



EDITORIAL.

April, 1941.

It is an unenviable task to begin an editorial at this time, because, firstly, as Mr. Churchill said, this is more a time for action, than words. Secondly, the raging and ever-widening torrent of war occupies so much of everyone's attention that it would be incongruous to write on any other subject, and yet it is so easy to write cant or eclectic nonsense on this topic, grown almost stale till our victories in Africa re-awakened the imagination of the country.

We may confidently say, however, that our island is far more secure now than it was in Spring, 1940. One proof that this knowledge is not lulling us into complacency and sloth, as was happening at this time last year, is the decision of the Government that boys of eighteen shall be liable for military service. Thus it may well be that some of our seniors on leaving school will have to decide not what careers they will adopt but what service they will join. It is hard to look far ahead; most of the future is uncertain. To this dim and distant future careers appear to belong. The near future is revealing more and more clearly the duty of fighting, that the distant future may not be uncertain when it is reached. Though indeed we must not cease to hope that the war will end quickly, but the surest way, truism though it be, is to take thought for the present and the immediate future where a clear and steadfast purpose can be discerned. Careers may be finally settled at the time of general clearance and re-organisation which, we hope, will follow the war.

What a mighty work will have to be entered upon then, for war, though it sweeps away evils, is a gross and ghastly and clumsily administered overdose, destroying good and evil and only temporarily removing bad things which need eradicating completely. If the fighters and workers are assured that this work will be done properly, they will tackle the more urgent job with greater zeal.

SCHOOL LISTS.

The School Officials for this term have been:—

Head Boy of the School: W. Maw.

Captain of Football: J. R. Wright.

Vice-Captain of Football: J. C. Baggott.

Prefects: W. Maw, P. J. Saynor, J. R. Wright, D. Cottingham, R. Kitching, J. S. Hunt, L. Jackson, W. E. D. Lee, J. B. Bell.

Librarians: W. Maw and the Upper Sixth.

Magazine Committee: Mr. Richards, P. J. Saynor (Editor), P. Hall (Sub-Editor).

Chess Club: J. C. Baggott (Chairman); L. Jackson (Secretary).

Discussion Society: Mr. Gaze, P. J. Saynor (Chairman), J. R. Wright (Secretary).

Gardening: Mr. Thumwood, P. Hall.

Musical Society: Mr. Pratt.

Scientific Society: Mr. Thumwood, L. Jackson (Secretary).

Savings Association: Mr. Pimlott (Secretary), R. P. Holmes (Assistant Secretary).

House Masters and Captains:

Ancholme: Mr. Henthorn, J. B. Bell.

Nelthorpe: Mr. Morris, D. Cottingham.

School: The Headmaster, Mr. Pimlott, J. R. Wright.

Sheffield: Mr. Urry, W. Maw.

Yarborough: Mr. Knight, R. Kitching.

School Athletics: Mr. Cabourne (Hon. Secretary).

SCHOOL NOTES.

Spring Term, 1941, has found the School quite normal. School activities were somewhat dislocated by the weather, snow and frost diminishing attendances and preventing games. However, there has been no widespread epidemic and we have not been affected at all by air-raids. A necessary precaution has been taken by establishing a fire-watching rota in School-house. The A.T.C. scheme has, of course, occupied our attention. It is hoped to form a flight in Brigg and a number of boys have already enrolled.

School societies have functioned energetically this term. A new venture was the formation of the Discussion Society, which has embraced the most diverse topics in its series of meetings and which has proved surprisingly successful. On February 19th, the upper school was fortunate enough to attend a lantern lecture by Mr. J. C. Thompson, who gave us some interesting slides and edifying comments on Tientsin, Northern China, where he has been teaching. On March 7th the school heard a concert in the Girls' High School given by three very competent artistes and arranged by the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts.

There are four results in external examinations to report. D. A. Pearce and H. E. O'Neill were successful in reaching Matriculation standard in the Cambridge School Certificate examinations of December. J. S. Hunt obtained a vacancy as a result of the Special Army Entrance Examination of November and is now in training at Catterick. C. R. Turner was successful in the Artificer Apprentice Examination for the Royal Navy.

We were sorry to learn during the term that Colonel Nelthorpe was in hospital, but fortunately he is now fit again.

Mr. Bradley, who is now a Pilot Officer in the R.A.F.V.R., was recently home for a week's leave, and we were pleased to see him looking so well.

The usual biennial collection for the Blind was made recently and £7 15s. was contributed.

Dates for next term:—

Next term begins: 29th April.

Sports Day: 17th May.

Whitsuntide Holiday: 31st May—4th June.

Term ends: 25th July.

SALVETE.

Ancholme:

Jeffrey, B. F. H.

Sheffield:

Clayton, I. F.

Mowson, J. B.

School:

Locke, D.

Locke, L. J.

Neal, J. G.

VALETE.

U. VI:

HUNT, J. S.—Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1938 and 1939. Special Army Examination, November, 1940; Member of School Orchestra; 2nd XI Cricket, 1940.

Address:—National Provincial Bank House, Barton-on-Humber.

L. VI:

BRATLEY, F. B.—Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1940; Under XIV Football, 1936-37; 2nd XI Cricket, 1940; 2nd XI Football, 1939.

Address:—"Cramond," Wrawby Road, Brigg.

DAVY, R. F.—Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1940; 2nd XI Football, 1940-41; Cross Country Cup, 1940.

Address:—10, Queen Street, Brigg.

TAYLOR, K. M.—Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1940.

Address:—Kits Coty, St. Helen's Road, Brigg.

TURNER, C. R.—Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1940; Artificer's Apprentice Examination R.N., October, 1940.

Address:—4, Redcombe Lane, Brigg.

