

HOW TO JOIN

The Old Boys' Association.

Chairman: H. F. Sergeant.

Hon. Secretary: E. Urry, The Grammar School, Brigg.

All boys leaving School should join the Association. They will be able to keep in touch with the School and with their former school-fellows, by means of the "Briggensian," the Annual Dinner, the Old Boys' Cricket Week and other Old Boys' Games.

The ordinary annual subscription is 2/6d. This includes copies of the Briggensian.

Don't delay. Hand in your name and subscription now to Mr. Urry.



EDITORIAL.

March, 1940.

The war goes on, and truly it is a strange war. In fact the weather has interfered with school activities far more than the war, for we have just experienced the coldest spell since 1894. Naturally this has greatly interfered with transport, and many of the roads have been almost impassable. With the exception of skating, sport has also been greatly interfered with, and the handicap to the school has been vastly increased by the fact that this has been one of the shortest terms in its history.

With regard to "The Briggensian" itself, we are hoping to receive more contributions from Old Briggensians, and we will, in future, devote more space to the efforts of the veterans. We therefore appeal to Old Briggensians to submit any articles of interest, concerning their own experiences or efforts of original fiction "proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain." All contributions will be gratefully received and will, without doubt, help to maintain the standard of the magazine.

A great deal of harsh and rather thoughtless criticism has been poured upon those responsible for the production of the magazine. The critics should remember, however, that "The Briggensian" is not merely a common journal of hair-raising incidents and local witticisms, but that it is principally a record of the school's activities which, although they are not, perchance, of extreme current interest, will be of distinct value and interest in years to come, and also that they do help the old boys to keep in touch with their old

school. It seems that criticisms are taking the place of contributions, and unfortunately most of the critics are non-contributors. Such people should realise that contributions, and not unhelpful criticisms, help to improve the magazine, that solid matter is more worthy than empty proclamations of distaste, and that they themselves are largely responsible for the quality of "The Briggensian."

An article which should be of special interest to all Briggensians, past and present, is the short biography of Our Founder which Mr. Gaze has compiled through personal research, and has kindly allowed us to publish.

OBITUARY.

HENRY TONG RACK.

Died 24th February, 1940. Aged 41 years.

Henry Tong Rack, B.A., B.D., attended the school from September 1910 to December 1913. After leaving school he entered the Railway Service as a clerk and later was accepted as candidate for the Methodist ministry. For his theological training he entered Hartley College, Manchester, and while there he took his B.A. and B.D. degrees of Manchester University, being awarded the University Prize in Divinity. His active ministry began in 1926, and he did valuable work in Melton and Oakland, Luton, Chester-le-Street, West Auckland and Gateshead, and Horncastle. He died in Grimsby Sanatorium.

SCHOOL LISTS.

The School officials for this term have been:—

Head Prefect: O. Kingdon.

Football Captain: J. R. Wright.

Prefects: O. Kingdon, R. F. Hudson, A. L. King,
W. Maw, J. P. Goates, D. W. Picksley, R. M.
Ridgway, P. J. Saynor.

Magazine Committee: Mr. Richards, O. Kingdon
(Editor), K. C. Bell (Sub-Editor).

Librarians: W. Maw (Senior Librarian), the Upper
Sixth.

House Captains and Masters:—

School: O. Kingdon, J. R. Wright (Football), the
Headmaster.

Ancholme: J. P. Goates, Mr. Henthorn.

Nelthorpe: G. C. Dickinson, J. Gant (Football),
Mr. Morris.

Sheffield: H. P. Andrews, W. E. D. Lee (Foot-
ball), Mr. Urry.

Yarborough: A. R. May, Mr. Knight.

National Savings Association: Mr. Pimiott (Secretary),
R. F. Hudson (Assistant Secretary).

Scout Troop (2nd Brigg): Mr. Jarvis (S.M.), J. P.
Goates (T.L.).

Musical Society: Mr Pratt.

Chess Club: President, the Headmaster; Chairman,
Mr. Jarvis; Secretary, A. L. King.

Art Discussion Circle: Mr. Gaze.

Geographical Society: Mr. Urry, Mr. Jarvis, R. M.
Ridgway (Secretary).

Scientific Society: President, Mr. Thumwood; Secre-
tary, H. P. Andrews.

Gardening: Mr. Thumwood.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of the following
magazines, and take this opportunity of conveying our
thanks to the senders:—

The Rydeian, The Carrenian, The Pioneer, The Cosford.

We apologise for any inadvertent omissions from the
above list.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The term started in the midst of the coldest spell most
of us have ever experienced, and the weather considerabiy

affected the school programme. To be in time for school became the exception rather than the rule when the weather was at its worst. Football suffered acutely, and it has not been possible to play any school matches. House matches were delayed for several weeks, but with the first week of fine weather they were finished. A fuller account of the results and the final House positions will be found elsewhere in the magazine.

It was a shock to realise that there were only five weeks left to this term when things returned to normal. Into that short space of time, for the term has been the shortest on record, were crammed House matches, examinations, cross country, and the hundred and one normal activities of the Spring Term.

As their respective notes show, the School Societies have suffered considerably through the shortness of the term and the bad weather. The Musical Society has failed to maintain its customary activity, although it has presented another informal concert to visitors, and the Debating Society has suffered an eclipse which we hope is only temporary. The Chess Club entertained a party of local soldiers to a chess match on February 28th, of which a fuller account will be found elsewhere.

