



The School Magazine

OF THE

MAIDSTONE
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL.

Vol. XII. No. 34.
December, 1942.

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MAIDSTONE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

Vol. XII. No. 34.

December, 1942.

Eighth number of the School Magazine to be published during the war.

“In the lexicon of youth, which fate reserves
For a bright manhood, there is no such word
As—fail.”

From Lytton's 'Richelieu.'

SCHOOL HISTORY.

Owing to present conditions the publication of the magazine is somewhat irregular and it is impossible to give the usual extended school calendar.

The following pupils have been admitted during the last four terms:—Christmas Term, 1941, M. J. Turrell, B. F. Hopkins, B. F. Ashby, F. H. D. Brasington, W. S. Burrows, (re-admission), D. N. M. Lumsden, (re-admission), A. J. K. Reed, W. A. Stigle, B. T. Phillpott, D. W. Rose, D. N. L. Bates, P. E. Darby, G. V. Russell, P. R. Vallack, A. E. Holmes, S. D. Grant, V. A. Bird, R. E. Bird, D. Sorrell, G. Sorrell, B. M. Goss, R. Bridger, R. Bolton, D. A. Huntley

Easter Term, 1942. L. Y. Wickens, R. G. Wickens, J. E. Viner, R. Robertson, A. C. Phillips, G. H. Older, J. A. Baker, P. F. Caporn, R. T. M. Filmer, R. F. Brewer, R. A. Still, A. H. Still, B. I. Johnson, R. Foreman, (re-admission),

Summer Term, 1942. L. E. Town, J. K. Mudd, T. E. Grice, A. G. Monckton, P. Hansen, N. Hansen, J. E. Carter, D. J. Benton, M. E. Hicken, S. A. Swatton, J. Brown, J. Fowler, K. E. Turner, J. W. Ross.

Christmas Term, 1942. P. J. R. Burrows, T. B. M. Spooner, J. H. Topley, A. W. Topley, A. R. Crouch, J. A. Avar, D. G. Avar, F. Goodhew, P. J. Lewin, M. K. Turk, A. J. G. Moore, C. T. West, J. Grigsby, R. A. Hartup, G. H. Letham, D. M. Skinner, R. L. G. Westacott, B. B. Payne, J. C. T. Page, P. Foster, H. L. Swaffer, G. Wilton, D. M. Finn, G. C. Evans, R. E. G. Skinner, C. S. Anscombe, J. F. Ryder, R. D. King, L. M. Thirkell, H. D. Budge, B. A. C. Dane, M. J. Taylor.

Since our last issue the following boys have left school. The references are the length of time at school and the position accepted on leaving.

L. W. Walker, 8 years. Messrs. Laurence, Wholesale Grocers,
R. C. Marshall, 6 years. Engineering.
P. N. Smith, 5 years. Welfare Dept., A.P.M.
P. J. King, 4 years. Messrs. Harnett, Nurserymen.
A. K. Martin, 4 years. Police.
B. D. C. Mills, 3 years. R.A.F.
A. Sheldon, 3 years. A.P.M.
J. S. Gibson, 2 years. Building Trade.
I. J. C. Usher, 3 years. County Hall.
L. T. Lederer, 3 years, Regent Street Polytechnic (reading for Engineering Degree).
R. E. Ferrett, 2 years. Farming.
V. A. Harrison, 2 years. Messrs. Weeks, Engineers.
D. E. Richardson, 2 years. Building Trade.

The Boys who had not completed 2 years at school are not included as several were temporary admissions due to war changes.

During the year we have heard with deep regret of the loss of five more of our Old Boys on active service. They are Arthur Berry, R.A.F. Rowland Randall, R.A.F. Fred Harman. Harold Bradford and Roy Norley.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

Since our last issue we have a gratifying list of successes to record. The 3 Honours Certificates and the 7 Distinctions obtained at the December College are evidence of the hard work put in by both staff and pupils of the Upper School.

London Matriculation.

T. F. Lederer. Pass. (English, Mathematics, German, Physics, and Geography).

College of Preceptors. Senior.

T. F. Lederer. Honours, 11 subjects. Distinctions in English, Geography, German.

Junior: R. J. Knight. Honours. 9 subjects. Distinctions in Arithmetic, Geography.

J. S. Gibson, Pass. 5 subjects.

Preliminary. W. A. Gibbons, Honours, 8 subjects. Distinction in Arithmetic (100 %).

C. A. Davis. Pass. 7 subjects, Distinction in Arithmetic.

B. S. Fernig. Pass. in 7 subjects.

D. J. Finn. Pass. in 6 subjects.

B. M. Fletcher. Pass. in 6 subjects.

P. S. King. Pass. in 5 subjects.

London Chamber of Commerce. Handwriting Certificates.

R. J. Knight, T. R. F. Budge, D. E. Richardson, A. J. King, W. J. Solly, B. M. Fletcher.

Pitman's Typewriting Certificates.

T. M. Moore, W. A. Gibbons, B. M. Fletcher.

Associated Board of Music.