Remove:

O'NEILL, H. E. D.—Cambridge School Certificate, December, 1940; Section D Cup, 1936; Section B Cup, 1938;

Inter-School Sports, 1936, 1938, 1939; Athletics Colours 1939; Vice-Captain of Athletics, 1940.

Address:—Grammar School Road, Brigg.

PEARCE, D. A.—Cambridge School Certificate, July and December, 1940, 2nd XI Football, 1939-40; Member of Scout Troop, 1938-9; Senior Swimming Cup, 1939 and 1940.

Address:—28, Windsor Terrace, Penarth, Glam.

KIRK, A.I.

Address:—54, Farthing Avenue, Scunthorpe.

U. Vb:

ROSE, B. E.

Address:—170, Skethy Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

CROSBY, C.

Address:—Worlaby House, Worlaby, Brigg.

L. Va:

DAVISON, K. F.—Member of Scout Troop.

Address:—60, Mill Lane, Brigg.

L. Vb:

DAWSON, T.—Under XIV Football, 1939-40; 2nd XI Football, 1940-41.

Address:—Front Street, Ulceby.

IVb:

MOORE, T. Address:—48, Diana Street, Scunthorpe.

Iib:

MERRYSHAW, J. Address:—Glentham, Lincs.

SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

Deposits for the first ten weeks of this term amount to £81 11s. 7d. 69 Savings Certificates have been purchased and £22 has been transferred to Savings Bank accounts.

Although this is an improvement on previous terms, yet the number of regular depositors is still too small. We have about 140 members in the school, of whom only about 70 are active. This means that only 25 per cent. of the boys in the school are regular savers—surely a fortunate school like ours can improve on this.

The chief aim of the Savings movement has always been to encourage thrift, but at this critical time in the history of our country it couples with this the urgent need for saving. It is now the duty of everyone to help the nation by saving every penny he can even if it means great personal sacrifice. Every boy in the School should join in this great national effort by becoming an active member of the School Savings Group. So JOIN NOW and help your country.

On April 26th begins the Brigg and District War Weapons Week and for this the School is asked to make a special effort. It is suggested that during the holidays each boy saves as much as possible and brings it along to school during the first week of next term. You become a member on making your first deposit.

Let us create a record in that week and give a lead to other schools in the district.

H. PIMLOTT.

MUSICAL SOCIETY NOTES.

It must be nearly ten years since the School Orchestra was first formed. No other School society can claim such antiquity. There can be no boy in the school now who remembers the time when there was no orchestra. It may fairly be claimed that this society has justified its existence. It was the reason for the beginning of the practice of holding at least one end of term concert a year—a practice unhappily but inevitably discontinued since the beginning of the war. No doubt the performers in the plays presented also at these concerts thought otherwise, but the Orchestra always felt that it was the *raison d'être* of the concerts and the backbone of them.

The Orchestra continues now playing for the sake of playing and for the fun to be had from it, in spite of the war. It will take more than a war, one hopes, to destroy it, although it received a nasty knock when the First Violin, Mr. Bradley, left us for work in the R.A.F. If other calls upon the Staff are made by the armed forces it will be necessary for more boys to rally round to preserve the Orchestra, even if only as an ancient monument. But the time to begin

rallying is now, before any more gaps appear. It will never be regretted and it will shine like a good deed in a naughty world.

SCOUT NOTES.

Our activities of the Christmas term were finished off by the distribution of logs to the poor people of Brigg. At least sixty persons received two bags, while many more received a single sack-full.

During the Christmas vacation we held meetings, usually under the supervision of the S.M. of the 1st Brigg, and by co-operation with the 1st Brigg and 1st Wrawby troops we were able to collect £3 5s. 9d. by singing carols in various streets of the town on Christmas Eve. Later that evening we regaled ourselves with a sausage-and-chip supper, not forgetting the trifle that followed. Most of us managed to get home safely that night!

At the beginning of this term the question of volunteers from the troop to firewatch the Town Hall was very much in the air. Now five Scouts from the troop do firewatching duty there every week.

Within the last two weeks a system of patrols has been arranged to help the W.V.S. This means paper baling and sorting, and we hope to commence work before the end of the term, although it means working after the end of afternoon school.

During the last six months the troop has so greatly increased in numbers that the S.M. has made a maximum limit of thirty-two members. We now have twenty-nine so that if any boy is contemplating joining the 2nd Brigg he would be well advised to do so at once.

Good Scouting.

P.L. SEAGULL.

NIGHT PATROL.

At exactly 7-30 p.m. on the 17th March, four German Parachutists, really Boy Scouts, set off from the school gates. I was one of these raiders. We proceeded cautiously

along Grammar School Road, turned into Redcombe Lane and went along towards the river. We then cut across the fields to the river bank, and soon arrived at Castlethorpe bridge, being very cautious to look in every possible piece of cover. We knew the most likely cover available, as we had looked over the ground the day before.

After passing Castlethorpe bridge we advanced with infinite caution. Once in the gradually deepening dusk we heard a stir in the undergrowth. "Down," whispered Bullock, our leader. At this command the other three fell flat on their stomachs and crawled past the supposed spy. Once past, one of us went back to investigate and we were much relieved when, searching the bushes thoroughly, we found no sign of any enemy. By this time we had put arm-bands on, bearing white swastikas, and covered our faces up, so that in the dark no one would see a white face which would give our presence away.

"Now the third bridge, lads," said Bullock, "don't go and blow up the wrong bridge."

We crossed the second bridge on the stream running parallel to the river and went into the fields. We crossed a muddy ploughed field and struck across towards the hedge. When we reached it we discovered a fairly wide ditch. Our leader got across quite successfully, but the next one to cross was not quite so successful. He thought he was safely across, when he stepped on a piece of unsafe bank and went in with loud protests. We quickly got him out and the rest of us were safely hauled across by rope.

