

# THE CENTAUR

MAGAZINE OF THE  
HENRY MELLISH SCHOOL  
BULWELL NOTTINGHAM



Vol. 9. No. 18 Spring Term 1940

# THE CENTAUR



SPRING TERM, 1940

VOL. 9. No. 18

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## EDITORIAL

In September, 1939, amid rumours of war and oppression, the heartening news spread through the County, "The School will carry on!"

In spite of the periodic whinings of untiring sirens, the tramping of iron-shod feet, the sound of martial strains and Royal Proclamations, the School has carried on.

Ink (although ersatz) is still daubed on foolscap in the guise of weird hieroglyphics. The bacteria still swim placidly about The Pond, and smile to hear, "Why, the rotten pond's empty!" Even with the staff-room-door fraternity business is as usual. Rations have not affected School dinners; the homely smell of cooking still regales the spirits of fatigued fifth-formers in their quad.

It is good to hear the thud of leather on the field, the dull sound of shoulder on thigh, the crash of a heavy forward's body on the good brown earth, and to realize that even "that Man" cannot stop sport. In fact, Rugger is played even harder than before, and already many a brave struggle has been fought to a finish in the shadow of the long concrete "coffins" found along our touch-lines.

Even at this moment the stern cry of "Williams!" echoes along the Lab. corridor, only to be carried away by the question (unsolved by decades of first-formers) "Who is Silvia?" that issues from the music-room; the forge snorts and blows triumphantly; from an open door floats the traditional chant, "Amo, amas, amat . . ."

Status quo ante bellum!

J.H.



## SCHOOL OFFICIALS

*Head Prefect* : G. B. Hardwick.

*Vice-Captain* : A. Greenhalgh.

*Prefects* : P. A. Morley, W. R. Pepper, J. W. Russell, J. G. Sharp, H. G. Willcock.

*Sub-Prefects* : W. E. Curtis, G. E. Davies, D. M. Dolman, P. Flint, P. N. Garner, W. J. Jallands, G. B. Pickering, A. Prothero, W. Riley, F. A. Roberts.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Mr. E. A. Hutchinson is at present a member of the Government Meteorological department in connection with the R.A.F.

Mr. F. Smith is a Sergeant Instructor in Physical Training and is at present stationed at Margate.

We welcome to the School Mr. W. A. Stevenson, Mr. R. H. Smith and Mr. J. B. C. Elliott.

In the case of Mr. Stevenson it is "Hail & Farewell," for he is leaving us shortly to join the Royal Corps of Signals.

We congratulate Mr. L. W. A. White, the Chairman of our Governors, who on February 6th was elected an alderman of the Notts. County Council.

We also offer our congratulations to Mr. S. Knox on obtaining the degree of M.Litt. at Durham University, and Mr. A. Young, who has become a B.A. of London University.

G. B. Pickering has been awarded a Natural Science Exhibition at Jesus College, Oxford. This success was celebrated by the addition of a day to the half-term holiday.

In January, 1940, W. Riley was appointed Prefect, and C. Green, S. Kerry and D. H. Lindley became Sub-Prefects.

A silver cup has been presented anonymously to the School as a trophy for Junior House Cricket. The winners in 1939 were Blue House Juniors, who were captained by K. C. Buckle.

The Dramatic Society hopes to produce "She Stoops to Conquer" in the School Hall on the 8th and 9th of May. Rehearsals are now in full swing. This is the Society's first departure from one-act plays, and we hope the performances will be well attended.

The members of the Magazine Committee for this number are Mr. Gayton, Mr. Haines, D. R. Burrows, J. Buxton, J. Heath, D. B. Leaming and A. D. Smith.

#### VALETE.

- VI L. A. Downes, L. C. Ely, B. R. Green, J. D. McKinley, E. G. S. Blower, J. W. Haynes, T. Swain, M. Muir, G. A. Johnson, T. Morley, C. S. Shacklock, J. S. H. Stepanian, W. R. Wharmby, K. H. Ball, R. Cherry, W. S. Dean, W. Hayes, F. G. Minchin, A. Naylor, R. Prothero, G. F. Rose, R. Atkins, A. H. Garratt, J. R. Spencer, H. Dennis, T. Campbell, F. W. Dixon, P. N. Garner, E. Sumner, W. R. Pepper.
- V P. F. Harvey, K. C. Howell, D. Stephenson, L. R. Addy, D. Appleby, H. N. Ash, J. L. Cullen, G. L. Godfrey, A. A. Hackett, F. D. Lane, H. Phillips, T. R. Pilkington, J. R. Davenport, R. S. Greenslade, P. H. Hoad, F. Hopkinson, P. Iliffe, R. R. H. Kerslake, R. D. Leaming, A. H. Marshall, J. M. McKinley, A. Scrimshaw, F. R. Shaw, D. A. Shipstone, L. G. Allen, C. W. Atkinson, C. Ball, J. R. Bowskill, J. D. Britton, J. H. Fasey, J. M. Flower, G. Frost, M. H. Hague, H. Haywood, D. E. Melliship, J. H. Pykett, J. Robson, A. Worthington, H. E. Keating, F. I. Rowe, G. W. Wright, C. R. Taylor, V. P. Pickup.
- IV A. Brown, J. S. Crossland, R. O. Freeman, T. E. Harrison, J. Sambrook, F. E. Street, J. P. Lindley, C. R. Selby.
- III J. A. Jew, G. B. Taylor.
- II B. Jackson, K. Jackson, D. Drew.
- I P. J. Groves.

#### AVETE.

- IV D. H. Broadbent.
- III G. M. Smithurst, J. A. Blair.
- II G. W. Renshaw.
- I A. J. Bains, F. J. Bancroft, J. K. Barker, L. C. P. W. Barnard, J. W. Berrisford, D. A. Bird, F. E. Bradley, N. J. Brown, R. Brown, G. Buchanan, P. C. Buck, P. J. Burridge, D. Burton, P. F. Burton, R. F. Burton, F. Casterton, W. B. Chappell,

H. C. Clarke, J. Clarke, J. F. Clay, R. J. Cleminson, C. P. Conduit, D. E. Cook, B. F. Coupland, F. E. Croft, J. A. Davies, G. Drinkwater, P. F. Egglington, M. C. Faulkner, G. W. Fish, G. E. Fletcher, T. C. Flowers, S. Foulston, G. Garton, F. H. Godley, S. C. Gooch, A. Gowler, M. J. Hardy, R. Harvey, J. K. Haywood, R. Heath, F. K. Hill, H. M. Hodgkinson, K. J. Howard, A. G. Hunt, I. A. Jack, H. C. Kettle, D. A. J. Key, G. C. Kingsley, C. A. Krarup, G. Langley, R. W. Leivers, W. J. Levene, D. E. Little, D. S. Metcalfe, T. G. Morris, F. Needham, F. E. Newton, J. R. B. Oscroft, S. R. Parkin, D. H. Pearce, R. A. Pearce, A. F. Pearse, P. H. Redman, H. Reeve, P. Rowlson, N. B. Scott, D. J. Simpson, S. F. Simpson, R. A. Sly, F. J. Smith, P. H. Smith, N. A. Spick, G. H. N. Spray, S. V. Stanfield, R. W. Staton, J. Stevenson, J. A. Stott, J. C. Sumner, F. D. Topps, E. C. Wainman, J. M. H. Walker, P. E. Warner, A. Wheatley, E. Widdowson, G. E. Wilford, A. Wilson, R. A. Winfield, F. D. Wood, C. Wyld, R. B. Allen, J. H. Carruthers, G. H. Hawksworth, K. Ashton.

