



The School Magazine
OF THE
MAIDSTONE
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL.

Vol. VII. No. 20.
May ——— 1937.

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MAIDSTONE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

Vol. VII. No. 20.

May, 1937.

SCHOOL HISTORY.

The following is the School Calendar:—

Wednesday, 28th April.—Summer Term Begins.
Tuesday, 4th May.—Old Boys' Meeting.
Wednesday, 12th May to Wednesday, 19th May.—Coronation
and Whitsun Recess.
Tuesday, 1st June.—Old Boys' Meeting.
Monday, 14th June.—Half Term.
Tuesday, 29th June.—Old Boys' Meeting.
Wednesday, 14th July (Provisional).—Annual Athletic Sports.
Tuesday, 27th July.—Old Boys' Meeting.
Wednesday, 28th July.—End of Term.
Thursday, 16th September.—Christmas Term Begins.
Saturday, 18th December.—End of Term.

SALVETE.

The following new boys were admitted in January:—

No. 203. A. V. Smith, IVB. (St. Augustine's).
No. 204. B. F. A. Carlton, Prep. (St. Augustine's).
No. 205. R. G. Barham, Prep. (St. Augustine's).

VALETE.

Since our last issue M. Higgins has left us after nearly 5 years at school to enter the office of Messrs. Weeks and Son, Ltd., Agricultural Engineers.

J. H. E. Piper, who entered the school in 1930, has taken a post with Messrs. Dearle and Henderson, Quantity Surveyors.

P. J. Taylor, one year in the school, is leaving us to live in Shropshire.

Mary Heyes, one of the girls who came from Mount Pleasant School, has gone to the High School as she had reached our age limit for girls.

B. D. Beale, who has had three years with us, has accepted a position with the County Body Co., Ltd., Coach and Motor Body Builders.

May a prosperous career await all these pupils.

We hope to hold a school exhibition of work done by the Preparatory Department during the course of next term. Details will be available in due course, and we hope to welcome a large number of visitors. An opportunity of seeing some of the excellent work done by these pupils should not be overlooked; if the weather is favourable there will probably be an outdoor entertainment connected with the exhibition.

The School has been invited to contribute an item to the Pageant to be held next October on behalf of the Waifs and Strays Society.

We are indebted to Mr. G. Pound for the gift of over 100 volumes to the School Library, also to J. Elbourn, C. Bincham, G. Reynolds, R. Westbrook, and C. Larkin for other books. Boys can exchange books on Fridays at 4.0 p.m. The librarians are Bincham and Tucker. We have a selection of several hundred books of all descriptions.

An official from the National Savings Association visited us early during the term and addressed the School on that movement. As a result we have become an official branch of the Association, and about 30 boys are regularly depositing each week, Mr. E. G. A. Bettle has kindly undertaken the work of Hon. Secretary. We hope still more boys will join. We cannot imagine a more useful habit than regular saving.

As an experiment we have introduced some of the Broadcast lessons into the syllabus of the different classes where possible. These lessons have been much appreciated, and we hope to make them a regular feature.

While the flood water was at its height a number of boys enjoyed a run with Mr. Williams to the new locks at Allington, and were interested to compare the new with the old system of control.

The 3rd and 4th Forms enjoyed a visit to the Ritz Cinema to see a programme of films arranged by the Geographical Magazine called a Pageant of Travel. These included "Great Cargoes," "Land Builders," "Katmandu," and "Plantation People." This last, a technicolour film, was one of the best coloured films ever produced. The whole programme was very instructive, and shows the cinema at its best.

Collections have been made on behalf of the local hospitals, and the R.S.P.C.A. box contained at its last opening, 9/8.

We are again making arrangements for visits to the swimming baths during the summer months. We hope all boys who are fit will attend. The School pays for any boy who cares to learn, and awards a badge to those who can swim a length. If you cannot swim make up your mind to do so in the coming term.

The School Branch of the League of Nations' Union held a meeting during the term, and R. Rand was elected Secretary, and P. J. Taylor, Treasurer. A number of members are corresponding with boys in foreign countries. Mr. Piper gave a talk on Peace.

Owing to pressure of time we have only been able to have a few bouts of boxing, but arrangements will be made to continue for all those interested in this useful science.

We are very sorry to lose the services of Miss E. Flux, who has left us to take up an important position. Miss Flux has been responsible for the Book-Keeping in the Upper School, and has an enviable record of examination successes. We wish her all good luck in her new sphere of work.

The wholesalers have given us notice of a 10 per cent. increase in their prices. The School will not pass this charge on, but hopes that boys will see there is no waste in materials, particularly in paper.

