

The  
**Nantonian.**

**July, 1944.**

Vol.II.

No. 9

# Nantwich and Acton Grammar School Magazine

Editorial Committee.

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

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

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

July, 1944.

New Series.

Vol. II., No. 9.

## The Nantonian

-----

### Contents.

	Page.
1. Editorial	3
2. School Notes	3
3. Preparatory School Notes	7
4. Contributions to Good Causes	8
5. Prize List. 1942/43	10
6. House Notes	11
7. Hockey Notes	12
8. Football Notes	
13	
9. Cross Country Races, 1944	14
10. "Hamlet"--An Appreciation	15
11. Unspoken Prologue to Hamlet	
19	
12. On Playing the Part of the Cup in Hamlet	20
13. Photographic Supplement	
14. School Societies and Clubs	21
15. Old Grammarians' News	26
16. Valete et Salvete	28

## Editorial.

THE present issue should see the beginning of the third volume of the Magazine, but it has been decided to extend Volume Two in the hope that the war might soon end and that the war issues might then form a single volume. In future it might be advisable to include ten magazines in one volume; by so doing we could cover a period of five years, which is the normal period of a pupil's life at the School. The main feature of this number is the record of last term's production of "Hamlet"; we include not only a comprehensive appreciation, but also an amusing article on the excellent part of "The Cup" and a photo-graphic supplement prepared by Mr. Bailey from the photographs of Mr. Bullock.

Future magazines may be smaller in size, since increasing costs render a production of larger dimensions very expensive. We shall, however, have succeeded in preserving a complete record of our School life, which is--to a very large extent--our main object.

## SCHOOL NOTES, April, 1944.

A year ago we recorded the mildest winter term which we had experienced for ten years, but the weather last term was even milder. It was not equally healthy, an epidemic of chicken-pox affecting attendance considerably: even a member of Staff fell a victim to it.

We were delighted to see Mr. Carey at the end of the Christmas Term, when, besides being with us on less formal occasions, he attended the prize-giving on the last afternoon of term. P. Pepler and P. Carr, who like Mr. Carey, had served in North Africa, were also welcome visitors, and our visitors' book records the visits of many other Old Grammarians whom we have been delighted to see home on leave from the Forces and elsewhere. We deeply regret to record that D. Gresty, E. Grundy and L. Ollier have been reported missing and G. Richardson killed since our last issue.

Money gifts for the purchase of library books have been presented by D. C. Bostock, J. Heler, Ruth Lockwood, G. R. Robinson and T. Steventon; and F. A. Dutton has presented us with an additional

rheostat (dimming apparatus) for our stage switch-board; and J. Oliver with oriental weapons. K. Dodd has sent a money gift to the Science Club (of which he was an enthusiastic member) through Mr. Bailey. To all of these we are most grateful for their generosity. Bowers has increased the immense debt we already owe to him by further gifts of books and pictures and of a most handsome and beautifully made mercury barometer, which is now in the Geography Room. We again tender him our warmest thanks for his generosity. A choir of girls was taken by Miss Knowelden to the Musical Festival, which was held this year at Crewe Secondary School on March 18th. They are to be congratulated on their singing, which was warmly commended by the adjudicator, Dr. Greenhouse Allt.

It was with great regret that we said good-bye to Miss Hutt, who left us at Christmas to take up a new post at Mill Hill. To Miss Hutt we all owe a great debt of gratitude, not only for her fine qualities as a teacher, but for her lively interest in music and country dancing and for the great help which she gave to those activities and to many other good causes. We wish her luck in her new post, and we extend a cordial welcome to her successor, Mrs. S. Clark.

Hamlet, as presented by the School at four performances on March 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th, proved to be an artistic achievement of rare distinction. The public imagination was finely and unexpectedly touched, and the reception of the play was most generous and enthusiastic: every seat for the final performances was booked several days in advance, and an unexpectedly large number of congratulatory letters was received. One writer says: "I don't think Nantwich people have ever seen such a highly finished production"; another says: "I have seen your last three productions-Precious Stream, Twelfth Night and now Hamlet-and it is amazing to see the progress in stage sense and confidence of your young actors and actresses"; a third, an Old Grammarian of high artistic attainments now serving in the Army, says: "We have seen some unforgettable productions at N.A.G.S. during the past few years,-in fact, to us outside, the school stands as a centre of culture and sanity in a mad world. We all owe you a debt of gratitude."

To have participated in the evolution of this thing of beauty during the 3 months of its rehearsal was a thrilling and heartening experience (especially in this fifth year of world-war), and all the twenty-five characters of the cast, from the Prince to the Priest, many of whom were also stage-hands toiling strenuously against time behind the scenes, are likely to treasure the experience as a joy for ever. To this most loyal and devoted cast and to those enthusiasts who co-operated with them in the manifold activities of producing and mounting such a play and in securing and accommodating audiences the producer extends his warmest gratitude. It was a co-operative effort of the most valuable kind: it was creative and it was beautiful.

The visit of the Chairman of the Governors, Lt.-Col. J. Wesley Emberton, at morning assembly on Wednesday, March 29th, to congratulate the School on the production of Hamlet and on all that this stood for, was as welcome as it was unexpected. Such official recognition is very greatly appreciated.

We also greatly appreciate the report of the production of Hamlet which will be found on another page and which was contributed by a generous and discriminating member of our audiences.

Hamlet proved to be a great financial success, and on another page are recorded the amounts paid from the proceeds to various charities.

A special word of congratulation is due to the School Football XI., and it is here very cordially given. They were not a particularly strong team, but they quickly began to work well together, and in the course of the season they won some good victories over other school elevens and put up a very good show against the Naval Cadets and against a strong R.A.F. team.

We cannot wait until our next issue to congratulate E. Lloyd most heartily on a cricketing distinction which has not been achieved by a member of the School for over 30 years. On May 13th, when the School defeated Whitchurch Grammar School on their ground, Lloyd

6

Scored 100 not out. We understand that the last century in a School match was 102 not out, scored by J. Pickerill against Whitchurch Grammar School in 1912. We also congratulate Entwistle, who won the Junior Mile at the East Cheshire A.T.C. Sports held at Stockport. We are very grateful to Mr. Wilfred Harlock, Chairman of our Governors from 1919 to 1943 and a great benefactor of the School, for the excellent photograph which he has let us have and which has joined the gallery of portraits along the lower corridor.