Suddenly we all stopped dead. We had all heard the same thing—two low whistles. A signal! The same thought flashed across our minds at once. It was not far away. Perhaps it was only someone out walking, but considering the time and darkness that was very improbable. We strained our eyes to look for the source of that whistle, but we could see no-one. All the same we pressed ourselves into the hedge and waited awhile. After about five minutes, when we considered the danger past, we advanced along the hedge-side. We were now in the field which contained the bridge and it was necessary that we should go right round

the edge of the field. About every five minutes we stopped to listen for any minute sound which might give the defenders of the bridge away. However, we heard nothing suspicious until one of us said "S-s-s-h." We all stopped, and heard the soft swish-swish of moving grass. Very quietly we got down on our stomachs. Soon we saw Sawyer and Lyon, two defenders patrolling along the hedge side. Where we were lying it was very swampy and wet. The two defenders kept along the hedge-side and crossed a stile in the corner. We were just about to rise when we saw them returning. Down we got again. They got over the stile. They came towards us. We prepared ourselves for action. On they came, nearer and nearer. We should be discovered! Then to our tremendous relief Sawyer turned back again and re climbed the stile. We waited for about five minutes and then went on.

We got to a certain point, and here made our final arrangements. Cabourne was to go for the defender's head, Martin to go for the feet and Bullock was to deal with any others interfering whilst I planted the bomb. We advanced upon our stomachs with the bridge straight in front of us. We were within about ten yards when Bullock shouted "Charge!" And we went across that 30 feet of ground as quick as lightning. We saw the silhouette of the defenders at the bridge ready for the onslaught and we bowled them over like ninepins. In the midst of the struggle I planted the bomb, an alarm clock set for three minutes, shouted "Right!" and rushed away with the others to await the explosion. We saw the defenders, dimly in the darkness, searching frantically for the bomb. Then, dead on time, the bomb exploded. We were highly successful and then proceeded to another job, this time to blow up Broughton Bridge. A good night's work. G. TURNER.

THE DISCUSSION SOCIETY.

At the end of last term the Art Discussion Circle and the Debating Society had fallen into desuetude, and it was suggested that the two should be merged into a new society.

This new venture has proved an undoubted success and attendances at meetings this term have been considerably improved. The wide scope of the new society allowed us to introduce new departures which were enthusiastically received.

At the first meeting of term papers were read by Maw on "Shakespeare and Bacon," by Saynor on "Shakespeare's Tragedies," and by Cottingham on his "Comedies," followed by an informal discussion in which members took part.

Throughout we have tried to make meetings as informal as possible in order to encourage the more timid members to express their opinions. A talk on the Early Flemish Painters by Mr. Gaze was the next subject and this was followed by a keen debate. The motion that "This House considers that America should pursue a more vigorous war policy," was carried by a large majority. Duerdin gave an exceedingly interesting talk on "Naval Strategy," and showed an extensive knowledge of his subject.

Before the end of term we hope to hear a talk by Mr. P. F. C. King on "The Principles of Wireless and Television." Before closing these notes I should like to thank Mr. Gaze for his unfailing advice and encouragement.

J. R. WRIGHT.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The activities of the Scientific Society were curtailed at the beginning of this term, owing entirely to the bad weather, but started in full swing after half-term with a lecture by Mr. Thumwood on "The Musical Ear," in which he performed many interesting and convincing demonstrations. One of these should be given special mention, for Mr. Thumwood caused great excitement when he gave a short recital on a bicycle pump. The next lecture, which was equally well enjoyed, was given by Mr. Constable on "Poison Gas in Warfare," and as he has had experience in this type of warfare, his account was very realistic.

Up to the time of going to press, we still have several activities to come; namely, a visit to the local gas works

and a lecture by Mr. P. King on "Wireless and Television."

Next term we hope to arrange a greater number of lectures and meetings; and we also have been invited to visit several industries in the district. L. JACKSON.

GARDENING NOTES.

Once more a new year has brought with it the fervour to work in the open, to get out into the open-air. This spirit has reached the gardeners and everywhere there are signs of activity. Row after row of onions, radishes and lettuce have appeared to brighten up the rather dull patches of cabbages which do not seem to succeed on our soil. Flowers we have in abundance everywhere; there are groups of crocuses, purple, white, yellow and variegated, supplemented by the snowdrops and the pleasant green shoots of daffodils. One gardener has made an attempt to produce some really good sweet peas by special preparation of the ground. The results, which we hope will be promising, are yet to be seen. P. HALL.

THE CHESS CLUB.

Chess enthusiasm in the school has not been so high this term as last. We still have over thirty members, however, and hold meetings every Tuesday in the Physics laboratory. Three leagues were started at the beginning of the term, but there was not time to complete them, and so a "knock-out" competition has been arranged, and we hope to complete this by the end of the term. Our match with Caistor, which was to have been played this term, has had to be postponed, but we hope to play it in the near future. Much of the chess played at our Tuesday meetings is still somewhat unorthodox, but there is a slight improvement, and we hope soon to have developed a fairly good style. We are sorry to have lost some of our best players, but we welcome at the same time those who have joined the club this term. J. C. BAGGOTT.

BAGGOTT'S CHESS PROBLEM.

Positions:

White: K at QR3; Q at QB6; Rs at QB4, KB6; Kts at QKt4, QKt6; P at QKt2.

Black: K at K4; Q at KR6; R at QB6; Bs at QB2, K7; Kt at KB7; Ps at K2, QKt6.

Problem: White moves and mates in two.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

As usual in the Spring Term we have had very little football. For the first six weeks of term the field was covered with a thick layer of snow and only latterly have we been able to recommence section games.