At the time of writing Cross Country training is in full swing. In the absence of a favourite the result this year looks as if it will be a surprise.

School House were sorry to lose Matron Hepto-stall at the end of last term after a stay of just over two years. They wish her every success for the future, and offer their greetings to her successor, Matron Wadkin.

Briggensians of the last four generations will be sorry to hear of the departure of Steele, who has been at Brigg for over nineteen years. "Squire" has always been a great favourite with the boys, and Briggensians past and present will miss his familiar form when they return to school. We should like to take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck for the future.

The portrait of the founder has been restored to its position at the end of Main School, considerably improved

for having been cleaned and renovated.

The Sixth Form, it is rumoured, are going to present two scenes from "Julius Caesar" at the beginning of next term. Rehearsals are in full swing, with Mr. Gaze producing.

Once again local soldiers have used the School field for football matches.

The Secretary of the Savings Association reports the following:— Total deposits, £37 7s. 6d.; number of certificates bought, 28; amount deposited in Savings Bank, £18.

SALVETE.

N. H. Boocock (N.)	R. Oxenham (Y.)
R. F. D. Haddow (Sch.)	R. O. Taylor (Y.)
A. H. King (A.)	

VALETE.

L. VI.

COOK, G. W. (1935-40).—Cambridge S.C., July 1939.

Address:—Paradise Farm, Waddingham, Gainsborough.

LAWTEY, R. (1934-40).—Cambridge S.C., July 1939;
Under XIV Cricket, 1936; 2nd XI Cricket, 1939.

Address:—Saxby-all-Saints, Brigg.

MAYES, H. S. (1934-40).—Cambridge S.C., July 1939;
1st XI Football, 1938-39.

Address:—Melton Ross, Barnetby.

WATERS, F. C. (1934-40).—Cambridge S.C., July 1939;
Under XIV Cricket, 1935-36; 2nd XI Cricket, 1939;
Under XIV Football, 1935-36; 2nd XI Football,
1938-39; 1st XI Football, 1939.

Address:—18, Wrawby Street, Brigg.

WATSON, A. (1934-40).—Cambridge S.C., July 1938 and
July 1939.

Address:—12, Council Houses, Keelby.

Remove.

CLAYTON, F. (1934-40).—Cambridge S.C., July 1939.

Address: Worlaby Hill, Brigg.

WESTOBY, C. (1935-40).—Cambridge S.C., December 1939; Under XIV Football, 1935-36; 1st XI Football, 1937-39; Football Colours, 1938; Football Captain, 1939; Yarborough House Captain, 1939-40; 2nd XI Cricket, 1939.

Address:—42, Silver Street, Barnetby, Lincs.

IVb.

BOOTH, P. A. (1935-40).—

Address:—The Grange, Kirton Lindsey.

SNOXELL, M. S. J. (1937-40).—Inter-School Sports Representative, 1939.

Address:—Not known.

IIIb.

AULD, J. P. H. (1934-40).—

Address:—3, Avenue Vivian, Scunthorpe.

DEE, M. J. (1938-40).—

Address:—The Grange, Croxton, Lincs.

THE MUSICAL SOCIETY.

We had made some resolutions for the term, and kept only one—to hold another Musical Evening. We resolved to give more music to the school, and one evening a fortnight was suggested. We have not done so, and for that we are sorry. We made the resolution, first because we thought we should, and secondly because we had been bullied by certain Sixth-formers. The frost played havoc with our arrangements. Wednesday afternoon, 13th March, was next suggested for a concert to the school, but the Cross-country race was unexpectedly arranged for that time.

The last Musical Evening was a success from our point of view. That is, the audience gave flattering, almost embarrassing attention to performances, which were at any rate free from major breakdowns. We enjoyed playing, and our visitors seemed pleased. It was no doubt asking a great deal to expect people to listen to two major ensemble works which themselves lasted for an hour and a quarter.

Our visitors either admired our ambition, or had the good manners to conceal their boredom. All we hope is that they will not be frightened into staying away next time. We like visitors to think that they come not to a concert, but to listen to some music-making, which we ourselves enjoy, and to which we think they may care to listen.

The programme for March 13th was shorter and more varied. In response to our invitation, three visitors contributed to the programme, Miss Bradley, Mr. Middleton and Mr. Rawdin, all of Brigg. J. S. Hunt and Simpson played in Purcell's Sonata in A minor for two violins and 'cello. Mr. Bradley, Mr. Tyson and Mr. Pratt played sonatas for two violins and piano, by Handel in A major, and by Bach in G major (this latter originally for flute and violin). Mr. Bradley, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Urry and Miss Bradley played two movements of Mozart's Quartet in B flat, the Minuet and Trio and Finale. Individual items were contributed by Miss K. B. Coe of Habrough, who sang two groups of songs, Mr. Rawdin, who played short violin pieces of Mozart and Bach, Mr. Thumwood, who played an Aria of Bach, and Mr. Richards, who played Schubert's Impromptu in B flat.

The Society has been asked to give a concert to soldiers on Sunday, 17th March. We have not yet arranged a programme, but it will be for the most part a repetition of that given at the Musical Evening. Miss Coe has kindly offered to help.

As for weekly orchestral meetings, do not be rash enough to ask Mr. Pratt about them. There have been two meetings only, and our conductor is disgusted—whether with the frost or with ourselves is not clear. Mr. Pratt has arranged excerpts from Purcell's "Fairy Queen" for us, and next term we will get down to it in good earnest.

