

The Nantonian.

The
Nantonian.

June, 1942.

Vol. II.

No. 5

The Nantonian

Contents.

	Page
1. Editorial	3
2. School Notes	3
3. Preparatory School Notes	5
4. Prize List, 1940-1941	7
5. House Notes	8
6. Hockey Notes	9
7. Football Notes	10
8. Cross Country Races, 1942	11
9. School Societies and Clubs	12
10. Literary Articles	17
11. Old Grammarians' News	26
12. Extracts from a Letter of Mr. Hughes	29
13. Valete Et Salvete	30
14. Acknowledgment	31

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., Mrs. Gowanlock, B.A.

June, 1942.

New Series.

Vol. II., No. 5.

Editorial.

Our readers will notice a marked change in the size of this Magazine; it is smaller on account of the omission of the bulk of the literary articles. We have decided that for the duration of the war the Magazine must remain a record of School activities and only articles of a high literary standard or of tropical interest can be included. Nevertheless, this need not deter would-be contributors from offering articles for consideration if they so wish.

This issue contains many references to the School production of *Lady Precious Stream*, our main activity last term; and that accounts for the articles which we have included and which have the play as their theme. Our readers will doubtless appreciate the drawings which Mr. McGraw has prepared for us; they serve as a permanent reminder of his invaluable services in that production and a lively memory of the cast. We offer him our best thanks.

School Notes, May, 1942.

Last term ended in profound sadness owing to the death of Florence Duffitt, who was fatally injured in a road accident just outside the School at mid-day on March 30th. Florence, who would have been 14 on April 2nd, was buried in Acton Churchyard on Good Friday, April 3rd. The funeral was attended by a large number of the Staff and pupils, and four boys acted as bearers—R. Peake, R. Roper and G. Robinson from our own School and R. E. Young from Oldershaw Grammar School. We all profoundly deplore the loss of so promising a young life, and we miss greatly a well-loved comrade and pupil. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Florence's family in their great bereavement.

Our deepest sympathy is also extended to Mrs. Storey and her family in their great bereavement through the death of Mr. A. J. Storey, Headmaster of Crewe Secondary School, which occurred on April 10th. During his headmastership of the Secondary School Mr. Storey had shown himself

self most friendly and helpful towards this School, particularly in matters of A.R.P., and we greatly deplore his early death.

Many pages of this Magazine are devoted to impressions and appreciations of our work upon Lady Precious Stream, which was performed with great success in the School Hall at the end of last term. exceptionally high standard of artistic attainment which was reached in these performances we are indebted to the exceptional skill of Mr. J. Ford as a producer. We have indeed been fortunate and highly privileged in having him with us to undertake this work, and we are very grateful to him for thus expending his knowledge, skill and good taste to our advantage. Fortunate were we also to have Mr. McGraw with us to co-operate with Mr. Ford in achieving the beautiful setting of the play. To yet a third Oldershaw master, Mr. Thorpe, were we greatly indebted for undertaking the business management in place of Mr. Pepler, who was unfortunately away through illness.

It was appropriate that the performance of Lady Precious Stream should very nearly coincide with the anniversary of the arrival of the masters and boys of Oldershaw Grammar School as our guests. The sincere appreciation which is felt by each school for the friendly co-operation afforded by the other was expressed in appropriate speeches by the Headmaster and by Messrs. Gerrard and Ford.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Boardman for their kindness and generosity in presenting us with a very handsome silver trophy for the Girls' Gymnastic Championship. Mr. Boardman is a very active and helpful member of the Governing Body of the School, and his daughters were pupils of the School.

On the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Sir Arthur Sullivan and (May 13th) we have been presented with a most generous appropriate This is an album of records of "The gift by Mr. T. Hall, of Nantwich. Mikado," for which we are most grateful to the donor.

We are also greatly indebted to a number of pupils for making commemorative gifts to the School at the time of leaving, to Ann Gibson, Margaret Storey and K. Hope for gramophone records, to H. Arnfield and Hilda Wright for books, and to Hilda Wright and C. Welch for money gifts which will be expended on suitable objects to be acknowledged in due course. To Mr. Pepler we are indebted for a number of useful musical scores for the music library, and to Freda Elks for a further specimen for the Museum. Our good friend, Mr. J. E. Bowers, has further increased the great debt which we owe to him as a benefactor by presenting us with books and some very beautiful old ordnance survey maps of England and Wales, for which we here record our renewed thanks. Messrs. J. Ramsay-Smith, J. Smith, H. Warner and E. Gowdridge have also presented the School with gifts of books, for which we are most grateful.

We are greatly indebted to past and present members and officials of Thrush House for the handsome trophy which they have presented to the School, to commemorate Thrush's extraordinary feat of being Champion House seven years in succession!

J.L.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL NOTES.

Reviewing the life of the Little School since the last Magazine notes were written one realises that there have been few activities outside the ordinary routine.

We kept our yearly observation of St. Francis' Day, October 4th, by a general talk on kindness to animals. Individual children gave their own little lectures and afterwards a considerable amount of literature on the subject was distributed, and a small donation sent to the Humane Education Society from the sale of emblems.

During the month several pupils made collections of hips, and eventually a parcel was posted to an approved address in London and the proceeds put to our Art Club.

In December we sent a sum of £1 6s. to the Lord Mayor of London's Air Raid Distress Fund-the first contribution from our

6

"Thankoffering Box." Since then we have sent a further sum of £1 10s., which, with other efforts, makes a total contribution of £3 19s. In the last acknowledgment it is stated that the money will be used wherever it is most needed and not necessarily in London. During Warship Week in January, stamps and certificates were purchased to the value of £105 3s. 6d.

Early in February we sent off a parcel of musical instruments to the Army Comforts Depôt in Reading as the result of a wireless appeal made some time previously.

During the month we also paid in our Red Cross Penny-a-Week money for the quarter, which amounted to £5 1s. 6d., making our total contribution up to £8 11s. 11d.

We managed to solve our wool problem by registering officially as a Knitting Party for the Air Force, and have been presented with an illuminated card of membership, which now hangs proudly on the wall. We have since registered also for the Army. By this means we can procure wool at 4d. per ounce, but all garments must be sent direct to the depôt.

Though we have many members, we should like more and should be glad of the help of any parents.

Pupils have recently begun to make individual efforts for the Red Cross, and it will be interesting to record their results later on.

Tony Brown, Stuart McGraw and Richard Hollinshead gave little History Lectures during the Spring Term on "William the Conqueror," "Bannockburn" and the "Conquest of Canada" respectively. All were good, but Tony's flow of language and turn of phrase deserve special commendation.