Unfortunately they have to be temporarily suspended now until after the Cross-Country Race. House matches have been completed and our congratulations must go out to Nelthorpe House who won the Cup by the narrow margin of half a point. The competition was undecided until the last match when Nelthorpe, playing some good football, beat a depleted School House eleven 6—5. The final results are: Nelthorpe 12, Sheffield 11½, Ancholme 9½, School 9, Yarborough 8. We have had only one School match this term which, together with a match too late to be included in last term's issue, are described below.

For their play this season, Cottingham, Kennedy, Lee, Killip, Bell and Cabourne were awarded Football Colours.

1st XI v. Gainsborough C.S. At home, 4th Dec., 1940.

Team:—Cottingham; Kennedy, Lee; Killip, Bell, Jarman; Saynor, Cabourne, Wright, Westoby, Atkinson.

The match was noticeable for the keenness on both sides. Baggott was unable to play and Bell acquitted himself well at centre-half, Jarman coming in at left-half. Cabourne gave us an early lead and, with the defence steadily resisting Gainsborough attacks, our forwards scored three more goals to put the issue beyond all doubt.

Result:—Brigg G.S. 4, Gainsborough G.S. 1.

Scorers:—Cabourne 2, Wright, Westoby.

1st XI v. Scunthorpe G.S. At home, 15th March, 1941.

Team :—Cottingham ; Kennedy, Lee ; Lumley, Baggott, Bell ; Saynor, Cabourne, Wright, Taylor (A.), Atkinson.

After having been twice postponed the match was played in glorious weather. Scunthorpe started off well and their quick passing had our defence fully extended. However, School gradually began to assert their supremacy. Accurate shooting by the forwards began to have a telling effect and before the end the Scunthorpe defence was at sixes and sevens. Cabourne, in particular, was in very good form.

Result :—Brigg G.S. 13, Scunthorpe G.S. 4.

Scorers :—Cabourne 6, Taylor 3, Wright 2, Bell and Baggott 1 each.

1st XI v. Brigg A.F.S. 22nd March.

Result :—Brigg G.S. 8, Brigg A.F.S. 1.

Scorers :—Cabourne 4, Winters 1, Duerdin 1, Wright 1, Westoby 1.

2nd XI RESULTS.

v. Gainsborough. Away, Dec. 4th, 1940. Won 7—1.
(Bratley 2, Dawson 2, Wells, Clift, Monteith 1 each).

v. Scunthorpe Modern School. Away, March 15th, 1941.
Lost 10—2. (Bratley, Waters).

UNDER XIV RESULT.

v. Scunthorpe G.S. Away, March 15th, 1941. Won 4—3.
(Dent 2, Shepherd, Vessey).

J.R.W.

J.C.B.

ATHLETICS.

There is a common belief that athletes are born, not made, the comfort of the slacker, and the embarrassment of the willing but unblest by nature. Fortunately for the latter, there is evidence to show that a study of technique and hard training can do a great deal to make up for deficiencies in natural ability. Any boy, however unsteady of hand and uncertain of eye can learn to play cricket with a straight bat, if he tries, and any boy, however rotund of person and lumbering of gait can, if he tries,

learn to run with an economical, balanced action, and perhaps have the satisfaction of winning a few standard points.

It is amazing what can be accomplished by an athlete of mediocre ability who is willing to learn and practise. Just before the war, an Englishman, P. D. Ward, transformed himself from an ordinary "blue" into one of the two best three-milers in the world. He studied the methods of the Finns, who have long been pre-eminent in long-distance running, practised patiently, and not only smashed the British record but astonished the athletic world by beating all the Finns save one in their own country. We think we are right in saying that in our own corner of the world, H. E. Dibben never won an event as a junior, but you will find his name among the senior record holders still. Look at the world's records of 1930 and 1940, and you will see that even the experts learned so much in these ten years that not one of the records of 1930 now stands; indeed many of them have been beaten by a dozen or more performers.

There has been a good tradition of athletics in the school for some time, and a body of knowledge and experience has been gained, but last year there were signs of a falling off in the standard of performance. Are you going to let the tradition perish, or can you rally and stop the rot?

There may be those who are wishful to learn to improve, but who will ask "How can I except some man should guide me?" To them we would say that there are still several senior boys in the school who have acquired the rudiments of style in track and field events, and who might be asked for advice and criticism, and to these senior boys we would say that it is their duty to hand on the knowledge and skill which they themselves owe to their predecessors.

There is in athletics ample scope for "homo sapiens" to employ his mind as well as his body, and he can find therein a source of aesthetic as well as physical satisfaction, even as the ancient Greeks believed when they

invested their Olympic Games with the dignity of a national festival.

To your training then, and remember that next term, training, heats, and sports day are all to be crowded into a little over a fortnight, so that anyone who wishes to do more than make a perfunctory effort must begin his preparation in the holidays!

THE CROSS COUNTRY RACE, 1941.

There were 151 starters this year, more than half as many again as last year, so rationing has evidently not yet damaged the health of the school.

The Early Stages.—The start was a fast one, almost certainly too fast, and many of those who unexpectedly led the pack as it debouched upon Grammar School Road, had spent their effort before they reached the Monument and began to wonder why they felt so much more uncomfortable than on training runs when they probably started at a slow amble. If you want to put in a fast start, you must practise it and find out how fast you can afford to go, and for how long.

Below St. Helen's Hill.—Girdham leading followed by Sinclair, Baggott, R. Cobb, Cooke, Jarman, J. B. Bell: forty runners in a bunch then a break before the rest in a continuous stream. Most of the early leaders had fallen back.

St. Helen's Hill.—R. Cobb leading followed by Girdham looking quite fresh, Sinclair and J. B. Bell who seemed to have decided on their own pace, then a bunch headed by Bratley, Sawyer and Stokes running exceptionally well: a long string up to No. 120, then a gap, after which a group running and walking alternately and discussing volubly the prospects of the leaders and the shady tactics of some runners who had improved their position by cutting off the corner of a field.