The Annual Outing will take place on June 8th, and will be by special train to the afternoon show of the Aldershot Tattoo. Admission to the Tattoo will be free, and the fare will be, adults 6/-, children 3/3.

The great event of the Summer Term is the Sports Day in July. Last year it was most successful, and given a fine day we can promise an enjoyable time for competitors and spectators. The appeal for the Prize Fund will be issued shortly, and the Treasurer will be pleased to acknowledge donations and prizes which make it possible to hold a pleasurable meeting.

Two plays were given in All Saints' Church on March 18th, and were attended by a number of the older boys.

UPPER SCHOOL NOTES.

This term, being for most boys far from examinations, has allowed some latitude in the syllabus. An interesting innovation has been the keeping of "special study books," or scrap books. Each boy has selected some subject about which he is interested, and collected all the information he can by means of pictures, diagrams, etc. These are linked together by the pupil's own "write up." Mrs. Piper has kindly consented to judge the completed efforts at the beginning of term, and Mr. Williams has promised a small prize for the best attempt. A great deal of valuable information is thus gained by the pupil in an interesting manner.

We have again voted for mottoes, and those chosen during the term were: "From the lowest depth there is a path which leads to the loftiest heights." (Submitted by R. C. Ellison). and "Candour is the brightest gem of criticism." (Submitted by F. Betts).

The literature which will be studied during the year is as follows: Shakespeare's *Henry V.* and "*As You Like It*"; Reade's "*Cloister and the Hearth*," and Dicken's "*Christmas Carol*."

We learn that:

"Father is a relative pronoun"; and that:

"The chief reason against a Channel Tunnel is that the French would come over and corrupt our morals."

Several exam. boys and a few others accompanied Mr. Williams at the end of the term to see a performance of *Henry V.* The party left Maidstone early, and upon arrival in London spent the morning in the treasure houses of knowledge at South Kensington. Unfortunately the commercial sands section was closed at the Geological Museum, so that we were unable to see the silica specimen found and presented by the School. However, an enjoyable time was spent there and at the Science Museum. We were lucky here to see amongst other things the special Illumination Exhibition, and were allowed to switch on and off innumerable lights.

After lunch to the Old Vic. To some this was their first introduction to the historic theatre where Miss Lillian Baylis has presented Shakespeare and opera for many years in the face of much difficulty. It would be hard to imagine a finer production in speed, vigour and colour. The brilliancy of the settings was only exceeded by the magnificent acting, and Mr. Lawrence Olivier as *Henry V.* received a great ovation after the final curtain. It was a happy thought to revive this play during the Coronation, for its pagentry and poetry reveal both the eternal qualities of Shakespeare, and the true greatness of England.

ANNUAL CONCERT AND PRIZE-GIVING.

The "*Kent Messenger*" last year described the Concert as "the best yet given," and we were somewhat dubious as to whether we could repeat our success. However, judging by comments and letters we believe that we maintained the standard, and our thanks are due to all those, both in front and behind the curtain, who worked so hard to ensure success.

The following account is taken from the "*Kent Messenger*":

"We claim to fill a definite place in local education. Our aim is to turn out reliable boys who bear the hall-mark of high character, accurate work and good culture."

This was a passage from the report of the Principal, Mr. H. I. Piper, at the annual concert and prize distribution of the Maidstone Commercial School, held at the Corn Exchange on Wednesday.

They were now getting, proceeded Mr. Piper, a larger proportion of boys who were successful in passing outside public examinations. During the first 20 years ended 1920 the average was seven or eight a year. The ten years 1921-30 the average fell to three a year. From 1931-35 the average rose to 10 a year, but last year 26 public certificates were obtained.

Twenty-four certificates of senior grade had been obtained, including London matriculation, senior locals, civil service, professional preliminary, senior College of Preceptors and the London Chamber of Commerce, and of those below senior grade there had been 78 successes.

All these, he said, were academic examinations. Commercial examinations showed a higher figure—Pitman's Shorthand, all grades, 135; typewriting and book-keeping, 21.

Mr. Piper welcomed Mrs. H. R. Pratt Boorman, who presented the prizes, and Councillor H. R. Pratt Boorman.

Mr. Boorman, congratulating the prize-winners, hoped the losers would not be too disappointed. "It often happens," he said, "that when you lose a thing it makes you put that extra little spurt into it to make you win next time."

He had looked through the school magazine with great interest, and it was a very fine effort that 100 per cent. of the entrants for Pitman's shorthand had passes with distinctions. He thought the number to pass outside examinations, which had been nearly doubled each year, was a very fine record.