## CRICKET 1939



The following matches were played after June 24th :

1ST XI		
July 1st	v. West Bridgford	Won
July 12th	v. High Pavement	Lost
2ND XI		
July 1st	v. Brunts School	Drawn
July 12th	v. High Pavement	Won
July 20th	v. Nottingham High School	Drawn

## COLTS "UNDER 14" XI

		Home
v. High Pavement	High Pavement—47	Won
	School—52 for 3 (Guilor 23 not out).	
v. High Pavement		Away
	School—96 (Bircumshaw 30)	Drawn
	High Pavement—78 for 9.	
v. West Bridgford		Home
	West Bridgford—21 (Hartshorn 7 for 6)	
	School—34 for 3	Won

In the match between Notts. Boys and Derbyshire Boys, P. F. Harvey was top scorer, making 46 of his side's 139 runs. He also took two wickets.

## HOUSE MATCHES.

## SENIOR—

SEMI-FINAL	Blue House (73 for 4. A. Greenhalgh 64 not out) beat Yellow House (72).
	Red House (32 for 2) beat Green House (31. Naylor 7 for 7).
FINAL	Blue House (80 for 8. A. Greenhalgh 50 not out) beat Red House (79. A. Naylor 17).

## JUNIOR—

SEMI-FINAL	Red House (38 for 2. Guilor 21 not out) beat Green House (37. Poxon 8 for 17).
	Blue House (8 for 2) beat Yellow House (7. Hartshorn 4 for 1, Groome 2 for 4).
FINAL	Blue House (51 for 5. Hartshorn 18, T. Greenhalgh 14) beat Red House (50. Holgate 21 not out, Belcher 3 for 4).

## SWIMMING SPORTS

The swimming sports were held on Tuesday, July 18th, and the usual exciting finishes were provided. In 1938, Yellow House won the championship very easily, and they were favourites for 1939. Red House, however, challenged so strongly that Yellow House had to be content with second place. Blue House, champions on many previous occasions, only just managed to beat Green House for third place.

Mr. J. Elliott, a former champion of the Midlands, gave a delightful exhibition of the crawl stroke.

After announcing the final totals, and thanking all those who had contributed to the success of the sports, the Headmaster asked Mrs. Wharmby to present the cup to Pepper, the captain of Red House. Pepper's brief speech concluded the entertainment.

The results were :—

1. **One Length Free Style (J)** : 1, Gadd and Rosillo (R); 3, Northfield (Y). Time 16 secs.
2. **One Length Free Style (M)** : 1, Lees (R); 2, Peat (R); 3, Thornley (B). Time 14.8 secs.
3. **One Length Free Style (S)** : 1, Pepper (R); 2, Wharmby (Y); 3, Bishop (Y). Time 12.4 secs.
4. **Plunge (J)** : 1, Buckle (Y); 2, Gates (Y); 3, Rosillo (R). Distance, 36 ft. 9 ins.
5. **Three Lengths Free Style (M)** : 1, Peat (R); 2, Lees (R); 3, Thornley (B). Time 60 secs.
6. **Four Lengths Free Style (S)** : 1, Pepper (R); 2, Lindley (B); 3, Wharmby (Y). Time 63.2 secs.
7. **Two Lengths Free Style (J)** : 1, Gadd (R); 2, Northfield (Y); 3, Nash (G). Time 41 secs.
8. **Diving (M)** : 1, Holroyd (B); 2, Cleminson (G); 3, Greenhalgh (B) and Newbutt (Y).
9. **Three Lengths Back Stroke (S)** : 1, Johnson (Y); 2, Stanley (R); 3, Rayment (Y). Time 65 secs.
10. **One Length Breast Stroke (J)** : 1, Bodill (B) and Jennison (R); 3, Newstead (B). Time 19.8 secs.
11. **Two Lengths Breast Stroke (M)** : 1, Newbutt (Y); 2, Peat (R); 3, Taylor (Y). Time 43 secs.
12. **Three Lengths Breast Stroke (S)** : 1, Allinson (R); 2, Bishop (Y); 3, Foster (G). Time 56.2 secs.
13. **Diving (J)** : 1, Hall (G); 2, Newstead (B); 3, Nash (G) and Northfield (Y).
14. **Plunge (M)** : 1, Coates (B); 2, Newbutt (Y); 3, Greenhalgh (B). Distance 32 ft.
15. **Diving (S)** : 1, Bishop (Y); 2, Wharmby (Y); 3, Lindley (B) and Pepper (R).
16. **One Length Back Stroke (J)** : 1, Northfield (Y); 2, Gadd (R); 3, Priestley (Y). Time 20.8 secs.
17. **Two Lengths Back Stroke (M)** : 1, Newbutt (Y); 2, Coates (B); 3, Greenhalgh (B). Time 43.4 secs.
18. **Plunge (S)** : 1, Pepper (R); 2, Wharmby (Y); 3, Allinson (R). Distance 39 ft. 2 ins.
19. **Junior Relay Race (4 x 1)** : 1, Red (Gadd, Rosillo, Jennison, Bettison); 2, Yellow; 3, Green. Time 76.4 secs.
20. **Middle Relay Race (4 x 2)** : 1, Red (Peat, Cook, Lees, Kirkham); 2, Blue; 3, Green. Time 2 min. 39.2 secs.
21. **Senior Relay Race (4 x 2)** : 1, Yellow (Wharmby, Johnson, Rayment, Bishop); 2, Red; 3, Blue. Time 2 min. 9.6 secs.

**FINAL PLACING** : 1, Red 200 pts; 2, Yellow 188 pts.; 3, Blue 113 pts.; 4, Green 104 pts.

## RUGBY FOOTBALL, 1939



At the beginning of the season it was obvious that our weakness was to be found in the back division of the side. Of the previous team's backs, only two were left, and the lack of a pair of half-backs with experience of each other's play was a great handicap. The forwards, however, were good and although the first match was lost 16-5, after a score of 13-0 at half-time, the pack was on top most of the game. The Bridgford game saw the School team at its worst against some hard running by the opposing backs, but since then the team has improved and should enjoy some good games.

**Results.**

## 1ST XV.

v. King's School, Grantham	..	..	Lost	..	16— 5
v. West Bridgford School	..	..	Lost	..	24— 9
v. Newark Magnus School	..	..	Lost	..	14—11
v. University College "A"	..	..	Won	..	20— 3
v. Nottingham High School	..	..	Won	..	6— 5
v. University College "A"	..	..	Lost	..	15— 8
v. West Bridgford	..	..	Won	..	11— 6

## 2ND XV.

v. King's School, Grantham	..	..	Won	..	12—10
v. West Bridgford School	..	..	Won	..	42— 5
v. Nottingham High School	..	..	Lost	..	18— 6

## " UNDER 15 " COLTS.

v. Nottingham High School	..	..	Won	..	23— 3
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## " UNDER 14 " COLTS.

v. Newark Magnus School	..	..	Lost	..	5— 3
v. West Bridgford	..	..	Won	..	3— 0

## EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS: W. Hayes, Open Scholarship in Modern History, Pembroke College, Oxford: J. D. McKinley, A. Naylor and G. B. Pickering, studentships at University College, Nottingham.