Redholme, Wrawby.—Cobb and Girdham together: Bell and Sinclair seeming to be watching one another, resigned

to letting the youngsters in front run away from them: Sawyer close up, then Bratley, Monteith, and Stokes.

Brickyard Lane End.—Cobb and Girdham still fighting their duel. Cobb, knowing himself no sprinter, tried to make the race too fast for Girdham, but could not quite succeed, although he established a ten-yard lead for a time and had Girdham looking white and anxious.

Finishing Post.—Girdham came in first with his long, bounding stride, looking a little distressed, and Cobb padded cheerfully along about twenty yards behind: a splendidly-fought struggle, decided in the last three hundred yards by a courageous and well-judged spurt on the part of Girdham. Bell beat Sinclair in a sprint for third place, and then came Sawyer, Stokes, Monteith, Shucksmith, and Bratley. The time of 27 mins. 26½ secs., which has been beaten previously on four occasions only, must be considered very good, since the going was decidedly treacherous. Liberal proof of the condition of Brickyard Lane was brought in by several runners besides the one who involuntarily immersed himself completely in Catchwater Drain.

Congratulations to Yarborough House who won the team race easily with 14 men in the first 40. Nelthorpe narrowly beat Ancholme for second place. Ten of the Ancholme runners were well placed, but there are twelve men in a team and their last man was 80th.

Individual places :

1. R. Girdham (Y.).
2. R. Cobb (N.).
3. J. B. Bell (A.).
4. A. C. Sinclair (Y.).
5. P. W. Sawyer (A.).
6. C. Stokes (Sh.).

Team places and points.

1. Yarborough 237
2. Nelthorpe 418
3. Ancholme 424
4. Sheffield 465
5. School 535½

HOUSE NOTES.

ANCHOLME.

I often wonder what happens in a 2nd Eleven match. I should be pleased if someone could enlighten me on the

subject, for many excuses have been forthcoming but none have been satisfactory. However, that the 2nd XI should lose every match is a tradition that should have disappeared long ago. The well earned victory of the Nelthorpes over the School House did not alter our position on the table in the slightest. We were third. Nevertheless the audacity of the former House, which we had well and truly beaten on the first pitch, left us breathless. All the same, we offer our most hearty congratulations to the Nelthorpes on gaining the cup. I wish our 2nd XI would take an example.

The cross country race, and especially the training, is always a painful subject. I wonder why, for I am convinced that a number of boys have not exerted themselves to any great extent. Fortunately this number is small and these were put to shame by a few boys who insisted on trotting round the course in spite of the warnings of the more experienced ones. These unexplainable happenings were dismissed by the knowing ones with a quirk of the lips, a shrug of the shoulder, and a voice which said, "They'll learn!"

With regard to Athletics. Most of our strongest men have left school; they were Goates, J. P., O'Neill, H. E. D., Davy, R. F., and Bell, K. C. Still, we hope to follow hard in their footsteps and once again take the cup. Davy is in the Royal Warwicks; Taylor, K., has left the school to join the R.A.F., O'Neill is working hard in the Brigg U.D.C. Offices, while Bell, K. C., continues to write for the "Grimsby Telegraph."

Now a serious question. There has been some slacking in the House—good humoured slacking, if you see what I mean, and not done with the object of hurting the House. Yet it does inflict an injury and, sad to say, this defect is found among a few seniors who should know better. Now the vacation is before us and Athletics sports soon after. We have better facilities for training than any other House, so do not let the House down, and do train in the holidays.

J. B. BELL.

NELTHORPE.

First of all we must pay tribute to all the members of our two House Football Elevens, who gained a startling achievement by winning the Football Cup. With reference to this attainment we should like to express our appreciation to our House Master, Mr. Morris, for his insistence on Cross Country Training which we feel sure helped us to last out to the end of the final game with full stamina, and to secure a well-deserved victory.

At the moment, Cross Country Training is in full swing and we hope to give a good account of ourselves in the forthcoming race; and although we may not have the same quantity of exceptional runners as other Houses, we have the spirit and determination to do well, especially amongst the more junior competitors.

In conclusion, we are justified in congratulating many, if not all members of the House, on the praiseworthy way in which they managed to attend school in spite of the snow and frost which was encountered in the early part of this term.

D. COTTINGHAM.

SCHOOL.

This term has been singularly uneventful as far as School House is concerned. We welcome to our ranks three new boys J. G. Neale, D. Locke and L. J. Locke. We missed Pearce's cheerful countenance at the beginning of term and we are glad to hear that he has been accepted as a dental student at Bristol University. I think we miss his swing music the most, and main school seems strangely quiet at night compared with the days when its walls used to resound to the rhythm of "You Made Me Care." His swimming feats, too, will not easily be forgotten.

It is interesting to note that at the end of term Duerdin will have completed a stay of ten years at School House. Incidentally he has been away since half-term taking an examination for entrance into the Royal Navy. Saynor, too, is at Oxford taking a Scholarship examination, and we would like to take the opportunity of wishing them success.

The unfortunate tale of the lost Football Cup remains to be told. Our fate depended on the last match, against the Nelthorpes. We needed a win on the senior pitch only to retain the Cup, but the Nelthorpes soon put paid to our hopes by a double victory. The match was highly exciting and although we scored three goals in the last twenty minutes the Nelthorpes deservedly carried the day in a rousing finish.

The House has been exceptionally free from infection this term but our sympathies go out to Blundell and Riggott who are ill. Members of the House have been doing yeoman service in the A.R.P. The House wardens and messengers on the local Civil Defence services have been appearing on duty with unflinching regularity. The fire watchers have buckled manfully to their task, generally occupying the easy chairs in the Prefects' Room while the warning is on.