"There is need for a Commercial School in Maidstone," said Mr. Boorman, "and this school is filling that need. But it does not end there, for when you finish school you have to start in useful careers."

Mr. Boorman gave the boys some advice on how to apply for a job, and how they should comport themselves when they had obtained a situation. Those who got to the top, he said, must have personality and must be able to hand out jobs to those under them and be able to see that the jobs were done properly. They must also be receptive of new ideas.

Mr. Boorman told the boys not to lose heart, for, he said, those who were successful in business were not necessarily those who had been successful at school.

After distributing the prizes, Mrs. Boorman was presented with a bouquet by J. King, and Mr. Boorman with some cigarettes by J. Piper.

The distribution of prize was preceded and followed by a concert.

HONOURS LIST.

College of Preceptors' Certificates: Senior.—J. H. E. Piper (distinction in arithmetic, exempting from the Professional Preliminary Examinations of the Surveyors' Institute). Junior.—E. C. Austin (distinction in geography), R. D. Corke, R. T. Rand. Preliminary.—P. J. Taylor, E. G. Hughes.

Professional Preliminary, Institute of Auctioneers and Estate Agents.—B. W. Finn.

London Chamber of Commerce Certificate.—G. H. Goodchild (distinction in arithmetic and geography).

Pitman's Shorthand Certificates: Speed.—J. H. E. Piper (70 words per minute), H. C. Claris (60), J. H. E. Piper (50). Theory, Stage II.—J. H. E. Piper, G. H. Goodchild. Stage I.—D. R. G. Noakes, F. E. M. Betts, E. C. Austin, R. D. Corke, N. A. Ashton.

Typewriting Certificates: Business.—R. D. Sackree (1st class). Elementary.—J. H. E. Piper, M. G. Higgins, W. Tucker, F. E. M. Betts, E. G. Hughes, R. T. Rand (all 1st class).

Royal Society of Arts: Book-keeping, Stage I.—J. H. E. Piper (passed with credit), G. H. Goodchild, F. E. M. Betts.

Associated Board of Music: Grade IV., Lower.—R. T. Rand.

PRIZES.

Form VI.—J. H. E. Piper, G. H. Goodchild, E. C. Austin, R. T. Rand, F. E. M. Betts, R. D. Corke.

Form V.—M. G. Higgins, E. G. Hughes, P. J. Taylor, R. G. Sackree, W. Tucker, N. A. Ashton, C. F. Bincham.

Form IVa.—S. Moore, J. Hooker, C. Larkin, E. K. Leeves, H. H. Mungham, B. Westover, H. F. Gosling.

Form IVb.—D. B. Smith, A. E. Barham, R. W. Westbrook, A. V. A. Baker, N. L. Hartridge, J. Stockbridge.

Form IIIa.—G. K. Reynolds, D. L. Gosling, C. J. Beale, J. P. Thirkell.

Form IIIb.—A. G. Ellis, J. E. Mayger, C. Temple-Wright, G. C. Cheeseman.

Preparatory Upper Division.—W. N. Swan, F. Lambert, G. E. Pickup, P. H. Stearn, J. B. Stott, J. King, J. Solly.

Preparatory, Lower Division.—B. Day, J. Stearn, A. J. Wright, J. Heyes, A. Bolton, D. H. Swan, R. G. Barham.

MECCANO EXHIBITION.

Best working model, J. H. E. Piper. Non-working model, E. K. Leeves tie with A. W. Seymour. Handwork, A. E. Barham. Display, A. V. A. Baker. Assembly, D. Smith. Drawing, E. A. Tomsett. Stamp display, F. E. M. Betts. Juniors, P. H. Stearn.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

Easter Term.—D. R. V. Noakes, VI., D. L. Gosling, IIIb., P. Gibbs, IIIb. Summer Term.—R. L. Hill, IVb., E. A. Tomsett, IVb., N. L. W. Hartridge, IIIa., R. J. Knight, IIIa. Christmas Term.—L. W. Walker, IIIa., R. W. Saunders, IIIa., G. V. Wilkinson, IIIb.

CHALLENGE CUPS.

Old Boys' Challenge Cup, R. T. Rand. Football House Cup, School House (Captain, J. Hooker). Cricket House Cup, St. Peter's House (Captain P. Sackree). House Championship, St. Peter's House (Captain, P. Sackree). Chess Cup, J. Hooker.

THE CONCERT.

Pianoforte duets were given by Mrs. Stanford and Mr. E. G. A. Bettle, and solos by A. Hunt, H. Gosling and G. Reynolds. Mr. A. Ray also gave a short recital.