D. W. Rose. (Piano, grade II).

Mr. C. L. Howard joined the staff last January and has given material assistance with the work of the 4th, 5th and 6th forms. His physical training work has been much appreciated as well as his interest in the games. At Easter we welcomed Miss Newman to take charge of the 3rd form in place of Mr. John whose health had broken down. Miss Newman has also taken charge of the French and proved herself very popular. Owing to the increase in numbers it has been necessary to increase the staff still further and this term we have had Miss O'Boy with us who is responsible for boys between the Preparatory and the Third Form.

During the present stress we have been fortunate in obtaining qualified and capable staff and we trust the association will be long and pleasant.

A further change has been the introduction of a new house—St. Nicholas—of which N. Swan becomes Captain and A. Phillips Vice-Captain. The house consists almost entirely of the new boys and promises to achieve considerable success.

We have been very gratified at the response of the School to our War Savings Campaign. Our termly totals have been as follows:—

Summer term, 1941. £49/3/0; Christmas term, 1941, £61/7/5; Easter term, 1942, £64/6/11, and Summer term, 1942, £96/8/3. Special efforts were made in November for War Weapons Week and we realised £42/11/5. This was altogether eclipsed by the Warship Week in March when we raised the magnificent total of £275/1/10. We wish to point out that parents can join the School group and we shall be glad to have more on the list. All you need to do is to send in your money every Monday morning when the stamps and certificates will then be issued.

Our regular box collections have continued and have realised £1/17/8 for West Kent Hospital; £1/7/7 for the R.S.P.C.A.; £1/7/0 for Poppy Day; 8/2 for Waifs and Strays, and 4/- for seals for Tuberculosis Fund. Our best thanks to the boys who have undertaken this useful job of collecting.

We have just received the news that Mr. Williams has completed his B.Sc. (Economics) degree, passing with 2nd class Honours. Hearty congratulations! Mr. Williams has done the whole of his academic work since his connection with Maidstone in 1932.

On July 16th three parties of the Upper and Middle School paid visits to the exhibition of Modern Paintings by British Artists. The pictures were explained by the lady lecturer but even so opinions were sharply divided upon the merits or demerits of certain pictures.

Miss Ramsbotham paid us a visit on behalf of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. She gave an interesting address illustrated by lantern slides. We have also heard an instructive talk by Inspector Rose of the R.S.P.C.A. which aroused great interest and enthusiasm especially among the animal lovers.

During the Summer, Mrs. Piper has continued the Gardening Classes, and a number of boys have voluntarily spent extra time on this activity.

Visitors to the meadow during break and dinner-hour this summer may have been surprised at the unusual jargon of the boys playing there. It has been just the enthusiasm for baseball which, under Mr. Howard's instruction, has become a very popular game.

The Fourth Form have much enjoyed the "Speech" lessons. Selected boys are allowed 3 minutes to deliver a speech on any subject they like and the class vote which is the best. This has been varied by an occasional Brains Trust and the class have fired some posers at our Joads and Campbells.

ATHLETICS.

CRICKET.

Owing to adverse weather our fixtures started rather later than usual.

CRITICISMS OF THE TEAM.

- B. Fernig (Capt.) An able Captain and capable leader. Is an excellent fielder and bowler.
- W. N. Swan (vice-Capt.). A good opening batsman, change bowler and fielder.
- G. C. Cheeseman. A smart fielder and slow change bowler.
- D. Finn. A reliable fast bowler.
- T. Budge. A capable wicket keeper, but batting needs attention.
- P. Viner. Shows an allround improvement on last season.
- E. Howard. A good fielder but needs batting experience.
- R. Filmer. A steady batsman but needs fielding practice.
- N. Harrison. A hard hitter but some strokes are rather unorthodox.
- A. Bird. A capable member but needs experience.
- B. Hopkins. A very keen player.
- R. Knight. Has done excellent work as scorer and secretary.
- W. Gibbons. A valuable assistant secretary.

HOUSE MATCHES.

- St. Augustine's 54 (G. Cheeseman 13) (Howard 3 for 3) v. School 17 (Howard 5) (Cheeseman 5 for 5).
- St. Peter's 71 for 6 declared (Richardson 20 not out) (King 1 for 2), v. School 23 (Phillips 8) (Finn 5 for 4).
- St. Peter's 23, (Hopkins 7) (G. Cheeseman 6 for 9), v. St. Augustine's 43 (Fernig 22) (Hopkins 7 for 15).
- St. Augustine's hold the Cricket Cup.

Results of the School Matches for the Season.

- 5th June, v. Teston Boys, away. Lost by 36 runs. School 6, Teston Boys 40 (G. Cheeseman 2 for 5).
17th June, v. 1049 Squadron A.T.C., home. Lost by 42 runs. School 12 (Cheeseman 4) A.T.C. 54 (Westover 7 for 22).
23rd June v. Old Boys, home. Lost by 26 runs. School 21, (Fernig 7). Old Boys 47 (Finn 4 for 10).
26th June, v. Teston Boys, away. Won by 1 wicket. School 29 for 9 dec. (Bird 9). Teston Boys, 20 (G. Cheeseman, 2 for 0).
3rd July, v. Teston Boys, home. Won by 3 runs. School 23 and 28 (Budge 4). Teston Boys 16 and 32. (Fernig 3 for 4)
8th July, v. 1049 Squadron A.T.C. away. Lost by 38 runs. School 64 (Westover 18). A.T.C. 102 Thirkell 5 for 24).
July, v. Old Boys, home. Old Boys won.

