

Alpha

HILARY TERM 1959

ALPHA



THE MAGAZINE OF
HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

HILARY TERM 1959

Editorial

In the first issue of his "Spectator" Joseph Addison wrote, "I shall publish a sheetful of thoughts every morning, for the benefit of my contemporaries," and so pointed out that his was not a newspaper. In like manner it must be made clear that "Alpha" is not a newspaper but a magazine. It will be a shop-window for your ideas, however bizarre, and will act as a record of school activities and successes from term to term.

From the start, Holland Park School showed herself as a force to be respected in many fields of activity, from netball to debating. Obviously the next most pressing need was for a school magazine which would be equal to the magazine of any other school in London.

The muse-crushing decision of the editor, "Sorry, no space!", has had to be enforced with surprising frequency and much fine material has had to be held over until the next issue. Such obvious and encouraging keenness augurs a successful school magazine, but more articles are still required. Travel, hobbies and experiences provide solid material which will always find a welcome with us.

"Poete, prends ton luthé"



Editor: Luath Grant - Ferguson

*Editorial Board: Helen Ridler Julian Aston Leonard Hobbs
Carole Norman Miss Koop Mr. Stedman Jones*

A Message from the Headmaster

WITH less than two terms under the Fox and Dahlia our life at Holland Park is just beginning and it seems fitting that we should launch our first number of Alpha at this stage. It will be left to the pages of subsequent issues to tell something of the interesting things we expect to do in our search for Omega.

Perhaps nobody who took part in them would wish to relive the ebullient days of our first term, when the school was still being built over our heads, but at least our morale was high as we picked our way through the contractor's litter and kept our fingers crossed under the workmen's ladders which stood for so long aslant our walls. Nor are we yet out of the wood, but there is every indication that we shall soon have our school to ourselves. It was no small matter to bring seventeen hundred pupils into an uncompleted building but it was, I think, a wise and courageous decision to move in when we did, and if all we may subsequently do at Holland Park can be ordered by wisdom and courage then we can have no fear that we shall fail to make the contribution to London education that is expected of us. Indeed, the foundations are already laid, the departments have issued their first reports, the house system has taken firm root and the majority of our boys and girls, now that they realise that life for them in this large school is not really so complicated after all, are responding with appreciative awareness to the heritage which is theirs. The quality of their response will be the measure of our success and we look forward to the future with confidence. — *Floreat Semper Schola.*

A. C.

A NOTE ON THE FOX AND THE DAHLIA

It is said that from the time that it was built, early in the reign of James I, until the outbreak of the last war, when the successive attentions of enemy bombers and indigenous lead-thieves contrived its ruin, Holland House entertained under its roof every sovereign of England. During the Commonwealth it was occupied by the Parliamentary leaders and the grounds were used by Cromwell himself as a venue for conferences with his deaf General Ireton. It is improbable that even the Lord Protector's Leveller friends looked forward with any confidence to a day when the woodland glades of Holland Park would be a playground for the ordinary people of London and it is even more unlikely that the 3rd Lady Holland, when she laid out her Dutch Garden in 1812, imagined that its gravel paths would become a Sunday morning strolling place for the citizens of Kensington.

It was the 3rd Lady Holland who introduced dahlias into this country. She brought them from Spain and planted them in the Dahlia Garden which is preserved almost in its original form in Holland Park today. The introduction of this exotic bloom is commemorated in the badge which has been designed for Holland Park School by Miss Wendy Koop, the head of the art department. The principal feature of the badge is the fox — the family name of the Hollands — which is portrayed on blue ground in a scarlet roundel and in its mouth is a large white dahlia.

Reprinted from School Bulletin.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT

My mission for the Gentleman's Magazine took me to a stately home in Derbyshire, where lives the County Sheriff, Sir Richard Arkwright.

I left the coach at the bottom of the drive and the first thing I saw was a large statue near a huge over-grown oak tree. I passed many more trees and statues before I walked under the classical portico of the mansion, where a red-faced flunky answered my vigorous pulling at the fringed bell-rope. He showed me into a spacious hall full of vases of flowers and left me only to reappear seconds later to usher me into a book-lined study where I was greeted by the Sheriff himself with a bluff handshake and a foaming tankard of fine October ale.

Here are the words that passed between the great man and myself.

Myself: Tell me, Sir Richard, about your early life and the home town where you grew up.

Sir Richard: I was born of working-class parents who had brought up twelve children before me. They were superstitious and being the thirteenth I had to prove to them that the number was not unlucky, after I had entered the world in Lord Street, in the cotton town of Preston on November 23rd, 1732. My education was slight, for in those days, to teach a working-man's son any more than a little spelling and

the simplest rules of arithmetic was looked upon as a sheer waste of time.

My Uncle Richard taught me to read, while as an apprentice I put in a few months at a local school in the cold winter months.

Myself: At what were you apprenticed at this time?

Sir Richard: I was bound to a barber and great fun it was, too, for all the hard work. Eventually I opened my own shop in Churchgate and here I met my first wife, Patience, the daughter of Robert Holt, a local schoolmaster. To my sorrow she did not live long. Afterwards I met Miss Biggins, whom I married in March 1761, after I had bought a bigger shop at the end of the passage leading to the White Bear Public House.

By the age of twenty-nine I was a fully skilled barber, and had engaged a clever wig-maker, for wigs, as you know, were even more fashionable then than they are now. I began leaving him in charge and travelling up and down the country in search of hair. I haunted hiring fairs at which the girls attended for the purpose of getting into domestic service in order to buy their hair. The business was profitable, and I obtained a secret chemical for dyeing hair. This enabled me to sell my customers the exact shades they wanted.

Myself: What happened then?

Sir Richard: The fashion for wigs failed me and I realised I must find another way of making an income. On my journeys selling hair I had passed through many towns where cotton was spun and woven and thoughts turned to improving the machinery used in the industry. The people worked in their homes and it was most unhealthy. Several people had tried making machines to draw people to the factories but the workers would not leave their homes where they could spin and do the housework at the same time. I decided to try my luck and had a little success.

After a lot of thought I asked John Kay, a watchmaker of Warrington, to make wooden models to my specifications before approaching Mr. Atherton, a rich acquaintance, to finance the building of a full scale spinning machine. He took one look at my shabby dress and refused. However, he lent Kay a blacksmith to construct the heavier part of the engine and after a time it was set up in the parlour of the Free Grammar School. The parlour was overlooked by some tall gooseberry bushes which did not prevent two women overhearing us and swearing we were using witchcraft.

Myself: Was your machine finally finished?

Sir Richard: It was, and patented, too. I moved to Nottingham shortly after.

Myself: For what purpose?

Sir Richard: To build my first spinning mill. It was driven by horses, but this proving too expensive, I changed to water power. In 1771 I went into partnership with Mr. Reed of Nottingham and Mr.

Strutt of Derby, who held patents for making ribbed stockings. I built my first factory at Cromford in a Derbyshire valley, where there was a never failing supply of warm water.

Myself: Were you satisfied with this machine?

Sir Richard: No. I was thinking constantly how I could make better machines. My real triumph came in 1775, when I produced and patented a machine by which every process of yarn manufacture, from carding to spinning could be carried out. I left my partnership with Reed and Strutt in the following year.

Myself: Well, we are coming to the end of your life. It is just left for you to tell me what you are doing now.

Sir Richard: There is nothing more to say than that I was knighted in 1786 and this year I was made the Sheriff of Derbyshire. Not a bad record for a poor boy, hey?

The great man placed himself between me and the hearth and lifting the skirts of his fine embroidered coat he warmed himself at the leaping log fire. "What say you, sir, to another tankard of fine October?"

Valerie Thompson. III D

TRACKING SATELLITES

The first satellite successfully put into orbit was a Russian achievement, but America, not to be out-done, followed closely on her heels.