As these notes are penned the Cross Country race has not yet been run, but there is every reason to believe that the House will do well this year. May the Fates look kindly on us.

J. R. WRIGHT.

SHEFFIELD.

"Memories live longer than dreams," wrote the song writer, and this term we Sheffs seem to have so many memories that our House notes might almost be called a gossip column. Not that we have not had our dreams. On the contrary, the more optimistic among us had encouraging visions about the Football Cup. But when we realised that for the Sheffs to win any cup would have meant a revolution in the school, we rather reluctantly allowed our Boarder rivals to present it to the Nelthorpes.

But our memories are none the less sweet for all our disappointments. We shall long remember those exciting moments in our House matches during the past season. We shall, too, long remember the many ardent and heated discussions as to the respective merits of Paul Robeson, Vera Lynn, Hutch and Bing, discussions arising from the early morning programmes of the B.B.C.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," is a dictum which is particularly applicable to our own red-headed golden voice. Iliff has repeatedly been in our thoughts during his

serious illness. We are looking forward to having him back with us next term, and, incidentally, rumour has it that he has become quite a "beau" during his absence. Wonders will never cease!

We shall, too, long remember those long morning waits in darkness and in a foot of snow, hoping against hope that the school 'bus would not try to "make it." Though disappointed, we can still turn proudly to the rest of the school and say, "You can rely upon the Sheffs and the Enterprise." We shall, too, long remember the moments when we ourselves were beginning to lose faith in our trustworthy company, recalling in particular two distinct incidents: one Saturday dinner-time when we had to "hitch-hike" home on the back of lorries; and one Thursday evening when we spent more than two hours trying to dig the 'bus out of Carey Lane.

It seems fitting to conclude with an expression from this last memorable episode: "Pull your weight, Sheffs." Our spirit should be that of one of our juniors who was most desirous of running the cross country, even though he was under age.

W. MAW.

YARBOROUGH.

Although we have finished at the bottom in the Football House Competition, this does not mean that we have had an altogether unsuccessful season. Especially should we like to congratulate the juniors, four of whom have represented us in the Under XIV, besides helping us to win every house match on the 2nd pitch. Our 1st XI, in losing every game, has only lost by a slight margin in most of their games, while for the last one Westoby, our captain and only representative of the School 1st XI, was absent.

At present we are all busy training for the cross country race during the spell of mild weather. Our chances in this should be great with athletes of such fine qualities as Girdham and Sinclair in the House, as well as many outstanding younger members.

Lastly we must say goodbye to J. S. Hunt, who passed the Army Entrance Examination and left us early in the term, while we have already missed his tireless activities on the

cross country track and football field. All Yarboroughs join in wishing him good luck and happiness in his new sphere of life.

R. KITCHING.

OLD BRIGGENSIANS' ASSOCIATION.

President: Col. O. S. Nelthorpe, D.S.O., M.C., J.P.

Chairman: Dr. J. R. Baker.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. T. N. Sumpter.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. E. Urry,

The Grammar School, Brigg.

The measure of the contribution which our School is making to our armed forces can be gauged by the list, an ever growing one, which accompanies these notes. During the term we have been glad to see many of them at the School during their precious periods of leave. Our pride in the magnificent number of Old Boys now serving has unfortunately to be mingled with sorrow at the loss of several whose memory is dear.

The Association continues to thrive despite the difficulties occasioned by war. A striking example of this was provided by the great success of the Eighteenth Annual Dinner and Reunion. As was intimated in last term's notes, it was necessary to hold the Dinner at Scunthorpe, but we are all very grateful to the manageress of the Wortley Hotel for the excellent way in which she catered for us. The dinner itself was voted a huge success, and we were, in addition, made to feel very much at home. The guest of honour was the Member for the Division, Mr. D. J. K. Quibell, who proposed the toast of "The School." In a jovial speech which contained a good deal of political reminiscence, Mr. Quibell paid tribute to the Old Boys who were serving their country, and he emphasised the value of true service and real quality. The Headmaster responded, and said that the School was always working with the ultimate object of providing good citizens, able to serve their immediate neighbourhood, their fellow-men and their country.

The toast of "The Association" was proposed by Mr. F. Henthorn. Mr. E. Urry responded and gave a summary of the year's activity, and of the financial position of the Association.

During the Dinner entertainment was provided by Mr. J. Whitfield, and by the Masters who sang a number of part-songs.

The total number present, 65, though not quite as high as last year, is very creditable, and we are glad that so many Old Boys are willing to travel in difficult conditions in order not to miss their Annual Reunion.

At the Annual General Meeting which preceded the Dinner the following elections were made in addition to those shown at the head of these notes:—

Vice-Presidents: Mr. A. S. Gibson, Mr. B. E. Spink, Mr. R. B. Munro, Mr. D. Munro, Dr. H. L. Munro, Mr. J. G. T. Eccles, Mr. J. T. Daughton, Mr. H. F. Sergeant, Mr. Edgar Taylor, Mr. E. F. Brown.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. J. P. Kemp.

Hon. Auditors: Mr. R. L. Patchett and Mr. G. A. Robinson.

Committee: The following nine members should serve with the officials, and have the power to co-opt area members: Messrs. A. E. Knight, J. W. Cowling, W. Bains, G. J. Goodman, A. Lyon, E. Taylor, R. Taylor, F. S. Chapman and J. Rose.

The Secretary reported that it was not possible for the O.B.A. to purchase National Savings Certificates, so the meeting approved a resolution that £35 National Defence Bonds be purchased. That has now been done.

Receipts and Payments Account for the year 1939-40.