The Percussion Band under the direction of Mrs. F. A. Piper, M.R.S.T., and conducted by P. Stearn, gave selections. Members of the Band were J. Solly, J. Stearn, G. Pickup, B. Day, A. Bolton, R. Barham, J. Heyes, T. Wright, D. Swan and J. King. The Preparatory Department also rendered "Boys of Many Nations," a play devised and produced by Mrs. Stanford, A.L.C.M., and J. Solly, J. King and P. Stearn gave "The Muffin Man."

"Haroun El Raschid," an Eastern play was produced by Mr. E. G. A. Bettle. Those taking part were G. K. Reynolds, N. Hartridge, H. H. Mungham, E. G. Knott, J. Le Feaver, A. V. Baker, D. Fraser, K. Y. Noakes, A. Taylor, K. Fraser, C. Beale, D. Smith, A. Ellis, A. Seymour, R. Knight, G. Cheeseman, V. Twinn, P. Gibbs, N. Swan, G. Wilkinson,

N. Hogg, R. Croucher, J. E. Mayger, R. C. Marshall and J. Stott.

Scenes from Shakespeare's Henry IV., Part I, were produced by Mr. A. M. Williams, B.Sc., Econ. (Int.), F.R. Econ. S. All boys in the Upper School taking part: P. G. Anderson, P. J. Taylor, N. A. Ashton, W. F. Tucker, S. W. Moore, J. H. E. Piper, C. F. Bincham, R. T. Rand, C. Larkin, R. D. Sackr e, E. K. Leeves, H. F. Gosling, W. Westover, R. C. Ellison, E. C. Austin, J. Hooker, R. D. Corke, D. Bradley, F. E. M. Betts.

Mrs. F. A. Piper, M.R.S.T., sang two songs. R. D. Sackr e played accordian solos.

The programme concluded with two burlesques produced by Mr. Williams, Pukka Wallahs, and Two Famous Trials (the latter by special request).

J. H. E. Piper, R. D. Corke and D. Bradley assisted in Stage Management, and the following members of the Old Boys' Association assisted in various capacities: Messrs. T. George, B. Finn, A. Wood, J. W. Beale, C. Smith, J. Elbourne, and G. Goodchild.

FOOTBALL.

School v. Linton. Away. Won 6—4. This game was strenuous to the younger members owing to the very muddy nature of the ground. The School had matters their own way, until Linton reinforcements arrived at half-time. An exciting finish.

School v. Loose. Away. Won 4—3. This game was played on a hot Saturday morning. Our opponents did not score a goal during the first half. Perhaps we took things too easily during the second-half. A near thing.

HOUSE MATCHES.

School (3) v. St. Peters (3).

St. Peters (7) v. St. Augustines (0).

School v. St. Augustines, cancelled. This match will be played at the beginning of next season.

The Football Cup was presented to the School House for their victories in 1936.

J. Hooker, Captain.

R. T. Rand, Secretary.

The Practice and House Matches have been, in general, well attended. A careful list has been kept, and shows that many boys attend week after week, but that some do not come at all. Those boys who do not attend either at the Athletic or Tovil Grounds are not being fair to themselves or the School.

INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY.

On February 19th, about twenty members of the School enjoyed a visit to the factory of Messrs. Wingets of Rochester, who deal in the manufacture of wheel barrows and concrete mixers. Our guide led us to what is known as the Pattern Shop, where skilled wood-workers make patterns for the various castings. On completion, these wooden patterns are pressed into a form of black sand thus making an almost perfect mould. There were many interesting machines in this shop, including band and circular saws, planing machine, and a revolving sand paper block. All of these machines were driven by an over-head 230 volt electric motor. We then passed on to the Plate Pattern Shop, where patterns which are to be used more than once are made in White Metal.

From this shop we visited the most interesting branch of this trade where the actual casting is done. It is in this shop that is housed the largest conveyer of its type in the South of England. At one end of the conveyer the molten metal is poured into the moulds, and after travelling through various cooling processes, the cast is taken from the conveyer, and after being sorted by a man in steel palmed gloves, the object is left to get thoroughly cold.

Continuing our tour we entered the shop where the goods are rounded and ground to their proper shape. These castings have to be accurately set, and are, we were told, exact to one-thousandth of an inch.

In the Fitting Room we saw a machine known as the "Rumbler" which is used for cleaning rusty nails. Several types of concrete mixers were examined, and we watched one being put through a working test.

Our last "port of call" was the sheet metal department, where 500 wheelbarrows are turned out per week, fitted with either metal or Dunlop rubber wheels. In this department is also an electric welding machine, and an interesting oxy-acetylene lamp. At the conclusion of our visit, it was learned that Messrs. Winget employ 700 hands, the factory working both day and night.