We welcomed the assistance of several Old Boys against the A.T.C., especially Westover, Westbrook, and Thirkell. Mr. Williams was also able to assist us when duties permitted. We should also like to thank Mr. Piper and W. A. Gibbons for kindly acting as umpires.

B. Fernig, (Capt.).
N. Swan, (Vice-Capt.).
R. Knight, (Sec.).

FOOTBALL.

During the Easter Term the house matches resulted as under:—

- St. Peter's beat St. Augustine's, 1—0.
St. Peter's beat School, 5—0.
St. Augustine's beat School, 12—0.

During the Christmas Term:—

- St. Augustine's beat St. Peter's, 10—1
St. Nicholas beat School, 4—0.
St. Peter's beat School, 4—0.
St. Nicholas beat St. Augustine's, 2—1.
St. Nicholas beat St. Peter, 5—0.
St. Augustine beat School, 8—0.

SWIMMING.

Under the supervision of Mr. Howard, the swimming during the past term has been well attended. Even one or two members of the Preparatory School were seen in the baths.

The following boys have obtained badges:—B. Hopkins, R.

Barham, A. Phillips, J. Viner, and D. Bates.

The races, which were held on July 13th, included a new race for the Senior Cup, namely, an Endurance Race.

The Spurt was won by R. Marshall, with B. Hopkins second, and P. Wilcox a close third.

The Endurance was swum over five lengths and R. Marshall again secured first place. E. Howard was second, and B. Hopkin third.

On these results R. Marshall receives the Senior Cup.

The Junior Race was won by M. Turrell, who swam splendidly, D. Gibbons came second, with J. Taylor third.

TENNIS.

Tennis was rather late starting this season, owing to the adverse weather conditions, but some enjoyable sets have been played and the new members have proved themselves useful players.

House Cup:

St. Peter's beat School, 6—3.

St. Augustine's beat St Peter's, 6—3.

St. Augustine's v. School (resigned).

St. Augustine's hold the Cup.

Individual Cup.

1st Round. Wilcox beat Knight, (6—1). Bird beat Cheeseman, (6—5). Finn beat Fletcher, (6—2). Fernig v. Metcalf (resigned). Richardson bye.

2nd Round. Bird beat Richardson, (6—1). Finn beat Wilcox, (6—4). Fernig, bye.

Semi-Final. Fernig beat Bird, (6—4). Finn, bye.

Final. Finn beat Fernig, (14—12). This was a very good game as the two opponents were well matched.

G. Cheeseman, Hon. Sec.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY.

Again this year the sports were held as an evening event and the large attendance of parents and friends proved the popularity of this arrangement. In spite of being the festival of St. Swithin, 15th July, fine weather favoured the meeting and several records were broken. The usual array of prizes was considerably shrunken but the war-time patriotic substitution of Savings Stamps for prizes gave great satisfaction to the competitors and met with the approval of everyone. The Athletic Ground is an ideal setting for these events and the only flaw in the evening was the temporary suspension, owing to a technical hitch, of the music from the loud speaker. Mrs. Piper kindly distributed the prizes and the event terminated with the customary cheers.