SCOUT NOTES.

Since we had no wish to carry on with our meetings immediately after school, the Troop resolved to black-out the woodwork shop. This we accomplished, though somewhat faultily, and we were able to resume our meetings

in the evening. The Duty Patrol was made responsible for arranging the flag and clearing up the room.

The meetings have been very well attended. The work mostly took the form of revision, although on one memorable Thursday evening the Scouts, while practising Scout Pace, came across an accident—or perhaps two accidents. Congratulations to the winners of proficiency badges and to our new tenderfoots.

We sold our paper at the end of last term—it weighed just over three tons; the money received was supplemented by a gift to troop funds of £3, for which we wish to thank the donor, Mr. J. Newbold. Paper is still being collected by our Scouts.

We thought that after last term's delving in mud we had stopped wood chopping until next year—but no! We are now making duckboards to be sold to the troops, the money realised going to buy wool for the knitting of comforts.

Unfortunately, owing to the shortness of the term, we are not able to present our concert, but we hope to do so next year.

Good Scouting.

T.L. (2nd Brigg).

THE ART DISCUSSION CIRCLE.

Like all other School Societies the Art Discussion Circle has had to curtail its activities this term, and we have been able to hold only three meetings.

The first discussion was on "English Landscape." It was an interesting subject, and we saw the gradual evolution of English landscape painting from the eighteenth century, through Turner and Constable up to the modern school of Nash, Spencer and John. The subject at the next meeting was "The Impressionists," and we learnt a great deal of the rise and fall of the school of French artists who revolutionised the technique of painting. A departure from custom was made at the last meeting when a member of the Circle opened the discussion. With the help of a number of Mr. Gaze's reproductions, Kingdon presented a

talk on Cézannè and Van Gogh, the two great painters who developed and consolidated the art of the Impressionists, and brought painting to an extremely high level of achievement.

Once again we should like to express our thanks to Mr. Gaze for the time and work he has put in to make our meetings as enjoyable and instructive as they are. The Circle will remain dormant through the busy Summer Term, and I wish it every success for next season. O.K.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The activities of this Society have been curtailed tremendously this term, owing to unavoidable difficulties. Early in the term we obtained an outside speaker, namely Mr. Brocklesby, A.M.I.E., who gave us a very vivid description of the use of electricity in the steel works. Mr. Brocklesby began by introducing to us the various pieces of electrical machinery, and then he pointed out that without electricity the steel works simply could not carry on with their mighty work, especially in such times as these in which we are now living.

At the next meeting, Mr. Bradley, who is a vice-president of the Society, gave us an interesting lecture on "Some Homely Chemistry." He showed us how chemistry comes into such ordinary events as getting washed, eating oranges, and drinking digestive aids. Even a member of the Modern Studies side, who attended, could understand these chemical theories.

Our next speaker was to have been a member of the Sixth Form, R. Kitching, but unfortunately he was taken ill just before the day and it was decided to hold no more meetings for this term, because of the examinations and cross-country training. H.P.A.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The Society this term has been rather inactive. Owing to the weather and the shortness of the hours of daylight after school, the field work, which is the active work of the

Society, has had to be dispensed with. We did manage to fit in an illustrated lecture by P. Hall on "London," and this was very well attended. On the whole, however, this has been a stagnant term for the Society and we are looking forward to the Summer Term and its long fine days when we can concentrate on field work and gather material and data upon which we can work when we go "in castra hiberna" once again.

R.M.R.

THE CHESS CLUB.

The frozen snows of an unusually long period of wintry weather have affected the club throughout the term, preventing members from staying to attend meetings in the first few weeks, and then causing such a flux of rival events in the way of football and cross country running during the second half of the season that only a few members could find time to attend regularly.

On Wednesday, February 23rd, a match was arranged with a team of local soldiers. The Headmaster, Mr. Jarvis, King, Saynor, Wright J. R. and Baggott comprised the school team. The games were keenly contested, and varied in length, one player playing four, while another played a single marathon. In this game White opened by quite an unorthodox move, of king's pawn to king's three square; from this move he developed rapidly. Black, on the other hand, began to build up a strong defence, which in the end proved too strong for White's attack. Up to about the twentieth move, White had the upper hand, and because of his more rapid development, attacked Black strongly, and succeeded in trapping a bishop. At this point White began an attack on Black's castled position. The defence, however, proved too strong, and White emerged from the engagement one and a half pawns down. From this advantage, both queens being off the board, Black was able to force a mate with a pawn and a castle.

Altogether fourteen games were played, each side winning seven—a very fair result. At the end the Headmaster kindly provided refreshments. We hope to arrange

a return match if it is convenient to our opponents.

In thanking Mr. Jarvis and the regular members of the Club for their support, we must appeal to other members to try and attend meetings more in future, and play off their league games.

A.L.K.

J.C.B.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

This term has seen very little activity on the sports field because of the persistent snow which covered the field for the first six weeks of term. Thus there have been no school matches and, as the term progressed, there was much doubt as to whether we should be able to finish the House matches before Easter. However, the snow and ice disappeared from the field in a remarkably short time and we were able to complete the matches in time for the results to be included in these notes. They were all played with the usual zeal and enthusiasm and the fate of the Cup remained undecided until the final match, when Sheffield House accomplished a fine feat by defeating Yarborough House on both pitches, thereby ensuring that School House won the Cup, and that they themselves secured third position in the final table.