The Boys' Bicycle Shed was blown down by the great gale of April 7th, 1943. Re-erection was not quite complete on the anniversary date, but it was so when school re-assembled on April 18th: and we have the vista across the fields from the Hall windows. So it's an ill wind, etc., though it was hard to have no bicycle shed through the winter.

The December number of The Nantonian received honourable mention in The Countryman of March, 1944. This is a distinction of which our Editor and all concerned have every reason to be proud.

As we go to press we learn that J. A. Hamilton, a former Prefect of the School, has been awarded the M.C. for conspicuous gallantry on the Anzio Beach-head. Warmest congratulations to a gallant soldier who has already been "mentioned in despatches."

As we go to press we also have to record our warm thanks to Mr. A. O. Bevan, Clerk to the Governors of the School, for a further addition to his many gifts to the School, this time in the shape of a substantial cheque, to be expended on a Prize to be awarded this year and next for a subject to be decided in due course.

In connection with the Nantwich Book Drive the School collected 29,143 books, 28 pupils qualifying as Field Marshals for collecting over 250 books and 30 qualifying as Generals for collecting over 150. It is only fair to state that many of these books came from Crewe!

J.L.

Since the writing of the last notes, little beyond the ordinary routine has happened in the Preparatory Department. Much of what might have been done has had to be either postponed or abandoned because of illness. Rarely has there been so much sickness in the "Little School." We justly pride ourselves on our freedom from epidemics, but this year we succumbed to the 'flu before Christmas, and to chicken pox after! One pupil after another fell ill, and as fast as one group returned, another stayed away.

We are opening the Summer Term with one third of the Upper Form absent, several being fresh cases of chicken pox. In view of the early date of the examination to the Upper School all this is very unfortunate.

In December we planned a little concert in aid of the Children's Theatre which is to be founded under the auspices of Toynbee Hall. It is hoped that "this pioneer theatre may begin a movement of children's theatres which will bring happiness and inspiration to children, and through them, to the nation." The Council includes Peggy Ashcroft, Harold Nicholson, Michael Redgrave, Malcolm Sargent and fifteen others of equal fame. We had hopes of being the first Preparatory School to send a donation, and had, and still have, visions of a theatre in this area sooner or later.

In September Miss Wragg came to talk to the children about Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and after her visit we enrolled twenty new members. At the end of the Autumn Term we decided to have book stalls, one for each House, in aid of the Red Cross. Pupils brought all kinds of attractive volumes, mostly for children, and buying was very keen. We were able to post a cheque for £12 1s. 5d. as a result, and also £5 3s. 8d. from our Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund. A further sum of £5 10s. 11d. was sent off in March. In addition we contributed £1 9s. 6d. to the Lord Mayor of London's Relief Fund in December, and an additional sum of £1 5s. 6d. in April.



After a postponement, our Original Verse Competition took place in February. Mrs. K. G. Druce, B.A., kindly acted as judge, and the honours fell to the Hodgkins, who were very proud to receive the little shield presented last year by Mrs. F. Haighton.

8

In March Mr. H. J. Whittle came to speak on the British Bible Society. He gave a very interesting account of how it originated, and of the work of the Society in general. He also informed the children that Bibles sold to the Forces for the moderate sum of threepence actually cost sevenpence. Appeals are being made to help to make up the deficiency, and we contributed £1 2s. 6d. to the cause. So many children were away that we intend to make another collection later on. Knitting for the Forces continues, though we have to confess there is not quite the same enthusiasm as formerly. We are, however, doing everything possible to encourage all to carry on.

The National Book Drive is in full swing as these notes are being written. Ten Captains were enrolled the first day, and we are hoping for a good crop of Field Marshals before the event closes.

M.G.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOOD CAUSES FOR THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

SENIOR SCHOOL.	£.	s.	d.
RED			CROSS:-
(a) Penny-a-Week Fund	55	11	0
(b) Boxes	13	13	0
(c) Prisoners of War Fund	19	8	6
(Harvest Festival Sale by Form VL.B. £5 5s.),			
(Collection from Form R.A. £1 6s. Od.),			

(Proceeds of Carol Concert £10 10s. Od.),

(Dance held by Form VI. £2 7s. 6d.).

DR.	BARNARDO'S	HOMES:-
(a) Members of Helpers' League		20 0 0
(b) Collected at School Parties		5 18 11
FREE FRENCH NURSERY		2 2 0
NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION		2 15 0
LIVERPOOL	RADIUM	INSTITUTE:-
Staff box		0 10 0
....		
Collection by Form R.A....		1 5 0

9

HUMANE SOCIETY (R.S.P.C.A.):-	£.	s.	d.
Collection by Literary Society	2	2	0
TUBERCULOSIS (NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF):-			
Sale of Stamps	2	0	0
FRUIT COLLECTION:-			
Rose Hips (409 lbs.)	3	7	6
(Proceeds to Nantwich Comforts for the Forces Fund).			
WAR SAVINGS (including Preparatory Department)	1334	4	6
PROCEEDS OF "HAMLET":-			
Red Cross General Fund	15	15	0
Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund	10	10	0
R.S.P.C.A. Special Branch-Fund for the Relief of Russian Horses	2	2	0
Nantwich Cottage Hospital	5	5	0
Nantwich G.T.C.	2	2	0
Nantwich Boys' Club	2	2	0

## PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

RED	CROSS:-
(a) Penny-a-Week Fund	15 18 7
(b) General Fund	12 1 5
AID TO CHINA FUND	9 18 9

LORD	MAYOR	OF	LONDON:-
General Relief Fund			4 5 8
HUMANE SOCIETY (R.S.P.C.A.)			1 11 0
BRITISH & FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY			1 2 5
MRS. CHURCHILL'S AID TO RUSSIA FUND			41 10 10
DR.	BARNARDO'S		HOMES:-
Members of Helpers' League			32 10 9

10

### PRIZE LIST, 1942-3.

Prize Day again took an informal character when, at the end of the Autumn term Lt.-Col. Wesley Emberton, Chairman of the Governors, presented prizes to the following pupils:-

VIA.-Personal Service as Head Prefects: Cooper, E. H.; M. Smith. Form Prizes: B. Gowdridge (Scripture), R. Dutton (Domestic Subjects). Williams, F. J., Mulliner, B. (Speech). Robinson, G. (Music and Speech).