In our Verse Speaking Competition in April, Wilbraham won first place with 80 marks. Thrush came second with 67, and Hodgkin third with 65. The House Mark Shield for the Autumn Term was won by Hodgkin.

Our thanks are due to John Stillwell for the present of a very pretty green bulb bowl as a leaving gift.

E.M.G.

PRIZE LIST: 1940-1941.

At an informal prize distribution, held at the end of the Christmas term, Mr. W. Harlock (Chairman of the Governors) presented prizes to the following pupils: -

VIA.-Personal Service as Head Prefect: Bostock, H. D., O. Booth; Form Prizes: R. Stanley, D. Hannon; Religious Knowledge: R. Stanley.

VIB. Form Prizes: M. Ellson; Doody, R. (Form Prize, Religious Knowledge, Library Prize).

VU.A.-Form Prizes: Griffiths, G. B., Rudnai, A., Nicholas, R. J. K., S. Edwards, B. Gowdrige, J. Rosenthal; Manual Prize: Westwell, F.; Art Prize: B. Ferns.

VU.B. Form Prize: Cooper, E. H.; Magazine Prize and Library Prize: Mulliner, J. B.; First Aid Service: Sadler, J.; Domestic Science: B. Upton.

VL.A. Form Prizes: Hughes, R. W., M. Wych, K. Chadwick, L. Jackson, J. Stubbs; Personal Service: J. Stubbs, M. Woodhall; First Aid Service: Williams. P.

VL.B. Form Prizes: M. Willcock, R. Dutton.

R.A.-Form Prizes: Peake, R., N. Lloyd, T. Done, Cooke, B., 'Ramsay Smith' Latin Prize: D. Price.

R.B.-Form Prizes: P. Ogden, Walker, H., B. Simcoe; Magazine Prize: Willington, K.

IVA.-Form Prizes: G. Haslam, B. Walkden, K. Hope.

IVB. Form Prizes: Francis, J., A. Weaver.

IIIA.-Form Prizes: N. Wright, Woodhead, W. N., J. Renshaw, P. Bailey.

IIIB. Form Prizes: Lloyd, A. Slawson, Boyer, B.

1Iu.-Form Prizes: N. Fossick, Garnett, P., J. Gibson, M. Brassington; Nature Prize: Yearsley, A., Garnett, P.

III.-Form Prizes: R. Bailey, S. Bulpitt. 1.-Form Prizes: R. Storey, F. Birchall.

House Notes.

Captains: Girl-Mable Smith; Boy-Craighead, J.

Vice-Captains: Girl-F. Jones; Boy-Steele, S.

At the beginning of last term we lost our Vice-Captain, Westwell, and we wish him every success in his future career. The girls have been unsuccessful in the hockey matches, but have achieved second place in netball. Two Hodgkins have played in the Hockey 1st XI. The boys were successful in football, tying with Thrush for the Championship. The House has been well represented in the Football 1st XI., and Bonell has obtained his Colours. The House is to be congratulated on gaining second place in the Cross-Country Races, and we hope that it will do better in the Music Competition, Swimming Sports, Country Dancing and on Sports Day.

M.S.,

J.C.

Captains: Girl-Madge Smith; Boy-Bostock, H. D.

Vice-Captains: Girl-R. Parker; Boy-Doody, R. E.

The boys are to be congratulated on gaining first place in the Senior Cross-Country Race. In both hockey and football we have succeeded in tying for the first place with Wilbraham and Hodgkin respectively, but in netball we unfortunately failed to gain a place. We have four representatives in the Hockey XI. and five boys have played regularly for the Football XI., Doody and Bostock having gained their Colours this season. After being Champion House for seven years, we have presented the School with a new Championship Shield, and up to date we are leading by half a mark in this year's events, but we need great enthusiasm and hard work if we are to retain this position.

H.B.,

M.S.

Captains: Girl-S. Simon; Boy-Cooper, E.
Vice-Captains: Girl-M. Woodhall; Boy-Jones, D.

We have been unfortunate this year in losing no fewer than five Senior members of the House, including our former Captains, Joan Adams and Hope. We wish them every success in their future careers. The boys have been unsuccessful in football, but the girls made up for this by winning the netball trophy and tying with Thrush for first place in hockey. The result of the Junior Cross Country Race was very disappointing and our second place in the Senior might have been better if certain people had pulled their weight. We congratulate Pidduck and Lee, who came first and second respectively in the Senior event. Already we have begun our practices for the Music Competition, which we hope to win again this year. In conclusion we should like to urge every individual to stimulate his or her enthusiasm to such a pitch that we cannot fail to carry off the Shield.

S.S.,

E.C.

Hockey Notes.

The hockey team showed slight improvement towards the end of the season, but owing to constant changes, the team lacked the practice and combination so essential to success. Seven fixtures out of fourteen were scratched owing to bad weather, and of the remaining seven, six were lost and one won. The following were included in the School team: Madge Smith, M. Woodhall, J. Stubbs, J. Merrill, A. Bennion, S. Simon, M. Proudlove, M. Simpson, R. Parker, Mable Smith, K. Chadwick,

Fixture List

Opponents. Score.	Where played.	Result.	
Crewe Secondary School	Away	Lost	7—0
Market Drayton	Home	Lost	4—2
Crewe Training School	Away	Lost	7—3
Girls' High School, Whitchurch	Home	Lost	5—2
Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital	Away	Lost	7—0
Crewe Training School	Home	Won	4—1
Girls' High School, Whitchurch (A Team)	Away	Lost	7—0

M.T.

Football Notes.

The First XI. football team has suffered from a lack of experienced players. Opposing teams have been superior both in weight and in team work. However, many thrilling games have been played, and the School has proved victorious on several occasions. The following have represented the School: Doody, Bostock, Williams. Craig- head, Steele, Hughes, Catley, Bonell, West, Fox, Westwell, Lloyd, Lee, Hambridge, Stanton, Hope, Ferns, Bennion, Mottram, Moulton, Bate, Rowlands.

Fixture List.

Opponents.	Where played.	Result.	Score.
Rolls Royce XI.	Home	Lost	3—6
Crewe Secondary School	Home	Lost	1—10
Market Drayton Grammar School	Away	Won	3—0
Old Boys' XI.	Home	Lost	4—10
Market Drayton Grammar School	Home	Won	11—1
Air Training Corps XI.	Home	Lost	4—6
Winsford Grammar School	Away	Lost	4—6
Oldershaw Grammar School	Home	Won	9—1
Stone Grammar School	Away	Lost	0—3
Crewe Secondary School	Away	Lost	2—9
Winsford Grammar School	Home	Lost	0—4
Crewe Training College XI	Away	Lost	1—13
Crewe Training College XI	Home	Lost	1—4
Crewe Secondary School	Home	Lost	2—8

Goal Scorers, 1941-42: Bostock 15, Williams 10, Westwell 4, Lee 2, Ferns 2, Craighead 1, Boyer 1, Fox 1, Mottram 1, Stanton 4, Hughes 1.