The results were as follows:—

Event.	Class.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
220 yards.	I.B. Fernig.	G. Cheeseman.	T. Budge.	
220 yards.	II.D. Goble.	R. Barham.	B. Goss.	
220 yards. III & IV.	A. Phillips.	M. Smith.	D. Bates.	
3-legged.	I & II.E. Howard.	B. Johnson.	R. Knight.	
	B. Fernig.	A. Phillips.	G. Wilkinson.	
3-legged.	III & IV.C. Craig.	B. Gray.	J. Ross.	
	D. Swan.	M. Turrell.	J. Viner.	
High Jump.	I.B. Fernig & P. Wilcox. (tie).	G. Cheeseman.	G. Cheeseman.	
High Jump.	II.R. Barham.	P. Viner.		
High Jump.	III.A. Phillips.	D. Bates.	P. Bolas.	
High Jump.	IV.J. Ross.	W. Burrows & W. Manchett. (tie).		
Egg & Spoon.	I.N. Walker.	B. Johnson.	R. Marshall.	
Egg & Spoon.	II.R. Barham.	P. Viner.	P. Stearn.	
Egg & Spoon.	III.C. Craig.	M. Smith. P. Bolas, & L. Leaver (tie).		
Egg & Spoon (Girls).	B. Gray.	L. Wickens.	M. Turrell.	
Egg & Spoon.	IV.W. Manchett.	P. Leaver.	P. Cheeseman.	
Egg & Spoon.	V.A. Still.	M. Mitchell.	D. Earl.	
Cricket Ball.	I.B. Fernig.	T. Budge.	D. Finn.	
Cricket Ball.	II.J. Solly.	P. Viner, R. Barham, & Metcalfe. (tie).		
Cricket Ball.	III.D. Bates.	A. Phillips.	C. Craig.	
Cricket Ball.	IV.A. Monckton	R. Hanson.	S. Reynaud.	
440 yards.	I.B. Fernig.	D. Ives.	T. Budge.	
440 yards. II, III, IV.	A. Phillips.	D. Bates.	W. Manchett.	
Long Jump.	I.B. Fernig.	P. Wilcox.	D. Finn.	
Long Jump.	II.B. Goss.	R. Barham.	P. Viner.	
Long Jump.	III.A. Phillips.	D. Bates.	J. Mudd.	
Long Jump.	IV.P. Cheeseman.	P. Vallock.	W. Monckton.	
60 yards.	V.M. Mitchell.	A. Holmes.	R. Brewer.	
80 yards.	V.M. Mitchell.	A. Holmes.	D. Earl.	
100 yards.	I.T. Budge.	B. Fernig.	S. Cheeseman.	
100 yards.	II.D. Goble.	R. Barham.	R. Goss.	
100 yards.	III.A. Phillips.	D. Bates.	C. Craig.	
100 yards. IV & V.	J. Ross, P. Cheeseman & P. Vallock (tie).	M. Mitchell.	M. Mitchell.	
Gents' Race.	Mr. Wilcox.	Mr. Ross.	Mr. E. Barham.	
Sack Race. I & II.	H. Metcalfe.	M. Sykes.	B. Ashby.	
Sack Race.	III.B. Baker.	M. Smith.	D. Swan.	
Sack Race. IV & V.	M. Mitchell.	A. Still.	W. Monckton.	
Ladies Race.	Mrs. Vallack.	Miss Bolas.	Miss Martin.	
Cycle Race.	I.R. Marshall.	B. Fernig.	G. Wilkinson.	
Cycle Race.	II.D. Goble.	A. Reed.	R. Barham.	
Cycle Race. III. & IV.	B. Baker.	D. Swan.	D. Lumsden.	
Potato.	I.N. Walker.	B. Fletcher.		
Potato.	II.A. Bird.	P. Stearn.	M. Sykes.	
Potato.	III.A. Phillips.	K. Cook.	D. Bates.	
Potato.	IV. & V.M. Mitchell.	P. Bolas.		
Girls' Race.	B. Fletcher.	B. Gray.		
Half-Mile.	I—IV.A. Phillips. D. Finn & R. Marshall (tie).			
Relay.	St. Augustine's	St. Peter's.	School.	
Tug of War.	Hopkin's Team.			
Consolation Race.	Town.	Philpott.	Filmer.	
Consolation Race. 2.	Bridger.	Still. R.	Burrows.	

SPORTS FUND BALANCE SHEET.

	Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	
Balance from 1941.		8	7	Hire of Ground	.....	2	2	0
Entrance Fees	3	16	9	Purchase of Prizes	.....	1	10	4
Donations	16	4	6	War Savings Stamps	.....	16	12	6
Surplus from Concert	2	7	4	Amplifier	.....	1	1	0
Deficit		3	2	Engraving	.....	1	4	0
					Secretary's Expenses	.....		10	6
		£23	0	4			£23	0	4

C. L. Howard. (Hon. Treas.).

DESK.

Old familiar desk, what are you?
 Probably to many men
 Worn-out woodwork bearing plainly
 Scars not shorn alone by pen.
 But to me your battered beauty
 Stands for more than tongue can say,
 Stands for more than words can utter
 Of a million-memored day.

I see you desk, an emblem of the years,
 Not mist-smear'd, age torn, but boy-surrounded,
 Jocund, noisy, laughing, their only fears
 The slightly nervous stance, the wheeling arm, the rounded
 Shining willow on the hissing ball, the speeding
 Leaping leather down the stretching causeway I can never
 Forget you, desk, who make me dream agen
 Old dreams fresh-born from dream congested days.....

I see once more the tape, the straining sprint,
 Old faces peering at me sharp as tin,
 Shakespeare rehearsals, grease-paint at school plays,
 Prizes, clapping, handshakes, checkboards, shouting,
 Lined drawings on the wall, lewd jokes, clean fun,
 The flirting schoolgirls and the summer outing,
 And, too, the quiet exam. room gold with sun.

R. Westbrook.

MYSTERIES OF MARS.

The planet Mars has presented many mysteries to the astronomical world. To the heathens it symbolized a god of war, huge in stature, whose sword was stained with the blood of his enemies while imaginative writers visualized its inhabitants as a weird industrious people, but the greatest mystery

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of Mars is whether or not this planet is inhabited. The facts which are known about Mars make it appear possible that it is so.

Mars has an atmosphere, which, although rarefied, contains the aqueous vapour so necessary to life. The markings observed on this body are green in summer, changing to russet-brown in its autumn; from this it can be assumed that it has some vegetation.