VIIB.-Dutton, F. A. (Form Prize, Headmaster's Essay, Music). L. Jackson (Form Prize, Speech, Library Service). M. Wych (Form Prize, Music).

VUA.-Form Prizes: Boyer, J. L., Cooke, B., Moulton, P., Peake, R. C., 021 C. Jones, N. Lloyd, D. Price, M. Riches. Special Prizes: Cooke, 00 B. (Ramsay Smith Latin Prize); Moulton, P. (French); P. Ogden (Domestic Subjects); M. Hilton (Music)..

VUB.-Form Prizes: J. Thomasson, Lloyd, E. Special Prizes: J. Thomasson (Speech); M. Henderson (Laboratory Service); Steventon, T. (Art); Lloyd, E. (Library Service); Shaw, P. (Handicraft).

VLA.-Form Prizes: Flynn, T., G. Haslam, P. Dickens; Music Prize: M. Preston. MISA YOTARA

VLB.-Form Prize: B. Mills; First Aid Prize, Fox, G.

RA.-Form Prizes: Woodhead, N. (and Headmaster's Essay Prize); N. Wright, P. Bailey, J. Renshaw.

RB.-Form Prizes: P. Hollinshead, Jones, R. IVA.-Form Prizes: Smith, J. D., E. Jackson.

IVB. Form Prizes: A. Robinson, J. Davenport, Yearsley, G.; French Prize (presented by Mrs. K. Harlock), Jones, K.

IIIA.-Form Prizes: R. Bailey, P. Vickers, M. Reeves, F. Papworth. IIIB. Form Prizes: C. Steer, M. Tickle.

IIU.-Form Prizes: R. Storey, Payton A.

Special Prizes: R. Jones  
91 01 (Wild Flowers); J. Moore and J. Bagnall (Special Effort).  
III.A.-Form Prizes: N. Egan, Bond, M. III.B.---Form Prizes: Hyde, K., P. Dawson. I.-Form Prizes: E.  
Jones, J. Williams.g

11

## HOUSE NOTES.

Captains: Girl-M. Hilton; Boy-Lloyd, E.

Vice-Captains: Girl-E. Wilkinson; Boy-Fossick, B.  
Our hopes of gaining the Championship this year have been considerably raised by our successes during the last two terms. We were easy victors in the Cross Country and E. Lloyd and A. Birchall are to be congratulated on winning the Senior and Junior races respectively. We also gained the Foot- ball Shield and had six representatives in the School XI. The girls were runners-up in hockey and were also well represented in the School Hockey Team. We call on all Hodgkins to rally round during the summer; we are now firmly on the ladder which leads to our final objective and we mean to stay there. This, however, will demand an all-out effort and all must pull their weight-no slackers will be tolerated. In conclusion, let us quote a sentence which appeared all over the country at the time of the Battle of Britain, "In this House we are not interested in the policy of defeat-it does not exist."

M.H., E.L.

Captains: Girl-L. Jackson; Boy-Cooke, B.

Vice-Captains: Girl-N. Lloyd; Boy-Moulton, P.  
Although we are able to congratulate the girls on winning the Hockey and Netball Shields, and the boys on obtaining second place in the Cross Country Races and in Football, yet all Thrushes

will have to make a special effort in the events of the forthcoming term, if Thrush is to retain her position as Champion House; for the other two Houses are determined to oust her from this position if they possibly can. So, Thrushes, there must be no resting on past laurels ! As usual, we managed to gravitate to the bottom in the matter of conduct marks, and were not so successful in examinations. We were sorry to lose our Vice-Captain, Carol Jones, last term, and wish her every success in the future.

L.J., B.C.

12

Captains: Girl-E. Adams; Boy-Mottram, G.

Vice-Captains: Girl-P. Ogden; Boy-McHale, K.

During the past term Wilbraham sports activities have declined. In both Football and Cross Country the boys have been unable to match the efforts of the other Houses, and the girls were most unfortunate in missing the Netball Shield 3 by a very small margin. Indoor activities, however, have been more successful. In examinations so far we have achieved first place and look forward to the continuance of this admirable achievement. We hope that the Music Competition will be as great a success for us this year as it was last, and that the girls will once again carry off the cup for the Gym. Competition. All members of the House must remember that their individual efforts in all things are necessary if we are to compete successfully with the other Houses for the House Championship.

E.A., G.M.

## HOCKEY NOTES.

The following girls have represented the School in the hockey matches this season: L. Jackson, M. Hilton, D. Edwards, E. Wilkinson, J. Birchall, C. King, H. Ferns, E. Adams, N. Maddock, P. Ogden, C. Jones, P. Hollinshead.

Nine matches of the sixteen arranged had to be scratched, but in the remaining seven the School team held their own against their opponents, though the score against them in two seems to be heavy.

We were sorry to lose Carol Jones before the end of the season, but her place was ably filled by Joan Birchall.

13

### Results.

Opponents.		Team.	Result.	Score.
Sir John Deane's School, Northwich		First XI.	Drew	3—3
Market Drayton Grammar School		First XI.	Lost	4—2
Second XI.	Won			2—1
Verdin Grammar School, Winsford		First XI.	Won	3—1
Whitchurch High School		First XI.	Lost	7—0
Second XI.	Lost			8—2
Verdin Grammar School, Winsford		First XI.	Won	7—0

M.T.

### Football Notes, 1943-44.

The football team has been one of the most successful sides to re- present the School for some years, being only twice defeated by School teams. The School found them- selves on many occasions con- fronted by heavier and more experienced teams, but gave credit- able

performances in all matches. For the first time since 1938 we defeated Crewe Secondary School; after staging a brilliant recovery at Crewe (five goals down at half-time) and coming off the unlucky losers by one goal, we succeeded in defeating them on our own ground. Other opponents included three R.A.F. Teams (with two League players) and the Naval College from Chester.