R. T. Rand.

A VISIT TO MESSRS. LYLES.

A few days before breaking up a party composed of the Upper School were privileged to make an interesting visit to Messrs. Lyles, makers of mineral waters. Entering a disused storeroom we found a lone employee giving syphon bottles a final polish by hand before they left the premises. Mr. Lyle explained that these bottles cannot be satisfactorily polished by machine.

Hence hand labour. Leaving this room we inspected the next department, where old empty bottles were being cleaned and sterilized. After soaking in hot water in order to remove the labels, the bottles were taken out and placed against a revolving brush for cleaning purposes. The next stage was the actual making of mineral water. Ordinary water was led into a cylinder where gas was forced into it. The gas used is carbon-dioxide which is made commercially from coke, purified, and compressed into cylinders. Our guide estimated that one cylinder of gas was sufficient for the making of 250 to 300 bottles of mineral water, and said that when the cylinder was exhausted the water supply was automatically cut off. This gaseous water (soda water) was then led to the various rotary filling machines, the first of which was engaged in filling syphons with soda water, while the other fillers went a stage further, by adding syrup. It is a curious fact that syphon bottles are filled upside down. It was interesting to watch the bottles being filled with the required amount of syrup and soda-water, almost entirely automatically. We were told that these bottles could not be filled until the air had been pumped out of them. All the bottles are fitted with screw stoppers with the exception of the "babies" (a nickname for the small bottles) which have caps forced on them by a hydraulic machine.

Ascending to an elevated platform we came to what might be called the chemist's shop. Here certain ingredients such as sugar, etc., were added to the syrup which was passed down to the rotary fillers. Messrs. Lyles do not manufacture their own syrup, but obtain it elsewhere. It is an interesting fact to note that this concentrated syrup is sold under the "National Mark." All the pipes used in the premises were of stainless steel, but at one time were made of pure tin and wore down to remarkable thinness. This meant that those early bottles of mineral waters actually contained a minute quantity of tin! Messrs. Lyles output is 2,000 gallons per day, and includes over fifty different kinds of drinks.

E. C. Austin.

4th FORM WHEAT AND CHAFF.

THE FIRST FLYING MEN.

Two French brothers, Joseph Michael and Jaques Montgolfier were the first to experiment with smoke. They were successful and Marquis D'Arlandes went up in the first man carrying balloon in 1783.

Many magnificent feats of endurance were accomplished, especially the achievement of a skilful scientist Glaisher, and a daring balloonist Coxwell in 1862. They ascended seven miles. The temperature being below zero they realised it was time to

descend, but were unable owing to the valve rope fouling. Glaisher became unconscious. Coxwell finding he could not use his hands because of frostbite opened the valve with his teeth. They eventually landed shocked but unhurt.

Numberless were the tests and experiments tried by Professor Langley before, at last, May 6th, 1896, he launched a model aeroplane from the top of a houseboat moored on the River Potomac and it flew. It was driven by a small steam engine. The plane glided over the trees until the steam failed and the propeller ceased, then it landed on water and partly submerged.

The Wright brothers had experimented on gliding, but wanted to make an aeroplane that would fly by its own power. They went out to the wilds of Carolina to carry out tests and finally in 1903 achieved their ambition by producing an engine driven plane.

Count Ferninand Zeppelin saw that the pearshaped gasbag would soon be a back number. It would have to be rigid and steerable. After many trials he devised the Zeppelin which has gradually been improved as years have passed. It is a cigar-shaped airship with the cabins, engines and propellers fixed on the underside of the gasbag.

R. W. Westbrook.



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TRENCHES.

A Trench is an excavation used to protect troops from the enemy's fire.

Fire trenches are so sited and arranged that the troops occupying them can fire on the enemy. Support trenches are farther to the rear, and provide cover for troops who are sufficiently close to the front line to be able to reinforce it during a hostile attack, sometimes being arranged so that the occupants bring rifle fire to bear on the enemy over the front line trenches. The Communication trenches provide a road along which troops may pass between the fire and support trenches, and positions farther to the rear without being exposed to fire. It is usually necessary for these to pursue a zig-zag course to protect them from enfilade fire.

D. Gosling.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ROYAL CROWN.

The head-dress worn today by royalty is known as a crown. The same word formerly applied to wreaths and garlands worn on special occasions by the ancients.

The Greeks and Romans made crowns of laurel, flowers, twigs of olive, etc., with which to crown the victors of athletic contests. The champions of the ancient Olympic Games, for example, were always honoured by being crowned with a laurel wreath.