C.H.B.,

H.B.

Cross Country Races.

The Cross Country Races were run on Tuesday, March 31st, under good conditions. Though the course was in parts heavy, a steady rain must have been as refreshing to the competitors as it was depressing to the patient crowd which awaited the return of the mud bespattered "finishers." Both races were won outright and Thrush (Seniors) and Hodgkin (Juniors) are to be congratulated warmly on their victories. Individual positions were as follows:-

Seniors.

1. Pidduck (time, 24 min. 33 secs.).
 2. Lee.
 3. Allsop.
 4. Bostock.
 5. Hughes.
 6. Fox.
 7. Roper.
 8. Jones.
 9. Cooper.
 10. Peters.

Juniors

1. Entwistle (Time, 18 mins, 44 1/5th secs.).
 2. Lloyd.
 3. Davenport.
 4. Sanders.
 5. Walker.
 6. Keeley.
 7. Stockton.
 8. Hinde.
 9. Edge.
 10. Mottram.

12

House Placings.

House.	Placings.	Totals.
Seniors.--1, Thrush	3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12.	41
2, Wilbraham	1, 2, 8, 9, 18, 21.	59
3, Hodgkin	7, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20.	83
Juniors.--1, Hodgkin	2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 14.	43
2, Thrush	1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18.	57
3, Wilbraham	7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17.	71

R.G.

School Societies and Clubs.

Literary and Debating Society.

The Society was fortunate in being able to meet fairly regularly during the winter months in spite of many drawbacks, not the least of which was the fact that so many of the senior boys and girls were occupied in the 'out-of school' activities which are of special importance in these days. The attendance at the meetings was quite good, however, and the Society still manages to flourish. The programme has been varied-we have tried to cater for all interests. A reading of two one-act plays was given by an 'all-male' cast, when Lord Dunsany's thriller, A Night at an Inn, was followed by Drinkwater's fine "X = O," both plays being very well read. Early in November the Headmaster gave the Society a most interesting talk based on the history of the old cannon ball which reposes on the mantelpiece in his study and which has been an object of curiosity to many, amongst others to Jan who invariably says in the manner of the canine world that it is a pity to leave it there when she might have a good game of football with it. The talk was made doubly interesting as the Headmaster illustrated his remarks by means of a very well drawn plan of All 'Dabbers' and visitors alike thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. Nantwich as it was in the days when it was besieged during the Civil War. The boys of Oldershaw Grammar School have taken an active part in two meetings. Before Christmas the motion "That a Country upbringing is more advantageous than a Town upbringing," was debated, Nantwich proposing and Oldershaw opposing, and although all agreed, as

Sir Roger said, that 'much might be said on both sides,' the motion was lost by 10 votes. Later in the season a Spelling and General Knowledge Bee was held and again Oldershaw proved victorious, though by only half a point this time. The last meeting of the Autumn Term took the form of a 'Christmas Anthology,' consisting of readings from poetry, carol singing, a scene from "A Christmas Carol" presented by members of IIIA., and a delightful reading by the Headmaster from "Under the Greenwood Tree," when the audience acted as the choir. A most interesting lantern lecture was given by Mr. Ford, whose subject was "The Theatre of To-day and Tomorrow." Mr. Ford's knowledge of theatre craft appears to be inexhaustible and his remarks and illustrations on this occasion were, as usual, guaranteed to inspire his audience with a desire for more—a desire which we hope will be satisfied in the near future.

F.A.G.

Music Notes.

There has been no lack of music-making lately, both from competent performers, and others less experienced; in fact, a few have been asked not to display quite so much vocal virtuosity in corridors and cloakrooms. The House Competition and the choir to sing at one of Mr. Taylor's organ recitals are still in preparation, and it is too early to judge of their success. Of the Carol Concert Olga Booth says: "More soloists than in and used their talents well, and we were very previous years took courage. fortunate to be able to welcome back Mary Ellson, who with Remove A new feature was introduced by girls sang 'He shall feed His flock.' boys of Oldershaw Grammar School, who, under Mr. Darke's direction, played carols on bamboo pipes made by themselves." As last year, carols were sung informally on December 16th by all sections of the School. An old boy, A. Jolly, has more than once spent some of his precious leave delighting us with his musical skill, and we are most grateful to him. A fuller acknowledgment follows.

M.C.K.

14

During the snowy weather we experienced at the latter end of by Mr. Albert Jolly-an old Grammarian, well known to most members January, a few of us, "we happy few," were entertained one afternoon Mr. Jolly began his pianoforte recital with Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, which he described as "a swirl of sound." Few people, he said, really understood this piece of music, though some people had varied ideas about it, e.g., Walt Disney in "Fantasia." this he went on to Mozart's Minuet and Trio in E flat, which was a great contrast to the previous piece, being light and dainty-and all that From Mozart Mr. Jolly went to Chopin, playing a Mazurka and the best known of the Nocturnes-the one in E flat, as well as the "Butterfly" Study and the Berceuse or Cradle Song-which, I am not surprised to know, seemed to be a favourite piece of his.

We next heard some of the works of that most interesting person, Liszt. Firstly we listened to the Dance of the Gnomes, and then to the Valse Oubliée, the Forgotten Waltz; and indeed forgotten it seems to be, for the melody breaks off rather abruptly, as if the composer forgot how he meant to finish it; and lastly to Campanella. This piece gets its name from the Campaniles, or bell towers, which are prevalent on the Continent and in Italy, and has the melody of the bells running through it. To finish his programme Mr. Jolly brought us to more modern times with de Falla's "Ritual Fire Dance"-- whose pulsating rhythm made us utterly forgetful of the cold outside. With this Mr. Jolly was supposed to have finished his recital, but he was called upon to give an encore, a Tango by Albeniz, which brought us right up to modern times. So ended a most delightful recital, which was greatly enjoyed by all who listened to it, our only sorrow being that there were not more of us present to listen to it.

L. JACKSON, Form VU.A.

Folk Dance Society.

The Country Dancing enthusiasts met each Tuesday of the Spring Term. An interest in Country Dancing was aroused in a party of boys one wet games afternoon and they have danced with us most weeks since. The Folk Dances are essentially dances for men and women together, and the boys, who were remarkably quick at picking up the steps and dances,

made us realise how the whole character of the dance is altered when it is performed as it should be, by both men and women. Just before Easter a country dance party was held in the School Hall, which proved an enjoyable conclusion to the term's activity.