		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Balance from 1938-9			Magazines		11 0 6
Bank	£32. 7. 9		Space in Magazine		7 6
Cash	£1.14. 8		J. Dickinson (wreath for Mr. H. E. Bryant)		1 1 0
Cheques	1. 6		W.B. Robinson (printing)		15 0
		34 3 11	Angel Hotel (100 dinners at 2/6)		12 10 0
Subscriptions		24 18 0	Cheques		1 0
Dinner receipts (1939)			Postage		2 7 11
99 at 3/- ...		14 17 0	Stationery		1 4 5
			Balance		
			Bank	£42. 8. 9	
			Cash	£2. 2. 4	
			Cheques	6	
					44 11 7
					<u>£73 18 11</u>
					<u>£73 18 11</u>

There is not much news of Old Boys apart from the additions to the Services list. The following details, however, have been gathered:—

The following are to be congratulated on their marriages:—

C. F. Richardson to Miss Mary Mason of Redbourne, at Redbourne Parish Church, 2nd March, 1940.

W. Sumpter, to Miss Susanna Fisher of Brigg, at Brigg Parish Church, 8th March, 1941.

We congratulate J. G. T. Eccles on his being commissioned Colonel in the Home Guards.

A. S. Turner, who was formerly in the Royal Engineers, has now returned to civil life.

It is with regret that we record the death of William Clayton after four years of ill-health. Formerly works manager for Messrs. Spring and Co., he was only 46 years of age. To his widow and daughter we extend our sincere sympathy.

C. N. Twydell has passed the subsidiary Latin portion of the course which he is taking for the London B.A. degree. He is reading French Honours.

Mr. J. Bradley, who has left the Staff to join the R.A.F., encountered an old Briggensian, who, from the description given to the writer, must be William Raymond ("Giant") Harrison, who has a commission in the R.A.F.

A. R. Binner has been appointed Station Master at Hambleton near Selby.

John Robinson (R.A.F.) is now stationed in Malta.

Herbert Clarke, who is with Overseas Airways, has gone to U.S.A. He will shortly return to the Gold Coast.

C. B. Usher has completed his training as a Sergeant Air Gunner.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Arthur Johnson of Scawby, who was probably the oldest Old Briggensian.

We have been pleased to see the following Old Boys at School during the term: C. A. Thompson, P. F. Brown,

O. Kingdon, R. Day, O. Chafen, D. Ward, F. K. Cooper, A. G. Welch, C. B. Usher, P. C. Dibben, J. M. Tierney, G. H. Felton, F. C. Aston, J. Timms, F. W. Gant, C. F. Richardson, R. W. Girdham, Herbert Clarke, R. W. Robinson, A. H. Tinsley, W. C. Poole, T. L. N. Spilman, B. Whitesmith, H. P. Andrews, J. P. Goates, C. A. Denby.

PRO PATRIA MORTUI SUNT.

A. F. Barber, R.A.F., killed on active service.
 J. D. Barber, R.A.F., killed in action.
 J. C. Creasey, R.N., died on H.M.S. Thetis.
 R. Fussey, Gr. Guards, died at Dunkirk.
 F. C. Holdstock, R.A.F., killed on active service.
 K. O. Shelton, R.A.F., killed on active service.

Missing: T. H. Rodgers, R.A.S.C.; J. R. Baxter, R.A.F.

Prisoner of War: R. Stevens, R.E.

OLD BRIGGENSIANS IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

A. V. Anable, R.A.F.	M. W. Butler
A. R. Arliss, R.A.F.	J. K. Button, R.A.O.C.
F. C. Aston, R.A.	P. D. J. Campbell, R.Indian.A.
T. Athron, Lincs.R.	C. R. Chambers, R.A.F.
J. F. Atkinson, R.C.S.	Stanley Chapman, R.A.F.
F. N. Barber, R.A.F.	R. Chappell, Notts.S.R.Y.
R. S. Baxter, R.C. of S.	R. W. Chappell, Notts.S.R.Y.
G. H. Beedham, R.A.F.	H. A. Clark, R.A.F.
A. E. Bell, A.A.	F. Clayton, R.A.F.
D. Bett, R.T.R.	L. W. Collins, R.A.F.
E. Binner, R.O.D.	E. Conboy, I.T.C.
R. A. Binns, R.A.S.C.	F. C. Cooper, R.A.F.
J. R. Bloodworth, R.E.	R. Coulbeck, R.A.O.C.
W. Blunt, R.A.F.	G. Coulson, I.T.C.
J. Bodsworth, Lincs.R.	C. Coult, R.A.
H. Botton, R.E.Y.A.	J. K. Crabtree, R.A.
F. Bray, R.A.F.	C. M. Cram, R.A.
W. J. Broughton, T.A.R.E.	C. H. Davy, R.N.
J. A. Brown.	R. F. Davy, Royal Warwicks.
N. A. Brown.	R. Day, R.N.
P. F. Brown, W.Y.R.	G. C. Denby, R.A.F.
(Police).	J. Denton, Notts.S.R.Y.
A. G. Bulleyment, R.A.F.	P. Dibben, R.T.R.
G. K. Bunker, R.A.F.	L. D. Dodd, R.E.