When a satellite has been put into orbit it transmits signals from a radio, the largest of its tightly packed components, to receiving stations on Earth. These signals are translated by pens into never ending lines on waxed paper. These stations make up a network which covers the whole of the world to listen to and record the satellite's story of outer space. When these electronic pens start vibrating violently it means that the signal has become intensified and when the satellite enters a certain sector of the sky the lines become shorter and thicker. As it passes away the reverse operation takes place.

As soon as this graphic information has been translated into numbers and figures by the highly skilled technical staff, the information obtained is speedily sent by teletype to the control centre in the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington. Here rows of machinery click away, each bearing the name of the station whose messages it is receiving. There are eleven in all from Quito to Woomera in Australia, each tracking the satellite's celestial journey from different angles.

In a station a satellite's position can be pin-pointed at any time. This is performed by eight antennae possessed by every station. The broadcast to each antenna varies, and from the differences an electronic brain finds the position and the time is automatically correlated by a crystal electronic clock which is accurate to one thousandth of a second in twenty-four hours. The final step in completing the chart showing

an accurate picture of the satellite's orbit is carried out by the mathematicians and technicians in Washington. After all the information has been received and compounded the computer digests it for four hours and then issues a world map showing the satellite's progress for the last twenty-four hours.

Given another hour it will turn out an accurate forecast of the satellite's position for the next twenty-four hours. This advance information is sent to all the tracking-stations to help them follow the satellite. This process is repeated and checks itself so that when a satellite reaches the end of its life its biography has been accurately recorded.

While the other tracking-stations are making graph-pictures of the satellite's journey, another system is recording it photographically. This system consists of several telescopic cameras which produce accurate photographic records.

The present satellites record many facts that would be otherwise impossible to obtain by using other methods. Among these are many facts about temperatures, cosmic rays and the speed and mass of meteoric dust. The temperature recordings transmitted show that the temperature up there would be quite comfortable for the human being, ranging from 30°F to 175°F.

Apparatus of all kinds is being specially made for use in future satellites. Some of these devices will measure the sun's ultra-violet rays, and perhaps the magnetic field of the Earth.

All these advances mean that large and more intricate satellites will become common-place. As a result, there will be many jobs to be filled in this new field of "Sputnikology".

D. Slocombe. VI

FOOTPRINTS

We only tread this world but once;
Yet on the sands of time
We leave the footprints of our lives,
Some sordid, some sublime.
Some follow on the downward track,
Some lead to heights above;
Some leave the imprints of despair,
And some of faith and love.
No matter what the path we tread,
Through scenes both dull and gay;
Let's make this world a better place
Because we've passed this way.
Let's scale the heights,
Leave as we climb
Brave footsteps on the sands of time.

John Hyman. IVC I

A THRILLING CONTEST

I think the most thrilling contests I have ever seen took place in Bermuda when I lived there.

Bermuda is an island surrounded by three reefs. The inner reef stops any large fish entering, the middle and outer reefs keep the sharks at bay.

In the summer many people go out beyond these reefs deep-sea fishing. A friend of my father, whose forefathers had been among the founders of the island, invited us to go fishing with him. The next day we all met, where George, Mr. Darrell's fishing-boy, was loading the boat. We took with us a day's supply of food and drink and a great amount of a very smelly fish called squid for bait.

It was a beautiful day, and setting out at about seven o'clock we reached the outer barrier at eleven. It seemed rather frightening at first being more than forty miles out, but George told me that he had sailed to New York in the boat. I did not believe him.

Mr. father and Mr. Darrell settled down in the special deep-sea chairs, my mother sat down to sun-bathe and I just dangled a line over the side and left it.

Until mid-afternoon, we registered a moderate catch. Suddenly, as if by magic, my father's reel spun out. He had caught a fish. It was a shark, at least nine feet long!

George ran forward and strapped my father into his chair and then the game started. It was to last an hour and a half. At first it was a cat and mouse game, my father making the shark believe it was free by letting its line go slack, and the shark feigning to have been caught by going limp and allowing itself to be pulled in. Then, with a great lunge, he would pull right away from the boat. It was marvellous to watch and too exciting to put into words. But time flew, and at six o'clock we had put back to land to be inside the reefs by dark.

Something had to be done. Who was going to win? All of a sudden, the shark jumped right out of the water, turned a somersault and it was free! Mr. Darrell was very upset, but my father did not mind at all, and we were on our way home. We moored the boat off the dock at about ten-thirty then went up to the house where we had supper, caught by myself, incidentally.

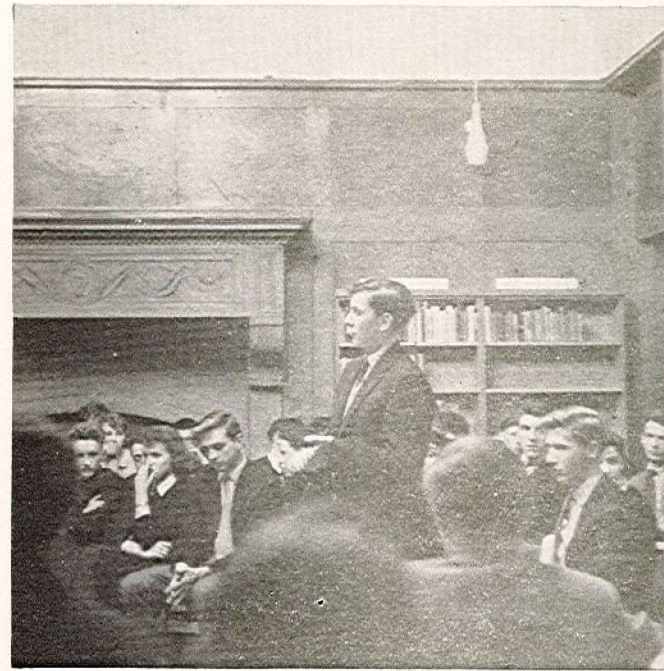
Sylvia Thompson. IV A2

DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON

On Thursday, 4th September, 1958, I went to a bull-fight in Barcelona.

We arrived there from Loret De Mar, on the Costa Brava. The bull-fight is the main event of the week and early in the morning you can sense the fact that there will be a bull-fight that day. From four o'clock onwards, all the people go mad trying to get seats in the arena in time for the start at five in the evening.

The people assemble in the arena screaming and shouting. A roll



L. Hobbs IV poses a question at a meeting of the Senior School Society.



Members of staff obviously enjoy hearing the opinions expressed by pupils at a meeting of Senior School Society.

of drums a fanfare of trumpets on march the matadors and toreadors swirling their capes. The crowd is, by now, crazy with excitement.

When the ring is empty again the first of the six bulls rumbles on. They are unexpectedly small, coarse-haired animals. About eight toreadors torment the bull with pink capes. The picadors enter mounted on horses and armed with steel-tipped poles with which they attack the animal. They raise their lances and drive them deep into the bull's back to paralyse his front legs.

Then comes the great moment! In marches the matador dressed in an elaborately decorated costume. It consists of tight-fitting trousers reaching to just below the knee, a white shirt with a starched front and a tie which is usually red; round his waist is wrapped a long white sash and on top a short jacket is worn called a "talegulla". Both his trousers and jacket are embroidered with gold and silk of various colours. He also carries a bright red cap and a special sword.

He kisses two of the other matadors on both cheeks and hands them his cap while the toreadors slide out through the side doors. He is left alone with this poor, defenceless, terrified animal.

In stories you hear of the enraged bull racing around the arena eventually being slain after a tremendous struggle. This is not true. The bull has been repeatedly chased round the arena, has had the bandrils (small spears with coloured papers attached to the top) stuck in its back, and has suffered the picador's sword. The matador has only to blow and the bull will fall down dead. He is not always killed by the first thrust and wanders around blindly trying to rid himself of the sword. Then the toreadors pounce with gleaming knives and put the poor creature out of its misery (though I hardly think that is their motive). The crowd goes wild; flowers, hats, coins, and even wine bottles are thrown into the air!