E.M.U.

Junior Branch of the Red Cross Society.

The School has again this year helped to distribute boxes of gifts from children of the American Red Cross to evacuated children in the district. Knitting has also been in evidence, particularly in the Removes, where there were several industrious knitters. Mr. Bailey kindly gave the profits from the Christmas Cards, and the Seniors gave the profits from their Dance to the fund. The Country Dance Party raised a further sum and there was a gratifying amount in the Red Cross Boxes. There is a box in the Boys' Vestibule, which may be used by both boys and girls for the disposal of odd coins. Every little helps! The account for the Spring Term is given below.

Income.

Balance brought forward £1 18s. 0d.
From Mr. Bailey (Christmas Cards) £0 11s. 0d.
Seniors' Dance £1 10s. 0d.
Red Cross Boxes £3 17s. 6d.
Staff £2 15s. 6d.
Country Dance Party £1 5s. 0d.

£11 17s. 6d.

Expenditure.

Cost of Wool for Knitting Socks £3 18s. 8d.
Embroidery Silks £0 3s. 6d.
Balance £7 15s. 4d.

£11 17s. 6d.

E.M.U.

First Aid Club.

The Nantonian.

Though our meetings were somewhat interrupted last term various grounds, we have renewed our work this term with vigour and have received a great stimulus from the visits of Messrs. W. Grey and J. Smith, distinguished members of the local detachment of the R.C.S. We are indeed grateful for their generous services and most interesting and instructive addresses and are looking forward to future visits. Meanwhile we intend to pass on to the study and practice of roller bandaging.

R.G.

16

The Caravan.

At a meeting of all those interested in the Caravan it was discovered that only six people had satisfactory pen-friends, and so twenty-six more letters to "unknown friends" were despatched to Australia, United States, Canada, Switzerland, Egypt, India, Brazil, and the Gold Coast. So far a reply has been received to only one of these letters.

E.R.C.J.

Book Crafts Club.

Although attendance at the meetings has been poor and irregular this winter, some good work has been done. As usual, meetings are being discontinued for the Summer Term, and it is to be hoped that in the autumn the present members will show greater interest and that two or three more people will join the Club.

E.R.C.J.

Guides.

During the winter our activities were curtailed somewhat by the 'black-out.' The Autumn Term, however, ended with a very enjoyable Saturday morning meeting. This took the form of an Enrolment ceremony conducted by Miss Goldthorpe, the District Secretary. glad to welcome three recruits and hope that they will soon be enrolled. We are Seven Guides have recently gained their Cook's badges and Nancy Lloyd has also passed the tests for the Needlewoman's and Toymaker's badges. Several Guides are now attending lectures in preparation for the Child Nurse test, and we hope that all the Second Class Guides will obtain their Swimmer's Badges this term.

J.M.

National Savings Group.

The total amount saved during the Spring Term was £410 ls. 6d., which sum included £320 3s. 6d. from the local Warships Week. year's total was £839 9s. 0d.

There are still far too many members who are not regular savers; for instance two boys joined at the beginning of the last term (without any persuasion) and so far they have not made a single contribution!

F.C.P.

Air Training Corp.

The total strength of 1818 Squadron is now 140 cadets, of whom 22 are pupils of the two Grammar Schools. In many ways the School pupils have benefited from inclusion in a larger organisation. Most of the cadets have visited a nearby aerodrome. Some have flown, and all who attend the week's camp will have the opportunity of a lengthy flight. An officer from (weather permitting) as part of an R.A.F. air crew. an aerodrome visits the Squadron fortnightly as navigation instructor. A visit to a searchlight station was arranged and we hope to obtain other privileges for the Squadron in the future. A group of cadets is to be entered for the efficiency tests, and the School pupils form a high percentage of this group.

C.H.B.

Lady Precious Stream.

For three nights last week the Nantwich Grammar School put on a production of Lady Precious Stream. It was a lovely performance of a charming play. The magnificent setting was enhanced by the beauty of the costumes; and the skill with which the lighting and the other effects were handled demonstrated how much was owed to the stalwarts off the stage. In fact, a dominant feature of the production was the attention paid to detail, and our first large share of the congratulations must go to Mr. Ford, the producer. The care he had lavished was everywhere. For instance, the obvious and the response of the actors well repaid it. small parts were played admirably and were always worth watching. The two property men could get a job in the Chinese Theatre to-morrow. Margaret Storey and Patricia Ogden, who played Precious Stream in the last scene with on different evenings, were both enchanting. Hsieh Ping-Kuei (R. Gowanlock) the acting of both of them was most in the middle, how- balanced and their earlier scenes were enjoyable too. I must mention Precious ever, their dialogues tended to lack vigour. Stream's charming curtain bow and Kuei's lifting of the rock. This scene could not have been done better. J. Lodge as the Prime Minister set quite the right stamp to his part and was never better than during his birthday celebration scene. I liked the quiet serenity and age portrayed by Winifride Trentham as his wife. daughters brought out the contrast of their parts well, sense of man- The two elder especially the

18

dominant Silver Stream (Lorna Jackson) against the more gentle Golden Stream (Shelagh Simon). The two generals (Bostock and Dutton), added a fine, robust humour to the play, but at times lacked polish. Margaret Woodhall (Mable Smith on Thursday and Friday) was best at the end, but the Western Scene needed to be played by everyone more ironically. R. Doody did both his parts with understanding, especially the White General, and the Honourable Reader (J. Mulliner) said the prologues well. He must learn, however, to speak slower and make more of the pause. In fact, my only real criticism of the play is that whilst the production moved at a speed which never once allowed the interest to lag, primary virtue, the actors did not always realise the effect of pausing. The play reached a standard which must be rare in school productions and we look forward eagerly to the next. Mr. McGraw was responsible for the fine settings and costumes and I had almost forgotten the excellence of the make-up, Mr. Ford's work. Many a mother must have been grateful for the assistance of the programme.

