

The Nantonian.

# Nantwich and Acton Grammar School Magazine

Editorial Committee:

Headmaster: Mr. J. Lodge, M.A.

Mr. R. Gowanlock, B.A., Miss S. Evans-Hughes, B.A.,

Mr. D. R. Hughes, B.A.

**November, 1939.**

New Series.

Vol. I., No. 8.

# The Nantonian

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## Editorial.

Our last issue received widespread approval and it was particularly gratifying to read the press notice in the Cheshire Observer, which gave a most appreciative account of that number. All along we have contended that we can produce a good Magazine; but the effort must be persistent and calls for the support of every member of the School. We cannot leave things to a few enthusiasts.

This Magazine presents two new features—chief of which is the photographic supplement—the work of Mr. Bailey and his collaborators. For a long time we have been considering the inclusion of some of the work of our noble band of photographers and now, thanks to Mr. Bailey's skill and patience, we have been able to include a representative collection. The second innovation is the introduction of the illuminated letters as headings for our House Notes: for these we are indebted to Miss Hughes and members of her Art Classes.

As regards the literary contributions we would refer you especially to the two letters which follow the Old Grammarians' Notes; how lucky we are in having a correspondent who really has seen Hitler and who really did take part in that Great Exodus from Germany on the eve of this calamitous war; and how lucky we are to receive such a lively and witty letter as that from "Gunner" Kingston, from which we quote several extracts. We should be glad if other Old Grammarians would follow this lead; we hope our present pupils will be encouraged in their own attempts to produce similar interesting and delightful contributions.

We print the second of the series of articles which we promised on Careers, and though the sequel to Mr. Caunt's first article on Weights and Measures does not appear on this occasion, we hope to include it in the next issue.

What more fitting conclusion than to congratulate the winners of the Magazine prizes and urge our readers to make a more determined effort next time!

School Notes, October, 1939.

We begin the new School year with 417 pupils, 344 in the Senior School and 73 in the Preparatory Department. Of this number eight seniors and one junior are temporary pupils, who have come to stay in this district owing to the outbreak of war. They are heartily welcome among us.

The outbreak of this war has put us in a predicament not unlike that experienced in 1914. Things are not quite so bad, we hope, as was predicted by the poet, who in our number for last November wrote:

And th' walls have grown but a few inches,  
And it's taken 'em ten weeks or more,  
So according to all calculations  
They'll be finishin' t' year '44.

We are actually in the new wing, but the top floor of the old wing, where a new laboratory should be, is merely a desolation; the hall, which should be the soul of the building and a place of sweetness and light, is still contracted to half its size and is a place of darkness and debris; and many other desirable places are incomplete and unequipped. We can but hope that the poet was unduly pessimistic about his date.

The war has temporarily deprived us of the services of Mr. Hughes, who is serving as an officer in the Anti-Tank Corps. We wish him good luck and a speedy return to the School. His work is in the capable hands of Mrs. Gowanlock, who has kindly made a temporary return to her old post.

We have to thank Edna Charlesworth, Wendy Leadbeater and Harold Wright for parting gifts to the School in the form of cheques for the purchase of articles, which will be specified later. We have to thank Mr. J. E. Bowers for further gifts of pictures, and Mrs. Chetwood for books.

To Pamela Haighton and Mr. E. S. Haighton we are indebted for a young curlew, which is now in the Musuem. Mr. Haighton found it wounded on Nantwich Golf Links in July last, Dr. Blacklay chloroformed it, and Pamela brought it to the School.

Congratulations to J. O. Green on being awarded a Senior Ministry of Agriculture Scholarship at Leeds University, where he is to pursue an Honours course in Agriculture Botany for 3 or 4 years.

Congratulations to R. A. Owen, Head Boy for last year, on his success in the examination for the Executive Grade of the Civil Service.

Congratulations to Mr. Bailey, Mr. Carey and the Campers on their successful and sunny week in August.

Congratulations to Mr. Ena Carr and K. Hope on winning the Magazine Prizes kindly given by Mrs. Gowanlock. The prize articles were St. Valentine's Day and Nature and Education.

We were very sorry to lose Mr. Caunt at the end of last term and wish him and his family every happiness at Ipswich. Our good wishes were emphasised by a gift to Mr. Caunt in the shape of photographic apparatus, while he kindly and appropriately presented the School with a copy of "Mathematics for the Million."

We welcome to the Staff this term Miss M. Knowelden and Mr. E. R. L. Lewis.

Founders' Day was the subject of a special photograph in our last number. Founders' Day Service was held this year at Acton Parish Church, the Vicar of Acton officiating and the Rector of Nantwich preaching the sermon. The service was as impressive as ever, and the countryside was at its loveliest on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1939.

Pn Sports Day, which was held immediately after the Whitsun recess, a shortened programme proved highly successful. We regretted the absence of Mr. Pelper, but were delighted to welcome Mrs. Pelper, who presented the trophies.

Swimming Sports at the end of the term were equally successful and indicated the improvement achieved in swimming by the increased facilities for using the Swimming Bath. This was mainly due to the co-operation between Mr. Carey and Mr. Garnett, Chairman of the Bath Committee, who kindly presented the trophies.

The School again contributed generously to the Egg Collection on behalf of the Cottage Hospital.

The House Competition in Country Dancing, in which Thrush were leaders by a narrow margin, demonstrated the continuous advance which is being achieved in this delightful activity.

It has now become customary for Mrs. Lodge to present a workbasket of the girl whom she and Miss Uttley consider to have sent in the best piece of work to the Needlework Exhibition. The winner this year was Lily Hanley.

Higher School Certificate and School Certificate results are recorded elsewhere. The Higher School Certificates were not quite as numerous as usual, but the total of 39 School Certificates was exceptionally good, particularly when regard is had to the conditions in which work was done throughout the year. Warmest congratulations to all concerned!

J.L.

### Preparatory School.

The last notes for the Preparatory School were made in April. The Summer Term seemed particularly uneventful, apart from hard work. In May a contribution of twenty-eight dozen eggs was made towards the collection for the Cottage Hospital.

Outside the ordinary routine, a very pleasing and encouraging feature was the great enthusiasm shown by a group of pupils in Form II. Upper in continuing collections of wild flowers begun in the Spring Term. One pupil pressed, mounted and named 242 different specimens, while two others came near with 230 and 210 respectively. Several children carried on their work during the holiday and brought the first three totals to 301, 263 and 257.

Not quite so many bird walks were taken as last year, but interest was keen and several pupils kept very interesting bird books.

Three or four children attempted to make records in pictures and news cuttings of the Royal Tour in Canada. June Welch succeeded in making an excellent book and was awarded a small prize for her effort.

The House Mark Shield was won by Wilbraham with 889 points. Hodgkin gained second place with 837, and Thrush followed with 717.

The Spelling Plaque went to Hodgkin with 910 points, Wilbraham scored 700 and Thrush came third with 652.

On the last Tuesday of the term we gave a concert in the School Hall, which included the playlet "Cinderella" and a few miscellaneous items. Owing to the School alterations, the smallness of the stage and hall hampered us to some extent, but we managed well enough and were told on all hands that our effort had been a great success.

We returned in September to find the outside of our building had been repainted in a coat of bright green and hence the Little School is doing its best in more ways than one to keep a cheerful face in these dark days.

We have made a big effort to respond to the Head Master's request for blankets, and at the moment of writing we have twenty to our credit.

We have at last succeeded in replacing our jam-jar flower holders, by very good imitation cut glass vases and jugs, and the improvement is striking.

We wish to thank Mrs. Dutton, of Hatherton, for a gift of money with which we have replaced a statue of "Cupid and Psyche," and Mrs. Charlesworth for a contribution towards replacing the "Winged Victory," and some decorative pottery.

E.M.G.

## House Notes.

Captains: Girl—B. Shepherd; Boy—E. R. Myers.

Vice-Captains: Girl—J. Wych; Boy—J. Appleton.

We are very sorry to lose our Captains, B. Shepherd and Myers; we wish them every success in the future. Although we did not win either the Tennis or Cricket Shields, we finished runners-up in both. Four Hodgkins have played in the tennis team,— B. Shepherd, I. Bates, M. Howarth and M. Hunt, while there were five Hodgkins in the Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI.—Myers, Hope, Brown, Hinde and Rainbird. We were unsuccessful in the Swimming Sports, although B. Shepherd and Nichols finished runners-up in the girls' and boys' senior championships.

Last, but by no means least, we must congratulate ourselves on finishing runners-up in the House Championship, being narrowly beaten by Thrush.

Captains: Girl—A. I. Carr; Boy—F. Tomkinson.

Vice-Captains: Girl—M. Munro; Boy—D. Smith.

The Thrushes are to be congratulated upon being Champion House for the fifth time in succession! We have obtained first places in tennis and country dancing—due to a large extent to the exertions of Ena Carr.

In the Swimming and Athletic Sports we were not quite so successful, although we came second in both events. Cricket, this year, was our weakness, but we hope to do better next year.

We do not owe our Championship to our Sports alone, for we came first in examinations and second in term-work.