Mars has another feature in common with our troubled Earth, in that it possesses polar caps. These tracts of ice are less extensive than those of our own world; and they alter their shape in accordance with the Martian seasons.

The lines seen on this heavenly body, called 'canals,' have led to many suppositions. These canals are straight, are all about six miles wide, but vary from a few hundred to four thousand miles in length. It has been suggested that they are artificial, and made for the purpose of leading water from the melting polar caps through the Martian deserts. The reason given for this is, that as Mars has no mountains or clouds, there can be neither rain, nor rivers. The Martians must eat, and what is seen are not the actual canals, but strips of vegetation, which they liken to our Nile Valley.

There are others who say that these canals are only rifts, but this cannot be as they disappear in the winter; this fact fits in with the vegetation theory.

As to the inhabitants themselves, if any, there are but few people who have ventured to suppose anything. There is one theory that is certainly original, that of Professor Lowell. He was convinced that Mars is inhabited by intelligent beings, and likened them to the atomic theory in chemistry, for we cannot define either. We can no more say what an atom is like than who or what a Martian resembles.

As Science progresses, these mysteries are slowly being unravelled. When man contrives a telescope powerful enough to study Mars as we now study the Moon, doubtless its many problems will be solved, and when some genius invents a machine whereby man can visit Mars, then we can prove whether our theories are truth or 'moonshine,' and until an adventurer has made that journey, and returned to Mother Earth, Mars will remain shrouded in mystery.

W. Gibbons.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

ANNUAL CONCERT.

The Annual Concert and Prize-giving was held at the Corn Exchange on Tuesday, 12th May, before a packed audience. After a delightful piano solo by Miss Weedon, the School Choir sang four songs in fine style. Miss Weedon's Preparatory Form won great applause by their items of song, recitation and a short sketch. After D. Rose had given evidence of his ability at the piano, the Third Form, under Mrs. Piper's direction, gave an excellent performance of a historical sketch, "Lindsay's Escape," which had been specially written for this class. The Percussion Band treated us to four concerted numbers and bell solos by 3 performers, which elicited great applause and appreciation of their work.

Mr Williams gave us one of his familiar humorous monologues and Mr. Howard sang "Keep Right on to the End of the Road," Teddy Barham obliged with his accordion, all of these items proving very popular. The Fourth Form presented a play under the direction of Mr. Piper, entitled "Robin Hood," and the costumes and distinct diction showed how hard the boys had worked for its success. The Upper School held the audience with the ever-striking trial scene from the Merchant of Venice. The usual farce by the Upper boys concluded the show. This time a burlesque of the Magna Carta episode from "1066 and all that" was presented with great success.

The presentation of prizes followed a brief report of the year's working and prizes were awarded as follows:—

College of Preceptors. (see examination results in School Notes).

Form Prizes. V. G. C. Cheeseman. W. N. Swan.

Upper IV. T. R. Budge, M.A. Sykes, P. J. Viner, W. J. Solly.

Lower IV. N. C. Walker, D. G. Goble, D. G. Gibbons, A. E. Reed, R. E. Green.

Upper III. J. Gladdish, I. J. C. Usher, T. W. Marshall, J. Stearn.

Lower III. Peter Bolas, M. J. Turrell, J. Philpott, P. Vallock. **Exhibition Prizes.** (see special account).

Preparatory Prizes. Paul Bolas, D. Earl, P. Leaver, H. Raynaud, S. Raynaud, A. Barkaway, P. Chainey, P. Hendley, A. Wicken, A. Holmes, D. Huntley, M. Mitchell, D. Sorrell, G. Sorrell, R. Huckell, B. Gray, R. Bolton.

School Certificates. W. E. Tubb, R. Metcalfe, P. Darby, K. Cook, M. Smith, M. Suttaby, D. Rose, C. Craig.

Challenge Cups.

Junior Swimming. M. Suttaby.

Senior Swimming. R. Marshall.

Junior Victor Ludorum. B. Fernig.

Senior Victor Ludorum. W. Tubb.

Best Cricketer. B. Fernig.

Tennis Doubles. W. Fernig & P. Wilcox.

House Cricket. School. L. Walker, (Captain).

House Football. St. Peter, D. Finn (Captain).

House Sports. St. Augustine, G. Cheeseman (Captain).

House Chess. St. Peter. D. Finn (Captain).

Champion House. St. Peter, D. Finn (Captain).

Good Work in School. St. Peter, D. Finn (Captain).

Chess Tournament. T. F. Lederer.

Business Cup. R. J. Knight.

Captain's Challenge Cup. T. F. Lederer.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION, (1941).

The usual exhibition was held on Wednesday, 18th December, when the display of models and other work was inspected by a large gathering of visitors. Some excellent specimens of skill and industry were in evidence, and Mr. Cyril Day, who judged the model classes, gave some useful advice to the competitors.

The results in this section were:—

Working Models, 1, D. Goble (A.A. Unit). 2, J. Solly, (lorry).