I think it is hatefully cruel and should be abolished, but the Spaniards enjoy it and I cannot do much about it!

Susan Gooda. IVA 2

I HAVE A SIAMESE PUSS-CAT

I have a Siamese puss-cat,
Who's very fond of me,
And when I go and stroke him
He purrs and purrs with glee.
He's often very hungry
And then he's very wild;
He races up and down the hall
Just like a naughty child.
We have a little gold-fish,
Who swims around his pool;
And Tuli sits and watches it
Just like a little fool.

Sonya Grey ID 1

OUR ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT

Our Britannia was speeding through the quiet night towards Beirut, but little did we realise what awaited us there. By that time we had been travelling steadily for three weeks, and had hardly seen any newspapers at all, let alone English ones, until we reached Karachi. There, we discovered that Beirut was in the throes of a civil war, and was not the place for innocent tourists. By that time, however, it was too late to change our plans and five hours later we were in the air heading for Beirut.

After travelling through half the night, we slowly let down for the landing. The city lights looked enchanting then; but a plane is no place from which to judge a city. Only six of us left the flight there, and after a quick customs' check we were left on a deserted air-field at two o'clock in the morning. Eventually, at about three o'clock, two American cars rolled up and we all piled wearily in. We finally started off in convoy, together with air-line officials' cars, speeding along wide, American-made highways at about 100 m.p.h. As we entered the built-up area we were forced to stop at every intersection. A little face and a machine-gun would poke through the window and peer round, surveying all the contents of the car. After our driver had shown four or five passes each time, we would be permitted to proceed. The city was under curfew from dusk to dawn. We finally arrived at our hotel, having been stopped at least twenty times. The time was four thirty, three hours after our plane had touched down at the airport.

Had we not been so exhausted that night, we undoubtedly would have heard bombs exploding. When we looked out of our window in the morning, what should we see but streets lined with tanks. Soldiers were patrolling on all the roof-tops, as these were the likely hiding places of rebel snipers.

Every hundred yards or so there were little fortresses, each manned by two or three soldiers. Sand-bags had been placed like walls of a hut and a sheet of corrugated iron put on top. During the day, the temperature rose to about 85 degrees F., and these poor troops were sweltering in their forts.

All through the morning we had been calmly riding round on the trams and thought them perfectly safe. Then, in the afternoon, a rebel took it into his head to place a time-bomb in one of them. It had the desired effect, and several of the passengers were killed. All the trams were withdrawn, leaving no means of transport other than taxis. A well known tourist-agency had warned us never to set foot outside our hotel for fear of being shot at. At the time we just laughed at them, but looking back I think they were right. Beirut was not at all safe at that time.

John Bailey. IVA 1

DISCONTENT

I met him in a small flat, a flat just like any other, but with a strange and unnatural atmosphere. He rose to greet me. I saw the rags, his dim, cold eyes, I smelt the liquor. He started when he saw my collar. He had not known I was a priest.

We sat down and I opened the conversation in a formal manner. He hastily jumped up.

"Damn you, parson, you're another of these lily-tongued priests. You're clean-shaven, holy, good, and you smell nice. What have you to worry about?"

I looked at him closely. His lips twitched to form a sneer, and he relapsed into silence. I could see that he had hated me, but I was used to it. He apologized in a weak voice and told me of his troubles.

"I am discontented with my life, parson. My life? I have no life . . . I have no confidence . . . I'm alone. I always feel depressed; to overcome this feeling I go out and try to enjoy myself but the sight of other men makes me sense my own inferiority and I only feel worse. At times I get drunk. I forget my sorrows . . ."

With this he jumped up and clasped his big hands together as though asking for help. He reminded me of a picture I knew; he looked just like that old grey-haired peasant in the black shawl crying for bread.

He continued with his story. "I feel worse at night. In the day-time I can see the sun, the birds, the trees, the people, and I feel reassured of my security, but in the evening I am frightened. I walk around my room and everything recalls past memories; the picture of my dead mother, the armchair — a happy life as a child.

"I cannot look to the future. It is like walking on the cool, green sea, and knowing that as long as I keep on walking it will always be the same. A feeling, a terror haunts me every evening, and as I lie awake I look at my watch as though expecting someone to come and I know I need a faith, a belief, but the thought of religion fills me with shame and I am afraid to think of it.

"I often walk at night. Have you ever walked at night, parson? Everything is dead but you are alive and you keep on asking why. In the morning I see the children with their parents, men and women going to Mass. But why? What is the use of marrying and having children, of retiring and then dying? There is no better place to go to; there is no eternal life."

He stopped talking and walked slowly towards me. He looked at me, the crucified Christ of pre-Renaissance art. He could say nothing. His eyes were dull and bloodshot, his unshaven face was covered with sweat. I looked at him in his filth and put my hand on his shoulder. He lowered his head and I noticed how small my white hand was on his huge shoulder. He trembled and whispered "Father."

"Yes, my son . . ."

Leonard Hobbs. VI

FEELINGS

Stray, poor lamb, from thy mother flock.
Shed thy chains and break the lock.
Wander deeper, deeper into the caverns of despair,
And at each strange sound run fleet as a hare,
Deeper, deeper into the wilderness of doubt,
Letting no ray of hope shut thee out.
Run faster, faster and enter the chamber loneliness,
Shun the hand of holiness.
Be lost, my lamb, and there you'll stay
Suffering a world of darkness all your days.

Lesley Roberts. IIIB 1

DOLLS IN NATIONAL COSTUME

When I was quite small, a friend of my parents gave me a very old doll made of delicate china with real hair and wonderful blue eyes. This had been in their family for a very long time and dated back to the late eighteenth century. The doll was much too fragile for me to play with so I was encouraged to keep it away in a safe place.

Later on, an uncle, who is employed by the Ceylon government, brought me a strange doll, made of black cloth filled with straw, with a straw head-dress and upturned brim. Placed around this was imitation fruit and coffee beans. The dress was of vivid colouring, with an apron which had very large pockets — no doubt for gathering the local produce.

Now I had two dolls; both were admired so much that I decided to start a collection. During the last few years I have had a lot of fun; it has become a pleasant and interesting hobby. My collection now numbers thirty-four and comes from far and wide.

One stands out in my mind — that is a Pakistani lady in a pale green chiffon sari, embroidered with tiny beads and pearls. A Spanish lady adorns my collection, complete with mantilla, shining black hair and beautiful flashing eyes, there is also a damsel from France, boy and girl twins from India, and a chubby coloured boy from the Punjab in snowy-white trousers and an astrakhan Jinnah cap.

I have Scots in gay tartans and sporrans, some carrying miniature bagpipes. My collection also extends to Wales with a Welsh Jinny in clogs, a pointed black hat and a hand-made shawl of soft Welsh wool. An old English doll in a bustle of the type worn in my great-grandmother's day is also a great favourite.

A very small doll in a cradle was one of my first possessions; washable and unbreakable, it is now dressed in long clothes as a baby being presented for baptism.

This pleasant pastime continues to interest and intrigue me. I have spent many pleasant hours softly brushing and arranging them in my show-case. Excitement mounts whenever a new parcel arrives or when I am out shopping and I spot something in one of those odd shops which are tucked away in side streets. On wet days or when feeling bored I revert to my colourful little friends, who always have the same smile no matter from what land they come.

Hazel East. IIA 1

THE SEA

Lights flicker and are gone,
Then all is black.
Slowly it seems at first
The waves draw back
Then return, to fling
With a roar
Flotsam and jetsam
Back on the shore.
Sweet is the air
As near the beach I roam;
And I remember
A warm and sunlit day,
When the sea was blue
And silver the waves
That rippled gently
At the mouths of caves,
That are hidden now,
In darkness and spray.
I watch the might of the sea
Against the rock wall —
I feel sad and so very small. . . .