The results are as follows:—

1—School House, 16 points.

2—Yarborough, 12 points.

3—Sheffield, 8 points.

Ancholme, 8 points.

5—Nelthorpe, 6 points.

J.R.W.

CROSS COUNTRY RACE, 1940.

The race this year was one of the best we can remember. The top places were splendidly fought for, and there was plenty of hard running from the low-placed competitors. Except for a few small boys who were carrying too much weight for the heavy going, the field packed much better than usual. Possibly the habitual stragglers were among the large number who eliminated themselves by successfully leading ill-health.

A small field of 96 runners started, and as they left the school, it was noticeable that K. C. Bell was boxed and badly placed.

St. Helen's Road.—Hunt leading, followed by Smith, Davy, Bell K. C. and Girdham, all described as looking unhappy (this is where first winds begin to go). A gap, then a group led by Sinclair. One runner has to retire after a nasty fall, the only competitor, incidentally, who did not finish.

St. Helen's Well.—Leaders in the same order, except that Bell has dropped back a little and looks distressed. Sinclair follows, running easily. Five Ancholme and five Yarborough runners compose the first ten. Some small heavyweights finding the hill a sore trial.

Redholme, Wrawby.—Smith and Girdham leading, followed by Davy, K. C. Bell, Hunt and Sinclair. Davy described as looking tired.

Brickyard Lane.—Davy leading, but still described as looking distressed. Smith, Girdham and Bell follow, then Sinclair and Kennedy, then Hunt feeling ill. A gap after the first thirty. Number 50 running with his shirt off although giving no reason for so doing.

Finishing point.—Davy and Smith had fought out a splendid finish, and Davy came in leading by about thirty yards, having thrown off his deceptive appearance of distress. Third came Girdham, an excellent performance for a youngster, fourth Bell, obviously out of form, then Sinclair, and sixth Kennedy, the only man to dispute the Ancholme and Yarborough monopoly in top places (they had ten men in the first eleven). F. B. Bratley ran well to finish seventh, and Hunt came in 8th, not at his best. The time of 28 mins. 18½ secs. was slow, but the conditions were bad, the course being very slippery and falls frequent, and the winner is to be congratulated upon a determined and well-judged effort.

The House competition was a close affair, and a reminder that it is the performance of the whole team of twelve that counts. The winners, Ancholme House, had seven men in the first thirteen, but had not, in the end, a

long lead over Nelthorpe House whose first man came in fifteenth, but with a formidable pack at his heels.

Time: 28 mins. 18½ secs.

Standard Performances: 19.

House Placings:

- 1—Ancholme (285).
- 2—Nelthorpe (316).
- 3—School (327).
- 4—Yarborough (372).
- 5—Sheffield (548).

Individual Placings:

- 1—Davy, R. (Ancholme).
- 2—Smith, C. A. (Yarborough).
- 3—Girdham, R. (Yarborough).
- 4—Bell, K. C. (Ancholme).
- 5—Sinclair, A. C. (Yarborough).
- 6—Kennedy, T. (School).
- 7—Bratley, F. B. (Ancholme).
- 8—Hunt, J. (Yarborough).

THE SENIOR LIBRARY.

We had hoped to see builders on the premises on our return to school in September of last year, for we had been promised extensions to the school buildings, amongst which was to have been a room devoted entirely to the library. Indeed on our return, we did see the builders, but they were on the school field making air-raid shelters.

Still, not to be daunted, the librarians decided that the reorganisation and reclassification of the library could no longer be delayed. Accordingly the Headmaster was approached and a new bookcase was bought. It was well needed, for the shelves, in spite of the recent addition, still seem full to capacity.

The librarians then settled down in earnest to the new work of reorganisation, and spent a large part of their spare time in the task. A new system was worked out and has since been put into practice. Several new sections were formed, and each section was sub-divided. The reclassifica-

tion was made still more difficult by the large number of books that were missing. Some of these have since been returned, but many are still untraced. If anyone should happen to have any library book in his possession, we should be very pleased to have it returned. Eventually the task was finished, and, I am proud to say that it has proved efficient and successful in its working.

So much for the work done to the library this year. But soon after the war is ended we hope to have a new library room. Then we shall have much more room for books than we have at present. So it has been proposed that a practice which is prevalent in many schools be adopted here: namely that every boy, on leaving school, should present a book to the library. Briggensians, need you any further exhortation?

W.M.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

Chairman, Mr. T. N. Sumpter

Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Urry.

So much has the war dwarfed all else, that there is not the usual fund of news of Old Boys this term. This, of course, is largely accounted for by the fact that the principal news is contained in the circular which was distributed last term. In that necessarily bald statement of facts there was contained far more than usually appears in these notes. We said at the time that there must be many more Old Briggensians serving in the Forces than the seventy or eighty of whom we had definite knowledge. Since December we have heard of some twenty others who are already in the Navy, Army or Air Force. The School and the Association are proud of them all, and all other Old Boys will wish to extend to them their very best wishes.

The Association continues to make progress. On another page is an account of the very happy and successful Annual Re-union which was held in December. It is very gratifying that at last the coveted number of one hundred Old Boys attended the Dinner.

The second list of Old Boys in the Forces is being sent out. Below are appended some other items of news.