The team played well together throughout the season and the high standard of play can be judged by the fact that eight members of the team were awarded their colours. The following boys represented the School: \*Lloyd (31), \*Fossick, \*Moulton, \*West (3), \*Rowlands, #Sanders (1), \*Bostock (5), \*Bate (1), Stockton, Sutton (7), Boyer (1), Mottram (2), Walker (1), King (5), Smith, D. (1), and Fox.

\* Denotes School Colours.  
 Figures in brackets indicate number of goals scored.

14

### Results.

Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	For.	Against.
14	7	1	6	60	68

Opponents. Score.	Venue.	Result.
Chester City and County Grammar School	Home	Lost 3—6
R.A.F. XI.	Home	Won 3—0
Verdin Grammar School, Winsford	Home	Won 3—1
Crewe Sea Cadets' XI.	Home	Won 6—0
Nantwich A.T.C. XI.	Home	Drawn 5—5
J. L. Boyer's XI.	Home	Won 4—2

Market Drayton Grammar School	Home	Won	12—0
Bank Clerks' XI.	Home	Lost	5—10
R.A.F. XI.	Home	Lost	3—4
Royal naval College, Chester	Home	Lost	2—6
Crewe Secondary School	Away	Lost	6—5
R.A.F. XI.	Home	Lost	1—5
Crewe Secondary School	Home	Won	2—1
Market Drayton Grammar School	Away	Won	2—6

C.H.B.,

E.L.

## Cross Country Races.

Ideal conditions prevailed when this year's races were run on March 28th. The courses had had to be 14 changed, so there was no question of record breaking. After several lean years Hodgkin seem to be coming into their own again and the majority must have been pleased to see them finish first in both races. Their teams finished in the first twelve, whilst Thrush had all their 'men' home in the first seventeen. Both Wilbraham teams were disappointing and finished last in both races.

Our congratulations go to Lloyd and Birchall, who finished first in the Senior and Junior events respectively.

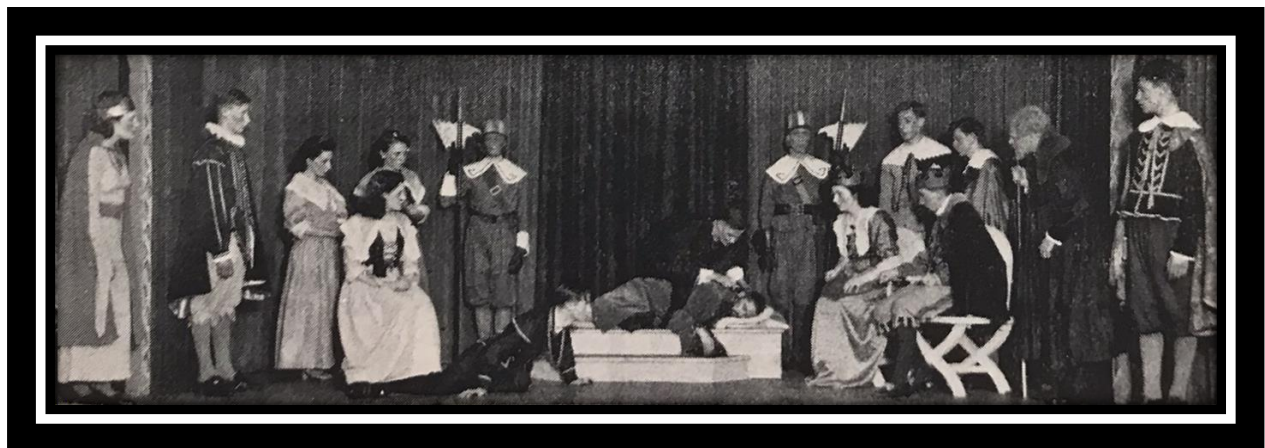
## As the Camera Sees It.

“Here is a play fitted!”

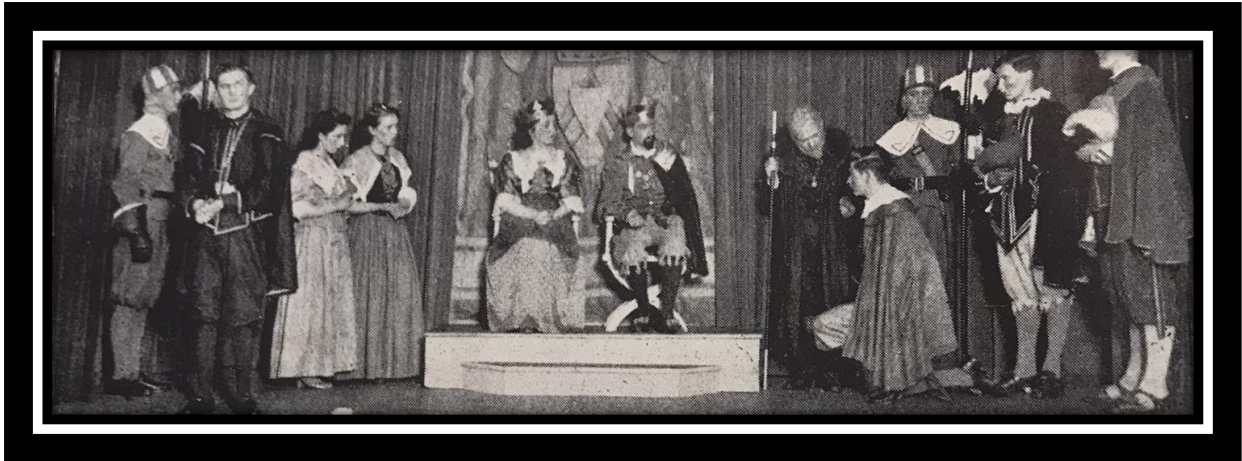




Laertes: Dear maid, kind sister, sweet Ophelia!--Hamlet, IV., v.



Hamlet: He poisons him I' the garden for's estate.--Hamlet, III., ii.



King: And now, Laertes, what's the news with you?--Hamlet, I., ii.