Jean Adams. VI

BRITAIN'S WORST POET

No poet ever achieved immortality in so unique a way as William Mcgonagall, the Dundee handloom weaver. Like Shakespeare, he is without rival — not for the greatness of his verse but for its incredible badness. At the height of his popularity many of his followers tried to copy his style; but they produced bloodless imitations that obviously lacked the master's hand.

Born in Edinburgh in 1830 of mixed Irish and Scottish parentage, Mcgonagall, according to his own account, discovered he was a great poet during Dundee holiday week in 1877. "A flame, as Lord Byron has said, seemed to kindle up my entire frame." Under this divine inspiration he wrote a poem to immortalise the Rev. George Gilfillan and sent it to the Dundee Weekly News. The second verse was particularly killing:—

The first time I heard him speak,
'Twas in the Kinnaird Hall,
Lecturing on the Garibaldi movement,
As loud as he could bawl.

The editor could not believe his eyes. Instead of tossing it into the waste-paper basket he crumpled into a fit of laughter which lasted until the great idea hit him. Wouldn't the verses have the same effect on his readers?

How right he was. Astonished readers blinked, read again to make quite sure they had seen aright and promptly dissolved into helpless merriment. Soon the whole of Dundee was demanding more of Mcgonagall and the paper's sales rocketed.

Delighted with his reception, Mcgonagall had no idea the success of his verses was due to any quality other than their greatness for there was a city-wide conspiracy to hide from him the secret of their real appeal. Dressing the part of a poet right down to the long flowing locks, he was treated with the greatest respect wherever he went.

Bloody battles, shipwrecks and national mishaps were his favourite material and his poem on the Tay Bridge disaster is vintage stuff beloved of all Mcgonagall fans. After describing the collapse of the bridge while a train is crossing it, he sums up:

I must now conclude my lay
By telling the world fearlessly without the least dismay,
That your central girders would not have given way,
At least many sensible men do say,
Had they been supported on each side with buttresses,
At least many sensible men confesses,
For the stronger we our houses do build,
The less chance we have of being killed.

He is equally lyrical on the bridge built to replace it:

Thy structure to my eye seems strong and grand,
And the workmanship most skilfully planned;
And I hope the designers, Messrs. Barlow & Arrol will
prosper for many a day,
For erecting thee across the beautiful Tay.

The Dundee papers could not keep pace with his output so he started printing his own broadsheets and selling them on the street corners and in the surrounding villages. Once he walked from Dundee all the way to Balmoral in an attempt to bring his poems to the notice of Queen Victoria. Undismayed by his reception — he was bundled off unceremoniously by the lodge-keeper — he continued churning out masterpieces like "The Wreck of the Steamer London," on which ship an actor friend named Brooke had sailed:

Then the passengers began to run to and fro
With buckets to bail out the water between decks below;
And Gustavus Brooke quickly leapt from his bed
In his Garibaldi jacket and drawers without fear or dread.

Amid all the confusion:

A beautiful young lady did madly cry and rave,
'Five hundred sovereigns, my life to save!'
But she was by the sailors plainly told
For to keep her filthy gold,
Because they were afraid to overload the boat,
Therefore she might either sink or float,
Then she cast her eyes to heaven, and cried, "Lord,
save me,"

Then went down with the ship to the bottom of the sea,
Along with Gustavus Brooke, who was wont to fill our
hearts with glee,
While performing Shakespearian tragedy.

Mcgonagall fancied nature had designed him also to be an equally great actor. With his reputation a local theatre manager grabbed him as soon as he offered himself. After all, if Mcgonagall could rouse such mirth as a poet he'd be a riot as an actor.

The manager was right. In his first appearance as Macbeth Mcgonagall reduced his wildly enthusiastic audience to such helpless hilarity that the evening finished as a riot. After half-a-dozen such performances the authorities had to step in and ban him from the Dundee stage.

His fame now spread to Edinburgh and a committee of waggish students attended upon him begging him to come south so that the city of his birth could join in honouring him.

A great reception awaited him and he was taken to a large hall to listen to speeches paying tribute to his genius. Afterwards they escorted him to the University Hotel, where they solemnly invested him with the Order of the White Elephant, which Mcgonagall accepted in all seriousness.

He soon became as well known in Edinburgh as he was in Dundee and at his pitch in the Parliament Hall his poems were eagerly sought after by lawyers, professors and even high court judges. For who could resist such Mcgonagall gems as his denunciation of Captain Webb's attempt to swim the Niagara rapids?

'Twas in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three,
With the people of America he did agree,
For \$10,000 to swim that yawning whirlpool;
But alas! he failed in doing so — the conceited fool!
or the touching elegy on the death of one of Queen Victoria's sons?
Alas! noble Prince Leopold is dead!
Who often hath his lustre shed;
Especially by singing for the benefit of the Esher School —
Which proves he was a wise prince and no conceited fool.

It became a cult to write Mcgonagall verse and in the preface to his book, "Poetic Gems," Mcgonagall proudly quotes an ode addressed to him by three Glasgow University students:

Among the poets of the present day,
There is no one on earth who can possibly be able for to
gainsay,
But that William Mcgonagall, poet and tragedian,
Is truly the greatest poet that was ever found above or
below the meridian.

He believed he was the greatest poet after Shakespeare and his followers, loving him for the fun he gave them, allowed him to keep all his illusions about himself to the day of his death.

SCHOOL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES NEWS

SENIOR SCHOOL SOCIETY

The Senior School Society has flourished since it was founded in our first term by Mr. Stedman Jones with the support of Mr. Liddell-King and Mr. Hughes. The interest of the School has been shown by the presence of the Headmaster and the large attendance of staff and pupils at the fortnightly meetings.

The Society was inaugurated by a talk given by Mr. Richard Hauser on "Youth and How to Waste It" and the second meeting was addressed by Professor Beasley of the School of Oriental Studies in the University of London who spoke on "Japan Today."

The meetings this term have continued on the same high level. Mr. Sidney Cole, film and T.V. producer, dealt with the decline of the film industry and Father Trevor Huddleston asked the urgent and topical question "Who Is Your Neighbour?" This was followed by Mr. Ritchie Calder's suggestions that in ignoring the real world we were merely "Fugitives to the Moon." On Wednesday, February 25th, Mr. Hugh Ross Williamson scintillated on the subject "What Is History." At the time of going to press we are looking forward to the visit of Dr. Donald Soper and to the ball with which we plan to wind up the session on March 23rd.

The Society is most fortunate in having Thorpe Lodge as a centre for these informal and lively gatherings and also in having an excellent caterer in Pamela Mendelsohn.

The meetings have been admirably steered by the Chairman, Grant Ferguson, and his assistant, Peter Rotelli. The Secretary and Treasurer, Pat Kilduff and Julian Aston have joined them in ensuring the smooth running of the meetings. Our thanks must also go to the Committee: V. Wilson, Andres Pereira, W. H. Jones, Amanda Kisch, Jean Adams and John Coghlen for their part in the success of the Society.

CHESS CLUB

At a meeting in the chess centre, Room W.211, the following were elected to form the first committee of the School Chess Club:—

P. Rotelli, Chairman;
J. Coghlen, Secretary;
J. Halls, Assistant Secretary;
D. Slocombe, Treasurer,

in accordance with the scheme drafted by P. Rotelli in November, 1958, and known as the 'Rotelli School Chess Club Scheme'.

It was decided to begin the Club's life with a tournament that would attract the widest possible entry and to issue membership cards to all interested competitors. A small fee that has yet to be decided will be levied on all members.

We extend a warm welcome to all chess enthusiasts both on the staff and in the student body.

P.R.