We have been fortunate in having so many individual "stars"--Ena Carr was the Senior Girl Champion, while Agnes Porter was the Junior Girl Champion. Agnes was also the Junior Girl Swimming Champion. Hughes was Junior Boy Swimming Champion and runner-up for the Junior Boys' Athletic Championship..

We only hope that the Thrushes will be equally successful in the future. We extend best wishes to all those leaving us and hope that all who remain will uphold the Thrush tradition.

M.M.,

F.T.`

Captains: Girl—E. Owen; Boy—R. A. Owen.

Vice-Captains: Girl—M. Dane; Boy—B. N. Furber.

This year Wilbrahams have excelled themselves in all but scholastic fields: there they have retained their undistinguished place at the bottom. In the Athletic Sports we equalled last year's performance and succeeded in coming first by a large margin: the Senior Champion (Furber), the Runner-up (Henshall) and the Junior Champion (Nicholas) were all Wilbrahams. Swimming also provided us with a prodigious success; here we won by a clear thirty points, besides providing the boys' Senior Champion (Carr), the Junior Boys' Runner-up (Catley), the girls' Senior Champion (J. Adams), and the girls' Junior Runner-up (E. Adams). Even the Cricket Shield fell to our determined efforts: this was especially due to Henshall (the School Cricket Captain), Furber (Vice-Captain), and the three other School team players, Steventon (Colours), Mottram and Moseley.

The girls did not shine at tennis and were most unfortunate in losing the Country Dancing by only one point. Their co-operation, however, was invaluable in winning the Swimming Sports and the Egg Collecting Competition. Had we all made a greater effort in term and examination work, we might well have been Champion House. The very best of luck to all who are leaving us.

E.O.,

R.A.O.

### Tennis Notes.

This season's tennis results were disappointing, but perhaps this was due to very few of our last year's team being left; next year, however, we hope to have a more successful season.

Over half the matches had, unfortunately, to be cancelled; but in spite of the losses, those matches we did play were enjoyed both by the team and the spectators

This year's tennis team consisted of:--A. Carr, B. Shepherd, I. Bates, M. Jolly, A. Porter, M. Smith.

#### Results.

Matches played 5; won 0, lost 5.

M.T.

### Cricket Notes, 1939.

After playing eight matches during the term, the First Eleven results were as follows: five victories and three losses.

This record was very gratifying, especially as our successes were due usually to general ability throughout the team, though Henshall and Steventon proved of particular value on several occasions. Henshall was top of both the batting and bowling averages, with figures of 15.38 and 5.75 respectively. One point of criticism must, however, be recorded: there was often a lack of enthusiasm and effort when in the field, and for the future it should be remembered that keen fielding is quite as important for success as consistent batting and bowling.

### Fixture List.

Opponents	Where played	Result.	
Market Drayton G.S.	Home	Won	108—43
Crewe Secondary School	Away	Won	94 for 6—85
Sandbach Grammar School	Home	Won	108 for 8—71
Verdin Grammar School, Winsford	Home	Lost	53--74
Wolstanton Grammar School	Away	Lost	49—61 for 5
Market Drayton G.S.	Away	Won	106 for 5—49
Crewe Secondary School	Home	Won	98—80
Wolstanton Grammar School	Home	Lost	19—91

The following played for the School team in the course of the season: \*Henshall, \*Steventon, \*Crosby, Myers, Betts, Hope, Tomkinson F., Burkhill, Brown, Furber N., Moseley, Hinde, Mottram O., Smith, Rainbird.

\*Signifies a School cricket "colour."

R.F.H.,

W.M.C.

### Junior Cricket, 1939.

#### Results.

v. Sandbach C.S., at Nantwich:--

N.A.G.S. Juniors 79, Sandbach C.S. 42 for 9 (Price 23, Lloyd 9, Fox 16; Price 3 for 3, Wheeler 3 for 9). Draw.

v. Sandbach C.S., at Sandbach.

N.A.G.S. Juniors 34, Sandbach C.S. 35 for 1. (Alltree D.11).

Lost by 9 wickets.

The following have represented the School: Alltree D., Coor A., Fox, Hambridge, Hughes, Jones D., Lloyd, Price, Steventon, Wheeler, Williams.

## Sports Day, 1939.

We print the following account of our Sports Day from the Chronicle of July 3<sup>rd</sup>:--

Pupils of the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School held their annual sports meeting on the School playing field on Wednesday afternoon.

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Keen competition was noticeable in all events, and particularly House events. Last year's winners of the House Championship Shield—Wilbraham—were again successful in carrying off the trophy. A new record was sent up in the senior boys' 440 yards event by R. Henshall, who returned a time of 57 4/5 seconds.

The following were the year's Champions:--

Senior boys—Furber. Runner-up—Henshall.

Junior Boys—Nicholas. Runner-up--Hughes

Senior Girls—E. Carr. Runner-up—B. Shepherd

Junior Girls—A. Porter. Runner-up—M. Hobson.

### Results.

Boys' 100 yards (senior).--1, Furber; 2, Crosby; 3, Hinde. 11 1/5 secs.

Boys' 100 yards (sub senior).--1, F. Stubbs; 2, G. Stubbs; 3, Thomas. 11 3/5.

Boys' 100 yards (junior).--1, Nicholas; 2, Allsop; 3, Millard. 14 3/5 secs.

Boys' 100 yards (sub junior).--1, Hambridge; 2, Fox; 3, McHale. 14 4/5 secs.

Girls' 100 yards (senior).--1, D. Bebbington; 2, W. Harding; 3, L. Bowyer. 13 secs.

Girls' 100 yards (sub senior).--1, S. Simon; 2, A. Porter; 3, K. Bromfield. 13 4/5 secs.

Girls' 100 yards (junior).--1, B. North; 2, B. Lovatt; 3, M. Wilcock. 14 1/5 secs.

Girls' 100 yards (sub junior).--1, O. Brown; 2, H. Kelly; 3, M. Pace. 14 3/5 secs.

80 yards (under 10).--1, A. Ward; 2, M. Strey; 3, C. Welch. 12 1/5 secs.

Boys' 440 yards (senior).--1, Henshall; 2, Steele; 3, Crosby. 57 4/5 secs. (record).

Boys' Hurdles (sub senior).--1, Stubbs; 2, Mottram; 3, Fishwick. 15 2/5 secs.

Boys' Hrdles (senior).--1, Furber; 2, Tomkinson; 3, Myers. 16 secs.

Boys' Hurdle Relay.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Hodgkin; 3, Thrush. 47 1/5 secs.

Girls' House Relay (senior).--1, Hodgkin; 2, Thrush; 3, Wilbraham. 1 min. 32 ½ secs.

Girls' House Relay (junior).-- 1, Thrush; 2, Wilbraham; 3, Hodgkin. 1 min. 37 2/5 secs.

Boys' House Relay (senior).-- 1, Wilbraham; 2, Hodgkin; 3, Thrush. 1 min. 48 4/5 secs.

Boys' High Jump (junior).--1, Hughes; 2, Price; 3, Wheeler. 4ft. 3 ½ ins.

Boys' High Jump (senior).--1, Tomkinson; 2, Henshall; 3, Steele. 16ft. 8 ins.

Girls' Multi-Relay.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush; 3, Hodgkin.

Boys' Multi-Relay.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush; 3, Hodgkin.

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Boys' 220 yards (junior).--1, Nicholas; 2, Hambridge; 3, Allsop. 29 4/5 secs.

Boys' 220 yards (senior).--1, Henshall; 2, Stubbs; 3, Crosby. 25 2/5 secs.

Boys' Mile (senior).--1, Henshall; 2, Stubbs. 5 mins 20 secs.

Boys' Long Jump (junior).--1, Nicholas; 2, Allsop; 3, Hambridge. 13 ft. 9 ins.

Throwing the Ball (girls). 1, S. Fyles, 46 yds. 2 ft. 3 ins.; 2, S. Jones; 3, M. Howarth.

Boys' House Relay (junior).--1, Thrush; 2, Wilbraham.

Boys' High Jump (senior).--1, (equal), Tomkinson and Stubbs, 4ft, 10 1/2ins.; 3, Steele.

Tug-of-war.--Wilbraham beat Hodgkin.

The prizes were afterwards presented by Mrs. F. C. Pelper.

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## Swimming Sports, 1939.

The annual Swimming Sports were held on the morning of Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. In bright sunshine a large crowd of parents and friends of the School watched a long and varied programme. Mr. I. Cadman kindly assisted with the judging of the diving, and at the conclusion of the Sports, Councillor A. E. Garnett presented the cups. To both these gentlemen the School is very grateful for their interest and help. The programme resulted as follows:--

Girls', Beginners' Width.--1, M. Parr (H.); 2, P. Heath (T.) and O. Dodd (W.). Time 20 1/5 secs.

Boys', Beginners' Width.--1, Birchall (H.); 2, Jones (W.); 3, Moulton (T.) Time: 15 4/5 secs. (record).

Girls', Beginners' Length.--1, J. Thomasson (T.); 2, P. Ogden (W.); 3, T. Done (W.). Time, 36 2/5 secs. (record).