Congratulations to the following on their marriages:—

S. G. Sass to Miss R. L. Smith of Grimsby, Jan. 23rd.

A. B. Smith to Miss D. Edlington of Brigg.

R. D. Watkinson to Miss H. D. Clarke of Brigg, 26th Dec.

N. Hounslow to Miss E. M. Parkin, of Brigg, 26th Dec.

Alec Wells to Miss I. Wicks of Barnetby, 26th Dec.

E. Levinson is to be congratulated on his rapid promotion to the rank of Troop Sergeant Major. He is playing centre-half for his regiment.

W. Sumpter is now Lance-Corporal.

J. R. Gregory has been promoted Midshipman. He has been on leave recently and visited the School.

A. E. Morgan, R. M. Morgan, F. C. Aston and C. R. Chambers have been home on leave from France.

K. G. I. Jones is at University College, Oxford. He has been elected Secretary of the University Liberal Club, and is taking an active part in the Debating activities of the Oxford Union, having already proposed a motion.

We are glad to hear that C. D. Carter is back at work in the Police Office at Scunthorpe, and is getting fit again after his illness.

G. T. Richardson has moved from Leeds, and is now with I.C.I. at Birmingham.

L. W. Collins is now attending the Municipal Technical College, Hull, in a course of training for Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy.

G. T. Sampson is Lance-Sergeant. He is at present somewhere in France.

K. R. Smith has been successful in passing the London Intermediate Arts examination.

17th ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER.

The Seventeenth Annual Reunion Dinner was held at the Angel Hotel, on Saturday, December 16th. There had been doubts and forebodings as to the probable attendance, but there was general satisfaction when it became clear that we should have no difficulty in mustering enough for a successful evening. It seems strange that this most difficult

of years should have been the one to furnish a record attendance at the Dinner. The number present was exactly one hundred.

In the Annual General Meeting which preceded the Dinner the Secretary presented the statement of accounts which showed a credit balance of over £34. Officials were then elected as follows:—

President: Col. O. Sutton Nelthorpe.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. H. E. Bryant, J. T. Daughton, A. S. Gibson, B. E. Spink, D. Munro, H. L. Munro, R. B. Munro, H. F. Sergeant, E. Taylor, E. F. Brown and J. G. T. Eccles (retiring Vice-Chairman).

Chairman: T. N. Sumpter.

Vice-Chairman: H. F. Sergeant (retiring Chairman).

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: E. Urry.

Assistant Secretary: J. P. Kemp.

Since the previous type of Committee had been found unsatisfactory, it was decided to elect an Executive body of nine which, together with ex-officio members, should have the power to co-opt area members where necessary. The following nine were elected:—A. E. Knight, J. W. Cowling, W. Bains, G. Goodman, A. Lyon, E. Taylor, R. Taylor, A. L. Munro and F. S. Chapman.

The toast of "The School" was proposed at the Dinner by Mr. Charles Dolby. He described his great respect for the School, and compared it favourably with others of a more exalted station. He was proud to be asked to propose this toast, and proud to have had a son at the School. Mr. Dolby then read a telegram of good wishes which had sent to the assembled Old Boys. Mr. Daughton replied to the toast, and gave his customary review of the year's activities. Mr. M. Gaze, in a happy speech, proposed "The Association." He referred to his researches into Nelthorpe history, and to Sir John's good sense in founding his school where he did. There was in the School a fine feeling of comradeship, not least between masters and boys. The activities of Old Boys were always a source of interest in the Common Room, that room of many uses.

Mr. E. Urry replied for the Association and described its progress during the year.

In proposing the toast of "Absent Briggensians," the new Chairman, Mr. T. N. Sumpter, referred especially to those serving in the Forces. He mentioned also Mr. H. E. Bryant, who had been ill, and proposed that the good wishes of the meeting should be sent to him. Mr. Sumpter also made a strong appeal to all Old Boys to do their utmost in some branch of National Service.

At various stages during the Dinner entertainment was provided, and this year an innovation was made, in that no professional talent was employed. It may be said that the experiment was completely successful. Jack Whitfield, who sang, played the guitar and impersonated, provided just the right atmosphere for such an evening. Kenneth Maw showed that he has a very fine voice, and his songs were much appreciated. To these two Old Boys we were very grateful. Two part-songs, rendered by eight of the Masters, were received with noisy enthusiasm, some of which, it is feared, was occasioned by considerations other than the quality of the singing. Community singing and Mr. Daughton's by now famous Birthday Song completed the programme of entertainment.

It was an enjoyable evening, and it is good to reflect that so many Old Boys overcame the discomforts of black-out and the transport difficulties. Especially creditable was the enthusiasm of E. F. Brown and C. A. Reed who travelled down all the way from Saltburn for the Dinner.

The cost of the Dinner was fixed at the lowest possible figure to cover the expenses of printing, stationery and postage. There was as a result a small profit of about five shillings.

NOTTINGHAM LETTER.

University College,
Nottingham.

To the Editor of *The Briggensian*.

Dear Sir,

Since there are five old Briggensians at Nottingham, it

has been suggested that some of your readers might be interested to have some idea of how we spend our time, and of the place where we spend it.

First, then, let me attempt to draw for you a rough picture of the College. It is a large, imposing building of white stone situated in its own grounds, and adjacent to University Park with its lake, gardens and tree-shaded walks. We have been told that the College looks its best in the Summer sunshine, but even through the bleakness of an English winter one cannot fail to appreciate some of its beauty.