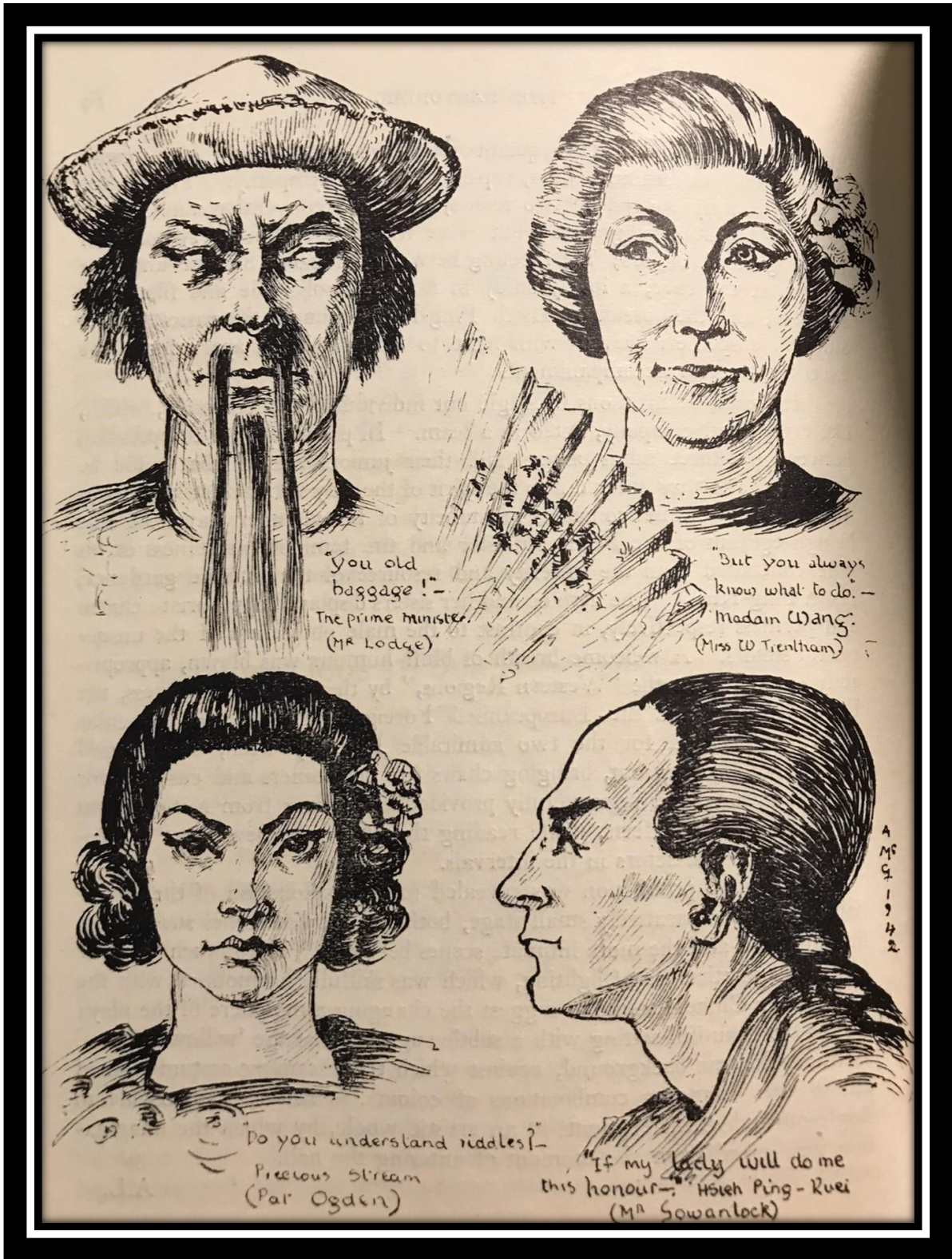
E. R. L. Lewis.

“Lady Precious Stream.”-An Appreciation.

It is a rare experience to approach a play with a completely open mind, and to be able to say that one has been more than satisfied at the end is even rarer. It is all the more pleasant, then, to be able to record one's appreciation of the production of Lady Precious Stream by the boys and girls of Nantwich Grammar School. There could hardly have been a better choice of vehicle for the actors; for the play, an attempt to re-create the ancient Chinese drama with certain concessions to Western taste, presents an old legend with complete naïveté, and at the same time embodies a deeper moral purpose, as is usual in Oriental drama. a complete absence of modern 'realism'; indeed stage convention is carried There is to an extreme point. It is to be supposed that much of the, to us, strange convention was intended by the author for the amusement of English audiences, but here the effect was completely different; the absolute sincerity of the young actors carried us with it, and effaced any barrier between the audience and the spirit of the play. From the first, the confidential tones of the prologue disarmed our criticism, and the pleasant confidences of the Prime

Minister's family, with their quaint repetitions which might have come from Homer or Grimm's tales, rapidly won our sympathy. The writer was particularly moved by two scenes, in which convention and make-believe were at their greatest, but were transcended by the sympathetic handling of the actors; the meeting between Precious Stream and her mother at the cave, a lovely study in maternal solicitude and filial self-sacrifice; and the pursuit of Hsieh Ping-Kuei through the passes, a fine study in suspense achieved with next to no properties, apart from the excellent musical accompaniment. It would be invidious to single out individuals in a company, which, in particular the co-operation like every good company, acted as a team. between the three adult players and their juniors was all that could be desired; the former entered into the spirit of the play with a zest which was matched by the unselfconscious spontaneity of the younger players. The benign egotism of the Prime Minister and the feminine astuteness of his wife contrasted with the sincerity and resource of the humble gardener, Hsieh Ping-Kuei. The heroine and her sisters displayed appropriate charm and pertness respectively, in contrast to the male obtuseness of the unsuccessful suitors. A welcome breath of bluff humour was blown, appropriately enough from the "Western Regions," by the masterful princess, the White General and the Europeanised Foreign Minister. A particular word must be said for the two admirable Property Men, who passed unobtrusively in and out, bringing chairs for newcomers and cushions for the unconscious, and resourcefully provided everything from a snowstorm to galloping horse effects, while reading the (Chinese) newspaper or providing tea for the actors in the intervals. A polished production was revealed in the exploitation of the potentialities of a comparatively small stage, both in crowded scenes such as the Here much was due first and last, and the more intimate scenes between. to the imaginative use of lighting, which was skilfully harmonised with the well chosen Chinese music to suggest the changing atmosphere of the play; and to the beautiful setting with a subtle suggestion of the 'willow-pattern' in the cyclorama background, against which the charming costumes stood. But it is impossible to point out in ever changing combinations of colours. single out individual elements in an artistic whole, by which the imagination was seized from the moment of entering the hall.

A.L.



