonian.

Out on the open country,
When crops are in the home,
The snow does make a garment
Over the frozen loam.

Jack Jones,
Form IV a.

Music.

There has never been a time when there were no sweet sounds of music in the world. For even in the past there have been the surging of the waves as they broke upon the shore, a sound like the beating of many drums. Lightning was, and is now, followed by a majestic peal of thunder. In the summer-time one may, to-day, hear the rustling of leaves, the lapping of the waves, the ripple of a stream, the hum of insects and the songs of the birds.

All this music belongs to Nature—music which our greatest composers have tried hard to imitate, but always in vain.

Elsie Davies,
Form IV a.

The Thrush.

Outside my door comes every morn
A thrush with speckled breast;
He's waiting for his breakfast, see!
His bright eyes on me rest.

He sees my open, outstretched hand,
He's not afraid or shy,
He boldly comes to where I stand,
Just where the breadcrumbs lie.

I'm very fond of my small friend,
He's just as fond of me,
For when the evening comes, he sings
His sweetest songs for me.

W. Lawrence,
Form IV b.

Shakespeare.

S is for Shakespeare,
Who wrote many a play.
H is for Henry,
The Fifth, let us say.
A is for Antony,
A Roman so true,
K is for Katherine
In Taming the Shrew.
E s for England,
That's where he was born.
S is for Stratford
Where he poached the fawn.
P is for paper
On which he did write.
E is for "enter"--
By lef or by right.
A is for Avon
By which he did sit.
R is for Rosalind
In As You Like It.
E is for "exit,"
'tis the best I can do.
So I hope it will bring satisfaction to you.

H. Blacklay,
Form IV b.

Navy Week at Portsmouth.

Two years ago I went by car from a little village near Aldershot, where I was spending my summer holidays, to Portsmouth Navy Week. When we arrived we bought a guide book from a sailor in the street and paid a shilling to go in. First of all we went over Nelson's flagship Victory, on which he died. Then went on board a destroyer and saw the torpedoes being greased. After that we went on board a submarine called the Swordfish and I looked up the periscope. I then saw a mimic battle in a dock; a Chinese junk attacked a British merchant ship and boarded it. Then an English submarine came up, shelled the junk and set it on fire. We then had tea for a shilling on board the aircraft-carrier Courageous. Last of all we went on the Hood, which is the largest warship and the fastest battle-cruiser in the world. We crawled up a little hole into a gun-turret and heard a sailor explaining how a gun works. We left Portsmouth at half-past six and reached home at eight o'clock.

Alan Clarke,
Form III a.

Spring.

Let us take a peep into the countryside which Mother Nature has made so very beautiful. The hedges which border the country lanes are now shooting into little baby leaves. Here and there a small stray violet peeps out from under the shelter of the hedges. The sturdy trees are beginning to unfold their buds. Fairy artists appear to have been busy, because there are the most beautiful colours imaginable blended together in

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These buds. There are all different colours, and one of the prettiest is the red lime and the bright fresh-looking green of the lilac. Dotted round about are old-fashioned farms with beautiful gardens in which grow hyacinths, crocuses, daffodils and narcissi. Flying round about are swallows who have come back to England from over the seas. But one of the prettiest sights of all is the gay young lambs who are frisking about their mother in the green fields.

It think that at this time of the year people who are unhappy or miserable ought to go for a long ramble in the countryside and they will be sure to come back happy.

Sheila Morgan,
Form III a.

Chester.

Chester, as we know, is the principal town in Cheshire. It has a lovely Cathedral, so we must call it a city. Flowing through the city is a river called the river Dee. Many boats sail on the river, taking people to different places, one of which is Eaton Hall, the residence of the Duke of Westminster. Near to the river is a race course on which they hold race meetings, shows and fairs. Chester is an old city which contains many black and white houses; also there are still to be seen parts of the wall which the Romans built around it. There are many nice shops and hotels there. On an iron bridge, over a main street, there is a clock which was erected in memory of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, 1887.

Joan Moss,
Form III b.

My Pony.

My pony is black so I call him "Black Beauty." He has a very long black tail which nearly touches the ground, so I have to brush it often to keep it clean. I keep his mane short to make it look tidy and keep the dust out of it. He has a white star on his head which makes his head look pretty. In winter his coat gets long and dirty, but in summer it glistens in the sun.

I feed him on oats in winter because there is not sufficient goodness in the grass for him to live on. In spring he casts his winter coat. In

Summer he gets fat and it is then he looks his best. When autumn comes I prepare him for hunting. When I go hunting I wear riding breeches and take a hunting whip. He enjoys the hunt as much as I do, he likes to be up to the front of the horses. One day he did a very naughty trick whilst I was riding him along the road. After he had gone about a quarter a mile he would go no further, so I used the whip and tried to make him go, but he reared and bolted home as fast as he could, just missing two cyclists. I was not frightened although I was very angry with him.

Brian Wilson,
Form III b.

Mr. Frog.

Croak! Croak! Croak! Croak!
Mr. Froggy goes;
He doesn't wear a fancy cloak,
But everybody knows
That he can change his dress of green
To lighter green or brown:
It all depends if he decides
To go to field or town.

Mary Booth,
Prep. Dept.

Snowdrops.

I love the little snowdrops
So delicate and white,
They shine among the waving grass
Like little stars at night.
They come along in winter,
In pinching frost and cold,
They do not seem to mind at all;
How can they be so bold?