Stationary Models. 1, B. Ashby, (lorry). 2, J. Taylor (tank)

3, J. Still (bus), and P. Stearn (fire engine) (tie).

Wood section. 1, P. Bolas (Cutty Sark), 2, J. Gibson (ships).

Metal section. 1, B. Hopkins (ring), 2, D. Ives (wireless set).

Junior School. 1, P. Leaver (plane), 2, D. Earl (house). 3,

P. Bolas. (birds).

Airplanes (A) 1, D. Gibbons, 2, N. Walker, 3, L. Leaver;

(B) 1, A. Reed, 2, A. Harrison, 3, B. Hopkins. The Girls

displayed needlework, which was judged by Mrs. H. Stearn, as

follows:—1, F. Piper, 2, B. Fletcher, 3, P. Sands. The Maps,

Drawings and Stamps were judged by Mr. A. M. Skeffington.

Maps: 1, A Bird, 2, P. Viner, 3, J. Stearn. Drawings: (A) 1, J. Gibson, 2, N. Walker, 3, M. Suttaby; (B) 1, B. Aslett, 2, R. Bridger, 3, P. Bolas. Stamps: 1, P. Wilcox, 2, P. King, 3, R. Knight.

CHESS.

Despite the fact that for the first time the Chess Club was without the able supervision of Mr. Williams, it can safely be said that, during the Easter Term, it enjoyed a very satisfactory season.

Talent was found in many of the new players, who will improve greatly by experience and we hope that the enthusiasm will be as great during the coming season.

It was noticed with deep regret, that a very small minority of the new members of the Upper School somehow secured a set of draughts. May we remind them that this game has no educational value, and should therefore be played out of school hours.

The House and Individual Cup Tournaments were held as usual. The results were as follows:—

House Tournament.

School, 30 pts., St. Augustine's 20 pts., St. Peter's, 10 pts.

INDIVIDUAL CHESS CUP.

Nearly all the class entered for this Tournament.

In the first round, N. Swan beat P. Stearn: D. Ives beat E. Howard; R. Knight beat J. Solly; G. Cheeseman beat D. Finn; W. Gibbons beat B. Fernig; T. Lederer beat T. Budge; L. Walker beat J. King; R. Ferritt beat D. Richardson.

Second Round.

W. Gibbons beat Ferritt; G. Cheeseman beat L. Walker; Lederer beat Knight; Ives beat Swan.

Semi-Final.

Lederer beat Cheeseman; Gibbons beat Ives.

Final.

T. Lederer beat W. Gibbons.

The victor won the Cup deservedly by winning two games out of three, the last of which was evenly contested. May I add personally that it was exceedingly strenuous.

W. Gibbons, Chess Secretary.

MOTHER.

She stood there holding the paper in her hand, every faculty except her brain powerless. She leaned slowly and lowered herself into a chair. Dumbly and like a trance the memories of years flooded into her. She sunk her head in her hands and cried and cried, why must he go, her son, she only had one son, he was her

life and her blood. What could she do without him. Existence was an empty bag holding no sweetness, no joy, and she wept, and felt the warmth of her tears on the table beneath.

She awakened as with an effort and for a moment all one could see were tired lips moving, nothing else. Then came the features, palely and impassively rising into the light. But God! how cruel and despairing were the lines around the mouth, how tumbled and passionate was the hair, and how uncontrolled those clenched hands. She was walking now and one could almost see the anger issuing from her lips, "Reported missing.....reported missing.....reported missing.....reported missing."

For days and weeks the words drummed out of her in symbolic eternity. She wept and cried, and beat upon locked doors. She would not stop, she could not stop. Always the same two words, the same piteous convulsion of hope. She was broken and desolate, sonless and godless.

She was mad.

R. Westbrook.

COURAGE.

The stokehold of the ship is dark, except for the glow from the windows of the oil furnaces. These consist of a nipple which sends a fine spray of oil under pressure into the blazing furnace, where the fire is kept going by the forced draught of steamdriven fans.

The stokers are walking about, peeping through the windows into the blazing flames, here and there regulating the amount of oil or the strength of the draught.

Suddenly comes the clang of the machine-telegraph from the bridge, and a minute later the chief-engineer orders full steam. The oil valves are opened wide and the fans revolve at top speed.

A storm is expected, and the captain wants full steam to keep the ship head on into the storm, to prevent her being driven off her course.

Suddenly there is a clatter and a shrieking, followed by the tearing sound of steel against steel and hiss of escaping steam.

One of the forced draught fans has broken and smashed up the whole battery. With a quick movement one of the stokers shuts off the steam which had driven the fans and silence reigns once more, only to be broken a moment later by a second crash and a long hiss.

The furnaces, robbed of the forced draught have forced the furnace doors open and backfired in ten-foot-long flames, shooting into the stokehold, and the flames lick around two of the stokers who are burned to cinders, while the others escape into the engineroom.

The fans have to be repaired quickly, but no-one can reach them, without crossing the stokehold, which is now a raging inferno. To put the flames out they have to be robbed of their fuel. But the main oilcock is also situated in the stokehold.