Probably the first thing which strikes one on entering College is the amount of freedom allowed to students, freedom which, at first, after the rules and regulations imposed on one at school, is rather intoxicating, and which for a time tends to create the impression that there is a lack of discipline.

This freedom of course extends to the various Societies and Clubs of which there are many—sufficient to cater for all tastes and views. One is free to join any of these societies. There is no pestering or cajoling. The choice is left to oneself, and if any student cares to dissociate himself entirely from the social or sports side of College life, he will remain unmolested.

I believe I can speak for all five of us when I say that we are very happy here—indeed who could be otherwise in our surroundings?

As a last word I will promise any other Briggensian who anticipates coming to Nottingham a warm reception if he enters one of the hostels. I am, sir, speaking from personal experience,

Yours etc.,

K. R. SMITH (1932-59).

CARTWHEEL.

From the rowdy moment when the absurd, red-nosed figure cartwheeled into the ring to a blatant discord from the circus band, it had been Pongo, Pongo and nothing but Pongo, and Mr. and Mrs. Newbiggin, dragging Horace into

a cafe for tea after the matinee, were heartily sick of Pongo ("The Funniest Clown in the World").

Horace, left cold by real lions and magnificent horses and sensational trapeze artistes, responded to Pongo's antics with a shrieking glee. When Pongo flicked his white bowler across the ring and landed it neatly on the head of the fat man in the front row, Horace's heart was won.

The cafe, fortunately, was empty, and Horace, aching to emulate Pongo's feat, could not resist the opportunity which presented itself in the form of the waitress who came for the order. Horace's technique was not altogether sound, and the waitress, her eye smarting from an abrupt meeting with the hard peak of Horace's cap, was barely civil to Mr. and Mrs. Newbiggin, who were, after all, responsible for Horace.

Duly chastised and temporarily under control, Horace sipped his tea reflectively. He did, when Mr. Newbiggin was struggling with an unruly cress sandwich, attempt to pour a spoonful of tea into his mouth from a height of a foot (as Pongo had done), with the net result of a soaked collar and the promise of a thrashing.

Mr. and Mrs. Newbiggin jointly sighed with relief when a fourth customer made his way to a nearby table. The newcomer's presence had the desired influence—for about ten minutes. But Horace's passionate admiration for his new hero mounted with each minute, and welled up in a stream which was bound to find outlet.

It trickled out first in a babble of boyish, breathless conversation which made the man at the nearby table rustle his paper irritably and turn his chair so that his back spoke eloquently in protest.

But Horace was fundamentally a man of action, and not of words, and he fidgetted violently till the meal was over. Mr. and Mrs. Newbiggin left the table, with Horace following. At least, he followed a few feet. Then he saw a wide expanse of carpet. That was too much for him.

Horace breathed deeply and stretched his arms above his head. In a cartwheel which would have turned Pongo green with envy, he covered the expanse of carpet and rocketted against the nearest table leg.

Mr. and Mrs. Newbiggin turned in time to see the jug fall, and the steaming hot water shoot neatly into the hand of the man at the table.

Horace heard a growl of pain above him. He fled.

* * * * *

Horace crept gingerly into bed that evening, but the pain of his thrashing was dulled by the realisation that at that moment, at the evening performance of the circus, Pongo would be cartwheeling across the ring—just as he had cartwheeled.

* * * * *

Actually, Pongo did not do his cartwheels that evening.

After all, you can't do cartwheels with a scalded hand, can you?

JACK WHITFIELD (1927-32).

OUR FOUNDER :

SIR JOHN NELTHORPE, Bart. 1614—1669.

There were Nelthorpes in Lincolnshire more than four hundred years ago. In 1523 Richerde Nelethorp of Honington (about four miles North of Grantham) died and left his belongings to his son Edward. If Edward had died before his father, half the property would have gone to Richard's wife Agnes and the other half to his father Christopher. As these Christian names, Christopher, Richard and Edward all occur in the family tree of our Founder, there is probably a close relationship.

However, it was from the neighbourhood of Beverley in Yorkshire that Richard Nelthorpe, the father of Sir John, came to Brigg in 1601 when he married Ursula Gravyner or Grosvenor at Wrawby Church. Brigg had no church: it did not become a parish until 1872. They most likely lived in a house that stood on the site of the present Midland Bank in Brigg Market Place. Richard Nelthorpe bought the premises from Thomas Dodd, and there was born the boy who fifty-two years later was to become the first baronet. Later on, after the Nelthorpes had moved to Scawby, this house became the Lion Hotel. John was baptized at Wrawby on 27th November, 1614, being named after his grandfather

who had died as long ago as 1580, thirty-four years before John's birth.

Richard and Ursula Nelthorpe had eight children, four sons and four daughters, but one of each had died very young, so our first glimpse of Sir John is as the youngest member of a family of three boys and three girls living in Brigg Market Place. Their names were Joan, Edward, Dorothy, Richard, Ursula and John.

Brigg was a very different place from the one we know. The town has been entirely rebuilt. The river, said Camden in 1607, was crossed by a bridge at Glanford, a small market town that the inhabitants called Brigg from the bridge. He describes the river as a muddy little stream abounding in eels. There was a rhyme about them:—

Ankam eels and Witham pike,
In all England are none syke.

Brigg was also famous for growing very good licorice.