COUNTY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS: E. G. S. Blower, J. D. McKinley, A. Naylor and G. B. Pickering.

CIVIL SERVICE EXECUTIVE GRADE EXAMINATION: J. D. McKinley.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE AND INTER-SCIENCE EXEMPTION, LONDON UNIVERSITY: J. D. McKinley, G. B. Pickering and J. W. Russell.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE AND INTER-ENGINEERING EXEMPTION: E. G. S. Blower.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE AND INTER-ARTS EXEMPTION: R. Cherry and R. Prothero.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE: W. S. Dean and L. C. Ely.

GENERAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE WITH EXEMPTION FROM LONDON MATRICULATION: R. Atkins, C. Ball, J. R. Bowskill, J. D. Britton, R. Davies, P. Flint, G. Frost, P. N. Garner, R. Henstock, W. J. Jallands, D. H. Lindley, D. E. Melliship, F. Musgrave, J. Robson, G. F. Rose, D. Stephenson, E. Sumner, R. H. Billson, P. R. Boulton, P. Iliffe, H. N. Ash, J. L. Cullen, H. Dennis, F. D. Lane.

GENERAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE: L. G. Allen, C. W. Atkinson, J. H. Fasey, J. M. Flower, M. H. Hague, H. Haywood, J. H. Pykett, J. R. Spencer, A. Worthington, G. E. Davies, F. W. Dixon, C. Green, R. S. Greenslade, P. F. Harvey, P. H. Hoad, R. R. H. Kerslake, J. M. McKinley, A. H. Marshall, F. R. Shaw, D. A. Shipstone, D. Appleby, W. E. Curtis, A. A. Hackett, H. R. Potter.

## PRIZE LIST, 1938-39

FORM I	FORM PRIZES: J. S. Jennison, J. F. Fox, D. H. Hooks. EFFORT PRIZES: W. A. Arnold, K. C. D. Coleman, T. Davies, D. R. Allin, T. M. Milner, J. H. Sterland. ART AND HANDICRAFT PRIZE: J. F. Fox. ESSAY PRIZE: E. Ward. P.T. AND GAMES PRIZE: P. Furniss.
FORM II	FORM PRIZES: F. Arnold, E. J. Martin, F. J. Birkin. ADDITIONAL PRIZES: A. W. Tansey, J. Pollard, P. J. Gadd. ART AND HANDICRAFT PRIZE: E. J. Northfield. ESSAY PRIZE: J. A. Lawrie. P.T. AND GAMES PRIZE: E. J. Martin.
FORM III	FORM PRIZES: J. Bonser, W. D. Sterland, J. H. Russell. ADDITIONAL PRIZES: D. W. Legge, L. Lewis, P. Walters. ART AND HANDICRAFT PRIZE: C. B. Redgate. ESSAY PRIZE: J. Willment. P.T. AND GAMES PRIZE: J. T. Topping.

- FORM IV FORM PRIZES: G. E. Little, W. F. Peck, J. F. Brothwell. ADDITIONAL PRIZES: C. J. Edney, J. Buxton, D. R. Burrows. ART AND HANDICRAFT PRIZE: J. Pilbeam. ESSAY PRIZES: J. Heath, D. B. Leaming. P.T. AND GAMES PRIZE: L. A. Watson. MAGAZINE PRIZE: A. D. Smith.
- FORM V FORM PRIZES: R. Davies, W. J. Jallands, F. Musgrove, J. R. Bowskill, P. Flint, E. Sumner, J. Robson, R. H. Billson, J. L. Cullen. ESSAY PRIZE: F. Musgrove. P.T. AND GAMES PRIZE: G. E. Davies. MAGAZINE PRIZE: P. Iliffe. SERVICE PRIZE: P. Flint.
- FORM VI CHEMISTRY PRIZES: H. G. Willcock, J. D. McKinley. MATHEMATICS AND GEOGRAPHY PRIZE: A. Greenhalgh. MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS PRIZES: E. G. S. Blower, G. B. Pickering. PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING PRIZE: J. G. Sharp. GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY PRIZE: W. S. Dean. ENGLISH AND GEOGRAPHY PRIZE: W. Riley. HISTORY PRIZE: G. B. Hardwick. FRENCH PRIZES: A. Prothero, A. Naylor. ESSAY PRIZE: W. S. Dean. MAGAZINE PRIZE: W. Hayes. HEADMASTER'S PRIZE FOR HEAD PREFECT: W. Hayes. BALK CUP AND CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS' PRIZE: F. G. Minchin. ADDITIONAL SERVICE PRIZE: B. R. Green.

## THE SCOUT CAMP, 1939

The event of the year, as far as Scouts are concerned, is the summer camp. This year, in our search for fine weather, we journeyed south and, as events showed, our prognostication was amply justified.

On July 21st, we met our A.S.M., Mr. Hutchinson, at Victoria Station at 10.30 a.m., and took our reserved seats in the train bound for New Milton, Hampshire. It was a fine sunny day, and we found much to interest us en route. We especially noticed the spires of Oxford, the "Queen Mary" and other large ships at Southampton, and the glorious New Forest. When finally we reached New Milton about 4.30 p.m., we packed our baggage on a farm dray drawn by a fractious Dobbin and journeyed the two-and-a-half miles to "The Black Cottage," Hordle.

After unloading our kit, we at once pitched our tents before the dew settled, and then partook of a welcome meal prepared by our S.M., Mr. Cross, and Mr. F. Smith, who had journeyed down by car during the preceding night. After erecting the Store tent, Cook's tent, flagpole and other camp necessities, we were allowed to wander around and examine the neighbourhood. Truly the camp site was all that we could desire—a clearing surrounded and sheltered by bushes about five feet high, and situated about 100 yards from the edge of the cliffs. From our tents we could see the sea, the Isle of Wight and the coloured flashes of the Needles Lighthouse, and we lived with the distant roar of the waves ever in our ears. The cliffs led down to a pebbly beach, but a sandy shore was revealed when the tide went out. We obtained any amount of boxwood, planks and posts by beachcombing.

The rough sea, the breeze and the salt tang of the air were very invigorating. Life was a joy.

Our daily programme varied of course, but was constituted something like this :—

- 7 a.m. Cook's Reveille.
- 7.30 a.m. General Reveille. Wash !
- 7.50 a.m. Tea.
- 8 a.m. Prayers. Flag hoisted.
- 8.15—8.30 a.m. P.T. on the shore. Wood brought back to camp.
- 8.30 a.m. Breakfast.
- 9.45 a.m. Tent and Kit inspection.
- 10—11.15 a.m. Training classes. Badge tests.
- 11.15—11.45 a.m. Break (Tuck-shop open).
- 11.45 a.m.—12.30 p.m. Bathing Parade.
- 12.30—1.15 p.m. Games (Football, etc.) or Gadget-making.
- 1.30 p.m. Dinner.
- 2—3 p.m. Leisure Hour (letter-writing, tuck-shop).
- 3—5 p.m. Free time.
- 5 p.m. Roll-call and Tea.
- 5.30—7.45 p.m. Wide Game (stalking, raiding, etc.).
- 8 p.m. Flag lowered.
- 8.30 p.m. Supper.
- 8.45 p.m. Prayers.
- 10 p.m. Lights Out.