The bridge rings down to say, that, if no steam is available in half an hour, there will be little chance of getting the ship through the storm.

At that point one of the engineers volunteers to try the passage of the stokehold and to shut off the main oilcock. He has noticed that, if there is no draught, the flames shoot across the stokehold about a foot above the floor. He intends to crawl underneath the flames to the cock, well knowing that his chances of reaching it are about one in ten.

That is courage, the taking of a desperate chance well knowing the risk, but taking it to save his comrades and the ship.

As it happens the engineer reaches the oilcock safely, with some difficulty closes it and thus saves the ship, by enabling the fans to be repaired, steam got up, and the storm weathered.

T. F. Lederer.

LIFE ON THE RANGE.

I love the open range, the home of the gopher and the coyote, the jack-rabbit and the badger; the land of the rolling prairie, the riding ranch-hand and the bucking bronco; the land that knows no fog, where the air is crystal clear and the vision extends to the foothills of the Rockies fifty miles away, and beyond the foothills to the Rocky Mountains with snow-capped peaks sticking their heads into the thin air and reaching up twelve thousand feet and more.

This is the land where trees are few, rivers are scarce, grass is not fresh and green but dry and crisp and brown and dew never falls. This is the land of surprises— your night's rest will not be disturbed by the wailing siren but by the howling wolf, and boys and girls do not sing "Rain, rain go away," because rain is scarce and every good shower is termed a "million dollar rain."

Since the Canadians and the dough boys joined us in the big fight we hear such western songs as "Home, home on the Range," and "Deep in the heart of Texas." What kind of a home is this? what is the life of the man on the range?

The home is a little wooden shack with one or two bedrooms and one living room. The living room is also the kitchen and contains a cookstove! what a faithful friend this cookstove is! it keeps a fellow warm in winter when temperatures are sub-zero and freezing arctic winds blow and it is the means by which the principal instinct of man, the satisfaction of his appetite, is effected.

What an appetite one develops on the open range! what a whale of a lot of food is required to satisfy that appetite! Breakfast for instance consists of beef steak with fried potatoes and bread and butter or perhaps three fried eggs instead of beef steak, followed by Aunt Jemima pancakes with maple syrup. Cowboys seldom touch tea; the bushrangers and boundary riders of Australia love their tea brewed in the billycan under blue gums—the cowboys of Alberta and Wyoming and Texas drink coffee and they like plenty of cream with it. When a cowboy meets with a cowgirl he may say to her "You are the cream in my coffee." When a man says that on the open range he has said a mouthful. Of course the job is not all cream and coffee; there is hard work to do; dangerous situations arise; the life is a lonely one far removed from the everyday life of the dwellers in cities and towns.

The ranch hands love their horses and the horses respond to kindness by showing great devotion to their masters.

I knew a cowgirl whose horse was charged by an infuriated bull. The woman was thrown from her horse, but by skill and daring regained her seat and so saved her life: once she got hold of her stock whip she taught Mr. Bull the lesson of his life.

As I have said the prairie is the home of the gopher or prairie rat. This little fellow burrows into the ground and leaves an entrance hole which may be covered with grass. A galloping horse travelling at speed over the range may easily stumble into such a hole and not only break its leg but throw its rider. These holes along with the larger holes left by badgers, coyotes and jack-rabbits, have to be carefully avoided.

In the summer swarms of mosquitoes may drive the cattle mad and cause them to stampede; if the stampede is a serious one the cowboy can only stop it by riding ahead of the stampeding cattle and shooting the leaders. Once the leaders are shot the cattle will calm down.

I used to love the work of bronco-busting. A bronco may never have seen a man before; now he is faced with captivity and finds himself driven into a corral, then forced into a shute where for the first time in his life he is saddled and ridden by a man. As soon as the shute door opens he leaps out with a bound; he uses every ounce of his energy to throw the rider; he bucks,

he kicks, he stamps his forefeet in anger, he bites, he sidesteps, he gallops, then stops dead, and he succeeds. The rider is thrown but the saddle is still on him so he keeps on bucking and rolling on the ground until he is utterly exhausted.

In time he learns to submit to bit and bridle and instead of being a useless wild bronco he is a most useful and valuable animal.

The greatest event on the range is the annual roundup when steers are shipped to market and calves are branded with the ranch marks such as —U (Bar U) etc. That is a long story.

Canuck.

SEEING STARS.

It would require 3,000 quadrillion candles to give a light equal in power to the Sun and yet this is a mere glow-worm when compared with a star named Doradus which is 300,000 times brighter. As for size, our whole solar system could be put inside Betelgeuse which is 25 million times bigger than the sun and incidentally a thousand times lighter than air. Plaskett's Star is quite a powerful body, it radiates a mere 25,000 horse-power per sq. in. Mira Ceti holds a record for fluctuating, it can increase its brightness a thousand-fold in 5 months. A star called M.13., which is incidentally two and a half million times as bright as our sun, ought not to be difficult to be seen but the rays of light which it emitted just before 31,000 B.C. have only just reached us to-day; in other words it is 33,000 light years distant. One light-year means 6 billion miles, so that our puny imagination hardly conceives the distance of M. 13. Even so, astronomers have found stars, spirals and nebulae which are even beyond this, —distances too fantastic to be imagined.