Boys' Beginners' Length.--1, Brydson (W.); 2, Platt (W.); 3, Ray (T.). Time: 30 3/5 secs. (record).

Girls', Junior, One Length Breast stroke.--1, L. Jackson(T.); 2, S. Simon (W.) and M. Smith (H.) Time: 30 3/5 secs. (record).

Boys' Senior, One Length Free style.--1, Carr (W.); 2, Hobson (W.); 3, Nichols (H.) Time: 20 1/5 secs.

Girls', Senior, One Length Back Stroke.--1, E. Carr (T.); 2, S. Morgan (H.) and D. Hannon (H.). Time: 23 secs.

Boys' Senior, One Length Breast Stroke.--1, Smith (T.); 2, Furber (W.); 3, Wilson (H.). Time: 26 4/5 secs.

Girls', Junior, One Length Back Stroke.--1, A. Porter (T.); 2, M. Smith(H.); 3, L. Jackson (T.) Time: 33 secs. (record).

Boys', Junior, One Length Back Stroke.--1, Hughes (T.); 2, McHale (W.); 3, Shaw (T.). Time: 26 1/5 secs. (record).

Girls', Senior, One Length Breast Stroke.--1, B. Shepherd(H.); 2, J. Adams (W.); 3, M. Jolly (T.). Time: 26 3/5 secs.

Girls', Junior, Diving.--1, A. Porter (T.); 2, E. Adams (W.); 3, P. Bricker (H.).

Boys', Junior, Diving.--1, Catley (W.); 2, Hughes (T.); 3, Nicholas (W.).

Girls', Junior, One Length Free Style.--1, A. Porter (T.); 2, P. Bricker (H.); 3, M. Maybury (W.). Time: 24 2/5 secs.

Boys', Junior, One Length Free Style.--1, Hughes (T.); 2, Williams (T.); 3, Catley (W.) Time: 21 1/5 secs. (record).

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Junior Department, One Length, Boys.--1, Pepler; 2, Whittingham; 3, Lake. Time; 37 secs.

Junior Department. One Length, Girls.--1, E. Adams; 2, M. Storey; 3, D. Grocott. Time: 30 1/5 secs.

Boys', Junior, One Length Breast Stroke.--1, Dutton (T.); 2, Williams (T.); 3, Charlesworth (W.). Time: 31 4/5 secs. (record).

Girls', Senior, One Length Free Style.--1, J. Adams (W.); 2, B. Shepherd (H.); 3, E. Carr (T.). Time: 21 3/5 secs. (record).

Boys', Senior, Two Lengths Free Style.--1, Carr (W.); 2, Nichols (H.); 3, Smith (T.). Time: 48 1/5 secs. (record).

Girls', Senior Diving.--1, J. Adams (W.); 2, B. Shepherd (H.); 3, E. Carr (T.).

Boys', Senior Diving.--1, Carr (W.); 2, Hobson (W.); 3, Nichols (H.).

Girls', Junior House Relay.--1, Thrush; 2, Hodgkin. Time: 59 secs.

Boys', Junior House Relay.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush. Time: 48 2/5 secs. (record).

Girls', Senior House Relay.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush. Time: 2 mins. 11 4/5 secs.

Boys', Senior House Relay.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Thrush. Time: 1 min. 40 secs.

Girls', One Length in Clothes.--1, A. Porter (T.); 2, S. Morgan (H.); 3, J. Duffitt (W.). Time: 2 mins. 1 sec.

Boys' Cork Collecting House Competition.--1, Wilbraham; 2, Hodgkin.

Champion House.--1, Wilbraham. 170 points.

2, Thrush. 146

3, Hodgkin 60

Champions.--Seniors. Boys.--P. Carr (W.). Runner-up, E. Nichols (H.).

Girls.--J. Adams (W.). Runner-up, B. Shepherd (H.).

Juniors. Boys.--R. Hughes (T.). Runners-up, P. Williams (T.) D. Catley (W.).

Girls.--A. Porter (T.). Runner-up E. Dams (W.).

During the summer the School was enabled to enjoy special swimming facilities. This was made possible by the Baths Committee issuing a specially reduced and restricted Children's Season Ticket. The entire School was given the opportunity to swim several times a week, and much progress was made in the art of swimming—witness the twelve new records set up at the Sports at the end of the Term. No doubt many Grammarians made use of the season ticket during the summer holidays, and if we are able to continue the scheme next year, it will add still more to our outdoor enjoyments of the Summer Term.

W.M.C.

### Examination Successes.

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

#### Higher School Certificate.

Hope, C., A. Carr, M. Dane, E. Owen (F.).

#### Higher School Certificate—Subsidiary Subjects.

Wright A., M. Hunt.

#### School Certificate.

Form Vua.--Batchelor J. A., Blacklay O. H. (Sc.B.), Carr P. M. (Sc.), Green T. G. (E,e,F.Sc.B.), Hinde D. A. (M, Sc.), Lowe G. J. (M), Morgan R. R., Mottram P. E., Myers E. R., Nickless W. E. (E.F.), Pickerill J. H., Steele F. E. (E,e,r), Tomkinson D. H. (M), Tomkinson F. J. (F).

D. Bebbington (F), O. Booth (E.L.), M. A. Cowap (E.Sc.), N. Craighead (F.L.), E. Davies, A. Elks, S. Fyles, L. Stanley, W. Harding, C. Y. Lyons, B. Shepherd, P. E. Smith, R. M. Stanley (e,F,L).

Form Vub.--Appleton J. H., Brown W. E. (Sc.), Jones J. (Sc.), Jones W., Leedham J. A., Thomas W. A., Wright H., L. M. Bowyer, M. J. Bradshaw, M. F. M. Bromfield, D. Hannon (E,e,F), M. A. Sadler.

Letters in brackets indicate distinction in H.S.C., A Credits in S.C., B—Biology, E—English language, e—English Literature, F—French, L—Latin, M—Mathematics, R—Religious Knowledge, Sc.--General Science.

### School Societies and Clubs.

[The future of some of our Clubs cannot be reported with certainty. Under present conditions programmes have had to be radically altered or re-arranged; but wherever possible the work goes on and we hope to print a resume of our activities in the next issue.]

### Music Notes.

The Summer Term is usually a period of comparative quiet in our musical activities and the fact that the School Hall was in such a state of disrepair limited still further our enterprise. Our main achievement was the fine performance of the Choir at our annual Founders' Day Service. We take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Lewis for the good work she did for us in maintaining the traditional high standard of Miss Williams.

### Photographic Club.

The Photographic Club, under the guidance of Mr. Bailey, again revealed its activities during the Summer Term. Although no official meetings were arranged, owing to difficulties, several new enthusiastic members joined the select band.

The weather on Sports Day was more favourable than in previous years and many good prints were produced. Members of the Club were present at the Swimming Sports, when several more praiseworthy photographs were taken.

As in previous years a Photographic Exhibition was held during the School Garden Party, and in spite of the unfavourable weather it was a success. Some two hundred people visited the Exhibition. Besides a large number of photographs produced by members of the Club, there were exhibits by N. Pooley, E. Potter and O. Porter—old Grammarians.

A colour filter was purchased with the money obtained from last year's Exhibition, and a film tank, or other suitable equipment, is to be purchased with the profits from the Exhibition held this year.

Our thanks are due to K. Dodd, a past member of the Society, for a generous promise of an annual subscription. It is hoped that other 'old members' will show their appreciation of the kindly help and advice of Mr. Bailey in fostering such an instructive and fascinating hobby, by similar gifts.

As the ranks of the Club are rapidly decreasing, new members will be welcomed in the next session.

F.F.C.R.



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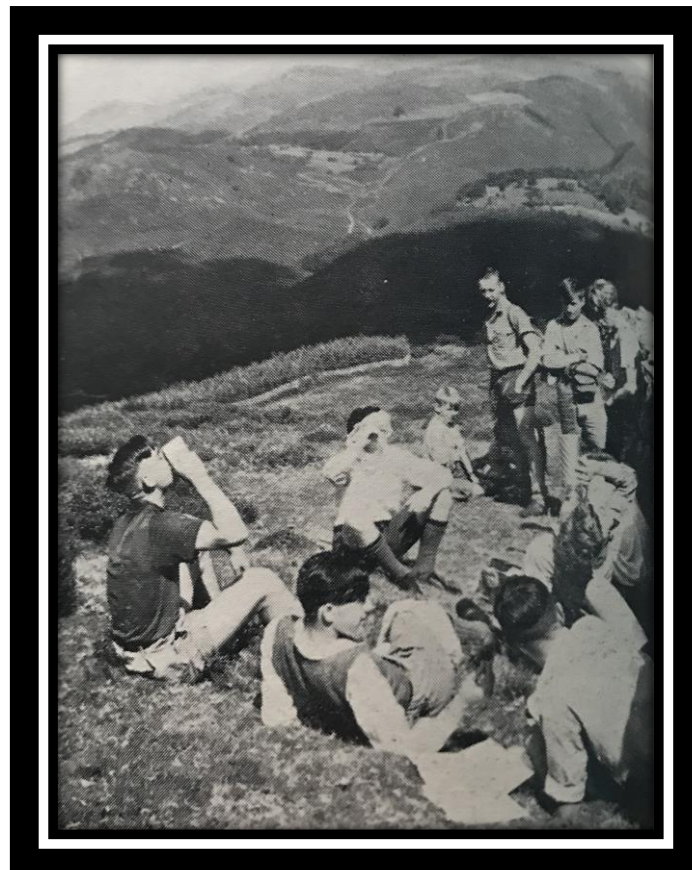
As the Camera Sees it.