Some days we worked from 3 to 5 p.m., and were free from tea until 8 p.m.

One night we held "Night-Ops," and these were very popular. They took the form of a wide game of attackers versus defenders, and we drew up a system of rules. The game started about 10 p.m. (as we were made to rest from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) after supper, and it became very exciting, especially as it was held over two miles of coastline and woodlands. Many were the ruses adopted by scouts to evade detection. P.L. Davies "borrowed" a scarecrow, which thereafter became bewitched, moving hither and thither in the moonlight. The game was reversed at half-time and attackers became defenders. Incidentally we gathered quite a lot of mushrooms that night. The district abounded in glow-worms and we used about a dozen of them to light up the flag so that the raiders could see it. After some hot cocoa we retired to bed, tired but happy, about 1 a.m. !

One bright morning we drew rations from the store and set out on a trek into the New Forest, using the compass, watches and maps for guidance. After travelling about five miles, we lit our fires and cooked our mutton-chops and potatoes—this being a second class test which

we all passed. A sharp shower tended to spoil things, but we lit a big fire when it had finished, dried our clothes and walked back to camp, after enjoying miles of the New Forest scenery. Tea was very welcome!

One day, in the stillness of the afternoon, the S.M. was rudely awoken by loud yelling and war-whoops outside his tent. He rubbed his sleepy eyes and beheld Coates (who should have been born a Mohican) holding up a bleeding adder about two feet long. This was the result of an organised adder-hunt and, as the adder was killed when about to strike, the excitement was easily understood! Two rabbits were also killed and eaten by the Falcon Patrol. They seemed to be living up to their name!

We had many enjoyable bathing parades, but as the sea was rough we were not allowed to venture far away. Life-saving apparatus was always in attendance. Some of the scouts took much trouble to build a raft from planks and empty oil-drums found on the shore. Alas! their visions of sailing the ocean were rudely shattered when the waves got to work. (N.B.—This was before the magnetic mine era !)

We also played a cricket match against the local scout troop on the Recreation Ground, New Milton. The result?—well, Mellish boys were always good at cricket!

The district was full of interest. A wireless-controlled boat was bombed daily by R.A.F. machines just off the camp site. We marvelling at the accuracy of the bombers! We saw the "Empress of Britain" steaming past the Needles, and one morning we awoke to see the King's yacht, the "Royal Albert," steaming past, escorted by two destroyers. The Royal Standard was flying, as the royal family was aboard.

An innovation at this camp was our Tuck-shop and Bank. We paid all our cash in to our A.S.M. and we were issued with a cheque book. We paid for all our purchases by cheque (coins were not accepted) and, if we wanted cash for our excursions, we cashed a cheque at the Bank (during office hours!). The profits from the Tuck-shop helped to pay the camp expenses. P.L. Flint was in charge, and is to be congratulated on the success of this venture.

The camp was characterised by the number of "gadgets" made. Being fortunate in obtaining good material from the beach, we were able to construct such things as a shelter made from rushes and mud, a bench, book-shelves, an oven, wash-bowl trestles, plate and cup racks, shoe-scrapers, trowels, bellows and candlesticks, which showed the troop to be a handy lot of fellows.

Cooking was done daily in rotation by patrols. With the exception of one patrol, all gave complete satisfaction in more senses than one. P.L. Melliship and Second Prince acted as store-keepers, and they performed their duties exceedingly well.

The camp was very gay on the day when the telegrams kept coming, telling the joyful news that all the scouts who had taken the S.C. examination were successful. We have already congratulated them.

We are very much indebted to Miss Clinton of Ashley-Clinton for her kindness in giving us the use of such a splendid site, for her kind solicitations after our welfare and lastly (if not least) for a large tin of sweets, which were distributed equally among the campers. We are sorry she was unable to visit us because of an accident.

On the last night in camp we held our "Camp Fire." Here we sang and played games. Many persons helped to make the occasion a jolly one. Besides those of the staff, outstanding were the efforts of Allington, Holroyd, Smedley and Webster. This was also the occasion for the S.M.'s report on the camp. As is our custom, feathers for good camping were awarded to those worthy of them. A note of sadness crept in when we had to say "Au Revoir" to several scouts who had been with us since the foundation of the troop. The S.M. paid a glowing tribute to the work and spirit of Troop-Leader Shaw, Patrol-Leaders Melliship and Dennis and Second Bowskill. We shall miss them very much, and hope that they will manage to join us in future camps.

The following promotions were also announced:—To be Patrol-Leaders—Prince, Holroyd, Nash. To be Seconds—Jones, Barnsley, Smedley.

On Saturday, July 29th, we broke camp. Rain was falling, but, as we are used to packing up in the rain, it caused us but little inconvenience. We took the train back to Nottingham, lunching on boiled ham and cake en route. We arrived home about 6 p.m., and were met by many parents, among them Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, who had also visited us at Hordle.

Looking back, we realise that our stay at Hordle was our best and happiest camp. The spirit and industry shown were excellent. We are eagerly looking forward to such another holiday.

## SCHOOL CONCERT

The School Orchestra opened the proceedings by playing a march, after which there was community singing. The first two items were humorous sketches by boys of 1A. The second was announced as "a one-man sketch." Naturally the audience was rather puzzled when three boys appeared on the stage, but one "character" was recognised at once, so making the meaning of the title clear. It was the

man of the moment, complete with small moustache and characteristic lock of hair—Adolf Hitler ! He was accompanied by his two faithful (?) confederates, better known, perhaps, as “yes-men,” Goering with his usual array of medals, and Goebbels (composer of “ It’s a sin to tell a lie ”—German version). This play went with a swing, and the mistake which the actors made in saluting with the wrong hand was scarcely noticed.

Two musical items followed—a harmonica solo by Hudson and a violin solo by Kettle. The next item was of the type which has become popular in our school concerts, a humorous recitation. This story, recited by P. Smith, was called “ The Battle of Hastings.” The first part of the concert ended with yet another humorous sketch, “ The Convict Magician.”

During the interval the orchestra played two songs with which the school has now become familiar, “ Little Brown Jug ” and “ Tarpaulin Jacket.”

Lindley, the school’s most outstanding violinist, has already given many versatile performances at various school functions. This concert was no exception. He delighted the school with a melodious piece, “ Souvenir.” Silkstone played a piano solo and Hall then sang “ A Sad Story,” rather too sad for most of the audience, although the singing was good. The next artist, A. Dolman, was given a vociferous welcome, for he was already well-known for his humorous monologues. This one, “ Magna Carta,” was as amusing as ever.

During previous school concerts many kinds of instruments have been used, and this time Wilson drew rounds of applause by performing on the trombone.

Hitler was once more portrayed in the next sketch, in which he tried to make a speech, but only managed to utter his three favourite phrases, “ Ein Reich ! Ein Volk ! ! Ein Fuehrer ! ! ! ” The now-familiar voice of “ Lord Haw-Haw ” was also heard disparaging Britain.

After harmonica duets by Weller and Newstead, there was a surprise item. B. R. Green—formerly a prominent member of the School Dramatic Society—recited in a delightful manner “ The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God.”