Queen: O, Hamlet, thou hast cleft my heart in twain.-Hamlet, III., iv.

Individual positions were:-

SENIORS.

1. Lloyd (Time: 27 mins. 1 3/5 secs.).
2. Entwistle.
3. Keeley.
4. Bate.
5. Mottram.
6. Sanders.
7. Cockshott.
8. Svendsen.
9. Mitchell.
10. Boyer.

JUNIORS.-

1. Birchall (Time: 20 mins. 36 secs.).
2. Rowland.
3. Yearsley.
4. Crosby.
5. Pepler.
6. Smith (D.).
7. Smith (N.).
8. Wilkinson.
9. Hollinshead.
10. Bettley.

HOUSE PLACINGS.

Seniors.--

House.	Placings.	Totals.
1. Hodgkin	1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11	40
2. Thrush	2, 4, 6, 13, 14, 17	56
3. Wilbraham	5, 9, 15, 20, 22, 23	94

JUNIORS.-

1. Hodgkin	1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12	47
2. Thrush	2, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17	59
3. Wilbraham	3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 20	67

R.G.

“Hamlet.”

To embark upon a production of the world's most famous play is an act of faith and courage, for it invites comparison with the highest tradition in the world of the theatre. The Nantwich and Acton Gram- mar School, which presented "Hamlet" at four performances last week, accepted the challenge with a sweet reasonableness that kept both play For once the spectator and actors within the modest limits of order. was witnessing, not Mr. X's. portrayal of the Prince or Miss Y's. presentation of Ophelia, but Shakespeare's "Hamlet." The necessity of con- fining the action of a play that at full length runs for four and a half hours within a time limit of two and three quarter hours, became a

virtue, for the text, fuller than that usually presented in the theatre, was selected by a sure dramatic instinct that revealed the sequence of events with clarity, and allowed the impact of each new indication of the guilt of Claudius to strike the spectator with a force undiminished by such pre-occupations as to whether Hamlet is mad or not, that divert the attention of the reader of the play. The speed at which the production moved made it possible for the urgency of Hamlet's revenge to gather impetus and proceed with a rising dramatic intensity from the Play Scene, through the murder of Polonius and the moving death of the sweet Ophelia, to the clash between Hamlet and Laertes in the graveyard and to the final inevitable destruction of the King, and the wasteful slaughter of the Queen, Laertes and Hamlet himself. The action thus set forth made the spectator feel that indeed "the play's the thing," and made him endorse the programme's declaration that "Hamlet" is "an excellent play."

To present this action on a small stage is the next problem for the producer. By using the front stage for such scenes as the first encounter of the sentinels with the ghost of Hamlet's father, and the scene where Hamlet finds the King at prayer, and by dividing the main stage in half for Ophelia's meeting with the Prince and for his interview with his mother, by these means variety was achieved, delay avoided and a sense of proportion between major and minor scenes kept. The pleasant folds of the curtains were given specific definition by the superimposition of panels; a heraldic background supported the royal thrones, while the murder of Gonzago was performed with clear-cut effect against a draping of solemn black. The intense blue of the cyclorama, cut by the distant towers of the castle, threw up the silhouettes of the Ghost and Hamlet where the prince hears the story of his father's murder for the first time; later in the play, the sky, this time relieved by a group of cypress trees, formed the background for the mourning figures by the grave of the fair Ophelia.

The simplicity of these arrangements enabled the action to move on uninterrupted so that the rise and fall of its inherent rhythm kept the pulse of the play healthy and strong. The varying qualities of the lighting completed the external contributions to the mood of the moment. These, however, are but the trappings and the suits of woe; its expression, enunciation and interpretation are in the hands of the actors. And what a sound team they were! It was clear at once that

their preparation had been thorough; there was no faltering, there was nothing left to chance. Each knew his job and was sufficiently master of his material to use it to the full extent of his individual capacity. The beauty and weight of the words were clearly apprehended and the admirable speaking of the lines of the whole cast put the audience in full possession of the text.

The pathos and passion of the part of Hamlet were well understood by B. Cooke. He played with an alert intelligence and sustained sincerity that were impressive and moving. His handling of the soliloquies was fresh and unforced, and he succeeded in saying the most familiar words as if they were entering his mind for the first time as he said them. His interview with Ophelia gave the first display of his capacity for interpreting a great range of feeling within a short space of time, which was later developed with a fine intensity in his meeting with Queen Gertrude, in his frenzied quarrel with Laertes in the graveyard, and in the final scene where he pays off all scores with Laertes, with the King and with this "mortal coil." His irritation with Polonius was nicely balanced by his courteous welcome of the Players, his trust in Horatio clearly contrasted with his social greeting of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, his lover's passion for Ophelia with the filial affection for his mother. This was no second-hand or second-rate piece of work; it was B. Cooke's Hamlet and worthy to be judged on its own merits as a deeply memorable performance.

To the parts of the King and Queen, R. F. G. Davenport and Lorna Jackson brought a restraint and dignity which gave a convincing maturity to their presentation. Claudius spoke well and in the Play Scene showed a fine sense of climax; with admirable economy of movement he conveyed his rising sense of guilt; and in the final scene his comprehension of the growing horror was excellently done. His presence, accentuated and adapted by a particularly skilful make-up, made the part credible and even sympathetic. As the Queen, Lorna Jackson was outstanding. Every movement of the hands, every glance of the eye was controlled and perfectly timed. Steady concentration of mind and a generous flow of feeling were allied with considerable technical skill to convert a part that is not distinguished into a thing of beauty.

The part of Polonius was taken by J. R. Steele. He evidently enjoyed playing "an old fool," and his success in the role can be

measured by the spontaneous appreciation of the audience of his tedious courtliness and his fussy blunderings. Laertes was shown as a virile, easily roused young man ; G. S. Mottram has a good voice for such a part and his sturdy physique provided an effective contrast to the slender build of Hamlet. His innate antipathy to evil-doing was well brought out, and his advice to Ophelia sounded less priggish than is often the case. He could well carry a bigger part. The suffering of the innocent caught up in a tragedy beyond their understanding is embodied by Shakespeare in one of the most moving parts he ever wrote. Ophelia draws the tears of the hardest heart. When the part is presented with the grace and bloom of youth, it is exquisitely pathetic. Daphne Grocott had precisely the quality of voice and looks to point the contrast of purity with grossness, of ingenuousness with intrigue. As yet her technique is insecure, and she would be wise to undertake as her next part some role where she has to present an unsympathetic character to the audience. On this occasion she had everything in her favour, and she accepted fortune's gifts very prettily. Horatio (T. Flynn) has "to be" rather than "to seem," and once again a fine physique made doubly effective his relationship with the more delicately moulded Prince. One felt that Hamlet's reputation was safe in his hands and that he was a fit survivor to bring the world again to sanity.