The Lily Pond receiving a "Spring clean": in the background the new School buildings. Still in course of construction.



“Little School” race—a exciting finish in the School Sports, 1939.



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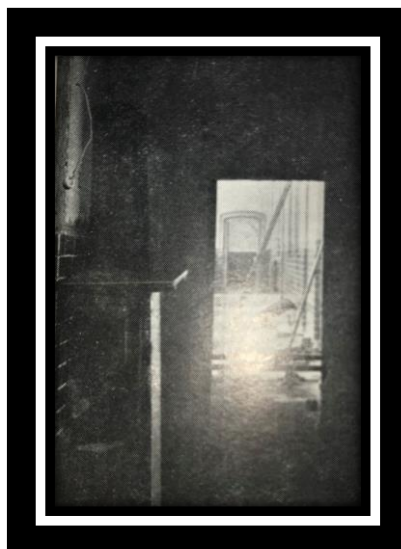
School Camp, 1939—In the mountains around Dolgelly.



School Camp, 1939—On the summit of Cader Idris.



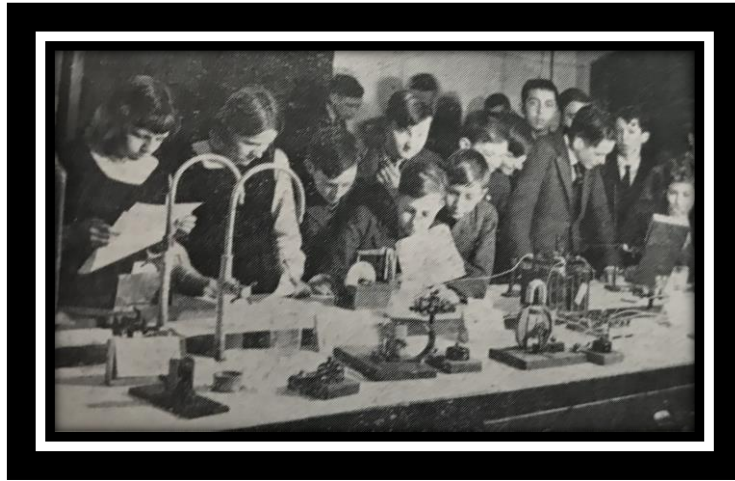
"Very nice indeed, Miss Uttley!" Mrs. Lodge judging the annual Needlework Exhibition.





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An unofficial “opening of the new wing. The witch indicates our working conditions, but the variety of noises must be imagined.



“How does it work?” An interesting corner of the Science Club Exhibition in the old Chemistry Laboratory



Summer—Founders' Day Service at Acton Church, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1939.



Winter—Form VI. Produce "The Charcoal Burner's Son," Xmas, 1938

#### Book Crafts Club.

The Book Crafts Club has quietly continued its activities during the Summer Term, although most of the senior members attended only until half term, and then devoted all their energy to preparation for examinations.

Several photograph albums have been made and all the magazines taken regularly by the School Library now have reading covers. One library book has been rebound, while two others will soon be completed.

The newer members have each bound a single section book and decorated the covers with potato cut designs, which have recently been the most popular form of pattern making. These have often been well chosen and well cut designs, but greater care must be taken to print them regularly and to keep the cut the right way up.

Printing of titles still needs care and members would do well to study the printing used on advertisements and posters and to make a note of the more attractive ones, so that they can imitate the lettering on books. Several of the senior members are leaving School and the Club can admit about three new members.

### The Nantonian.

E.R.C.J.

### The Caravan.

The Nantwich and Acton Grammar School branch of the caravan has now forty-six members, the majority of whom correspond with girls and boys in the United States, but they also write to Canada, France, Australia, the Gold Coast, New Zealand, India and Germany.

While many of our members write and receive letters regularly from their friends overseas, others are disappointed that they have not as yet received replies to their first letters. It is to be hoped that the girls and boys here will write so that there will be no people in other parts of the world who have to wait a long time for their letters.

Some exchange stamps, picture postcards and photographs. One girl has received an illustrated booklet describing the World Fair, which her pen-pal visited.

Many Canadian friends saw the King and Queen. One of them related how her mother had told small brother that if he were the King would shake hands with him. As their Majesties were passing, he shouted this aloud, and both the King and the Queen went and spoke to him!

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One girl wrote a letter and it was despatched to America. When the reply came, it was, strangely enough, from a distant cousin of the original writer.

Some letters have brought news of a three thousand acre farm in Australia and others come from a two thousand acre farm in Canada, which is situated near the oil fields, and in the district there are many Red Indians.

Two people are corresponding in French, and one girl, who cannot write a word of German, started an exchange of photographs, drawings and other things of mutual interest, with a German girl, who knew no English!

E.R.C.J.

### Woodwork Club.

Meetings have been held as usual up to the present, but 'black-out' difficulties will not permit our continuing to the end of term. We have welcomed several new comers and there has been a satisfactory attendance.

E.G.

### Guides.

During the Summer Term a patrol chosen from the Company took part in the District Competition. The patrol of four Guides had to prepare and cook a meal in the open air at a cost of not more than 4 1/2d. Each. They were judged on fire-lighting, cooking and general equipment. The School Company is to be congratulated on obtaining 90% and second place, thus receiving the second trophy. The result is highly satisfactory considering the fact that we had not had much experience in this form of Guide work.

Nine Guides were able to attend the District Camp, which was held during the last week in July. In spite of the weather they all enjoyed it very much.

Unfortunately the District Sports which were to have been held in September had to be cancelled.

We were extremely sorry to lose our three Patrol Leaders at the end of last term and should like to thank them for all the helpful work they have done during the time they have spent with the Company.

We have many enthusiastic recruits this term. We can no longer hold our weekly meetings after School and now have two meetings each week during the dinner-hour. One of these is spent in knitting. We hope to finish a blanket by the end of term and we should be very grateful for any scraps of wool to help us in our work.

M.G.

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### Folk Dancing Society.

The Summer Term did not see many "wantons light of heart tickling the senseless rushes with their heels." Instead we saw a great deal of earnest labour on the part of Hodgkins, Thrushes and Wilbrahams in order to gain supreme place in the competition. Our work was considerably lightened by the help received from Miss Uttley. Practices were held regularly each week until the great day arrived, bringing in its trail clean white pumps, colourful hair ribbons, a high standard of country dithering knees, but heroically smiling faces, the various Houses took their positions to face the critical audiences of school fellows. Mrs. Lewis kindly consented to judge the dancing, and as a result Thrush House gained first place, beating Wilbraham by one mark. The Folk Dancing Society wish to congratulate Thrush on its victory and wish Wilbraham and Hodgkin better luck next time.

M.D.

### School Excursions and Journeys.

#### Half Term Walk.

On Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, a small party arrived at Beeston, at 9.45 a.m., for an excursion in the Beeston-Peckforton district. We took the road to Beeston village, where we turned left for Peckforton, and proceeded through the woods at the foot of the hill to the caves. After lunch we continued to Broxton. Returning along the west side of the hills, we walked to Raw Head and from there to Beeston Castle. As we were almost at boiling point, we cooled down with ices and prepared for the return home. We returned to Beeston via the Canal, arriving at the station in time to miss the train by approximately three yards. Luckily there was a shop nearby, so we passed the time happily until the arrival of the next train.

F.F.C.R.

### School Camp, August 1939.

Interest in the School camp commenced with the journey via Chester, Ruabon, Bala and Barmouth.

Saturday: I meet the boys at Barmouth, but travel to Tal-y-Bont in the luggage van. This avoids answering lots of questions. First bathe after tea.

Sunday: The camp rises at 4 a.m. Officers wangle tea and biscuits in bed. Rise at 8a.m. We climb th Moelfre, 2,000 feet. The boys race to the top. W.M.C. arrives first and myself last according to plan (mine). Some of the boys learn the folly of racing up mountains. This knowledge will be useful. Send out for eight more loaves. Two visitors received.

Monday: Lunch on the beach. It is too hot for anything. Paddlers' club ad sand castle club founded.

W.M.C. takes small party rock climbing and w bathe twice. Arrange to catch Barmouth train after tea. Too hot to catch anything after tea. Three boys walk to Barmouth along beach. Return very late and find dining table cleared. Recline on dining table, which collapses. Rock climbers return. Note: Must



refill first aid box to-morrow. Three boys repair table with Strok margarine box. Find table will no longer fold for transit. Postpone further repairs.