THE STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Society was held at the beginning of October. Its aim is to provide opportunities for school members to help other people and to study carefully and honestly the implications of the Christian faith in their personal life. We would like to try to bring the Christian faith into our School.

We have held several meetings during dinner-hours and after school. Many have shown interest, but attendances have been small. Next term, we hope to hold our meetings on Tuesday evenings.

We hope to build up a society which will try, among other things, to help the sick and the lonely of the district, by raising funds and by direct action. We need your help to accomplish this. Please come and join us; you are all welcome.

S.C.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Science Society got under way soon after the beginning of last term, and has since progressed rapidly. Mr. Allen Clarke has done us the honour of accepting the presidency. Mr. Ewell Woods is our chairman, D. Slocombe our secretary, A. Pereira our treasurer and A. Kurtha our publicity-agent. A. Jones is also on the committee. The girl members, Maureen Snell and Fazila Ahmed, deal with the tea arrangements.

The first meeting was to have been a talk by a representative of British Oxygen, but this had to be postponed for one week and our first meeting, on November 14th, was filled in with films which proved very interesting. At the next meeting, Mr. Tong from British Oxygen gave a most interesting talk on liquid oxygen.

It was determined at one of our committee-meetings that the next meeting should be a special, end-of-term, Christmas meeting at which some interesting and unusual experiments would be demonstrated. This idea was realised on December 12th by a successful meeting which was preceded by a tea prepared, very generously, by the girls.

A trip to the London Planetarium was organised for January 5th on which the members saw the stars as they were at the birth of Jesus Christ. About twenty members went on this trip and found it both entertaining and educational.

Mr. Wain provided our first meeting of this term with a lecture on radio. The second was entertained by a pupil of the school, Michael Hearn, who kindly volunteered to talk on the subject of motor-engines. Despite his lack of experience in public-speaking his talk was a great success.

In future, it is hoped, visitors will come and talk on scientific subjects, from sillicones to satellites. Various trips are envisaged, such as the trip to the Royal Mint by the society at the end of this term. The society looks forward to further expansion and intends to continue its good progress.

D.S.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

At the end of last term, Mr. Frost decided to form a Mathematics Society to study such parts of mathematics as are not taught in the form-room. After forming a committee, it was decided to open the Society to members of the fourth, fifth and sixth years, and to meet on the last Thursday of each month in some suitable place.

The purpose is to investigate ideas presented by the Society's members, and to open their minds to the more interesting side of mathematics. The last meeting of the Society this term will be on the 19th March, when various mathematical models will be shown.

R.H.M.O.

CAMERA CLUB

Some 70 boys and girls showed their interest when it was announced that a School Camera Club was to be formed, open to members of the IVth, Vth and VIth forms.

About 40 were still interested when the Club Rules were published and 36 forms for application were finally submitted. The present strength is around 26, mostly boys, but with a few very keen girl members.

The first meeting was held on September 24th, 1958, and since then no less than fifteen practical and theoretical meetings have been well attended.

A popular feature of the club is the country-walks programme. During the half term we went on a seven-mile walk in Kent; many pictorial and record-type photographs were taken — the weather being kind. On December 10th, the night walk to photograph Thames-side and Christmas decorations was well attended by thirteen stalwarts despite the rain. A distance of about five miles was covered and some two hundred exposures made, though not all were successful.

The Club should gain its affiliation to the Royal Photographic Society during 1959, when the required waiting time will have expired.

The Club has a full programme of weekly meetings until June, culminating in an exhibition of work to be displayed on professional screens in School.

R.S.

SCHOOL CYCLISTS

During a series of tests held at the school and elsewhere in November and December, twenty-eight boys and girls gained Cycling Proficiency Certificates and badges issued by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Several others failed to gain certificates, mainly because their cycles were too large for them, or had mechanical faults.

Boys and girls who gain a certificate, and who have their parents' permission, may be issued with cyclists' licences, which allow them to cycle to school. So far fifty-eight licences have been issued. When the better weather comes along, we hope to arrange a further series of tests.

N.E.W.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSES

ADDISON HOUSE

Addison House members have much of which to be proud — their queue-behaviour is of great renown, and their pride of house is second to none. Evidence of this strong house-loyalty is shown in Addison's second place in the School House-marks scheme, the winning of the junior football league, and the strong support given to the clubs and activities within the House.

Special mention must be made of the Drama Group which gave such a creditable performance despite inadequate rehearsal facilities.

The first Addison news-sheet was a great success and there will be an edition at the end of every term.

The staff of Addison House are united in effort and work harmoniously together in every way for the benefit of the House. The new house-badges look very smart and distinctive.

No less loyal to the House are the parents who turned up in full strength to the first Parents' Evening on November 19th. Their keenness is reflected in their children.

We, in Addison House, look forward to the future with every confidence.

R.S.

FOX HOUSE

A House report at this stage of the School's life must necessarily be a chronicle of beginnings. We have begun, especially through the tutor-set periods of the second half of last term, to get to know each other and to develop some House spirit. A House Committee including representatives from each year has been formed and we hope it will play a really active part in House affairs.

Various House activities have been started and some are proving very popular. We join with Newton House for table tennis on Mondays and ballroom dancing on Tuesdays. The model railway club, formed as a result of the enthusiasm of the junior boys, meets on Thursdays. The London Explorers' Club, which is open to first and second year pupils, had three expeditions last term and plans to go out on four or five Saturday mornings this term.

In games most of our teams are doing well and we wish them continued success. Many members of the House made very good efforts in work, too, and produced a total of 380 commendations for the term. It was disappointing for us that the other Houses did even better, but we are determined to improve our position this term.

On 3rd December about 160 parents attended our first Parents' Evening, which was held by candle-light owing to the untimely blowing of a fuse. We were pleased to meet them, to tell them something about the working of a comprehensive school and to try to answer their questions. We hope to invite the parents to another meeting soon.

D.J.H.

HUNTER HOUSE

John Hunter (1728-1793), physician and surgeon, was a man of wide interests and something of an eccentric who pursued his enthusiasms with a single-minded purpose which the members of the House which bears his name will do well to emulate in work and play.

There is a story told of a "giant" living in Hunter's time, a countryman some 7 feet 6 inches tall, who came to live and make his fortune in London. After a spell of heavy drinking he fell ill, and, before he died, directed that his body should be buried at sea so that it should not fall into the hands of doctors to be experimented on.

Hunter heard of this, and set off in pursuit of the remains. He bribed the coachman to return to London with his "load" and the giant's skeleton may be seen today in the Hunterian collection at the Royal College of Surgeons.

A man of determination! An equal determination on the part of a large proportion of the members of the House raised our position, based on the number of commendations gained, to fourth place at the end of the term from the position of sixth at the half term count.

In the field of sport, efforts on the part of the teams concerned have produced satisfactory results.

During November a very pleasant and successful parents' evening was held, almost 200 parents attending, and their comments and appreciation proved very encouraging to the House Staff. During the evening a rehearsal of the play in preparation for the end of term was presented, and very much enjoyed. The Drama Group, under the direction of Mrs. Worthington, did splendid work, and other House and associated School clubs have been well supported.

In all, we made a good beginning, with most of the members of the House giving constructive support, and the prefects' help in the daily organizational problems which we have had to face and in the fostering of a good House spirit has been most valuable.

We can achieve much in the future if we go forward as a well-disciplined and lively component, contributing our share towards the good of the whole — Holland Park School.

D.G.

MAINE HOUSE

The members of Maine House settled down well during the first term, and were on the whole helpful and co-operative. There has been great enthusiasm and a good House spirit, more particularly amongst the junior members, and it is hoped that this spirit will spread to those middle school members in whom it was somewhat lacking.

During the second half of the Christmas term the House moved up one position. This was most encouraging and it is hoped that this steady improvement will continue.