From 1629 to 1631 John Nelthorpe went to the school kept by Mr. Osgodby in Brigg. A cousin from Beverley, also a John Nelthorpe one year younger than the Brigg John, was at the same school at the same time, and when they left school these two cousins went together to St. John's College Cambridge, being admitted on 30th April, 1631, when Sir John was sixteen. While John was at school his brother Richard had died, and while he was at Cambridge his mother died. She was buried at Scawby on 5th December, 1632. Richard Nelthorpe, the father, had in 1626 bought the Manor of Scawby, where he began to build the house that has since developed into Scawby Hall. Sir John never lived at Scawby. From Cambridge the two cousins went to London to be lawyers, becoming members of Gray's Inn on 19th November, 1634. An elder brother of the Beverley John, named Edward, had already joined Gray's Inn six months earlier. As an Attorney Sir John lived in Stanhope Buildings to the north of Holborn.

In 1640 his father, Richard Nelthorpe, died and was buried at Scawby, where Sir John erected a memorial to him, the most interesting object in Scawby Church. It includes busts of Richard and of his wife Ursula and conventional representations of their eight children. Richard left his

Scawby property to his eldest son Edward, but left a good deal of land and houses in other places to John, the most important being an estate at Legsby, and the most interesting being the land on which Brigg Grammar School and the boarding house now stand. This land was known as Townsend Closes, having once belonged to an Edward Townsend.

The most important historical event during Sir John's life was the Civil War. He became a Captain in Cromwell's army, but we have no record of his service. When the war was over and the Commonwealth established, he resumed his work as an attorney. The Commonwealth was faced with serious money problems, and had to raise money by selling Crown Property, that is to say, land and houses, ferries and tolls that had belonged to Charles the first and his queen Henrietta Maria. We must bear in mind that our Founder's cousin John was also an attorney, so cannot be sure that a transaction in the name of John Nelthorpe was carried out by Sir John. None of these properties were mentioned either when Sir John appointed trustees for his estates in 1662 or when he made his Will in 1669. This is probably because he made the purchases for clients, but may be an indication that he restored his share of the properties when the Monarchy was restored on the return of Charles the second in 1660. Anyhow, purchases in the name of one or the other John Nelthorpe include Enfield Chase, Newark Castle, Yaddletorpe Farm, Barton Ferry, Grantham Tolls, Brumby Warren and some meadows at Snitterby.

An important part of the Commonwealth's money difficulties was how to make up the back pay of Cromwell's army, so a scheme was devised to parcel out some of the Crown Lands to old soldiers. Captain John Nelthorpe, our Sir John, was one of a body of forty-eight attorneys who acted for members of several disbanded regiments to see that they received good value in lands and properties instead of money.

As Sir John appointed Trustees for his own property in 1662, we can get some idea of its extent at that time. It comprised land and houses at South Ferriby, Wrawby (Townsend Closes), Barrow, Killingholme, Barton, Burn-

ham, Kirmington, Brigg, North Kelsey and a house at Gainsborough. He also owned the Manor of Legsby and property in and near Horncastle and in London.

Among his many leases we may notice just one, which Thomas Doughty the vicar of Legsby carried out in 1665 on his behalf, letting a cottage at Legsby to the village carpenter, George Marfitt, who agreed to repair the timber work of the building within five months, in return for which he was to be excused the first year's rent of one pound nine shillings. Marfitt agreed to keep the cottage in repair, "walls, thatch, timber, chimney, oven, floors, doors, windows, fences, ways and conveniences," and he promised not to plough up garth during the last two years of lease without his landlord's consent.

Charles the second made John Nelthorpe a Baronet in 1666. Baronetcies descend to sons only, but as Sir John was a bachelor a special arrangement was made for the title to go on his death to one of his relations. He was to be succeeded neither by his elder brother Edward of Scawby, nor by this Edward's eldest son Richard (who followed his father at Scawby and founded the free school there) but to Sir John's favourite nephew Godard, the second son of his brother, Edward. Godard, who also lived in London, became the second Baronet in 1669 when Sir John died.

Sir John Nelthorpe was buried in St. James's Church, Clerkenwell, London. When that church was rebuilt about 1800 his memorial tablet was removed to Scawby Church. There is a portrait of Sir John in armour at Scawby Hall, and a slightly smaller old copy at Brigg Grammar School, recently cleaned by J. Lenygan of Lincoln. You can see the coat of arms: the red hand means that he was a Baronet, the golden crescent that he was the second surviving son.

Sir John made his Will on 11th September, 1669, and it was proved on 5th October of that year, so he died between those dates. He left most of his property to his nephew Sir Godard Nelthorpe. He made provision for weekly sermons on Sunday afternoons at Market Rasen, Barrow and Legsby.

He founded Brigg Grammar School by bequeathing Townsend Closes as well as property at Horncastle, Ulceby, Fulsby, and a house at Gainsborough, of which the rent was

to pay the expenses of examinations to be held twice a year in April and October. He wished the scholars to learn Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Writing and Arithmetic gratis. No master was to remain at the school after he was forty-five years old. A letter dated 22nd March, 1678, in which Timothy Bentley was appointed to preach the Sunday afternoon sermons at Market Rasen mentions that the school house was nearly finished.

He made a great many bequests to friends and servants, including twenty pounds to his laundress Mrs. Broxholme. "Laundress" is the traditional name at Gray's Inn for the women who look after the members' rooms. Eight days later Sir John made a codicil reducing her legacy to ten pounds: evidently she had annoyed him in the interval. Another interesting bequest is one of personal jewellery and mementoes to Mary Langham, daughter of Sir James Langham, to whom he was apparently engaged, as he left her the thirty-one Angels "which were given me by my father to be presented to her that should be my wife."