The English crown has been built up bit by bit from that of William the Conqueror, which was a plain circlet with four trefoil heads. Later it was made more elaborate in form, and jewels were introduced. It was arched in with jewelled bands surmounted by the cross and sceptre. At present, the English crown, on a crimson velvet cap, is a gold circle, elaborately adorned with precious stones and pearls, also four Maltese crosses. Imperial arches rise from the top of the crosses, closing under a mound and cross. This crown was made for Queen Victoria.

G. Reynolds.

CHESS.

This term chess has been played extensively amongst all the boys in the Upper School.

The top house is St. Peter's with 40 points, but may lose that position as St. Augustine's with 38 points have got to play

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one more match at the beginning of next term with St. Peter's. School House are bottom with 28 points. The winners are:— First Round, J. Piper (P), P. Sackrée (P), R. Rand (S), P. Taylor (A), J. Hooker (S), E. Austin (P), M. Betts (A), and C. Larkin (P). Second Round, J. Hooker (S), E. Austin (P), M. Betts (A), R. Corke (A), P. Taylor (A), J. Piper (P), P. Anderson (S), and H. Gosling (S), while N. Ashton (S) stalemated C. Bincham (A).

The Challenge Cup brought forth many surprises, the greatest of all being the brilliant playing by J. Hooker in securing the cup after only two terms of playing. The results are:— First Round, E. C. Austin beat N. A. Ashton; W. F. Tucker beat R. W. Young; E. K. Leeves beat C. F. Bincham; R. T. Rand beat R. C. Ellison; C. Larkin beat H. F. Gosling; J. Hooker beat B. W. Westover; P. G. Anderson beat R. D. Sackrée; R. D. Corke beat F. E. M. Betts; and P. J. Taylor beat S. Moore. Second Round, P. J. Taylor beat W. F. Tucker; E. C. Austin beat R. T. Rand; E. K. Leeves beat C. Larkin; J. Hooker beat R. D. Corke, and P. G. Anderson (bye). Third Round, E. C. Austin beat P. G. Anderson; J. Hooker beat E. K. Leeves, and P. J. Taylor (bye). Fourth Round, J. Hooker beat P. J. Taylor and E. C. Austin. Final, J. Hooker beat E. C. Austin (two games to nothing).

The best players in the room now are:—J. Hooker, E. C. Austin, R. T. Rand, F. E. M. Betts, and P. J. Taylor, while most of the other boys are making excellent progress. But one or two take the opportunity to slack off when the chess period comes round each week.

M. Betts, Secretary.

PARAGRAPHS FROM THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

It is gratifying to note that the majority of new boys to the school are entering at the Preparatory stage which is the best introduction any pupil can have to a new school since he grows up physically and mentally with his earliest friends, and more readily adapts himself to the atmosphere of the school.

We shall be pleased to welcome back B. Carlton after his long absence owing to illness. We are indebted to J. Stott, A. Bolton, B. Day, G. Pickup, J. Solly, J. King and T. Wright for books presented to the Junior Library.

There is keen competition with regard to "free homework." By this means children collect pictures and specimens or make drawings and notes of any item of interest to them and are encouraged to question each other or their teacher about the same. Much is learnt by this interchange of ideas and incidental teaching. It satisfies the instinct of curiosity so strong at this age.

Each pupil has found much pleasure in having his own locker desk and takes a pride in keeping it neat and tidy. The percussion band proves ever popular though some disappointment was felt when it was pointed out that every one could not be a drummer. Will all readers please bear in mind the Exhibition of Work in this Department to be held this Summer? Particulars later.

F. A. P.

ISOTYPE.

We take pride in the fact that the School was one of the first to advocate Dr. Neurath's pictorial symbols. This has recently received recognition in the Press, and the "Star" newspaper in a review of Dr. Neurath's new book referred to the Commercial School of Maidstone, as one of the up-to-date schools using the method. Shortly after the following account appeared in the South Eastern Gazette.

Do you know anything about Dr. Otto Neurath's "Isotype," the presentation of statistical information by illustrations with the object of debabelising the speech of nations?

No? I am not surprised (writes a "Gazette" reporter) for the method is still regarded as a novelty in this country, but it is quickly spreading all over the world, and before long you may be well acquainted with this international picture language.

It is not exactly a language, but something that helps all tongues, reducing pictorial diagrammatic illustrations to scientific principles. Phew! But it is not so hard, and pupils are finding it rather simple and interesting in schools.