Among the many minor parts, those of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (M. A. Grindrod and J. A. Svendsen) were particularly good. The former had an easy, natural approach to the part which made him a spectator external to the grim events he witnessed. The Player King (B. West) brought a ringing professional diction to his part that was an acceptable contrast to the speakers of the main action. His make-up was highly successful. He was ably supported by J. L. Boyer and Gwendoline Haslam. As the two ladies attending on the Queen, Ethel Adams and Marjorie Preston maintained discreet but decorative reticence, and their participation in the final scene reminded the spectator of the existence of ordinary mortals who cry out against the holocaust they are compelled to witness. The movements of the Gravedigger (B. H. Walley) were good and he brought off his jokes with the help of his mate (J. Pepler). Osric (O. J. Allin) was more convincing as referee of the fencing match than as a messenger, where he was not sufficiently aware of the sophistication of his part. The Officers of the King's Guard were unobtrusively portrayed by R. B. Cooper, G.

Entwistle, and P. R. Moulton, while M. B. Elliott and R. L. Stockton made an austere Fortinbras and competent captain. J. A. Anderson as Voltimand and W. J. J. Northmore as the priest had parts too small to show their quality, but the experience they have had in association with this production will, no doubt, have fired their ambition for higher flights in the future. E. Lloyd had the advantage of height in his presentation of the Ghost, and he adopted a tone of voice which greatly assisted the illusion, created by his robes and ghastly countenance, that he was no longer of this world. His appreciation of the value of pause gave emphasis and illumination to his recital of his "foul and most unnatural murder."

The Jacobean costumes were pleasing and, unlike many period clothes, gave the impression of sitting comfortably upon the wearers. The make-up was unobtrusive and the beards especially good.net

To Mr. J. Lodge, the "onely true begetter" of the production, there must go the warm gratitude of all who saw it. To witness the evolution of beauty out of raw material in the hands of a skilled craftsman is a privilege, and to experience through such a medium the turmoil of the human spirit that is "Hamlet" is to touch elements of human quality that are all too rare in these perturbed and harassed days.

E.C.H.

## UNSPOKEN PROLOGUE TO HAMLET.

Spirit of Shakespeare, who our earthly ways  
Transfigurest by might of inspiration;

Who hast the power man's mortal joys to raise  
Up to the highest heav'n of exultation;  
Who, likewise, in the hour of tribulation,  
When hope is but a prodigal o'erspent,  
Canst put the sadden'd soul to her purgation  
And metamorphose every low lament;  
Who, in the tragedy we now present,  
Hast left thy noblest utterance to the ages  
And of a play hast made a sacrament,

A holy thing among man's heritages:  
The faults forgive, accept alone the beauty  
In this our homage, this our bounden duty.

20

## ON PLAYING THE PART OF THE CUP IN HAMLET.

There are several good parts in Hamlet. First of all there is the Prince himself: he has a lot to say and a lot to do. But for myself I prefer a smaller part, for choice a non-speaking part. I don't think that there were many such parts in the performances in which I acted the other week: all the men had something to say and even the attendant women had to scream. I heard them quite distinctly, though at the time I was being very roughly handled and could well have screamed myself. However, there were two quite good non-speaking parts: First Skull and Second Skull. Second Skull (Yorick's Skull) is quite a fascinating part: he always raised a laugh on his first appearance and several more good laughs when the Gravedigger reminds him, with a slap, of that flagon of Rhenish which went the wrong way, and Hamlet's long speech to him-"Alas, poor Yorick-" is one of the hits of the evening. But nevertheless for seven minutes of breathless excitement give me the part of the Cup, which was my part in the show of which I am speaking.

I was dressed up for my part by a clever man in Mill Street. Previously I had been the lower end of a mahogany table-leg, but from Mill Street I emerged as a most comely and convincing Cup, portly and dignified, of the kind which the Germans call Römer (rummer in English) and from which they drain their draughts of Rhenish down, though in Hamlet I am always called quite simply the Cup.

I do not appear until the last moments of the play, when the King calls for wine just before the fatal fencing-match between Hamlet and Laertes. I am then brought through the curtains by one man who hands me to another. My part really springs to life when the King says "Give me the Cup." From that instant my movements are a whirl of excitement. First of all the King handles me, and, with the words "Hamlet, this pearl is thine," passes me to the second man who carries me across to Hamlet, who pushes me and the man aside. Within a minute of this the Queen takes me from the man, drinks from me and hands me back to the man. He continues to hold me nervously for a while, till a whole series of violent words and deeds lead to my being seized by Hamlet and thrust with main force against the teeth of the King, whom he has already stabbed. It is then that the women scream. After this Hamlet does manage to deposit me fairly steadily on the dais, but less than two



minutes later I am snatched up by Horatio with the words "Here's yet some liquor left," only to be snatched from Horatio's hands by Hamlet, who now flings me to the ground.

That is my supreme moment: no longer am I passive, but freedom is mine and the power of independent action. At this point the eyes of those in the wings and the sidelong glances of some upon the stage were invariably turned upon me: they evidently regarded my movements as of supreme importance. One time I rolled swiftly down to the foot-lights and another time at a more leisurely pace right across the stage to the right-hand entrance: on these two occasions everybody seemed relieved. Another time I fell on the prostrate form of the Queen: this seemed to be regarded as either amusing or indecorous. One time I seemed to cause real concern by giving three or four indecisive rolls and coming to rest in the middle of the stage.