The next item turned out to be the spice of the morning’s programme—a play by VA called “ Darkie Classroom Scene.” The dialogue was amusing and interesting, and all the actors seemed to have mastered the negro accent. They might even have been taken for real negroes (except of course that negroes don’t have white hands !).

The orchestra played two more well-known songs, “ John Brown’s Body ” and “ Clementine,” to introduce the afternoon’s programme.

Holroyd, like Dolman, is well-known for his humorous monologues, and he scored another success with his recitation of "Uppards." A popular B.B.C. feature, "Chestnut Corner," was then introduced. It was successful, even though some of the jokes were certainly not new. "The Little Band," consisting of Booth, Gadd, Holroyd and Bettison, gave us a taste of modern "swing," and several present-day favourites were played. Kerry played an enjoyable piano solo, after which he was accompanied by Sharrard and Egglington, who gave an amazing variety of singing. To wind up this series of musical items, Riley played several request items.

Another popular B.B.C. feature, "I want to be an actor," presented by Gadd, was the last item. There was no control-room in which to record the volume of applause each candidate received, but I think there was no doubt as to the fairness of the choice of actors. The acting was good, although the play gave the actors little scope to exercise their abilities.

The concert was good entertainment throughout, there being plenty of variety. Humour, much needed in these days, was adequately provided, and the musical items and sketches were carried out admirably. There seemed to be a lack of singing, and only one solo was sung (of course, "the Fleet's" not "in port" now—it has evidently been "sunk" by the German Wireless!). The audience seemed to enjoy the programme, and all those who contributed to the concert may be congratulated on providing the pleasing entertainment.

J.B.

## HOUSE REPORTS

### BLUE HOUSE.

We should like to take this opportunity of welcoming all new members of the House. We hope that they will show a keen interest in all house activities.

At the end of last year, our House and Rugby Captain, F. G. Minchin, left us. We wish him, and all other ex-members, success in their future careers. The officials for this year are: House Captain, P. A. Morley; Vice-Captain, A. Greenhalgh; Rugby Captain, L. A. Watson. Watson has also been appointed Athletics Captain, and C. Grainger is to take charge of the cross-country running. We expect all Blues to give them their whole-hearted support.

Last year we had a greater degree of success than in the previous year. We won both the Senior and Junior Cricket Cups, and, consequently, the Hurt Cup. In the Swimming Sports, however, we were well beaten by Red House. The Seniors have achieved scant success in Rugby, having lost both their matches. The Juniors made a prom-

ising start by defeating Green House, but they were unable to hold the Red Juniors. We congratulate Watson, our Captain, on being selected to play for Notts. Public Schoolboys. Unfortunately the match had to be cancelled on account of the condition of the ground.

We will conclude this report by exhorting Blues to try their hardest to carry off the Athletics championship. This can only be done by team-work. Every boy must enter for the full number of events and endeavour to obtain at least a low standard in each. In this way success will come and Blue House will regain the position, which we should like to regard as traditional, at the head of all School activities.

#### GREEN HOUSE.

We offer our congratulations to the Blue House Junior and Senior Teams on winning both the cricket championships and the Hurt Cup, and to Red House on winning the Swimming Cup.

The Green Seniors lacked the necessary weight and stamina to constitute an efficient rugby team. In the Fourth Form we have some very promising players, whom we hope to see help their team to victory in the Senior House Matches next season.

This year, although ably captained by Sharrard, the Green Juniors had insufficient experience, but this should be remedied in future years, so "Per Ardua Ad Astra."

We are sorry to lose P. N. Garner; he has always worked hard for the House and has been particularly outstanding in athletics and rugby. It is interesting to note that out of the five Mellish boys chosen for the Notts. Public Schools Rugger Match, three came from the Green House—W. Riley, P. N. Garner and G. B. Hardwick. We also congratulate L. A. Watson, the Blue Captain, and W. R. Pepper, the Red Captain, on their inclusion.

In conclusion, we hope that the Juniors and Seniors will do their best in the cross-country race, the swimming and athletic sports, and on the cricket field in the coming part of the year.

#### RED HOUSE.

Our greatest success in the School Year 1938-9 was in the Swimming Sports in which, chiefly owing to the efforts of Pepper and the Juniors, we won the House Championship. We should, however, have liked to see more certificates gained by the members of Red House.

In the Cricket Competition we gained an easy victory over Green House, A. Naylor bowling very well. Despite his good bowling, however, we were unexpectedly defeated in the final round by Blue House, whom we congratulate on this success.

We have made a good start in the 1939-40 year, for our Senior XV, ably led by Pepper, defeated Green House and Blue House. Our Junior XV was, perhaps, unlucky to lose by a penalty goal in the last minute when playing Yellow House, but they gained a victory over Blue House.

We take this opportunity to urge all members of the House to give it their best support in the Athletic Sports.

We regret the departure of Pepper and give him our good wishes. H. G. Willcock is our new captain. We have also, for the time at least, lost the services of Mr. F. Smith and Mr. E. A. Hutchinson, who are serving their country. We wish them success and a speedy return.

#### YELLOW HOUSE.

It is undoubtedly a cherished hope of every House to be able to present in each publication of the school magazine a record of prowess and achievement. Unfortunately Yellow House has little to render significant this present report.

We failed to win the Swimming Cup, gaining only second place, and the Cricket Cup likewise eluded our grasp. We heartily congratulate the victors on their success, however, whilst paying a particular tribute to the individual batting display provided by Blue House in their match against us.

Despite the adverse conditions which signalled the commencement of the term, the school has quickly settled down to normal routine, and our Rugby strength has already been tested both in Senior and Junior matches. Out of two matches played, the Seniors have won one and lost one. The Junior team has won the two games already played, and hopes to capture the Junior Championship.

The scholastic efforts of the House, though seldom mentioned, have, we hope, not been neglected, and we would like to take this opportunity of promoting the zeal of our new members in this connection.

In spite of our earlier failures, we hold bright hopes for the future, trusting that our efforts may not be entirely in vain.

#### OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

The Old Boys' Association has already been considerably affected by war-time conditions. Our oldest Old Boy is some years under thirty, so that the Association cannot be carried on during the War by members over military age, as is the case in similar organisations, connected with schools of older foundation. Much hard work has been done by loyal officials and members, many of whom are already serving with His Majesty's Forces, to bring the Association to its present position.

It is, therefore, of particular importance that the Association should not be allowed to languish in their absence, and those of us who are left behind should regard it as a duty to be able to show them on their return to civilian life that the position of the Association and its Clubs is at least as strong as when they went away.

The Committee considered certain suggestions in the Autumn of 1939, and these were submitted to the Annual General Meeting in January and approved.

Mr. T. E. Smith and Mr. G. E. Goodall have very kindly consented to act as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer in the absence of Mr. J. R. Green and Mr. G. Collis. The latter had acted as Treasurer for only a year, but gave every indication of being a worthy successor to Mr. H. T. Scothorne. Mr. Green had acted as Secretary for many years, and those of us who have had an opportunity to realise the extent and value of his services know how much the Association owes to him.

The Rugby Football Club, whose successes this season have given us all every reason for pride and satisfaction, is in a similar position. The Secretary, Mr. A. H. Smithurst, has been called up for military service, and the services of the Captain, Mr. H. D. Whitehead, who by this time must also hold all the other offices of the Club, are not likely to be available next season.