Among the more notable House activities was a party given for the first year pupils by the prefects and sub-prefects which was a

tremendous success and helped to establish an important contact between seniors and juniors. House staff, prefects and sub-prefects met for an informal tea one evening early in the term at Thorpe Lodge in order to get to know one another, and it proved so successful that it was suggested it might become a termly custom. Finally, a Parents' Tutorial Evening was held at the end of the term and we were delighted to welcome and converse with many interested parents. It was most stimulating to learn of our pupils' keenness from their mothers and fathers, although the majority were parents of juniors.

The House runs a small select Skiffle Group which meets weekly under the leadership of a prefect, and, in conjunction with Addison House, and supported by several other Houses, it organizes a Ballroom Dancing Club which is very popular with the seniors.

In the field of sport the girls and junior boys have supported their House faithfully and we must congratulate the second year girls on having won their four netball matches, thus being top of the League. We wish them success in their remaining three matches and hope they will maintain this lead. The third year girls and first year boys did well to reach second and third places respectively.

Friendly football and netball matches were arranged one Saturday morning with Fox House, but unfortunately the football was cancelled owing to field conditions. The girls, although they played very well, lost their match.

All House activities are followed closely by our two keen photographers, who miss no opportunity of recording events. They reproduce and sell these photographs at a very reasonable cost and will use them eventually to build up a House Record Album.

V.J.

MACAULAY HOUSE

A hundred years ago next Christmas, Lord Thomas Macaulay, brilliant historian, died at Holly Lodge, a hundred yards from our South-West Assembly Hall. Three months ago, Miss Rose Macaulay, author of "The Towers of Trebizond," "Life Among The English," and twenty-two other books, and last surviving relative of Macaulay, also died. To commemorate these two dates we are planning to plant rose trees under the walnut-tree outside the South-West Hall. Brian Wright has promised to advise us since his father grows roses. First, however, we need some keen school biologists to make a soil analysis.

Alan Batelle brought his tape-recorder to report what over two hundred parents had to say at our first Parents' Meeting on 14th January. We are glad to be able to tell parents that Macaulay was "cock-house" and to hear the headmaster say: "Macaulay is surging ahead in every field of activity." However, we ought to remember the Japanese saying that "the biggest raindrop falls first." Macaulay I is the leading tutor-set and the Macaulay group in Form IC2 scored most points in the junior school.

Peter Rotelli has been a distinguished first chairman of the House Council elected by pupils to help in house organisation. During the Christmas term, the Headmaster made an official presentation of desk name-plates to the following:—Peter Rotelli, Pauline Moller (who now works in an estate-agents' office), Michael Hearn, Ross Osborn, Peter Hack, Margaret Liversedge, Linda Beal, Brenda Rixon, Alan Batelle, Janice Parker and Christine Campbell. The entire House also saw a demonstration of the kind of business the Council handles. Often when the Council talked itself hoarse, a crisis was averted by tea made by Elizabeth Lardner and Brenda Whiting. In addition to being vice-chairman of the Senior School Society, Peter Rotelli found time to frame rules for the School Chess Society and to be a central figure in its organisation.

In December the house went to the polls for the second time to name four boys and four girls most typical of the Macaulay House spirit. To those elected, Ann Deiholos, Peter Saunders, Janice Parker, Brenda Rixon, Pauline Moller, Peter Hack, Alan Batelle and Peter Rotelli, were given tickets to Sir John Hunt's lecture on the Conquest of Everest at the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society.

The Council acted as inter-house Christmas greetings' postbox. Christine Campbell and Peter Hack and their friends delivered three hundred cards throughout the school.

Macaulay House earned the Headmaster's commendation and the thanks of Sir Herbert Broadley — director of the greetings fund — for the sale of 800 U.N.I.C.E.F. Christmas cards. Cheques for £25 were presented to the Headmaster at School Assembly by Margaret Coomer and Janice Parker, who each sold ninety cards. Our plans to sell cards by carol-singing were postponed until next year as we quickly exhausted our card supply. The names of the volunteer carollers have been carefully filed.

Singing reminds us of the guitar and drum contributions given at our two House parties by Ljubomir Jovic, Karl Williams and Brian Wright. The first party gave everybody a chance to make friends and the second was a welcome-back party at the beginning of the Easter term, to which friends in other Houses were invited. We had over two hundred requests for tickets from would-be guests and regret that many were disappointed because of lack of space. The organisation of music and side-shows and the co-operation between Juniors and Seniors showed what a good family we are becoming. Mr. Griffiths offered his cricket bat, and Mrs. Kelly made a cake, both of which have increased our funds. Our warm thanks go to them and the house staff who worked very hard and kept out of the way once the fun started. A free return ticket to Boulogne was offered at our second party to the winner of a treasure-hunt organised by Macaulay 3.

In the summer term we expect to run one or more house day-trips to France; Mr. Edwards has courageously offered to act as savings bank. As boys and girls come forward to run special clubs, so the number of our activities will grow. To avoid many small units we have a single

"Town and Country Club" which covers a range of interests such as the rambles to Windsor led by Mr. Hughes. Andrew McConnell reported that in the stately rooms of Windsor Castle he saw enough weapons to equip an army. A visit to see the "News Chronicle" and "Star" go to press was another of the Town and Country Club's events. Thirty seniors saw the printing presses, had their names cast on a lino-type machine and sent a message to Manchester on the tele-tape. Margaret Liversedge and John Hyman themselves wrote to the "News Chronicle" to make the arrangements. After touring the works the visitors had tea with the "I Spy" chief in his "wigwam".

Alan Foreman has collected enough money for a wash-and-brush-up. Those who believe that all fashionable young men are somewhat dirty are being encouraged to make use of the kit so thoughtfully provided by the House.

Our thoughts are already on our summer activities. Sylvia Thompson is planning a parade on the theme of changing dance fashions since the beginning of the century. We hope to produce it at our summer gala.

Dennis Walker has won the Bronze Badge Award for the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme, as well as the admiration of everybody for his coverage of the House functions.

Janice Parker, who, at the Parents' Evening made a big impression when she described the effort to sell U.N.I.C.E.F. cards, is the hula-hoop champion for Pimlico. George Bricknell, a sound footballer, has also shown us that he can swing a slick hoop.

Now that the swimming pool is open we look forward to seeing Brian Dyer "in the swim." He was junior swimming champion of Kensington schools and also gained a place in the Middlesex trials.

Among the number of boys and girls who have joined us from abroad, we have Arlene Sandilands from Cairo, and Gordon Godenho from Calcutta. Arlene has just shown me a play she has written on a Bible story, entitled "Eliza's Quest."

Ross Osborn set off for a tour of Europe at Christmas, but in Germany he had the bad luck to be involved in a bus accident and spent most of the holiday in hospital. He deserves our congratulations in passing his 'O' level examination in English Literature.

David Marsh and Robert French have much energy in organising the first and second year football teams and the latter is top of the House League. David and his friends practice one evening a week in Holland Park.

In netball we hope to see the second and third years following the example of the seniors, who are top of the league.

Cycling Proficiency Tests have been won by Dennis May, Leonard Kirkum and Gutteridge.

N.R.C.



Mr. Stedman Jones "Il Penseroso"



The finish of the Wilberforce - Macaulay Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race.

NEWTON HOUSE

This very first Newton House report is one of steady progress. We have begun to know each other well, and a sense of House loyalty has already manifested itself.

Several House activities are progressing well. On Monday the Table-tennis Section meets in the South East Hall, and the Record Club in the South West Hall. The Stamp Club holds weekly meetings on Tuesdays in Room E204.

The Ballroom Dancing Club, which meets on Tuesdays in the North East Hall, held a very successful dance and social at the end of term.

Several House members enjoyed a pleasant day walking through Surrey during the November half-term.