Tuesday: Rise at 7 a.m. Duty tent have already started the stoves and cut bread and butter. Decide not to interfere and return to tent. Put on off socks, but no time to change. Had arranged to catch 9.13 train and ascend Cader Idris. Catch 9.42 train nicely. Take some of the juniors in two cars and reduce the climb by 800 feet. We leave the road at 11.15 a.m. and reach the summit at 2 p.m. Spectacular descent tempts me to use the cine camera. More first aid supplies consumed. Must get some trouser patches. Buy three dozen screws in Barmouth for table repairs. W.M.C. buys eighteen portions of fish and chips. Arrange supper for 7.30 p.m. Everyone assembled at table by 9p.m. More visitors welcomed.

Wednesday: In camp all day. More rags needed for milk refrigeration. Go down to beach for a res. Play football in bathing costume. Have to beg lift to camp. Change socks. This pair is odd also. Very odd. H.P. and W. walk to Barmouth along beach, as it is to be an easy day.

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Cooking more elaborate to-day. W.M.C. does scrambled eggs and Welsh rarebit. Feel that reliable stoves would help a lot. H.P. and W. return at 3.3 and sit down to lunch. Rest of camp look on with envy, but drift off for more pop. Take cine shot of seniors repairing table again.

Thursday: Train to Dolgelly for Precipice Walk. Excellent for photography. Allow half in Dolgelly for sight-seeing [Extract from Log book: "Plums, buns, ice cream, chocolate, etc. Were obtained during walk round Dolgelly.] Bathed on return.

Friday: W.M.C. took party up Snowdon. Noticed mortuary at foot of mountain. Another party visited Harlech Castle. Custodian did not welcome R.b., whose reputation must have preceded them. Camp fire and concert. Much talent revealed.

Saturday: Rise at 6 a.m., breakfast at 7 a.m. Camp packed by 9 a.m. See boys off at Barmouth!!!! Return to settle everything. Spend afternoon asleep on beach.

C.H.B.





The Harbour

J. Cook.

Form Ra.

The Nantonian.



"Full of 'satiabile curiosity.'"

F. Steele,  
Form VI.a.

The Nantonian.



A Nesting Gull.

G. White,  
Form VI.b.

### Bird Notes.

School Ground.--Fresh species met on the School Ground since last June are a Garden Warbler, a male of which species was singing vigorously in and around the orchard behind the Preparatory Department for a fortnight at the end of June, a Sparrow-hawk which was seen flying over the ground on two occasions in July (7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>), a flock of about 50 Canada Geese seen flying over the ground with characteristic cries on September 4<sup>th</sup>, and a number of Sandmartins seen among a flock of Swallows on the cable between the Preparatory Department and the Museum on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Possibly, however, the most the most interesting and exciting event in the bird life of our grounds this summer has been provided by a pair of Goldfinches, which nested in a pear-tree in the School orchard early in June hatched three or four young ones early in July. Goldfinches are still far from common in S. Cheshire, and they nest here but sparsely. We are therefore highly favoured. We also again had a Corncrake in one of the fields behind the School, and Wheatears again appeared on our ground in September.

The total of species for the School Ground now stands at 54.

One Mile Circle.--A notable addition to the species in this area is provided by a young Curlew which was found wounded on the Nantwich Golf Links and kindly presented to the School by Mr. E. S. Haighton and Miss Pamela Haighton. It is now in the School Museum.

The total for this area is now 85.

Three Mile Circle.--The hope which I expressed last June has been fulfilled, and the total for this area has just reached 100. The two species which have been added to secure this total are the Ringed Plover and the House Martin. The latter has unaccountably been omitted from previous lists. The Ringed Plover is a dainty little wader, very common on the coast, where it breeds, and met also on inland waters. I saw a party of 5 with some Dunlin on the edge of Hurleston Reservoir on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The achievement of the century for the Three Mile Circle coincides with the publication by the British Trust for Ornithology of a form for making local lists of birds. Such a form is being completed for this area and will be sent to the British Trust. Copies will be available at School.

J.L.

## Careers.

[Again we thank the Wallace Attwood Collage for the following information.]

### II.--The Secretary.

Have you ever visited the head of any of our large commercial concerns? To reach him you have no doubt traversed several rooms constituting the General Office. Here the clatter of typewriters operated by girls of all ages; there the counting house with men and boys bent round shouldered over ledgers—all merely part of the machine without individuality, many without even hope. They are just part of their machines, or cogs in a mechanism turning out typewritten or handwritten matter.

Now you are received by a neatly-dressed competent man (or woman)--the Private Secretary. Quietly and courteously he (or she) enquires your business, and conducts you to a chair by the desk of the chief. What a contrast between the Private Secretary and the drones in the General Office—better conditions of working, higher social standing, and, obviously, increased salary! And yet the basic qualifications required of both types of workers are much the same—average intelligence, education and common sense. The only difference lies in knowledge. Those in the outer office knew enough to be just typists or clerks, the private secretary possessed the additional knowledge required for the more responsible job.

At last you are in the presence of the Secretary of the firm—the man (or woman, because many women now fill this responsible post) upon whom the directors rely for the smooth running of the business. What a gap separates him (or her) from the outer office! But it is a gap that can be bridged and the spans of the bridge are knowledge and training.

There is no scarcity of positions for the qualified secretary—as in most professions, there is not overcrowding at the top of the ladder, all the struggle is on the bottom rungs. Every pupil who leaves school and enters an office can become a qualified secretary.

#### The Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Founded in 1891 the Chartered Institute of Secretaries is the senior professional society for secretaries, and its examinations are recognised by public, municipal, and business concerns throughout the country. Anyone aspiring to the position of Company Secretary should secure the qualification and recognition that the passing of the Institute's examination bestows.

The Examinations, consisting of Preliminary, Intermediate and Final are held in June and December (the Preliminary examinations is held four times a year) in most important cities and towns as the Institute directs (e.g., Stoke-on-Trent).

#### Preliminary Examination.

Exemption from this may be granted to candidates who can produce evidence of possessing good general education such as Matriculation, etc.

#### Intermediate Examination.

Candidates must have passed or been exempted from the preliminary examination and be either articled clerks to a member of the Institute or Registered Students of the Institute.

Subjects--(1) English; (2) Secretarial Practice; (3) Economics; (4) Accountancy (5) Mercantile Law; (6) One from a long list which includes the following: The Law relating to Companies, to Real and Personal Property, to Railways, to Shipping, to Gas or Water, or Electricity Supply, to Insurance, to Local Government and Municipalities, to Education, to Building Societies, to the Relief of the Poor, to Patents and Trade Marks; (7) Commercial Arithmetic, or a foreign language.

#### Final Examination.

Candidates must be not less than 21 years of age and have passed the Intermediate examination.

Subjects--(1) Secretarial Practice; (2) Economics; (3) Accountancy; (4) Mercantile Law (5) one of the following: as in No. 6, either Banking and Exchange or a foreign language.



### Corporation of Certified Secretaries.

Founded in 9123, this influential body enjoys wide support and recognition, and its members are designated "Certified Secretaries."

### Intermediate Examination.

See Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

### Intermediate Examination.

Certain candidates may obtain exemption from some of the subjects of this examination, e.g., those who have passed the Final Examination of Chartered or Incorporated Accountants, the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants, and certain other professional bodies.

Subjects—Economics; Company Law; Commercial Arithmetic; Secretarial Practice; Book-keeping and Accounts; English; Mercantile Law.

### Final Examination.

This Examination is in two parts, which may be taken separately, or at one and the same time.

Subjects—Part I.--Accountancy and Income Tax; Secretarial Practice; Economics; Law, Conduct of and Procedure at Meetings.

Part II.--Banking and Exchange; Company Law; Mercantile Law.

One final word of advice may be given to those about to enter an office. Don't be content to remain a typist or a clerk; aim at getting a professional qualification to lift you out of the rut, and, above all, don't keep your wish-bone where your backbone ought to be.

Wallace Attwood.

### Leaves from a Tramp's Diary.

At sundown the international tramps reached the quaint old Slovenian village of Ratece. After supper at the village inn, they walked beneath the brilliant stars set in a velvet sky to their sleeping quarters in houses in different parts of the village.

The hospitable peasant woman, who was mistress of our temporary home, invited us to sit with her around the rough wooden kitchen table and to talk with her. There, for an hour or more, we compared conditions and cost of living in our respective countries and we all derived much amusement from the efforts of the English trio and the Slovene to understand each other.

The whitewashed kitchen was brightly lit by electric light, which showed up the gleaming saws and other tools which hung on the walls. These tools, she explained, were chiefly used in winter when the snow outside lay a metre or more deep and travel was only possible on skis. Then the menfolk turned to carpentry and the women to embroidery. Upstairs we saw the results of this winter craftwork, for in our large bedroom, with its simple colour-washed walls and bare board floor, we found a solid suite of home-made furniture, hand-embroidered curtains and a pillowcases, comfortable straw mattresses, and coarse home spun sheets, red quilts, and two wonderful linen chests, both hand-painted in brilliantly coloured floral designs and dated 1922.

In the morning we woke up to the sound of bells, as the cattle left the village and went up to the Alps. Soon we, too, were out on the open road.