The Association has decided that Old Boys in the Services who were members, and who have paid their subscriptions up to the time of joining the Forces, may continue in membership without further payment until they return to civilian life. It is hoped that it will be possible to send each issue of the magazine to such members, and it will help the Association's Officials if all serving Old Boys will keep the secretary informed of their addresses.

The School and the Association are particularly anxious to have full information concerning the activities of all Old Boys in the Forces, whether they are members of the Association or not. This information should include number, if any, rank and full address. The Editor has been asked not to publish addresses of units, but the names of Old Boys serving in the Forces have been published elsewhere in this issue. It is hoped to make the list more comprehensive in future issues, but this cannot be done unless Old Boys will collaborate by sending their own addresses. The School can therefore act as a useful clearing-house for the exchange of letters by old school-friends, and Mr. Smith will be glad to forward addresses when requested to do so.

Finally, the Association and the School send their good wishes to all serving Old Boys, and earnestly hope for their safe return.

G.F.H.

## REPORT FOR 1939.

There has been a welcome increase in membership, but we cannot really consider 135 to be a satisfactory number, for the School has now been in existence for ten years and the old boys must number many hundreds.

Lighting and transport restrictions due to the War have led to the abandonment of the Badminton Club, but the Rugby Football Club has met with considerable success: two teams have played regularly and both have beaten strong opponents in nearly every match. The idea of an Old Boys' Cricket XI has been, for the present, abandoned.

Owing to the fact that every Henry Mellish Old Boy must be of military age it was decided in October that the affairs of the Association should be placed in the hands of members of the school staff.

On November 25th a supper was held at the Milton Restaurant and a most enjoyable evening resulted.

Our thanks are due to J. R. Green and G. Collis, both now with the Colours, whose services as secretary and treasurer were of immense value to the Association.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at the Albert Hotel on January 19th, 1940. The Headmaster was in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting and a report of the Association's activities during 1939 had been read, officials were elected. For the duration of the War the posts of Secretary and Treasurer will be filled by members of the School Staff, and Mr. T. E. Smith and Mr. G. E. Goodall were elected to these posts respectively. The six Committee members elected were: Messrs. S. Best, C. H. Eggleston, H. Everington, G. R. Otter, C. Stephenson and H. D. Whitehead.

It was decided that all Old Boys who at the time of joining His Majesty's Forces were members of the Association should continue in membership with full privileges without payment of fee, the Committee being empowered to see how long and how far this could be carried out according to the existing financial position of the Association.

## ANNUAL DINNER.

This followed the meeting and was, as usual, very enjoyable and almost entirely informal. The toast of "The School" was proposed by Mr. S. Best. The Head Prefect, G. B. Hardwick, responded. Mr. W. L. J. Pomfret then proposed "The Old Boys' Association", and the response was made by Mr. L. Morley. Two recitations by B. R. Green were much appreciated.

\* \* \* \* \*

W. Hayes (1931-39) won the Three Miles Race for Seniors and Freshmen at Oxford in November, 1939.

## OLD BOYS WITH THE COLOURS

(This list may be inaccurate and must be incomplete. Any further information for future publication will be welcome, and should be addressed to Mr. T. E. Smith at the School.)

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| V. L. Atkins, R.A.F.          | G. R. Ottey, R.H.A.                  |
| P. Attwood, R.E.              | F. J. Poole, Army.                   |
| E. Bacon, R.N.                | F. L. Pontin, R.A.S.C.               |
| H. Bratton, R.A.F.            | H. Quinney, Northants. Regt.         |
| L. P. Brownlow, R.E.          | G. Sharpe, R.A.F.                    |
| C. R. Burnell, R.H.A.         | H. Briggs, R.A.F.                    |
| F. Clarke, R.A.F.             | J. Stainforth, Army.                 |
| G. Clarke, R.E.               | A. H. Smithurst, Army.               |
| G. Collis, R.A.F.             | D. E. A. Raven, O.C.T.U.             |
| J. S. Crossland, R.A.F.       | W. Riley, Grenadier Guards.          |
| A. French, R.A.F.             | F. I. Rowe, R.A.F.                   |
| J. R. Green, Military Police. | B. R. Smith, R.H.A.                  |
| P. Lynam, R.A.F.              | O. Smith, R.E.                       |
| A. Stapleford, Army.          | L. Spolton, Air Ministry.            |
| A. K. Drury, R.A.F.           | K. W. Stone, Anti-Tank Regt.         |
| O. Walford, Anti-Tank Regt.   | K. H. Suggett, R.E.                  |
| W. G. Greenhalgh, R.A.C.      | C. F. Ursell, R.A.F.                 |
| H. S. Hancock, R.A.O.C.       | F. A. Wagstaff, R. Corps of Signals. |
| J. E. Hatherly, R.A.F.        | E. Wheldon, R.A.S.C.                 |
| D. Hodgkinson, R.A.F.         | R. Wilson, R.A.F.                    |
| J. B. Hogg, R.A.              | E. H. H. Sharpe, Army.               |
| R. Jephson, R.A.F.            | J. Hind, R.A.F.                      |
| J. Morgan, R.A.F.             | E. Horriben, Army.                   |
| T. Morley, R.A.F.             | K. Morecroft, R.A.F.                 |
| D. O. Buck, R.N.              | D. H. Otter, Army.                   |

## MY DIARY

I must confess, I am afraid, that the whole object of my keeping a diary is with a view to its being sold at Christie's as the original writing of a very famous man. All my entries, therefore, are supposed to show my opinions on current topics, my likes and dislikes, so that the world of to-morrow may read them and marvel.

By reading one day's entry, I can recognise my mood for that day, whether I was flippant or in a downright sullen temper. On the better days, my script is full of puns, jokes and such sentences as "When I

stooped to pick up the ball (purpose, therefore *ut plus subjunctive*)—.” The dull days are represented by rude remarks about the best-liked of friends, criticism of the most appetising dinners, and a damning of the very reasonable amount of homework.

By idly turning the pages, the casual observer can read my honest opinion of many good books—if I like an author’s work I am lavish in my praise; if not, I say that he has a poor style, or his plot is too unreal, although his novel has been acclaimed the year’s best. Among the distinguished authors’ names are those of P. C. Wren, Thomas Hardy and Benito Mussolini, but I am not influenced by a famous name. On one page of my diary I keep a list of books which I have read, and their quality is shown by various coloured inks. The highest honour that may be attained is a green mark: a mere black mark is awarded to a poor or indifferent author.

But the pleasure of a diary is afforded by its memories, which are many and varied, and leap out from their cloth graves when the reader opens the pages. Cherished memories of week-end hikes in the Peak District, or cycle rides under torturing sun or with blinding rain lashing my face. Memories of very hard-fought House matches on frost-bound grounds before the eyes of a master who violently disliked me, and earnestly hoped that I would be “downed,” and yet cheered me on because he happened to be in the same House.

I live again the well-spent hours on a hard court, or the evenings when I tried to calculate the parabola which the elusive celluloid ball would make, even before my opponent had struck it; the afternoons of school cricket matches beneath an indifferent sky with “an hour to play and the last man in . . . .,” or the hour spent in the saddle of an ancient motor-cycle, proceeding at a very fast pace along a bumpy and treacherous grass-track. A featherless, although almost full-grown, chicken struts out of the script, together with a very amusing master who was considered silly by my form, yet bore my label of “a good fellow, really (!),” and a pet hedgehog, long dead.