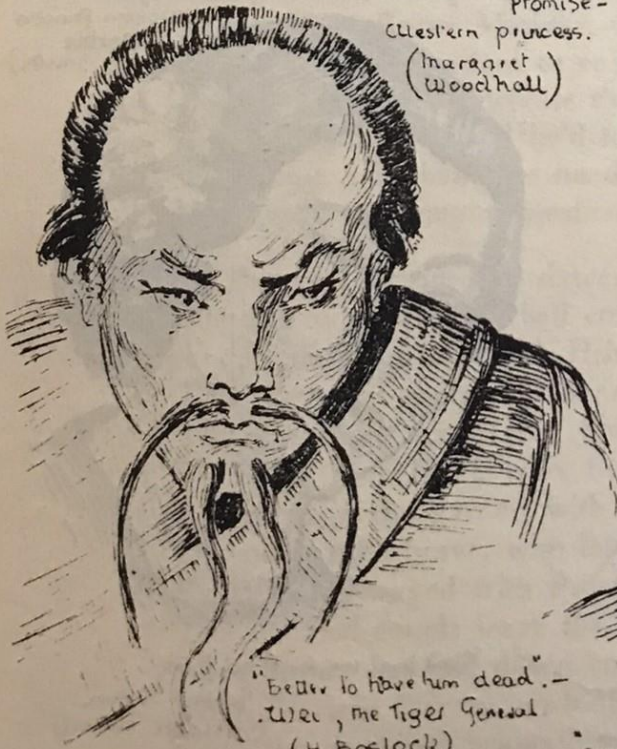


"I will overtake you and sue you for breach of Promise -
Western princess."
(Margaret Woodhall)

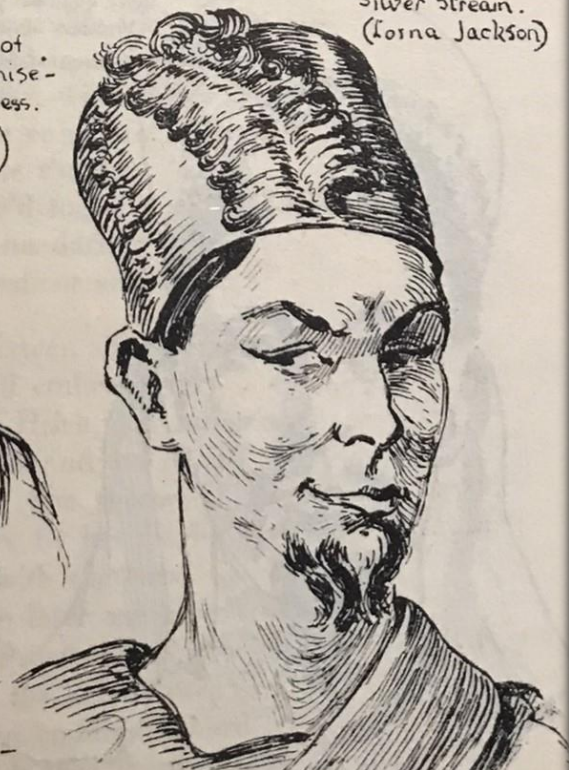


A
M
C.
1
9
4
2

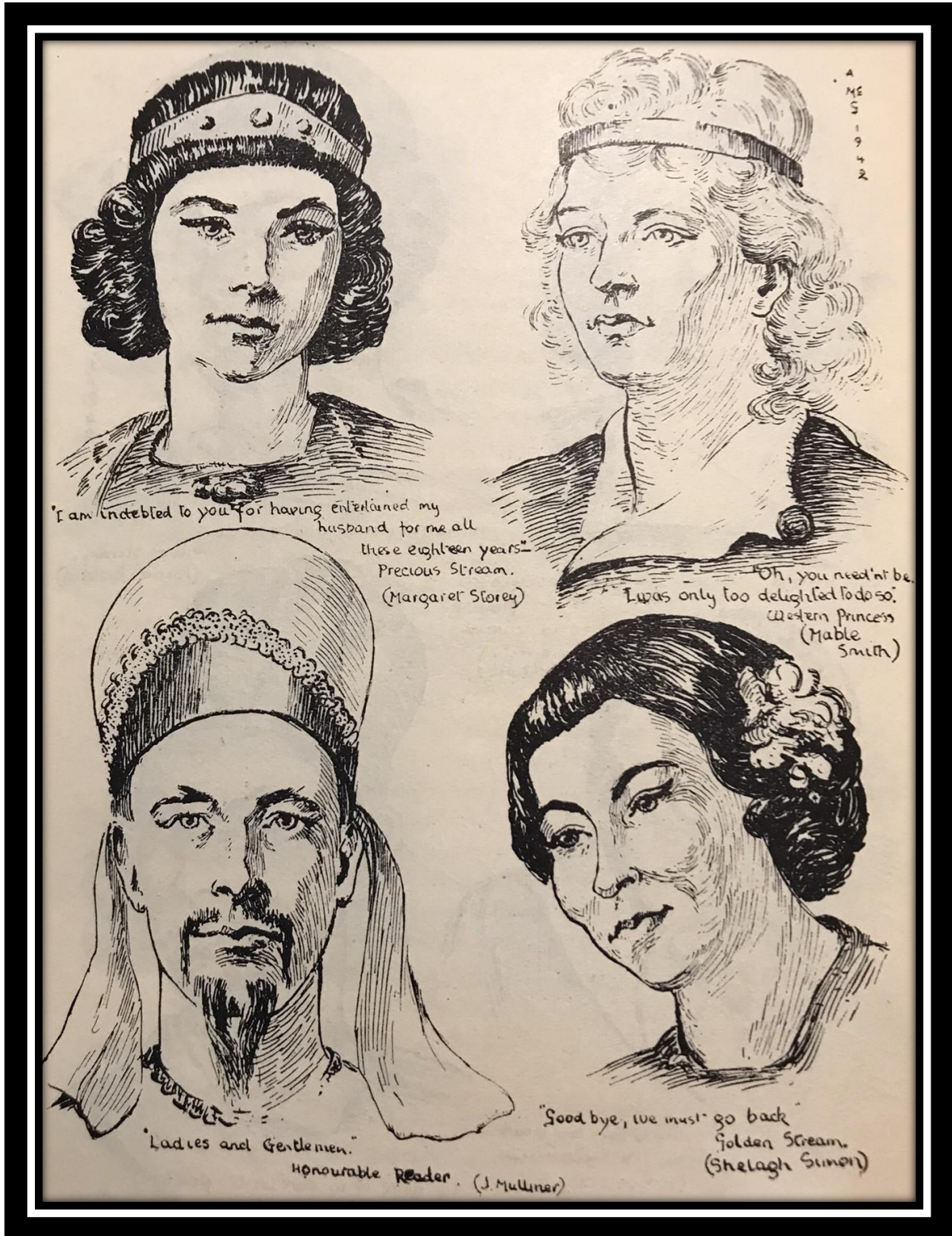
"you horrid wretch, you deserve death."
Silver Stream.
(Lorna Jackson)



"Better to have him dead." -
Wei, the Tiger General
(H. Boslock)



"As none of us can write poetry -"
Su, the Dragon General.
(S. Dutton)



On "Lady Precious Stream."