Nightsky.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWS.

The Old Boys' Association is like all other associations nowadays, difficult to unify. We have had to eliminate many of our monthly meetings owing to A.T.C., A.R.P., etc., not forgetting that old humbug A.U.A. (Always Unfortunate Absenteeism).

Discussions at the meetings have been mainly tied up with (1) Election of new Officers due to recent call-ups. (2) Election of new members (and collection of their first subscription). (3) The Annual Dinner (before and afterwards), and (4) Sports activities.

Regarding Sports Activities. Last Season our Football Team finished third place in the Maidstone & District 17½ years and under league, out of seven teams which competed. At last you will notice that we have advanced from that habitual bottom place which we have occupied so many times before. A "Football Lament" written by the Secretary in the early defeatist days is as follows:—

"If the ball would come at call, and the backs didn't relax, and the rest did more than "best," and eleven men (not nine or ten) turned up to play, we'd win that day.—which is really quite practical.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting teams especially when A.T.C. matches have clashed with ours. Several of our best players dropped out of the team altogether in favour of the A.T.C. This to my mind was rather unfair. Several other teams felt this also and it really meant that local football was being seriously hampered.

No doubt the free bus rides to Chatham, Faversham, etc., attracted them, As I believe in getting the most out of the Government myself I shall refrain from giving any advice except to point out that hiring buses for such expeditions when Train or Bus Services could be used instead, is detrimental to the Nation's WAR EFFORT.

We played the traditional two Cricket matches against the School last Summer and, of course beat them.

R. W. Westbrook.

We have had many visits from O.B's on leave, and others as well. We glean the following news, Ralph Martin is still busy in the Pay Corps, Walter Beale is a sergeant in the R.A.M.C. in Northern Ireland, Dennis Bradley has been signalling on a hospital ship, Mr. Williams and his wife have paid visits. We are glad Mr. Bettle has recovered and expects to re-join his R.E. Unit in Ireland. Billy Tucker is in the R.A.F., Harry Hooker is in the A.A. and stationed less than 20 miles from home. Desmond Froud is in the R.A.O.C. Fred Vidler is on war work in the Tonbridge district, Bernard Finn has become Squadron Leader, Operations R.A.F. Colin Beale has joined the R.N. as a writer while Jimmy has obtained his commission and been off Egypt. Colin Bincham and Tim Tubb have called. Gordon Goodchild is still in the Signallers' Corps. Desmond Jones is on confidential work for the war-office, Kenneth Morgan is a prisoner in Italy, Graham Reynolds is temporarily at Chatham in the R.N.S.B., Dennis Smith has

returned from America and has his wings. Jesse Piper has been in India, Egypt and Iraq. Jack Woollard was rescued after 3 days in a dingy. Ray Rand has gone into the R.A.F., and wonders if he will be sent to Malta. Alan Baxter and Jack Elbourn have been hob-nobbing in Canada.

We shall appreciate news of other Old Boys and invite you to send us any items of interest which readers may have.

The subscriptions to the Magazine, remains at 2/6 for 3 issues and we urge all O.B.'s to keep in touch with the school by means of the Magazine. The O.B. membership subscription can be sent at the same time. All enquiries to Mr. Piper.

STOP PRESS.

The O.B. Dinner has been provisionally arranged for Saturday, 20th February, at 6.30 p.m. at the New Inn, price 4/- or 4/6.

We have just received the College of Preceptors Results for 1942, and are glad to say no candidate failed.

Senior Honours. R. J. Knight, 12 subjects. Distinction in History, Geography, and Arithmetic.

Senior Pass, B. J. Fernig, 11 subjects. W. A. Gibbons, 9 subjects. Distinction in Geography. G. C. Cheeseman, 9 subjects.

Junior Pass. D. G. Finn, 6 subjects. G. V. Wilkinson, 6 subjects. W. N. Swan, 6 subjects. E. J. Howard, 5 subjects.

Preliminary Honours. K. J. Mudd, 9 subjects. Distinction in Arithmetic.

Preliminary Pass. B. I. Johnson, 8 subjects. Distinction in Arithmetic. A. J. King, 7 subjects, Distinction in Arithmetic. B. D. Ives, 7 subjects, Distinction in Arithmetic.

R. B. H. Metcalfe, 7 subjects. W. J. Solly, 6 subjects. P. J. Viner, 6 subjects. M. A. Sykes, 5 subjects.

We also have the list of winners for the 1942 Exhibition but the list is rather too long for this issue.

This term's collections were:—Hospital, 9/6. R.S.P.C.A., £1/6/3. Waifs & Strays, £1/11/3. Armistice Poppies, 18/1. Seals, 10/-. Dr. Barnado's Homes, £8/14/10. Total Collections, £13/9/11.

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