When I am older I hope to look back upon ambitions in print, which have now been attained in practice, and laugh at my present doubts. I shall see boys as boys, not as respected, peaceful citizens, the headmasters as junior masters at School, the County cricketers and footballers as “the First Eleven or Fifteen,” and the dead as living and popular boys, full of enthusiasm, energy and life.

Yes, in the minutes spent with my diary I live again the hours of work and play, and all that is good to remember of my past life.

J.H., 4A.

July 1939.

## THE VILLAGE POLICEMAN

With his truncheon for his sceptre and his helmet for his crown, the village policeman is like a king in a very small country. When he is wearing his uniform he is viewed with awe by the children of the village, and with respect by the older inhabitants, but when off duty and with his friends in the local inn, he unbends and becomes just another jovial yokel, drinking his beer and exchanging jokes.

Power is reflected in every part of his uniform—his ornamented helmet, his white gloves, his silver buttons, his heavy boots, even the way in which he stands.

Yet beneath all this outward kingly appearance lies a spirit of good nature. It can be seen in his laughing blue eyes or in his rotund stocky figure. He has a round face with a ruddy complexion, a rather large broad nose, and his whole appearance is that of a domestic dog—kindly and affectionate to his friends, but with a very fierce side to his character for his enemies, who happily are few.

When the children leave school he is waiting to guide them safely across the "main" road, which is not marked on ordinary maps and is much smaller than the secondary roads which are marked. He is the friend of all small helpless things, animals and children alike, and if they need his help he is always there, ready to do his best for them. He has a forgiving spirit for adventurous boys who have climbed over fences to retrieve balls, and have been unable to return. However, if there is need, he can reprimand severely enough to prevent the culprit from offending again. Occasionally, more serious offences are committed, but these are rarely more serious than poaching.

Every week he makes out a written report, which he delivers to his "headquarters" a few miles from the village. If anything untoward happens, he has to inform his superior officer as quickly as possible. Nowadays most villages in England have at least one telephone, and if the village does possess one, the policeman need not waste time going to "headquarters."

Every Saturday evening he delivers his report. On cold winter evenings, he rides home as quickly as is consistent with safety to the warmth of a blazing fire in the local inn or his own house. In summer, however, he takes his time and slowly pushes his cycle towards his village in the gathering dusk. Above him the bats are flitting with tireless wings and high-pitched squeaks. Away in the distance calls the owl, a long-drawn-out hoot telling all mice and small animals that their great enemy, the wise bird of the night, is about to start his hunt. A little way ahead of the village policeman, a small nocturnal animal runs across the path, quickly followed by two young ones. All these

sights and sounds the village policeman loves, because he looks upon them as those of his own subjects, for he is a king. He goes into the inn, leaving his cycle outside. He has a drink, exchanges a few words with the people inside and then comes out again. A little way down the road he turns in at a gate. He opens the front door of his little house, pauses awhile in the silence of the night and then disappears inside, and "leaves the world to darkness and to me."

D.B.L., 4A.

July 1939.

## MAPS

Maps are inventions of the Devil, designed to lead astray any unwary wayfarer who chances to rely on them. Maps may be divided into two classes, political and tourist, but all maps possess in common the property of vivid contrasting colours. Owing to the Rome-Berlin Axis, portions of the colours on all but the latest political maps require changing. It is unlikely that this change will be brought about, as political maps are contained in atlases, most of which belong to schools—and no combination of power known could induce a school to change anything.

The political maps which do not require changing are those published by the daily papers to show their idea of the world at present. (Coloured edition sent post free on request to regular readers. Coupon on back page.) These maps are either disregarded or cut out and put in a safe place for future reference. When that times comes their hiding-place cannot be discovered, and the atlas has to be turned up.

Besides political maps atlases contain maps showing climate, population, occupations, religious and, most useless of all, maps of the world spread over ellipses, semi-circles, cones and almost every geometrical figure known. In addition to this selection there accumulates in every school atlas, as it is handed down from year to year, a wealth of papers concerning every subject but geography, with the exception of an occasional sketch-map. A sketch-map is a copy of a geography master's idea of what the features of a country should be. An essential feature is that there should be scrawled all over the paper, in the brightest colours obtainable, the fables commanded by the geography master. The positions of towns, mountains and rivers may be contradicted by the atlas, but no matter; the geography master is God in his own classroom.

The colour of the home-made article, the sketch-map, cannot be compared with the garish tints of tourist maps, especially those with changing shades for changing heights. Besides their colour, tourist maps have many other defects. This is not entirely the fault of the publisher. Maps are usually out of date, even old, since no one ever considers buying a new map. Maps are borrowed from neighbours or found in the tool-box of a second-hand car. This time-lag results in

footpaths which were closed years ago being marked as public by-ways. However, there are defects which cannot be blamed on time. Names of towns may be far from their correct places, and then they are accorded to some feature of the country in which they have been placed. Every map is provided with a key. This is for the amusement of geography masters and boy scouts only. The objects in the key are rarely inserted on the map. The subtle differences between metalled and unmetalled roads, single track and double track railways, are disregarded on the map itself and no one cares, or even notices the differences. However, they provide an excuse for the publisher to put more colour on the map.

There are other useless features on a tourist map. Every map is divided into squares by a grid, and a system of letters and numbers is used to name the squares. This is copied from the maps of His Majesty's Forces and no civilian would consider using the system. At the side of the map are the points of the compass with the magnetic variation. This is useless, as few travellers carry compasses, let alone think of using them, and the people who do use them know the variation by heart.

Let us imagine a solitary traveller who has planned to walk between two points with the aid of a map. Foiled by closed footpaths, misled by wrongly placed names, puzzled by signposts contradicting his map, deluded by the scale of the map, having mistaken a contour line for a footpath and spent hours looking for it, he finishes at a most uncomfortable village inn miles from his destination, where he can gaze thoughtfully at the footnote requesting that any corrections should be forwarded to the publishers. After such an experience he is left with a firm conviction that unless one is accompanied by a reliable guide, one can only get from A to B by train.

If the reader has been given the idea that a map is the most useless article invented, let me hasten to dispel this fallacy. The violent colour scheme of maps can be used to advantage as an advertising medium, when it attracts rather than repels attention. Its attraction may be compared with the attraction of the Chamber of Horrors or a Frankenstein picture. When burnt, a map can produce a smell twice as pungent as a burning bootlace, and if used sparingly it will keep the children amused for hours. Maps provide a pleasant change from newspapers when used as tablecloths, although there is the snag that one is apt to mistake a verdant valley for a piece of cabbage, or a winding river for something that might have just crawled out of the cabbage. Cyclists find maps useful for wrapping their tools and lunch in. Again there is a snag. The stains from the oil and fish-paste only add to the glorious confusion of colour and make the map, as a map, still less useful. Thus it can be seen that to use a map for any useful purpose is liable to bring disaster and that a map is a dangerous object, bringing only remorse to its users.

P.I., 5B.  
July 1939.

## OUR ERUDITE FOURTH FORM

(Believe it or not, this is a genuine letter : only the address has been altered. Editor.)