That perhaps was inconsiderate, for I might have tripped up one of those stout fellows-"four captains," so Fortinbras called them-who, to the martial sound of the drum-roll and of the farewell shot, bore the dead Hamlet away on their shoulders, while young Fortinbras, "with conquest come from Poland," mounted the corpse-encumbered dais to take the throne. I shouldn't have liked to spoil such an ending.

OLIM TRUNCUS.

## SCHOOL SOCIETIES AND CLUBS.

-----

### THE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

Last term was not very profitable from the point of view of this Society. Owing to a variety of reasons, its activities were unfortunately restricted and in addition to a most auspicious opening meeting only two meetings, a pianoforte recital and a lecture on "Mountaineering," were held. As a result, we hope to have at least one gathering this term and in response to the request of some S.C. candidates, this will probably take the form of a reading of "Macbeth."

Our first meeting was an innovation-one which we hope has established a precedent-as it proved so popular. It was a literary party, with a definite literary flavour in the games and a much more strongly marked and succulent flavour of 'jellies soother than the creamy curd' in the refreshments, which seemed to appear as if by magic. We should

22

like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to all those mothers whose generosity made our party possible. The pianoforte recital was given by Mr. A. Jolly, who is an ever welcome visitor to the School and who is always so willing to give up some of his precious leave to play to us. We appreciate this very much and, as always, there was a full house at last term's visit. At the last meeting, which was thrown open to the whole School, we had the pleasure of listening once more to Mr. Tobler-himself a mountaineer of considerable experience-who illustrated a most delightful and instructive talk by slides of his adventures among the mountains of Switzerland. We hope both these good friends to the Society will find time to come along once again some day soon.

F.A.G.

## MUSIC NOTES.

Since the last Nantonian there have been many musical events, but space permits only a brief reminder of some of them. The Carol Concert held in December was an occasion at which every form in the School, from the Preparatory Department to the VIth, sang to an audience of parents and friends. It can now be disclosed (as one hears nowadays), that winter nearly defeated us, and caused anxiety to many performers whose places were re-arranged at every rehearsal, as 'descanters' or 'seconds' fell victims to 'flu, or became fog-bound. However, on the afternoon of December 15th all went well.

A certain football match this spring was followed by a 'Victory Concert,' and for half an hour the School listened while a dozen young artistes, chosen at short notice, charmed us, including the football team, with instrumental and vocal solos. The girls' choir entered for the Festival held at Crewe Secondary School on March 18th and enjoyed the experience of hearing choirs from a variety of schools. We were pleased that the

remarks of Dr. Allt, the Director, were on the whole complimentary; he said, "The choir is well trained, and has been taught to have a feeling for rhythm, light and shade.

There was an amusing difference of opinion as to the speed of "Croakle and Quackle," which was amicably settled by our choir singing with Crewe Secondary at their sedate tempo, and their choir afterwards

23

trying to keep pace with our more frivolous speed; we hope Crewe enjoyed the combined singing as much as we did. I should like to thank M. Preston and the other girls and boys who have played at Assembly since Miss Hutt left us; I hope they will continue this piece of service and that more volunteers will join them.

'Volunteers' reminds me that the Nantwich Musical Circle has now an orchestra supported by several Old Grammarians and some present ones. Instrumentalists who are interested should apply to Mr. Taylor. These notes would not be complete without a reference to Miss Hutt's services to School music, chiefly as accompanist at Carol Concert and at Assembly, and as introducer of gramophone records on wet Wednesdays. Among other things I shall not forget the orgy of duet playing which Miss Hutt and I revelled in just before her departure at Christmas. May the old rhyme be true, that "She shall have music wherever she goes"!

M.C.K.

## THE CARAVAN.

At the annual "round up" in February, we were glad to learn that there were thirty-one people still interested in foreign correspondence and of these many were writing and receiving letters regularly. Fourteen of them paid the voluntary subscription of 1/6. This is a record number and we hope that they will each receive copies of the quarterly magazine, "The Children's Magazine," from New York. Later in the term a large number of letters was sent from the new comers in the Senior School to the United States and to Canada and soon the writers may hope to receive replies.

It is pleasing to hear that Old Grammarians are still in touch with pen-pals. W. W. Williamson writes, "I am pleased to report that my correspondence with Albert Geneyne, of Switzerland, is still going on well; I received Easter Greetings and several letters from him; and I continue to write to him, although I do not think that all my letters get through. "I hope the Nantwich Branch of the Caravan is getting along all right and that you are able to keep up quite a large membership." Olive Dodd writes, "Nowadays, when foreign correspondence is rather slow, it will perhaps encourage some of you who are a little

24

disheartened to learn that I have increased my pen pals from one to four in less than a year. correspond regularly. My first pen pal is still my firm friend and we "I have had one or two pleasant surprises when writing to unknown friends; for instance, imagine my surprise and delight when, after corresponding with a boy in Malta for a short while, I received a letter from another Maltese boy who had picked up one of my letters in a dance hall and who asked if I would correspond with him.

"Another pen-pal in Bagdad made my mouth water by telling me of all the fruits (such as oranges, bananas and lemons, etc.) he had been eating and then told me to keep my chin up and keep smiling please.

"So, if you are losing touch with your pen pals, may I ask you, and I am sure they will heartily support me, to 'Keep your chins up and keep 'writing' please.'

E.R.C.J.

## BOOK BINDING CLUB.

The B.B.C. now has a total of seven members, six girls and one boy. I have been to every book binding class since January, and I have done two books, which I find quite easy to do. It is a very good pastime for a Saturday morning.

How I became a member was quite an incident. One Saturday morning I had to stop in with several other school friends, when the B.B.C. was having a class. I became very interested in it and asked if I could join and the members agreed. We all do one of our own books and one school book alternately.

K.B.

## GUIDE NOTES.

The Guide meetings were well attended throughout last term. winter's activities culminated in an enrolment ceremony, at which Mrs. Broadbent, our Commissioner, enrolled five recruits and presented seven Second Class badges.

J.M.

25

## National Service.

The hip pickers were most generous with their earnings, with the result that £3 7s. 6d. was sent to the Nantwich Comforts for the Forces Fund, which provides wool for knitting. Eight pairs of socks have been completed and eleven more are on the needles. Rachel Robinson has been the lucky recipient of a coconut from the sailor who is now wearing the socks she knitted a year or two ago. Since hearing of this, we are all going to follow her example and send greetings and our names and addresses attached to the socks!