Brenda Ferns,
Prep. Dept.

Johnnie.

When Johnnie gets up in the morning,
At twenty-five minutes to eight,
He opens his mouth and starts yawning,
Then stares at the food on his plate.

He grumbles at having a tooth stopped,
He grumbles at having one out,
And when in the chair at the dentist's,
Does nothing but wriggle and shout.

G. Robinson,
Prep. Dept.

Old Grammarian Notes.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was held on Friday, February 14th, and was a very successful gathering. It was vegratifying to see so many of our younger members present. Our principal gest was Mr. Rolf Whittingham, the Clerk to the Nantwich Urban District Council, and the son of the late Mr. A. E. Whittingham, who was one of the founders of the Old Grammarians' Association.

The General Meeting was held on Friday, Febuary 28th, the President, Mr. J. Lodge, taking the chair. The secretary (Mr. W. Blud)apologised for the absence of the Treasurer (Mr. K. Evans), and reported that a Balance Sheet had been forwarded to all members of the Association whose addresses were known. The president, who is also acting as Treasurer of the Scholarship Appeal Fund, reported that subscriptions were coming in rather slowly and appealed to all members to ask Old Pupils of the School to help this worthy object. The meeting unanimously decided to transfer £100 from the Life Membership Account ot the Scholarship Fund.

The Social Committee reported a highly successssful season. Badminton is still well patronised and the newly formed girls' Hockey Team has been quite a success.

During the year, two Old Grammarians from the overseas have paid the School a visit,--Mr. Rovbert Walley (Canada), and Mr. Harry Dickenson (South Africa). Both have been abroad for more than twenty years and expressed their delight in and appreciation of the many changes which had taken place since their school days.

All Old Grammarians are invited to keep in touch with the School and their old scjool friends by becoming members of the Association. At all times the Head Master and School will give a hearty welcome to old pupils.

M. D.

B. M.

Old Grammarians' Successes.

Among the notable achievements of our Old Pupils are the following:--

Oswald Beynon, B.A. (1st Class Honours Economics), University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; awarded Sir John Williams Fellowship for two years or more.

Dorothy Brassington, B.A. (Liverpool University), awarded Travelling Scholarship of £20 to Geneva.

Sydney Ellerton, B.Sc. (1st Class Honours Agric. Botany), University College of North Wales, Bangor; awarded a Board of Agriculture Research Scholarship of £200 a year for three years at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and abroad.

Agnes Ross, B.Sc. (3rd Class Honours Botany), University of London.

Herbert Shepherd, L.D.S., University of Liverpool.

Valete et Salvete.

Left:--

Hodgkin House:--

Boys: Bates R. G., Bennett D., Brown A., Doricott D., Gerard A., Gostick T., Haighton D., Jackson S. A., King G. P., Lloyd D., Moore R., Ridyard D. W., Roberts D., Sanders C., Sumner A. P., Whittle N.

Girls: M. Clayton, M. Davies, M. Dodd, R. Hardern, C. Jasper, D. Lake, J. Pearson, P. Peters, M. Smith, H. Whitlow, A. Williams.

Thrush House:--

Boys Ashurst W., Bebb W., Chadwick R., Clayton J., Comley K. W., Gowdridge A., Haining B., Johnson R., Logan T., Ridgway R., Sutton C., Wood C. A.

Girls: M. Boffey, C. Cowell, B. Doody, G. Hughes, M. Moore, B. Nash, J. Plumb, M. Robinson, J. L. Thomas, A. Walter.

Wilbraham House:--

Boys: Barnett J. R., Bennett S., Bibby J., Brown W., Butters W., Chadwick K., Green D., Goodwon F., Gostick H., Knowles W., Large D., Newell H., Nixon F., Ratcliffe D., Roberts P., Sadler B., Scragg H., Willis F>

Girls: M. Dentith, J. Doricott, D. Harrop, M. Hough, O. Hughes, H. Jackson, P. Jackosn, P. Jasper, S. Lindley, I. Pooley.

New Comers:--

Hodgkin House:--

Boys: Barber F., Clarke H., Clarke J., Ellson J., Glover W., Hassall K., Hill R., Jackson J., Millward H., Moulton P., Poole D., Roberts D., Wilson J.

Girls: B. beech, D. Doriscott, J. Evanson, C. Farmer, E. Garner, B. King, H. Mottram, S. Morgan, R. Norris, I. Williams, J. Wyche.

Thrush House:--

Boys: Bostock H., Brydson P., Clarke W., Doody R., Furber S., Kill W., Logan I., Probert R., Shenton J., Stubbs F., Vickers J. L.

Girls: M. Bromfield, E. Charlesworth, M. Crosbie, M. Jolly, A. Porter, P. Ray, M. Smith.

Wilbraham House:--

Boys: Burgwin E., Hargreaves A., Leedham R., Lloys J., Millard B., Millward K., Mitchell N., Mottram D., Rowlands M., Shelagh S., Tomkinson R., Williams J.

Girls: J. Adams, I. Bebb, J. Clayto, J. Doricott, E. Duton, M. Edwards, M. Ellson, D. Grocott, S. Jones, E. Lee, M. Maybury, D. Morrey, J. Moss, M. Purcell, B. Upton, L. Walker.

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