Tramp, tramp, tramp, tramp. For some time all was quiet, except for the rhythmical sound made by feet meeting the steep path. Occasionally there was the squeak of a nailed boot slipping on a smooth stone, or of leather straps as a rucksack was adjusted. Suddenly there was a new sound, "Halt, passports please!" and a frontiersman stepped into the path. Although he was easily convinced that we were neither spies nor refugees, he carefully examined all our passports, as he was obviously glad of an excuse to keep us with him as long as possible, for during his two months on duty, his life was a lonely one.

During the next few days we learned to know the frontier guards of three nations and found that, when they challenged us as we crossed between the little white stones which are set along the frontiers at intervals of about twenty metres, Italians, Austrians and Yugoslavs were equally ready to share a joke and accept a sweet or cigarette.

At dusk, the youth of the nations met at the mountain hut. There we made many contacts with fellow members of the Slovene Alpine Club and that that internationalism was no idle dream, as, whether those with whom we mixed were Swiss, Dutch, German, Slovene, Croat or Serb, all were equally desirous of understanding the problems and customs of their neighbours, and all, even when speech was impossible, were ready to offer a hearty smile and a helping hand if needed. The evening finished with a sing song, in which each group sang the folk songs of its homeland and all ungrudgingly declared the Slovene students to be the winners of the day.

In the morning, when we had said "Good-bye," the "housefather" took up his piano accordion and played us up the valley and as we climbed higher and higher the sound gradually faded from our hearing.

Yugoslavia is a land in which the people have no sense of time and very little of distance. In the towns a business man may easily spend a whole day sipping wine outside a café.

The railway trains on local lines are frequently late, and, in a great effort to be efficient, they often wait at a station only a matter of forty seconds or so. Once we travelled with an elderly peasant woman, who could not dismount quickly enough, so she screamed from the window. Eventually the train drew up again and she walked back along the line. These short stops are particularly difficult as the engine drivers seem to have no idea when to apply the brakes and the train may pull up fifty yards out of the station in either direction and so it is quite possible for anyone waiting on the platform to miss the train unless he can run fast!

In the mountains there is no news of the outside world except what is brought by word of mouth. In villages things are somewhat better, but newspapers are anything from three to six days old when they arrive and people listen to music only on the radio. In big towns, however, it is possible to buy a morning paper at seven o'clock on the previous evening and read what the journalists' image has happened during the night. In a 'bus we once saw a lady, evidently in search of the latest news, carefully perusing a copy of The Chicago Times, which was more than a year old!

We dined quietly in Zagreb, the cultural capital of Croatia. Outside all was not so quiet, for war clouds had lowered over Europe. Searchlights chased planes across the sky and the press belched forth special editions printed in German, Slovene and Serbian, both in Latin and Cyrillic script.

Crowds had gathered to see the Croat demonstration which took place around that wonderful sculpture "The Well of Life" on the Square which separated the fine modern National Theatre from the large and well equipped University. There history was being made, for the Croats achieved their purpose and obtained the long desired extra representation in the Government of the Southern Slavs.

Inside all was quiet, for we tramps were sad to think it was our last evening in that happy Southern land.

The band played Croatian airs and, with his customary calm, the imperturbable mustafa asked if we would take Turkish or Serbian coffee.

We tramps have learned that the question that springs to the mind of other would-be tramps is, "And what does it cost?" For those interested in figures, the total cost of this fifteen day tour, including fares from London, board, lodging and pocket money was £14 5s.

E.R.C.J.

### Obiter Dicta.

The Barometer. We took a long tube and filled it nearly full with mercury. We then left it and every inch it went up the weather was 1,000 feet above sea level.

Laertes fought Hamlet with a poisoned rapier.

[This sounds fishy.--Ed.]

Sound takes up more space than light.

Chicago lies at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

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Now that Mirabeau was dead, the people thought the King should be decomposed.

The Climate on the Isle of Lotos Eaters was hot and sundry.

A polygon is a dead parrot.

Hors de Combat—a war horse.

Oliver Cromwell was the boy who asked for more.

In Milton's time England would have been a much holier place if everyone had belonged to the opposite sex.

### A Day in My Life.

7.0 a.m.--Awaken to strains of Mother's voice shouting "Get up, it's 7 o'clock."

7.1 a.m.--Answer, sleepily "All right."

7.10 a.m.--Mother again shouts "Be quick."

7.11 a.m.--Answer, still sleepily, "Coming."

7.30 a.m.--Arrive downstairs and groan when open Latin book reminds me that homework is not done.

8.3 a.m.--Hurriedly mount cycle.

8.4 a.m.--Hurriedly get off again. Dash indoors and reappear carrying satchel.

8.5 a.m.--Remount cycle and ride away at about 20 m.p.h.

8.16 a.m.--Reach station (4 miles distant).

8.17 a.m.--Departure of train.

8.50 a.m.--Arrive at school and finish Latin.

9.10 a.m.--Listen to prefects reading declaration. Am deeply moved and resolve to turn over a new leaf.

9.13 a.m.--Am 'got' for not having a hymn book. Told to copy out hymn three times. Resolve to turn back new leaf.

9.20 a.m.--12.45 pm.--Uneventful except that experiment with nitrogen which we are doing fails three times. Laugh uproariously until am reprimanded.

2.15 p.m.--Commence to eat sweet.

2.20 p.m.--Am told to eject same sweet.

2.35 p.m.--Rebelliously begin to eat another sweet.

2.40 p.m.--Am given 50 lines and told to eject this one also. Manage to secrete it in handkerchief.

3.45 p.m.--Having finished lines, decide to listen to lesson.

3.50 p.m.--Wish had not listened to lesson, as am asked why Latin homework is done in two kinds of ink. Saw "bottle empty."

4.10 p.m.--Listen to lecture about not knowing Latin verbs.

4.15 p.m.--Bell thankfully cuts it short as was getting agitated.

5.30 p.m.--Discover have left homework books at school. Play football instead of doing homework. Mother very displeased.

9.0 p.m.--Arrive home.

9.30 p.m.--Go to bed.

9.35 p.m.--!! Dream of things left undone.

R. Doody, Form Vu.a.

### A Visit to an Engineering Works.

The modern railway, with its complicated service based upon experience and the advice of numerous technical experts, is an outstanding institution, even in this age of engineering wonders. To the outsider, a peep behind the scenes of the great engineering works will reveal untold marvels. When I visited a works recently I expected to be enthralled, but the reality far surpassed my expectations.

One summer afternoon we entered the rather drab-looking buildings, and we were first shown the tool shed. Here are kept in good condition all sorts of tools, including apparatus for sharpening circular saws, and many other essentials to a large engineering shop.

## The Nantonian.

34The woodshed, with its carpenters and joiners, is very important. The hundred and one timber necessities of railway service are produced here. It is here that wood for sleepers, signal boxes, and everything, except coach building, is prepared.

We watched a block of steel being pulled from a furnace, and inserted in a series of rollers, to emerge a steel rail. This appeared dangerous work, but the workers seemed quite unconcerned as they handled the white-hot lengths.

In the next shed the smiths were busily engaged in making chains of all sizes. Electric welding is a strange new trade, for the workers, clad in asbestos, and wearing masks, presented a weird spectacle and we had to watch from a distance.

It must be unpleasant to work in the moulders' shed, for this is ankle deep in sand. This, we were informed, is the chief material for making moulds, the molten metal being run into shapes to harden.

The sheds in which the engine is assembled are a bedlam of noise. Travelling cranes, operated from the roof, helped to swell the din. Copper sheets were bent to form boilers, and riveters were at work fixing them into place. Huge pieces of metal were swung above our heads, supported by slender chains, and we noticed the apparent indifference of the workers engaged on these dangerous tasks.

The last building we entered was appropriately named the cemetery. There was a welcome and refreshing peace about the place. This shed acted as a museum, wherein all the old engines were kept, most of them original engines of a particular type.

So ended the tour, by a practical demonstration of the progress made in railway engineering, and we were left wondering at the marvels of modern engineering.

Alan Clarke, Form Vu.a.

## Water.

When I think of water I think of the sea,  
And ships sailing on it, with treasures for me  
I think of the waves as they dash up so high,  
Leaping and striving to reach to the sky.

When I think of water I think of a stream,  
That runs in the meadow where I love to dream;  
I think of it flowing o'er pebbles and stones,  
Chattering to me in varying tones.

When I think of water I think of the rain,  
Rising in clouds and descending again;  
I think of it freshening the dried, thirsty grass,  
Kissing my travel-stained feet as I pass.

When I think of water I think of a moat,  
With white water lilies gently a-float;  
I think of small fish with their silvery gleams,  
Darting and glancing among the moon beams.

Ruth Norries, Form Vu.b.

### Stars.

It is a lovely starry night,  
So fresh, so clear and still,  
The silence only broken by  
Small noises queer and shrill.

In yonder tree a wise old owl  
Peers out into the night,  
Ut all he sees are moon and stars  
Shedding their silvery light.

At night the firmament gleams bright  
With numerous diamonds round,  
The woodlands are an eerie sight,  
Weird shadows on the ground.

Orion and the Plough I see  
In glorious splendour there,  
And at the sleeping, silent earth  
These constellations stare.



But when the dawn steals softly on  
And birds from roosts alight,  
These countless myriads of stars  
Wait for another night.