Inclement weather has curtailed our sports' programme, but our soccer and netball teams are playing well and with obvious enjoyment.

The first edition of the "Newtonian Newspaper" was printed in November. We are hoping to produce a House newspaper each term.

Our first tutorial meeting was held on 2nd December. It was a cold and extremely foggy evening, but in spite of the weather-conditions some 130 parents attended. We were delighted to see them to talk together, and to discuss questions of mutual interest.

Our position in the House table at the end of the winter term was fifth, with a total of 413 commendations. As we were bottom House at half-term this improvement reflects great credit on all those members who made such a rise possible. With just a little more effort, we can be in the top half of the table this term.

F.W.M.

NORMAN HOUSE

Norman House, in the capable hands of Mrs. Frost, had a satisfactory term's activities before Christmas. Our contribution to the School's entertainment show revealed that we have a sound basis for a dramatic group. The efforts of June Child, L. Grant Ferguson and Paula Van Doorn were especially praiseworthy.

An enthusiastic class in theatrical make-up is going well. The members are very keen and interested and should make a useful contribution to School and House plays.

Table-tennis is, of course, extremely popular and it is hoped that a team will eventually be selected for competitions.

Our girls will be particularly interested in a new club shortly to be started by Mrs. Frost, which will deal with theatrical costume design. This should fit in with the other group on theatrical make-up. In sporting activities, an encouraging start was made. The first and second year footballers played off all their fixtures. They were more fortunate than their seniors, whose fixture-list was ruined by bad weather. Netball has gone through a complete programme up to December. The second year put up the best performance among our teams.

The Chess Club is opening with the other houses. Here, too, we shall be seeking prospective tournament players.

S.L.

WILBERFORCE HOUSE

Since those early days, last term, when most of us were somewhat overwhelmed by the newness of it all, we have made quite good progress towards establishing the House as a real and meaningful unit within the larger unit of the School. Club and society activities have included chess, table-tennis, music and records, (including a visit to the ballet) a stamp club and a dancing class run in conjunction with Newton and Maine Houses. In sports we have held our own and in the house-points table, we came third in both halves of the term and in the final result at Christmas. A Parents' Meeting was held on November 12th, which gave the staff and many parents a chance to meet. Several Wilberforce members gave active and valuable help in organising the combined House carol-service at Christmas. A House Committee has now been set up to discuss and organise House affairs. It is hoped that a House news-sheet will soon be published.

These are useful and interesting activities, but the most helpful sign for the future is the growing feeling of House membership. A House can only be as effective as the people who make it up. The House exists for the good of all its members; what has been your contribution?
N.W.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

Like so many other things in our first term, cross-country running began to an encouraging, even if somewhat stumbling start. From the third year upwards, it is now a regular afternoon activity for anyone interested, and once a week at 4.15 p.m. a squad of enthusiasts may be seen padding the streets of Kensington and the groves of Holland Park. In spite of difficulties in obtaining a satisfactory course, some promising talent is appearing, and with augmentations from the swifter boys at present engaged in football, we should be able to put three or four teams into the fixtures being arranged for this term, with every hope of success. The best augury is the probability of settling down to regular running over an excellent course at Beverley Meads, and although at present our main strength is in the third and fourth years, in two or three years Holland Park School should be a well-known name in school athletics.

J.L.A. & T.M.

BASKET-BALL CLUB

During the Christmas Term 1958 a few people met to play a rudimentary form of basket-ball. We had neither nets nor properly marked-out courts.

With the erection of the nets in the two gymnasias at the beginning of Hilary term '59, and the marking out of courts later in the term, it will be possible to play basket-ball properly. The club will meet every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Gymnasium 2 and it is open to all boys in the third year and upwards. Circuit training is available for members of the club on Fridays at 4.05 p.m. in Gymnasium 3.

SPORTS & ATHLETICS

RUGBY CLUB

When, in thirty years time, Holland Park School has built up a reputation for good rugby football, we, the founder members, will be able to smile at our early battles and display with great pride our hard-earned scars. But our present task is to create such a reputation that we may consider ourselves fit to become affiliated to the Rugby Union and enjoy the fresh hunting-grounds awaiting our onslaught.

At first it was doubtful that rugger would appeal to boys weaned on soccer, but all doubts were, of course, forgotten when the Club's membership swelled to sixty within a fortnight. Teams were drawn up and our Saturday morning practices at Barn Elms were an immediate success. The high spirits in which these scraps were executed are to be admired, but the prankish abduction of a master's scooter is not to be condoned.

A team emerged from these melées to beat a St. Benedict's XV, 16—14 on the 22nd November, just two months after most of the team had touched a rugger-ball for the first time. The inexperience shown by our side was recompensed in fitness and verve. Certain players enhanced the opinion already held by the Headmaster, who had watched the club passing through the necessary stages that lead up to the fielding of a good side. C. Barnett's tackling was really exciting to watch (one sympathised with his victims), and L. Hobbs showed speed and thrust on the wing. Some stormy rushes by Foreman, Rotelli and Osborne made us feel relieved that they were on our side. To St. Benedict's that match was probably insignificant, but to us such a victory augured some fine games in the future. Now that we are settled we hope to field at least three fifteens by the end of the season.

The club wishes to extend sincere thanks to the Headmaster and Mr. Hucker for their encouragement, to Mr. Allen for his tolerance and good wishes, to Mr. Griffiths for his martyrdom against St. Benedict's, and to all who turned out to support us — especially the girls.

A match was also played against Chiswick Grammar School on the 7th February.

RESULTS:

v. St. Benedict's XV, won 16—14.

v. Chiswick Grammar School, lost 38—5.

Further matches were arranged against St. Benedict's, Goldsmith College and Kynaston School, but they had to be cancelled through bad conditions. Nevertheless, these and other matches are being re-arranged for this term and for next season. The second-year XV's only fixture was also postponed, but their keenness is to be admired.

THE GIRLS' GYM CLUB

The Girls' Gym Club, which started last term, meets each Thursday and has about fifty enthusiastic members. The Club, which is open to girls in the third year upwards, makes use of all three gyms and the apparatus in them. The whole time is devoted to vaulting, and the members are achieving a high standard of performance. A.M.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The award aims at bringing out to the full a boy's steadfastness, unselfishness and loyalty to others. This is accomplished by his own personal efforts and achievements in physical fitness, expeditions, a service to the community — in our case, first aid — and pursuing a hobby of his own choice over a period of six months for the 1st series, a further six months for the 2nd series, and then twelve months for the 3rd series.

Fitness tests vary from athletics to swimming and strength and stamina work in the gym. The average boy, who need not be a good gymnast, can achieve the standards set with hard work and plenty of practice.

Everybody gained a lot of enjoyment from the expeditions. These are held in the Leith Hill, Cobham and Frensham areas of Surrey for the Bronze Award; the forests of Thetford for the Silver Award; and mountains of North Wales for the Gold Award. A thorough knowledge of map reading and direction finding by compass is essential, as the countryside is rough and very open. Log books of the journeys are kept and only map references given as a guide to the route. Fifteen miles in a weekend are covered at the beginning, but the task gradually works up to fifty miles every five days, and some of these are done at night. The party splits up into tents of two boys, each pair looking after itself. It was surprising to find so many good cooks and can-openers among them.

The British Red Cross, at Brook Green, is very helpful in arranging the lecturers in first aid. After sixteen weeks the lads were able to pass both the Junior and Senior courses, some with proficiency.

Hobbies varied considerably. Gymnastics, drama, musical instruments, stamp collecting and literature were among them. Although there is no test to pass, each hobby demands much time and effort.

Michael Crowe, Leonard Hobbs, John Coghlen, Kenneth Kensell and Eric Reichberger have almost completed their third series and by Easter will be the first London schoolboys, as a group, to gain the Gold Award. These boys took part in the experimental scheme and from their efforts have come the final standards. A further eight of our fifth year lads are just finishing the Silver standard and will then start the year's work that will enable them to gain the Gold. A third group of twelve lads started the scheme when the School opened in September. They have nearly finished qualification for the Bronze Award.