Maidstone Commercial School is the first school in the south—and one of the first in the country—to adopt this method, which is Neurath's medium to accomplish the tremendous task of debabelizing the speech of nations.

By these illustrations it is quite easy to make a picture act as telephone box instructions in any country—without a word being used.

Pupils at the Maidstone Commercial School, The Elms, London Road, use this system extensively and make pictures themselves during lessons.

Mr. H. I. Piper, B.A. (Int.), F.C.T.S., the principal, told me that the school was the first in the south to begin teaching "Isotype," having started over two years ago.

"I was very impressed with the idea when I met Neurath in England some time ago," said the senior master, Mr. A. M. Williams, F.R.Econ.S., B.Sc.Econ. (Int.), "and I have taught it here and lectured on it frequently.

"Dr. Neurath, an Austrian professor, reorganised the Vienna Museum by his method, and devoted one section to this work. The ideal has spread throughout the world. He terms it, 'the pictorial representation of facts.'

"The symbols are designed by artists so that they are pleasant to look at, and, at the same time, easy to remember. A picture should tell you at the first glance the most important details; at the second, anything remaining. If the picture needs a third look it is no use at all."

There are about 100 pupils at the school, and over 50 are learning the use of "Pictures that speak in all tongues."

A number of pictures drawn by the pupils were exhibited at the last County Fair and aroused a great deal of interest.

The Neurath method is certainly up-to-date, and I congratulate the school on having the foresight to apply it.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

A skyscraper in word-building, 64 storeys high—I mean 64 letters long, is "superhyperprocontraantidisestablishmentarianisticismicatorialism." Get your dictionaries and find out what it means. Probably a disease or a crime. The root of the word,— "antidisestablishmentarianistically" was certainly used 60 years ago, but that was in Ireland. A word actually used in modern German military text-books is, "Schutzengrabenvernichtungs-panzerautomobilfuhrer," it merely means "armoured-tank driver."

E. C. Austin.

When you want to melt your butter for the crumpets next winter don't use an electric furnace. It simply will not do it. You can put your hand inside without burning it but mind and remove your ring otherwise you will get your finger badly scorched. The reason is that only metals can be melted in these unique furnaces which work by a system of strong "eddy currents." They are used for the production of very pure steel and the operators need the protection of dark glasses to prevent blindness from the white hot metal.

N. Ashton.

Broadcasting can be the means of uniting or antagonising the nations of the world, hence the need of great care in deciding policy. It is a romantic story from the humble Marconi transmissions from Writtle in 1919 to the palatial building at Broadcasting House in 1937. We are satisfied if the telephone is intelligible, but the microphone needs to be natural as well. The announcers are careful even to speak at a particular angle in their sound-proof rooms in order to obtain the best results.

P. Taylor.

In 1930 over 16 millions of tons of cane sugar were produced, besides 11½ millions of tons of best sugar. No wonder there was a recent sugar conference in London! The sugar cane belongs to the same family as wheat, maize and oats, a sort of over-grown brother with a sweet disposition. It attains a height of nearly 20 feet in less than a year. Perhaps that is one reason why growing boys are so fond of sweets.

H. Gosling.

The farmer must buy his seed, drill it into the ground, and carefully roll it, before he sees the light green blades of corn popping up through the earth. The rain and the sun do their share in ripening the wheat to its golden colour. After the reaping and thrashing the miller and the baker must do their work before we can get our loaf of bread.

A. J. Taylor.

P. Gibbs sent in an adventure story of how he and his brother rescued two people who were trapped in a cave. We regret it was too long to print in this number. (Editor.)

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Dinner took place at the Royal Star Hotel on Wednesday, January 20th. Influenza prevented several members from attending, including our Chairman, Mr. J. W. Solman, and we are most grateful to Mr. E. G. A. Bettle who took his place at such short notice, and carried out the duties of that office so admirably. The following account is from the Kent Messenger.

Influenza prevented some of the members from attending the 5th Annual Dinner of the Commercial School Old Boys' Association, including the Chairman, Mr. J. W. Solman, but in spite of that a good number were present to welcome the Mayor, Alderman J. Hillier French, and the Rev. A. O. Standen, M.A., who were the Association's guests.

Mr. Piper, the President and Headmaster of the School, proposed the health of the guests. He said that the Association was forming itself into a useful social body, and all its members would be encouraged by the presence of the civic and ecclesiastical heads of the town.

The Mayor, responding, referred to his old school days, and said that one of the things that gave him the greatest pleasure was the fact that a number of his old school pals had remembered him and sent him messages when he was elected to his high office.