A Poem in Heroic Couplets.

Three nights to Nantwich Grammar School the folk
All flocked to see a weirdly dressed up bloke
Play Hsieh Ping Kuei, a Chinese gardener,
A man of mighty deeds and brain subtler
Than that of Wei, the perfect gentleman,
Who looked as though his chest were stuffed with bran.
But though he seemed such vigour to display,
'Twas Silver Stream, his wife, who held the sway
Of power in this noble family,
And Wei had grown into a henpecked "he."
Now Su, his broth'r-in-law, the Dragon Gen,
Had grains of sense, but, unlike Madame Chen,
He chose to use them only now and then;
When prompted by his dear wife Golden Stream
Whom all the audience held in high esteem.
Wang Yun, Prime Minister, with stately show
Spread feasts in gardens to enjoy the snow.
Poems they had to celebrate the day
When Wang Yun said he'd found a splendid way
To choose a husband for his darling child,
Who was, he thought, obedient and mild.

As Precious Stream was sixteen she must wed
The one who caught a ball embroidered
And, though in love with Hsieh, her father said
That she must choose a husband out of all
The suitors he approved. She throws the ball
To Hsieh Ping Kuei, who, by her own command
Is present in the garden with the band
Of young men brave, who later are kicked out
By Wang, enraged with Precious and the gout.
The married couple leave the palace yard
Since Father has laid down conditions hard,
That Precious Stream no longer there be seen
Until the gardener brings her back a queen,

F In humble cave the couple go and dwell,
Though Precious has to work, yet all is well.
But Hsieh rides up and brings bad news indeed,
His wife must bid him now a safe Godspeed.
For since a fearsome dragon he has brained
The rank of officer he has attained,
So to the Western Regions he must fly,
He only comes to bid his wife "Good-bye."

What have we here? Why, bless my very heart
'Tis Madame come to visit in a cart.
Raiment and rice she's brought for Precious Stream
And asks her to return behind her team.
But Precious steadily refuses, so
There's nothing left for Madame but to go.

And now, my friends, we needs must travel much,
So please hold tight while I let in the clutch.
This is the palace of the Western Lands,
The letter Hsieh Ping Kuei holds in his hands Is from his wife, the Lady Precious Stream,
Who thinks her husband's faithless, it would seem.
He ponders for awhile, we wonder why,
"Show in the Princess now," we hear him cry.
The Princess enters (what a radiant sight!),
But Hsieh intends to make her Highness tight.
The power of liquor overcomes her brains
And Hsieh rides off to weird and wondrous strains
Of music. The Princess thus rejected Determines to pursue her groom elected.

China is reached, his wife is reconciled,
Hsieh is refreshed with half-a-pint of mild.
The mighty Emp'ror orders Wei's arrest,
The hero, not the villain, comes off best,
For Wei is, sure, a villainous great pest.
He is to be beheaded.--No! just caned!
"Oh no!" cries Wei, "I had as lief be brained.

The deed is done and all are happy now
When enters in the Princess with a bow.
She greets them, and they almost have to scream
With laughter as she tries to churn some cream.
"This will not do," says Precious Stream to Hsieh,
"We must tell So-and-So to interfere."
They call in So-and-So, a brave man bold,
Who reckoned to have had affairs of old.
The Princess and the Minister in bliss
Gazed at each other: man and sweet young miss
Then went behind the curtains for a kiss.
"How scandalous! I think I must retire,"
Said Wang, his temper vexed with ire.
The others, in due order, went and left
The stage of all the actors quite bereft.

The people clap and then they rise and go,
Well pleased, I'm told, with our first Chinese show.

R. E. Doody, VIU.

Rehearsals.

Way back in the dim distant past-in fact the summer of 1941, one glorious afternoon, a little band of us gathered together for an audition. This, to most of us, was a new experience, and as a result we felt excited, and not a little nervous, at the thought of appearing before a producer of such reputation, in the flesh, so to speak. Our fears, however, were in vain, for the said producer was extremely kind and soon put us at our ease. He told us that the name of the play he was going to produce was Lady Precious Stream, and though at the time the name meant little to us, it was going to mean a great deal in the future.

After this first audition we were really introduced to the Chinese stage, and its peculiarities, and some of us, who rather fancied ourselves as budding young actresses and actors, were going to be greatly disillusioned. By Christmas, however, we all felt we would remember to step over non-existent steps, and to knock at non-existent doors, and also not to look puzzled when told, "Please don't stand on ceremony."

After we had "cruelly conn'd" our lines, the play seemed to go with an added zest, and its fascination increased as properties and finally Chinese music were introduced. Then one began to forget the times one had wobbled over when, what was meant to be the most elaborate of elaborate curtsies had come to grief, in fact one began to enter into the real spirit of the play.

Then came the first time we saw each other in costume-what a transformation! Was that glamorous creature, clad in vivid raiment, really the Western Princess, and that regal figure clad in royal robes really Hsieh Ping Kuei-and that person over there, so handsome and debonaire, was it really the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or were they all mere figments of the imagination? The wigs too made a difference-though one unfortunate person had to have her locks shorn before the wig could be tried on, and even then it did not fit, and it was left to an ingenious member of staff to devise a way of screwing it on with about forty or so hairpins.

In the meantime a band of stalwarts under the expert guidance of Mr. McGraw, were busily painting the scenery, and when this was done all was set for the actual performances-all the long weeks of rehearsing were over, and Nantwich audiences were privileged (?) to see the results. The success of the play, however, was not due to us, the performers, but to the untiring efforts, and I might say, great patience, of Mr. Ford, our producer, who through the most trying rehearsal was cheerful and never lost his temper once. I for one never enjoyed an experience so much, and I say "Here's to the next time," Mr. Ford-may it be soon!

Lorna Jackson, Form VU.A.

Old Grammarians' News.

We extend our hearty congratulations to:-

Pilot Officer L. Moulton, D.F.C.

Pilot Officer H. Morris, G.M.

Warrant Officer L. Ollier, A.F.M.

T. P. Mills, O.B.E.

Since our last issue we have been delighted to welcome at School the following Old Boys now with the Forces: Ernest Burton, Peter Carr, Konald Crosby, John and Kenneth Coates (Canada), Dick Fyles, Alec

George, William Glover, Anthony Gowdridge, Denis Hall, Ronald Henshall, John B. Hamilton, James B. Hamilton, Eric Howarth, Albert Jolly, Sam Johnson, Donald Lloyd, John Meeres, Leslie Moulton, Richard Nicholas, Len Ollier, Teddy Talbot, George Whalley. (We sincerely hope no name has been omitted).