Joyce Duffitt, Form Vu.b.

### Autumn.

The mellow time of Autumn comes  
To fill the barns again,  
With apples, pears, and ripened plums,  
And stores of golden grain.

The leaves of trees are brown and gold,  
They all will wither soon;  
The once bright flowers look dead and old,  
And red the harvest moon.

G. Morris, Form Vu.b.

### My Pet Aversion.

One of my week-end duties is to go shopping on Saturday morning. Unfortunately |I lack the courage and physique to elbow my way through a crowd of determined females struggling for a place along the counter. As I enter the shop and note the large number of shoppers, my heart sinks. I decide where the attack is weakest and where I am likely to reach the counter first.

After much dodging I contrive to stand behind a person who is being served. As she departs, I am just about to slip into her place, when, alas! A ruthless elbow pushes me aside and I am confronted by a pair of hard, steely, merciless eyes, obviously belonging to a hardened and experienced shopper. Somewhat abashed, I retire to the back of the queue.

After some time my mind wanders; I dream of things far remote from shopping, when suddenly I am rudely brought back to earth by a rather impatient "Yes, Miss," from an assistant.

I search feverishly for my list—a variety of ‘bus tickets, small pencils, handkerchiefs, and old shopping lists,—mementos of other Saturday mornings—are scattered on to the counter. The waiting assistant hops from one foot to another; I can feel the contemptuous glances of the other more efficient shoppers, and myself assuming the colour of the proverbial beetroot. Ah! Here it is! After what seems an eternity, I find the cause of this confusion at last. In low tones I give my order and after having been served, slink away as unobtrusively as possible, vowing that in future I will try to keep my wits about me.

S. Edwards, Form VI.a.

### Thoughts of Scotland.

When the cuckoo's singing blithely on a pleasant April day,  
And the sun is shining brightly in a kind and friendly way,  
Why! I know that summer's coming and that happy days are near,  
By the waters of Loch Lomond, far away from gloom or fear.

When the apple-blossom opens in the early weeks of May,  
And the buttercups are flowing, winter seeming far away,  
Why! The holidays seem nearer, in the mountains of the north,  
Past the border lands and Glasgow and the sparkling Firth of Forth.

When the sun shines on the roses 'mid the drone of busy bees,  
And the fleecy clouds float softly in blue skies above the trees,  
Shy! In June I think of Scotland and the heather calls again;  
From the mountains or the hillsides in the sunshine or the rain.

When the weather's at its hottest and there's very little breeze,  
And the swallows skim the water or fly low between the trees,  
Why! I think still more of Scotland in the month of sweet July,  
In the shadow of Ben Nevis underneath the pale blue sky.

In September, in the harvest, 'mid the golden ripening corn,  
When the leaves are falling quickly on the green and bordered lawn,  
Why! Though nought is left of Scotland save those memories of mine;  
I'll drink a toast, my bonnie, "For the sake of Auld Lang Syne!"

Barbara M. Gowdridge, Form VI.a.

### The Funny Side of 'A.R.P.'

Whenever I think of an air-raid shelter it reminds me of the story of the man from Nantwich who built on the 'Barony' an air-raid shelter which was most 'up-to-date' in every way. He invited the chief airwarden to inspect it. The visitor congratulated the man on his achievement, but to his surprise he found, after switching on the light, that the shelter had a large glass skylight, which was not blacked out. On being asked for an explanation, the "dabber" replied, "That's weere I've got 'em beat! When the enemy drop the bombs on this 'ere light, I shall be a' wom on bed!"

Shelagh Simon, Form VI.b.

### Getting up on Cold Mornings.

Brr! The very thought of it makes me shiver.

After a whole night's sleep, at about ten to seven I wake. . . . and doze, and wallow in the delicious warmth under the clothes, whilst watching the mist rolling through my open window. I doze again . . . when almost subconsciously I hear the dreaded footsteps drawing nearer, ever nearer. I clutch the bed-clothes, when—Woosh! And the clothes are ripped back. "Come on, John, time to get up," says m Father.

I pretend not to hear. I snuggle lower In the sheet—although my back is getting the ull blast of cold from the open window. But no—a hand grips me by the hsoulder and I am unceremoniously 'yanked' out. Then comes the hurried dressing in the cold, with almost numb fingers, the race to the bathroom, to wash in only just-getting-warm water, the half digested breakfast, further dressing and the race to school to try and evade the almost inevitable 'Late Mark.'

J. Mulliner, Form VI.b.

### Chaos.

Why won't the thoughts fly out my head?  
My pen is chewed, my brain is lead.  
What shall I write? I just can't think.  
My throat's so dry, and so's the ink.  
Why must I "do" an article?

I don't know what I'm going to do,  
I really don't. A gentle "Moo"  
Disturbs my thoughts. "Oh, blow the cow,  
Why can't it stop? It's such a row,  
I've got to "do" an article!"

I think this effort must suffice,  
It's nearly done. What perfect bliss  
'Twill be to know it's past, although  
I've half enjoyed the fun, you know;  
So now I've "done" my article!

Margaret S. Wych, Form R.a.

### The Birth of a River.

The rain which falls upon the hills,  
And trickles down in tiny rills,  
Every crack and crevice fills  
With sparkling water.

These little rills become a brook,  
Which runs through every little nook,  
With many a tiny curve and crook,  
Bubbling on its way.

The little brook becomes a stream,  
And 'neath the sun the waters seem,  
In the golden light, to gleam  
And gurgle merrily.

The stream becomes a river wide,  
The moving waters gently glide  
To meet the ocean's swelling tide,  
Their journey ended.

G. Mottram, Form IV a.

### Peace at the Lily Pond.

By the still waters of the lily pond the little dragon flits about, away from the outside world in a paradise of his own. There he can catch insects in peace or fly round and round, over and over the still silent waters of this small pond.

Now and again a thrush or a wagtail comes to the edge to drink, or a rat scampers among the dead leaves and grass. Here the dragon fly is happy and content, living a life of joy and serene peace.

H. Marriott, Form IV a.

### Mermaids.

Under the deep blue crystal sea,  
There the mermaids live so free,  
Their houses built of coral red,  
While seaweed green provides their bed.

The live-long day they play around,  
Upon the pebbly, sandy ground,  
They play with fishes large and small,  
And never seem to tire at all.

At night they sit on rocks so bare,  
Combing out their golden hair,  
But when they see a mortal's ship,  
Beneath the sea they quickly slip.

E. Adams, Prep. Dept.

### A Thin Lady.

I know a funny lady,  
Who's as thin as thin can be,  
She has a thin old doggie,  
And she laughs at him with glee.  
She has a thin old pussy cat,  
Who's just as thin as she.  
It never roams about or plays,  
But just sits on her knee.

P. Walker, Prep. Dept.

### The Ink Man.

There is a little ink man,  
Who is very, very black;  
He's often very naughty,  
I call him "Inky Jack."  
  
He lives inside the ink well,  
But never tries to write,  
He sometimes pops his head out,  
And gives me quite a fight.  
  
He spoils my careful writing,  
And often sings a song;  
He's nearly always biting,  
An often doing wrong.

J. Young, Prep. Dept.

### Crocuses.

They are such dainty little things,  
All yellow, white, and blue;  
They come out in the Spring time,  
They're such a pretty hue.

I really like them very much,  
As in the ground they glow,  
Among the other garden flowers  
Their little faces show.

R. Bailey, Prep. Dept.

### Old Grammarians' Notes.

Hockey fixtures for 1939-40 have been cancelled, but a few matches with local sides should be possible. Will all those who are keen on a game please inform the Secretary?

Badminton has been suspended for the present, but may be possible later, subject to permission from the authorities.

We should like to take the opportunity of wishing, on behalf of all Old Grammarians, good luck to those Old Grammarians who have recently married and also to those who have joined his Majesty's forces.

M.D.,

B.M.

Pages from an Oxford Diary.

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III.--Long Vacation in Germany.

First Day—I See Hitler.

Hamburg, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1939

Almost the first thing which I was told on arriving at Hamburg was one which was to make my first day a red-letter day. Hitler himself was coming to Hamburg at mid-day! Of course I had to see him. It appears that some general had oblongingly died, and the Fuhrer was attending his funeral; he would arrive at our local station on his way there.

As it was Sunday, my hostess first took me with her to church; on the way we passed numerous squads of Brown-Shirts and 'Hitler Youths'--boys of about 10 to 18—drawn up in the street; and it must be admitted that they betrayed a certain amusement as we passed in churchgoing garb; I suppose the idea of going to church on such a day as this must have seemed irresistibly comic, not to say presumptuous. There were only three or four children and a couple of old ladies at the service beside ourselves. When we came out, the streets were almost empty; such stragglers as there were, were all hurrying in one direction.