“ Myholme,”  
The Avenue,  
Beeston.  
11.1.40.

Dear Harry,

You really must try to get down here next week. We are having a marvellous time. Yesterday we had our first fall of snow this year. When I awoke (which was a wonder) I could scarcely believe my eyes, but, having once heard that seeing is believing, I decided that snow lay on the ground. Snow ! What is the dictionary definition ? Ah ! I remember—“ Light white flakes in which frozen vapour falls to the earth.” What an apt description ! To think that, for every breath I exhaled, down came a “ light white flake ” of the substance which our forbears decided to call “ snow.” To think that all that day, pausing only to consume with great avidity the frugal meal which lay before us (you see we started rationing on Monday) we gambolled in the breath we had gladly given up the day before. What was it someone said ? “ Cast your breath upon the waters and it shall return to you after many days.”

In the morning we hauled out our sledge and spent the morning racing down the nearest hill. Jim Blitherway, the cop’s son, brought out his sledge and won nearly all the races by reason of a “ rammer ” on the front of the sledge, which caused everyone to move out of his way. On his last trip down he ran off the side of the track and gained an intimate knowledge of the workings under a lorry, which could not tackle the gradient in the snow. Approximately half-an-hour later he gained an equally intimate knowledge of the instruments used to mend a fractured leg. Now sledging has been banned as dangerous, but do come over and see us, and we shall have lots of fun all the same.

I am yours sincerely,  
JOHN.

## SPOTLIGHT ON WAR

(By Our Diplomatic Correspondent.)

“ Germany calling ! Germany calling ! Here are the ReichsSender, Hambour-r-rsh, Station Braymen and Station D.J.A. on the thirty-one metre band.” Quite correct ! It’s the Clown of Zeesen, the celebrated “ Lord Haw-Haw.” In film talk, this man would be described as “ box-office,” because he is a favourite with English listeners. Radio comedians come and go, but “ Haw-Haw,” the professional liar, goes on for ever. I shall expect him to tell us one of these days,

in his serious monotone, that German U-boats have sunk the "May-flower" or the "Victory," or some prehistoric ship; he may even say to us: "Now, British listeners, ask yourselves, 'Where is England?' You know, it will take more than Scotland Yard to find that little old country of yours." And so he goes on, probably believing that he is really speaking the truth.

We really shouldn't blame *him*. The man who digs up this propaganda—vulgarily called "lies" by non-appreciative English listeners—is Dr. Josef Goebbels. They say that if he ever spoke the truth, he would probably blush with shame, beg your pardon, and carry on speaking in his natural way.

\* \* \* \* \*

So much for German propaganda. Then we come to the British Expeditionary Force in France. I hear they want ENTERTAINMENT over there. It's a pity that we can't send HITLER. So "that man" had to creep into this page after all! When we utter his name we think of the toothbrush moustache and the length of his hair on one side of his face. I often wonder how many cartoonists would lose their jobs if, one morning, he decided to shave around his mouth and take his hair back.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another cartoonist's delight is the great Field-Marshal Goering, whose medals are said to attract neutral shipping better than do magnetic mines. Stalin is also "meat" for the caricaturist. He looks smart in a bear-skin and high top-boots.

\* \* \* \* \*

And here's a spy story. Our special correspondent this morning interviewed a dark lady, who was very indignant when he disbelieved her story that she was a spy. This is how the interview went:—

Special Correspondent: What are your intentions, then, in England, Mademoiselle Horsetroff?

Mlle. H.: Aha! I am to discover the whereabouts of Germany's chief menace—the 'Enery Mellish School. I have a new type of bomb which will blow ze school—how you say?—into leetle pieces!

S.C. (suspiciously): If only I were a policeman, I would arrest you. But, alack-a-day! I can only follow my father's advice to "beware of women."

This concluded the interview, but you see the idea? The words, "Don't talk in the corridors," used so often by masters and prefects, are now obviously words of wisdom. Your schoolmate may be a spy. He may even want to blow the school into "leetle pieces!" Oh, I forgot—is there a boy who doesn't? Anyway, one of the reasons that the school is still carrying on despite the strain of war, is that our special correspondent, though sorely tempted, remained DUMB in the hour of danger, and did not betray our position to the enemy.

## CURTAIN.

\* \* \* \* \*

And now, the "latest" red-hot news:—

Russia has declared war on Finland!

Churchill has called Hitler a "Hun"!

Charlie Chaplin is featured in the new film, "The Dictator." The Dictator whom he impersonates is Charlie's double: I can't quite think of his name. Can you guess?

Japan has declared war on Russia—oh, so sorry! Russia can't be in two wars at once. I probably meant that the Crimean War has just begun.

\* \* \* \* \*

You have been very lucky to receive these last items of news before the rest of the world. They are real "Stop Press" items; and finally, we'll tell you something that really will surprise you: it is a genuine PREDICTION BY "HOROSCOPIC"—

There WILL be snow in Bulwell!

D.R.B.

## MIXED HOWLERS

The noble lord, when giving large sums to charity, always wished to remain unanimous.

Affluence is the opposite to influence.

The man received a reprisal for saving the boy's life.

The Kaiser was sent into jeopardy after the Great War.

Germany entailed Austria in the Reich in 1938.

Many English words are derided from Latin.

The statement that I was dead was lucrative.

The idea of a good tea is amenable to me.

His speech, though clever, was not affluent.

The jury was jeopardised in favour of the accused.

The usual prerogative before starting an exam is to write your name on the paper.

Hardworked schoolboys are latent in their habits.

Rowdiness affluences a schoolboy's report.

The Master reprisaled his boys with a slipper.

Ronald was at times latent, drowsy and idle.  
 A lethargy is a short poem.  
 I took the prerogative in the conversation.  
 Tom's air was amenable as he shook hands.  
 I am amenable to good cakes.  
 Saul was perhaps the most scrupulous Christian-killer in the Old Testament.

He spun the coin—il filait la monnaie.  
 The bowler was carried forward by his ultimatum and fell on his face.

The pressure of the stratagem was too great for human lungs.  
 The stratagem in which we live is in an upheaval.  
 The balloon ascended into the stratagem.  
 The man strode forth, full of deficiency.  
 I know the resolution to the problem.

Collective nouns : a nest, a bevy, a migration, a string or a shoot of partridges : a theatre, a stage, a crowd or a flock of actors : a catch of herrings : a squall of whales.

A young swan is known (to the Second Form only, we expect. Editor) as a swanling, a duck, a pullet, a giglet, a signet or a singlet.

## THE SPIDERS

(*with apologies to Wordsworth*).

I wandered lonely, feeling hot,  
 On Lakeland rocks that barked my shins,  
 When all at once I saw—guess what—  
 A family of spiderkins.  
 Beside my foot—I could not pass—  
 Climbing and chasing in the grass.

The mother spider watched, but they  
 Ne'er thought on her, nor stopped until,  
 Shaking with sudden fright, away  
 They ran—for with me o'er that hill  
 I danger brought, but little thought  
 That I should spoil those spider's sport.

And oft, when on a summer's day  
 With brimming bags of spider's food,  
 I chance to pass down spider-way  
 And watch with joy that happy brood  
 —'Tis then my heart with pleasure spins,  
 And scampers with my spiderkins.

D.H.L.

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