They ought to be thankful that they had a good sound commercial school in the town, for, while he was not opposed to the general principles of secondary education, he thought that much of it was unnecessary. After all, Maidstone was a commercial town, and he knew that the Commercial School was doing a tremendous amount of good.

He thought that the members of the Association should be grateful that they had had the opportunity of receiving a good, sound commercial education. He urged them never to forget their old school pals, and to give them a helping hand.

The Vicar of Maidstone, in proposing "The Association and the Officers," said there was one thing he did ask the school. Was it not possible to humanise business letters? The average business letter filled him with horror. Even Mr. N. Chamberlain might get a better response if he appealed in a more affectionate strain.

He thought that the Association was in a very healthy state for five years, and hoped that it would go from strength to strength.

Mr. Finn, replying, referred to the manifold activities of the organisation, and outlined further possibilities.

Mr. George also responded.

Mr. V. F. S. Brett proposed "The School."

Mr. Williams, replying, said that in a sense they were trustees both for the good name of the school and for the new life that passed through their hands. He believed that the school, under the able directorship of Mr. Piper, was maintaining its old traditions and keeping in step with modern educational reforms.

He referred to the splendid new buildings and to the fact that already they were considering plans for further extensions to meet growing requirements.

They had secured 26 examination successes that year and the football team was unbeaten. The school was a member of the Ship Adoption Society, and kept in touch with their ship, s.s. British Petrol. They had inaugurated the National Savings Scheme, and some of their higher work had been exhibited at the Brussels Exhibition.

We have been asked to give a list of Vice-Presidents of the Association. Apart from present members of the staff of the School (who are ex-officio Vice-Presidents) the list is composed of Mr. J. Marshall, M.A., Mr. P. C. Allen, Mr. Wallace, B.A., and Mr. H. Gilbert. Other distinguished Old Boys are being approached, and will be added in due course.

With the approach of fine weather many members will like to wear the Associations colours. Mr. J. Birchall, 74 Bank Street, an old boy and enthusiastic member, has a full range of blazers, ties, scarves, etc.

We are interested to note that several Old Boys are closely associated with the Maidstone Model Engineering and Railway Club. W. Hills and J. Elbourne act as Secretaries, and J. Tolputt as Treasurer. We congratulate the Society on the excellent exhibition organised recently.

We have been pleased to hear from F. H. E. Vidler, now working in Tonbridge, and G. Goodchild, who has secured a post with the Medway Milling Co. The Hon. Secretary recently visited John Pierce who has been ill since last May. He was very cheerful, and we all hope the spring weather will aid in a speedy recovery. We are very pleased that Mr. W. J. Steer, of Pembury, still retains an interest in the Association, and that Mr. V. T. S. Brett, one of the older members was able to be present at the Annual Dinner.

Occasional cricket matches are being arranged, and any Old Boy who would like to play should communicate with Mr. B. Finn, The Elms, London Road.

The Annual General Meeting took place on January 26th.

All the Officers were re-elected as follows:—President, H. I. Piper, Esq. Chairman, J. W. Solman, Esq. Vice-Chairmen, E. G. A. Bettle, Esq. and W. C. Beale, Esq. Hon Treasurer, T. C. George, Esq. Hon. Secretary, A. M. Williams, Esq. Assistant Secretary, A. Wood, Esq. Hon Sports Secretary, B. Finn, Esq. Auditor, J. Elbourne, Esq.

The town has been divided into five areas, and the following members have kindly consented to act as area-secretaries, and keep in touch with Old Boys in those areas:—High Street and Boxley Road, Messrs. George and Finn; Loose Road, Mr. J. Elbourne; Tovil, Mr. E. G. A. Bettle; Tonbridge Road, Mr. J. W. Beale; London Road, Mr J. H. E. Piper. It is hoped that this arrangement will lead to a closer connection between Old Boys and the Officers, and stimulate interest in the Association generally.

Forms are now available for enrolling new members, and 25 new members have thus been secured. There are, however, several members who have not yet used these forms, and the Hon. Secretary will be pleased to send a supply of forms to those desiring them.

Mr. Finn is again arranging a Tennis Tournament, and it will, no doubt, be well under way by the time this copy of the Magazine is issued. The winner of the Singles' Tournament will hold the Association's Cup for one year, and there will be prizes for the winners of the Doubles' event. Mr. Long is the present holder of the Singles' Cup.

We must once more place on record our appreciation of the help rendered by Miss Lilian Filmer in duplicating the Association's notices.

NOTICE.

This Magazine is the Official Organ of the Commercial School, Present and Past and all O.B's are urged to keep in touch by subscribing to it. Joint subscription to Magazine and the O.B. Association, 3/6 per annum.

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