11.30 found me outside the station I had left five hours before. A rather thin crowd was gathered round the square, about four deep, and I soon squeezed my way up to the cordon of S.S. men (Hitler's 'Black Guards'), who were keeping the crowd back. A group of very smart S.S. with red swastika armbands were in the middle of the square opposite the station. Suddenly a motor cycle combination, containing two magnificently clad toughs in an unfamiliarly green uniform, roared into the square. Upraised arms were exchanged between these and the S.S., and they were soon in animated conversation. Then a heavily-armoured car appeared behind us, with a stern-looking individual standing up in it; a wave of his hand, and the crowd parted left and right to let the car drive through. Across the railway-bridge leading to the station was a whole row of uniformed guards. At last, about twelve noon, the sound of muffled drums was heard, and the green-uniformed Wehrmacht leading the funeral cortege hove in sight. In front rode several generals; then came a fine brass band playing a dead march. After it was row on row



Of soldiers. At intervals came a horse-drawn anti-aircraft gun , each with a grim figure seated behind the trigger. Then came a number of field guns. Then a squadron of cavalry, trotting along in perfect order. The whole thing was got up with an obvious eye to effect. "Es sieht schon aus," was the general view:--very pretty, although it was meant to be a funeral. As a woman near me said, " sieht wunderhubsch. Traurig, aber . . ." She left the end of her remark open. Atlas the gun-carriage with the coffin, followed by the deceased general's faithful charger, and his widow in a closed car. At this point many of the crowd produced their handkerchiefs.

Meanwhile, every train that crossed the bridge had been greeted with expectancy--"Da kommt er schon!" After a series of such false alarms, just before 12.45 two huge engines slowly crossed the bridge into the station, drawing a line of white-roofed carriages. A murmur ran through the crowd. A number of splendid black cars purred into the square. All eyes were on a little side entrance to the station, which had been ceremonially decked with greenery. Then suddenly a hush. Necks craned. Across the square, quite alone and unprotected, was walking a short, stocky figure, in a new brown uniform, very unimpressive, with a small moustache. Not a sound was heard from the crowd. The figure reached one of the cars and got into it. They all drove off, and the crowd broke up. The whole thing had lasted perhaps half a minute.

#### Last Day—The Great Exodus.

August 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

It was at 10 in the morning that the telephone rang, and a voice from the British Consulate at Frankfurt announced that all British subjects were advised to leave the country at once. A rush to collect and pack my things, a hurried meal, and at 1 o'clock I was bidding farewell to the members of the family with whom I was staying at Darmstadt. . . At Cologne I left the local train; the Hook boat express was crowded from end to end. . . At half-past seven in the evening the train ran past an insignificant little post beside the line, and we were over the Dutch frontier. The train stopped, and a Dutch soldier, complete with 'tin hat' and rifle, jumped in. Nearly every station had an armed soldier in it. In the compartment was a young German, evidently a Jew, who was coming to England on the advice of his brother in Londo, intending to stay at a

Salvation Army hostel till he found work. Two Dutchmen were engaged in a heated argument on the Jewish question, to the evident embarrassment of my friend.

At the Hook only one small steamer was available. We were two hours late in starting, waiting for another train delayed by troop movements. The purser was driven nearly crazy by demands for berths, which had all been taken long ago. "Now I can't do impossibilities, now can I?" he protested. "You're lucky to get a ship at all. I don't know how many we've got on board." This was true; the ship was crowded from stem to stern, largely with German Jews; there were few British. Whole families were travelling with all their worldly goods; one family had brought the canary. Luggage was stacked everywhere; people slept in deck chairs, on capstans, under the life-boats; one girl lay on the tope of a huge pile of luggage. All were given blankets, and the groups of humanity under their blankets scattered about the deck gave the ship a most strange appearance.

We were delayed half-way by fog, and arrived late at Harwich. The transference of luggage to the train went very slowly; each truckload of luggage was perused by a crowd of foreign travellers; few could speak English; some thought they were already in London. The Customs examination was a mere farce; luggage was chalked without being examined. The train was delayed an hour; I was the only English man in the carriage. One Czech woman was in tears; there had been some difficulty over her passport, and she thought she was to be sent back. However, the difficulty was put right, and she returned smiling. She had succeeded in leaving Prague with her little boy, and had collected together what money she had to travel to San Francisco, where she had a relation. She hoped to meet her husband in London. "Aren't you rather late in leaving?" asked someone. "Late? Heavens! I have been queuing up for a passport every day for the last month."

At Liverpool Street the scenes were indescribable. Everywhere families were being re-united. The Czech woman had met her husband, and they fell into one another's arms and wept, while the boy danced round them. The platform was packed from end to end, travellers were pressing out, fond relations pressing in, and exasperated porters with truck loads of luggage trying to get through! These behind cried "Forward!" and those before cried "Back!" A press photographer

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Standing on a stanchion above our heads was having the time of his life snapping his camera. An American woman of Hungarian extraction whom I assisted was openly contemptuous of British slowness, as compared with New York efficiency. It took us an hour to reach the barrier. A constant stream of taxis was passing through, each being filled as soon as it arrived. So I reached Euston, and at 7.15 that evening was back in Nantwich.

A.L.

### “A Whiff of Grape Shot.”

Extracts from the Log of a Bombardier.

Dea Mr. Lodge,

I promised I would write and tell you what the Militiaman's life is like and as I am at present on guard (though off duty for four hours) I will fulfil my promise. . . .

I eventually joined up and after an interview with the Battery Sergeant Major (hereafter known as B.S.M.) and the Battery Commander, a Lance Bombardier was told off to show me the camp and my particular tent. I then spent a very embarrassing day, being the only person in camp not in uniform! . . .

The daily routine is: Reveille 6 a.m., Roll Call 6.30, Breakfast 7, Prayers 7.55, Line Inspection (confound it) 8.10, various drills, etc., till the half-hour break at 10.30. The rest of the morning is passed in much the same manner, with Dinner Parade 12.30 p.m. and first parade after at 2p.m., finishing, except for occasional night manoeuvres, at 4 p.m. The night manoeuvres are great fun, because we nearly always get lost and the language heard when someone puts his foot in a rabbit hole or fondly caresses a bunch of nettles with is face is deplorable.

The B.S.M. is not so terrible as one is led to believe. . . . However, he certainly has a most penetrating voice and does not hesitate for a moment to tell you exactly what he thinks of you, your ancestry, your brain power, and your probable destination.

The only complaints I have up to now are the food (which is wholesome, but thrown at one), and all the cleaning. . . . I am much better in health, have put on 8 lbs, am brown, fit, and can stand a 24 hour guard without turning a hair.

We sleep six in a tent on straw beds, with a straw filled pillow and three army blankets. Except when on guard or other special duty, we are still all allowed out from the last parade to 11.30 p.m., lights out being 10.15 p.m., but owing to the black out no lights are allowed, so there is nothing to do but turn in or go out.

Please remember me to the staff, etc. . . .

Yours sincerely,

W. R. Kingston.

### Valete Et Salvete.

The following pupils have left or joined us since our last publication:

Left:--

Hodgkin House:--

Boys: Adams R., Brown H., Davies D., Ferns R., Myers E., Nichless E., Pickerill J., Roberts F., Wright A.

Girls: S. Alltree, I. Bates, D. Bebbington, L. Bowyer, N. Craighead, B. Heler, M. Hunt, A. Jackson, M. Parr, I. Rowe, B. Shepherd, M. Snelson, J. Welch.

Thrush House:--

Boys: Bradshaw P., Dutton R., Furber S., Gardner R., Jones J., Lawrence W>, Lea H., Ludwig D., Shenton J.

Girls: M. Bromfield, P. Brydson, J. Burrows, A. Carr, E. Davies, E. Forster, M. Garnett, M. Munro, D. Mulliner, A. Nall, M. Sambrook, M. Wyche.

Wilbraham House:--

## The Nantonian.

Boys: Cadman R., Dickin J., Furber N., George B., Hall D., Harris B., Jones W., Leedham J., Mitchell N., Mottram P., Owen R., Sutton C., Worrall J.

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Girls: E. Abell, E. Alltree, L. Hanley, N. Harding, M. Jackson, Y. Lyons, J. Moss, M. Sadler.

New Comers:--

Boys: Baines W., Bostock J., Cockshott B., Cooke D., Flynn T., Griffiths G., Lewis W., Maden W., Murray J., Todhunter D., Thompson D., Walley B., Wilkinson J.

Girls: R. Bond, J. Gray, D. Pitt, M. Trelfa, B. Walkden, J. Walley, J. Warner, E. Wilkinson, J. Williams, C. Woodward.

Thrush House:--

Boys: Alltree M., Anderson J., Arnfield H., Bostock D., Entwistle G., Francis D., Lawley H., Sanders C., Woodruff A.

Girls: J. Deakin, P. Dickin, D. Edwards, J. Evans, R. Hanley, G. Haslam, K. Heney, C. Hopley, M. Jenkinson, W. Lloys, R. Robinson, F. Slack, O. Warburton, S. Whittaker.

Wilbraham House:--

Boys: Baston D., Bowen E., Charlesworth D., Chesworth F., Cliffe E., Fox G., Griffith R., Jervis D., Jervis R., King W., Parsonage D., Peake R., Sellors C., Sheppard P., Steele J., Young S.

Girls: D. Chambers, D. Charlesworth, M. Cook, N. Egan, M. Kerr, C. King, R. Price, J. Nall, A. Walley.

## Acknowledgement.

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