The School and Staff are always pleased to see old pupils on all occasions and feel sure that there are many who would like to visit the School to see the many alterations which have taken place since their school days. In some cases we may be able to put them in touch with school friends with whom they have lost contact.

We regret to say no further news has been received of William Ellis, D.F.M., and Jack Grocott (New Zealand)-both of whom were reported missing.

B.M.

We are always pleased to hear from Old Pupils and have great pleasure in printing extracts from their correspondence. Olga Booth, last year's Head Girl, joined Bedford College at Cambridge last October and she gives us some of her early impressions of Cambridge and College life.

Recently we received a letter from Mason Melling, who is now recovering after his harrowing experiences and is making very satisfactory progress. We are delighted that the Magazine should have given him such pleasure and revived such happy memories of his school days.

-Ed.

Cambridge.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Lodge,-I am just writing a short note to let you know that I have arrived here safely, complete with luggage, including a bicycle-my most valued possession in this life of rushing from one place to another....

28

We have many of our lectures in Newnham, some at the University Lecture rooms, a few in private houses now lent to Bedford-in such places the most interesting part of a lecture is suddenly to be interrupted by the scream of an infant from the room next to ours, loudly protesting that he doesn't want to go to bed-others, fortunately not more than four per week, are held in top attics of once empty buildings! At least there is variety, when one compares the crudeness of the last mentioned "lecture room," with the luxury and comfort of the departmental room in another house, the lovely fire, armchairs and settees, which we have sampled twice to-day for Latin lectures!

We are in billets about 2 miles from town and 3 from Newnham. I'm sharing rooms with a French Honours student, who, until four years ago, lived in Belgium. She's done quite a lot of Greek, Latin, German and Italian, and speaks French very well-she says it's more natural to her than English. Cambridge I like very much indeed, though at first I found the streets confusing because each street begins with one name, changes about three times, and ends up with another different name. Also we found people gave directions in terms of colleges passed, and we couldn't discover which was which until we found a small map in an old encyclopædia. Apparently shops cannot sell maps nowadays unless the customer has a police permit, so we couldn't get one, not knowing where the police station was.

With my best wishes, and many thanks to Mr. Lodge for all his help and kindness.

From OLGA.

Kommetje,
Cape Province,
South Africa.

Dear Mr. Lodge,
This morning I received a very welcome surprise, in the form of a copy of the December issue of The Nantonian. I do not quite know how to thank you for it, because the pleasure that it gave me can hardly be put - into words. It is such a long time since I had any news about the School. At the commencement of hostilities I almost lost touch with my only contemporary

with whom I still correspond, and as he also left school a short time after I did, his news has been rather limited. forwarded your replies to his letters, in which you show deep concern My father has regarding my late illness. Fortunately, I have almost completely recovered from the attack of pneumonia which almost terminated my existence. Except for still feeling a trifle weak, I am perfectly well again. The injuries to my legs which I received in action last year have almost completely healed, and by the middle of this year I should no longer suffer any inconvenience from them.

I notice that you have condensed the title of the School Magazine since I last read it. I believe that about 1935 Woodhead suggested that the title should be changed from The Nantwich and Acton Grammar School Magazine to the short and more suitable title of The Nantonian, but at the time it met with strong opposition. I prefer the present edition instead of the old red one, but was rather disappointed that the drawing of the School had been replaced by the crest.

I was very pleased to find still a few names that I remembered. Even the staff seemed to have changed considerably and the building has grown and is unrecognisable from the photographs in the Magazine. Names, names, names, how they recall moments of joy or displeasure, praise or criticism. . . [There follow many references to events and incidents in school life].

I cannot say to you or to the School, "This honour I have brought you or this greatness I bestow upon you.. I am just a number, a pawn, in this blind game of warfare, doing a simple little job to the best of my ability-just like so many of my fellow men. But if a job well done is sufficient reward for you and for the School, one day I hope to be able to say to you, "The job has been well done!"

Yours very sincerely,
MASON MELLING.

Extracts from a letter from Mr. Hughes.

I can tell you very little of the push that will pass the Censor but you will know that we are the unarmoured part of an armoured division-spearhead in an attack, the sting in the tail on a withdrawal. We had first go at Sidi Resegh and became what the Germans obviously disliked

A nuisance. They tried many times during the first three days to dislodge us. We inflicted and received very heavy casualties-even the Brigadier was wounded. I managed some minor excitements too; normally they are not part of my job. I sit in peace and direct supplies, arms, ambulances, petrol, spares, but this show was such a whirlwind and a chaos that friend and foe were often inextricably mixed up and administrative parts of brigades fought more battles to start with than the units themselves-two in 30 minutes. I got surrounded at first light by a Jerry patrol in the escarpment at Sidi Resegh, and, though fired at from 40 yards by m/gs. and trench mortars, thanks to the bad light got my car and W/T. truck away unscathed, only to run straight into another m/g. and A/Tank gun nest; my wireless truck, in which I was navigating, was absolutely riddled. Neither my driver, operator, nor I got a scratch, although we crawled for 600 yards before reaching safety from the scuppered truck. Two days later I had the "privilege" of being missing for four days, having been cut off from my own branch of our H.Q. by a Jerry column. This was the second occasion (in the summer I was reported killed in action and the standing committee of Adjustment went so far as to wind up my account right speedily). I covered nearly 300 miles motoring over parts of Cyrenaica. That, however, was not as exciting as the crawl I mentioned. I never knew that crawling could be so tiring or that gunners could be such bad shots.

D. R. Hughes.

(Staff Captain),

Feb, 1942.

Valete et Salvete.

The following pupils have left or joined us since our last issue: - Left:-
HODGKIN HOUSE:
Boys: Ferns, R., Heather, J. M.
Girls: C. Bradshaw, A. Charlton, A. Gibson, E. Lowther, G, Walker,

THRUSH HOUSE:

Boys: Allman, F. G., Arnfield, H., Lawley, H. G., Millington, W. H., Welch, C., Williamson, J. R.

Girls: P. Heath, B. Jackson, A. Jepson, J. Jones, M. Robinson, M. Storey.

WILBRAHAM HOUSE:

Boy: Williamson, D. E.

Girls: J. Adams, S. Allwood, D. Chalkley, S. Jones, P. Meachin, S. Simon, E. Slack.

Newcomers:

HODGKIN HOUSE: -

Girl: A. Peters.

THRUSH HOUSE: -

Boys: Sanders, W., Wynne, M. G.

WILBRAHAM HOUSE:

Boys: Robinson, P. M., Tyler, D.

Girls: D. Barker, F. Jones, E. Odd, S. Robinson.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of The Sandbachian.