E.R.C.J.

## NATIONAL SAVINGS.

The total for the year ending March 31st, 1944, was £1,334 4s. 6d., this being the first year we have topped £1,000. We must now set out to beat £2,000 during the next year, and we can do it if all save regularly.

F.C.P.

## RED CROSS.

Last term £17 16s. 2d. was subscribed to the Penny-a-Week Fund, making the total for the year, so far, £37 11s. I hope every pupil will become a subscriber.

F.C.P.

## RED CROSS. JUNIOR LINK.

In October, 1943, Form V. Lower B. raised £5 5s. for the Prisoners of War Fund by the sale of fruit, flowers, vegetables and jam, which had decorated the Hall at harvest time. This money was sent to Headquarters, together with £13 which had been collected during the previous School year. We have now 3/6 in hand, and should be glad if enterprising people would think out and carry out schemes for collecting more money to help this admirable cause.

W.T.

26

## OLD GRAMMARIANS' NOTES.

Old Grammarians will be delighted to hear that Major J. A. Hamilton has been awarded the M.C. for conspicuous gallantry on the Anzio Beach Head. His brother, Captain J. B. Hamilton, has now almost recovered from his wounds. The two "Hams" were together at Dunkirk and also in the N. Africa campaign. Our congratulations go to Sqd./Ldr. Harold Morris, G.M., on receiving the A.F.C. in the recent King's Birthday Honours List.

We are also pleased to record that Jack Jenes, Peter Millard and Grayburn Richardson have received their "Wings." Roy Barker, with the R.A.F. in India, has been showing great form with the bat. In four innings he had an average of over a hundred. (When at School playing against Market Drayton G.S., Barker scored 98 and Drayton lost all their six available cricket balls in the surrounding gardens. The innings was completed with a 'white' hockey ball.)

"Digger" Smith has written a most interesting letter from the M.E. to which we refer later. Our account was taken from the local paper. We are still without information about quite a large number of Old Grammarians, boys and girls, who are at present with the Forces; possibly they think we have forgotten them at School. Let us assure them that they will always receive a very warm welcome by the members of Staff, who are always happy to renew their acquaintance

Since our last magazine the following have called to visit the School and Staff:-

Jack Cliffe (R.E.M.E.), Eric Grundy (R.A.F.), W. Arthur Moulton, G. S. Maden (R.N.), J. Bonell (R.N.), Ronald Hobson (R.N.), K. Audrey Scott, Eric Wheeler, Joyce E. Thomasson, Ian P. Allwood, N. Pooley (R.E.), R. W. Hughes, J. B. Hamilton (Capt.), Peter Carr (R.A.), W. M. Carey (R.A.), Peter Pepler (Notts Yeomanry), N. Lloyd (R.A.F.), H. Bostock, M. Whittle, Roger Ferns (R.N.R.), Bryan Harris (R.A.F.), H. Andrews (R.N.), R. Crosby, E. R. Talbot (R.E.), H. Steventon (R.N.), Marion Jones, D. Lloyd (R.A.S.C.), J. Alltree (R.A.F.), F. J. Williams (R.A.F.), J. Heler, R. C. Peake (R.A.), B. D. Oliver, John Cook (R.N.), A. Lodge (R.A.F.), S. Lee, J. Sadler (R.A.F.), E. Cooper (R.A.F.), Maxwell Dickson (Oldershaw G.S.), Neville Jones, L. Ollier (R.A.F.). Jean M. Williams, Ted Steventon (R.A.F.), and K. Hope (R.C.). We look forward to even more.

27

We deeply regret the death in action of Sub.-Lieut. Grayburn Richardson, who was attached to the Fleet Air Arm. We grieve to learn that there is no further news of Eric Grundy and D. Gresty-both missing after raids over enemy territory, and Sqd./Ldr. Len Ollier, A.F.M., D.F.C., who has been reported missing from operations over Germany. Len Ollier was a frequent visitor at School since the war. We all hope that good news may be heard of them. All will join in extending our deepest sympathy to their parents and their relatives. Ft./Lt. Jack Grocott has been safely repatriated from Germany. Whilst in Stalag III. he met another Old boy-Maurice Butt-and has written to inform his parents that Maurice is fit and well. When J. Grocott came back from New Zealand in 1939 he said he met another "Old Boy" in Nelson, N.Z., i.e., Idloes Rogers (who attended N.A.G.S. about ten years after J.G. left). All old Grammarians who have attended the School during the last 26 years, will have happy memories of Miss Hughes, who is retiring at the end of the present term. All will wish to join in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

B.M.

It is always pleasing to hear from Old Grammarians, but more so when, in these days they meet other O.G's.-not always contemporaries -in the far corners of the globe. We have recently heard

of two such experiences which we gladly record. In the Near East David Smith "ran across" Peter Sadler, Billy Parker, Ronald Crosby and Ronald Owen. We can imagine the conversation which passed between them and we can imagine there would be many recollections of school days.

Peter Millard, who is in Canada, met Mr. W. J. Bebbington in Calgary. Mr. Bebbington was at School in Colonel Powell's time, and as Peter writes, "We had some long talks about Nantwich and about Cheshire in general."

We sincerely hope there will be many more of these chance meetings and that they bring friendship, happiness and pleasant memories to many of our old pupils.

R.G.

28

## VALETE ET SALVETE.

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

Left:-

HODGKIN

Boys: Birchall, A., Boffey, D., Walker, H.  
Girls: J. Dutton, D. Jackson, H. Richardson.

THRUSH

Boy: Heler, J.  
Girls: C. Jones, R. Lockwood, S. McClelland, A. Robinson.

WILBRAHAM

Boys: Lucking, B., Rowlands, M. D.  
Girls: M. MacDonald, E. Odd, N. Wright.



New  
HODGKIN  
Boy:  
THRUSH  
Girl: S. Johnson.

HOUSE:  
Swindells,  
HOUSE:

Comers:-  
-  
P.  
-