A translation that was made a hundred years ago of the inscription on the memorial now in Scawby Church may end our brief notice.

"Near this stone lies John Nelthorpe of Scawby in the county of Lincolnshire, youngest son of Richard Nelthorpe and Ursula Grosvenor, who having increased a moderate fortune by frugality and a uniform conduct of life, was the first that introduced the title of Baronet into the honourable family of the Nelthorpes. He spent the greatest part of his life in Gray's Inn in the study of the Law and the discharge of his Christian duty. He lived unmarried to the detriment of his family. He was worthy to be reckoned among the good rather than the common rank of men, better known to himself than to anyone: a follower of real virtue without an ostentatious appearance of it. When he had fulfilled all the duties of life, that the practice of his virtue might not be too confined, and that he might not seem to have accumulated wealth for the benefit of his heirs alone, he gave many presents to poor debtors, he bequeathed many legacies to poor and worthy persons, he endowed a school for the education of youth in the neighbourhood of Scawby,

and enriched his friends with unexpected liberalities. Having laid aside all concern and regard for the affairs of this life, having fixed his thoughts on Eternity, and ripe for his change, he died in the year of our Lord 1669 and 55th of his age."

I am greatly indebted to the Chairman of the Governors, Colonel O. S. Nelthorpe, for allowing access to the documents at Scawby Hall, thus enabling me to compile this account.

MALCOLM GAZE.

ODE TO PEACE.

O gracious Lady with the patient smile!
 Why can we never know thy tender grace?
 Why dost thou always hide thy shining face
 Behind vague fears and Mars' ruthless guile?

We seek thee in the silence of the night;
 We find thee in the secret realms of sleep.
 Then does some crazy dream upon us creep,
 Tormenting us—and thou art put to flight.

O must aggression be our doleful creed?
 And shall we thus abuse this gift of life
 By wasting weary years in painful strife—
 On life's eternal battlefield to bleed?

O Peace, ambition's futile slaves are we,
 For man himself mocks thine obscurity.

K.C.B.

FREEDOM AND THE SIXTH.

"Life is work, work life—that is all

Ye know in the Sixth and all ye have time to know!"

This astounding statement is not at all fictitious. In our rare moments when we are not doing French, we are granted a little relaxation; (for a change is as good as a rest they say; and who am I to contradict, who have never

experienced the latter?) We are then privileged (?) to write history essays. Yet in these realms can we never achieve perfection. For instance, having recently given what I considered was a complete account of Louis XIV's foreign policy, I was bound to reproach myself for incredible carelessness when I realised that I had omitted the important fact that the Sun King always wore rubber-soled shoes when travelling through Holland in winter-time.

On still rarer occasions, when we are occupied by neither of these subjects, we give a little of our valuable time to such gentlemen as Shelley, who, like us, wanted liberty, and to Lamb, (not the venerable Larry, but the lesser-known personage who wrote essays).

We also give two periods per week to the study of Historical Geography, or the study of how man has been affected by his geographical surroundings. In such a manner may we explain why negroes have curly hair. In the far-off days, when civilisation was in about the same state of non-existence as it is to-day, practically every inhabitant of the forests of darkest Africa was at enmity with every other one. Therefore the negro was always fearful that some bloodthirsty enemy might be lurking behind the next tree, and that terrifying thought made his hair stand on end. However, so numerous were the trees, that the unfortunate savage was in a constant state of apprehension, and hence his hair was perpetually standing on end. Unfortunately there were no barbers in Africa in those dim days, so the negro's hair grew extremely long. Thus, when it stood on end, it was incapable of supporting its own weight, and it curled over.

Even our nights are not our own, for we have to rack our brains to prepare to withstand the onslaughts of our form mates, the Sixth Form being the home of the unofficial (not to say "uncivilised") debating society. Many profound subjects have recently been discussed, including whether the air-raid shelters should be opened for skating in winter, whether a Chinaman (being yellow) has the ability "to take it," and whether a gentleman with a cigar in his mouth, umbrella in his hand, wearing a black and white tie,

who walks with a pronounced swagger down Oxford Street at 1 a.m. on the first of April is most likely to possess an alligator or a rhinoceros. Although, after much loss of blood, no agreement has been reached on any of these subjects, the opinion has been widely expressed that "it makes you think." There has, in fact, been little rejection of motions, but many motions of ejection.

Yet another curse has been piled upon us, however, for, with the approach of March, the weather has been considered bad enough for us to mile away the time over the cross-country course.

Time Marches On !!!

K.C.B.

CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE !

The magazine editor, pompous, enters,
 In his hand a slip of white,
 And with the same age-old suggestion
 Pins the notice up to sight.

"May I suggest that this form still
 Shall keep in mind its reputation,
 Contribute to the "Briggensian"
 And undergo no variation."

I read the notice: "Stories, poems,
 And articles of interest
 Are wanted by the Editors
 To make this mag. the very best."

Therefore, as dutiful as ever,
 I racked my brains for weary hours,
 To write a fitting contribution
 And display poetic powers.

Ah me! the useless hours I spent
 And nothing still have I to show;
 So in this form comes my excuse
 Alas! dear Ed., it was "no go!"

U.C.A.E.B.