Later, another group of lads and also, we hope, a group of girls will be given the opportunity of participating in this scheme.

E. J. A.

GYM CLUB

Each Tuesday straight after school the three gyms become one. All the apparatus is got out and well over fifty boys of the upper school and a few invited juniors vault over boxes, spring across mats, and balance high up on narrow beams. The favourite activity is to climb

and swing on the ropes. A few appear to take their lives in their hands to learn "Flick-Flacks" and somersaults with a master.

In one corner boys also box in the ring and when there is a proper match — generally once a week — we all watch. Often a dozen or more boys play badminton and if the light is good enough some play football in the playground.

Our thanks to Messrs. Allen, Griffiths and Pay for seeing that we do not break any bones and for letting so many of us look forward to Tuesday at 4 p.m.

M. GEORGE IV A

HOCKEY

The girls show great promise in their hockey. However, they have a long way to go before they reach the high standard towards which we are aiming, and they must realise that this can only be achieved by continual hard practice. Some girls turned up regularly at Barn Elms on Saturday mornings for hockey practices. This was very encouraging, but we hope to see the numbers greatly increase as we have many fixtures arranged for the Hilary term, including our first hockey matches at Holland Park School.

V. J.

HOCKEY RESULTS — HILARY TERM

6th February, 1959:

1st XI v. North Paddington. Lost 0—5.

U/15 XI v. North Paddington. Lost 0—5.

Barn Elms Hockey Championships

Senior Tournament (under 16 years), 21st February, 1959:

Both teams "A" and "B" lost their matches in the qualifying rounds. Tournament won by Lady Margaret.

Junior Tournament (under 14 years), 28th February, 1959:

Team "A" drew one and lost two matches in the qualifying rounds.

Team "B" won one, drew one, and lost one match in the qualifying rounds. Tournament won by Millbank.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Although we are a brand new School, and consequently ignorant of each other's capabilities on the field, the various school teams have acquitted themselves quite well.

Our thanks are due to the masters who referee and accompany us on all our matches, and to all the supporters who turn out to watch our games.

Congratulations to E. Spencer, J. McCarthy and R. Last for being elected captains of their year teams.

Many fixtures have been arranged for the remainder of the season and also for 1959—60.

RESULTS:

- 18th Oct. School XI v. Chris. Wren, lost 1—2.
 15th Nov. School XI v. Isaac Newton, lost 0—4.
 22nd Nov. School XI v. Henry Compton, won 5—3.
 3rd yr. v. Henry Compton, lost 0—6.
 2nd yr. v. Henry Compton, lost 0—4.
 1st yr. v. Henry Compton, lost 2—7.

Most of our matches this term have had to be cancelled.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES, MICHAELMAS '58

FIRST-YEARS

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Addison	3	3	0	0	10	1	6
Wilberforce	3	2	0	1	7	2	5
Maine	3	2	1	0	8	5	4
Fox	3	2	1	0	4	3	4
Macaulay	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Hunter	3	1	2	0	2	7	2
Newton	3	0	3	0	2	9	0
Norman	3	0	3	0	2	9	0

SECOND-YEARS

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Macaulay	5	5	0	0	26	4	10
Fox	5	3	1	1	14	7	7
Wilberforce	5	3	2	0	6	6	6
Newton	5	2	2	1	8	12	5
Addison	5	1	2	2	8	11	4
Maine	5	1	2	2	7	12	4
Norman	5	1	3	1	5	11	3
Hunter	5	0	4	1	8	18	1

A seven aside — junior and senior — football competition takes place in the South playground on Wednesday lunch-times.

The results so far are:—

SENIORS

- Fox 2 v. Newton 1
 Maine 3 v. Hunter 1

JUNIORS

- Wilberforce I, 4 v. Maine I, 1

On Saturday, 14th February, a seven aside tournament takes place at Barn Elms for two teams under 13 years and two teams under 15 years old against all other teams using the ground.

J. PEARCE (Capt.).

NETBALL

After practising on an improvised court of chalk or rope lines, the premier and senior teams had considerable success in the first round of the London Schools' Netball League. Two members of the premier team have left, and as a result much hard practice is necessary if the standard set is to be maintained and improved.

Both teams need to pay particular attention to foot-work and interception. Determined concentration in practices as well as matches will result in more skilful and successful play.

Indoor practice takes place when it is impossible to go outside, and we look forward with high hopes to a number of fixtures as well as to the return matches of the London League.

M.B.

HOUSE MATCHES — NETBALL LEAGUE

The girls of the second, third and fourth years played four rounds of the Netball House League towards the end of the Michaelmas term. On the whole they played well and showed a keen competitive spirit. We feel this helped in raising the general standard of their netball, and we look forward to seeing increased skill when these matches are continued in February.

NETBALL LEAGUE TABLES, MICHAELMAS 1958

SECOND-YEAR

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Maine	4	4	0	0	53	23	8
Hunter	4	3	0	1	33	24	7
Fox	4	2	0	2	36	24	6
Norman	4	3	1	0	22	33	6
Newton	4	1	3	0	44	57	2
Addison	4	1	3	0	19	35	2
Macaulay	4	0	3	1	18	22	1
Wilberforce	4	0	4	0	23	37	0

THIRD-YEAR

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Newton	4	4	0	0	77	17	8
Maine	4	3	1	0	59	36	6
Hunter	4	2	2	0	46	48	4
Wilberforce	4	2	2	0	39	50	4
Addison	4	2	2	0	47	59	4
Norman	4	1	3	0	38	51	2
Macaulay	4	1	3	0	48	56	2
Fox	4	1	3	0	40	77	2

FOURTH-YEAR

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Macaulay	4	4	0	0	56	12	8
Newton	4	3	0	1	62	39	7
Wilberforce	4	3	1	0	40	31	6
Addison	4	2	1	1	18	26	5
Hunter	4	1	3	0	14	36	2
Norman	4	1	2	1	37	47	1
Maine	4	0	3	1	23	39	1
Fox	4	0	4	0	12	32	0

NETBALL RESULTS — SEASON 1958/9

- 10th October, 1958:
 Premier v. Bishop's Park. Drew 10—10. Away.
 Senior v. Bishop's Park. Lost 9—10. Away.
- 14th October, 1958:
 Premier v. Hammersmith County. Won 20—10. Away.
 Senior v. Hammersmith County. Won 15—12. Away.
- 25th October, 1958:
 Premier v. Hurlingham. Won 38—3. Barn Elms.
 Senior v. Hurlingham. Won 17—0. Barn Elms.
- 7th February, 1959:
 Premier v. Hurlingham. Won 21—1. Barn Elms.
 Senior v. Hurlingham. Won 12—0. Barn Elms.
- 11th February, 1959:
 Premier v. Bishop's Park. Drew 6—6.
 Senior v. Bishop's Park. Lost 8—10.
- 19th February, 1959:
 Premier v. Hammersmith County. Won 21—4.
- 26th February, 1959:
 Senior v. Hammersmith County. Won 16—1.
- 5th March, 1959:
 Re-play of Premier v. Bishop's Park. Won.
- 9th March, 1959:
 Semi-final of London Schools Netball League.
 Premier Team v. Ensham School. Lost 5—15.
- Junior Tournament (under 15 years), February 21st:
 Team "A" won one match, drew one match, and lost one match in the qualifying round.
 Team "B" won one match and lost two matches in the qualifying round.
- Senior Tournament (under 16 years), February 28th:
 Team "A" won both their matches in the qualifying round, beat Hammersmith County in the semi-final, and Bishop's Park "B" team in the final.
 Team "B" won one match and lost one match in the qualifying round.