- J. D. Dodds, R.A.F.
 D. Drakes, R.A.M.C.
 H. H. Draper, R.A.F.
 A. M. Drayton, R.C. of S.
 W. J. Driffl, R.A.F.
 H. East, R.A.F.
 H. H. Eato.
 T. R. Edlington, Lincs.R.
 R. ETTY, R.A.S.C.
 B. Everard, R.A.F.
 J. P. Farrow, R.E.
 L. W. Farrow, R.A.F.
 G. H. Felton, R.A.F.
 E. Fisher, R.A.F.
 C. R. Fox, R.E.
 F. W. Gant, Merchant Navy.
 D. A. Giles, R.A.F.
 J. W. Gileson, R.A.F.
 R. W. Girdham, R.A.F.
 B. Glover, R.A.P.C.
 H. F. Glover, R.A.F.
 B. Grasar, R.A.P.C.
 J. M. Gray, R.A.
 R. E. Green, R.A.S.C.
 J. R. Gregory, R.N.
 N. Gurnell, Merchant Navy.
 P. Gurnell, R.A.F.
 J. A. Hall, R.C. of S.
 A. J. Hammond, R.E.
 A. V. Harris, R.A.F.
 L. E. Harrison, R.A.
 W. R. Harrison, R.A.F.
 B. Hepworth, R.A.
 G. C. Hilken, R.A.F.
 D. Hogarth, R.A.F.
 E. D. Hooper, R.A.M.C.
 J. R. Hopkinson, R.A.F.
 F. Howlett, R.A.F.
 H. E. Howsam, R.A.F.
 F. W. Hoyle, R.N.
 J. S. Hunt, R.C.S.
 O. Kingdon, R.A.F.
 L. C. Kingswood, R.N.
 R. B. Kinnard, R.A.F.
 R. S. Kitchen, R.A.F.
 G. Kitching, R.N.
 P. Landers, R.A.F.
 J. Lang.
 S. Lawrence, R.A.F.
 W. Layne, R.A.F.
 R. W. Leaning, R.A.F.
 G. Leggott, R.A.F.
 E. Levinson, R.A.
 J. Lockwood, Lincs.R.
 W. Mackaill, R.A.F.
 R. C. Mackinder, R.A.F.
 P. H. Maplethorpe, Leics.Y.
 F. Marris, Lincs.R.
 W. E. Marris, R.E.
 R. E. Mason, R.E.
 K. W. Maw, R.A.F.
 W. Michelson, R.A.F.
 T. H. Milton, R.A.F.
 W. H. Moore, R.A.F.
 A. E. Morgan, R.A.O.C.
 R. M. Morgan, R.A.S.C.
 W. A. Morley, R.A.F.
 D. W. Morrison, R.N.
 E. Mundy.
 A. L. Munro, R.A.C.
 W. F. Myers, R.E.
 A. Neave, Notts.S.R.Y.
 H. D. Nixon, R.N.
 R. W. Pape, R.A.F.
 F. W. Parkin, R.A.F.
 R. G. Passey, R.A.M.C.
 G. Pawson, R.A.F.
 D. Peacock, R.E.
 E. C. Peacock, Notts.S.R.Y.
 G. T. Peacock, R.E.
 P. E. H. Peacock, R.E.
 M. Peck, R.A.F.
 S. R. Phillipson, R.C.S.
 W. J. Pike, R.N.V.R.
 J. A. Pittwood, R.A.F.
 D. J. Popple, R.A.F.
 W. C. Poole, R.A.F.
 C. J. Portess, R.A.F.
 C. F. Richardson, R.N.
 J. Rickword, R.A.F.
 R. C. Roberts, R.A.F.
 S. C. Roberts, R.A.F.
 J. Robinson, R.A.F.
 J. D. Robinson, Notts.S.R.Y.
 R. W. Robinson, R.A.
 W. Robinson, R.A.
 A. A. Rose, R.A.F.
 G. T. Sampson, R.A.
 D. Sass, R.A.F.
 D. W. Shaw, R.T.B.
 J. F. Shucksmith, R.A.
 D. V. Skinner, Lincs.R.
 A. B. Smith, R.A.O.C.
 G. W. Smith, R.A.
 K. R. Smith, R.N.
 (F.A.A.)
 F. R. Snell, R.A.F.
 H. F. Stainton, R.A.F.
 T. Stapleton, N.Mid.C. of S.
 B. O. Stattersfield, R.A.F.
 D. J. Stevens, R.A.
 R. Stevens, R.E.
 N. Stokes, R.E.
 H. S. Stubbins, R.A.F.
 W. Sumpter, R.A.S.C.
 E. D. Sykes, Royal Inniskillings.
 J. L. Sykes, Hants.R.
 G. W. Tatam, E.Yeomanry.

E. G. Tate, R.A.O.C.	F. Whelpton, R.A.S.C.
B. W. Taylor, R.A.F.	M. W. White, A.A.S.
A. R. Thompson, 884 A.A. Co.	L. H. J. Whitehead,
C. A. Thompson, R.E.	R.A.P.C.
J. T. Thompson, R.E.	D. Wilkinson, R.A.F.
J. M. Tierney, R.A.	G. Willerton, R.A.F.
J. Timms, R.A.F.	E. A. Willey, R.T.R.
J. E. Ure, R.A.	R. D. Williams, Merchant Navy.
A. C. Towler, R.A.F.	C. Wilmore.
C. B. Usher, R.A.F.	L. Wilmore, R.A.F.
A. H. Walker, R.E.	A. Wood, Notts.S.R.Y.
E. P. Walker, R.A.F..	G. F. Wood, R.N.
R. G. Walker, R.A.	G. L. Wood, R.A.F.
J. R. Wallhead, R.A.F.	H. B. Wood, R.A.F.
D. Ward, R.A.F.	D. Wright, A.A. R.E.
G. A. Ward, R.A.F.	D. P. Wright, K.A.R.
F. E. Waters, R.T.R.	J. W. Wright, Notts. S.R.Y.
J. A. Waters, R.A.F.	O. Wright, A.A. R.E.
R. D. Watkinson, R.A.F.	P. S. Wright, Lincs.R.
A. H. Watson, R.E.	T. Wright, Notts. S.R.Y.
D. Weightman, R.A.S.C.	W. A. Wright.
F. Wells, R.A.F.	M. Young, R.E.
E. Wells.	

OXFORD LETTER.

Sir,—At the end of the academic year 1939-40, there were few of us indeed who thought that we would return to Oxford in the autumn. France had fallen; invasion and bombardment seemed imminent . . . we awaited the worst. The bombardment came; much damage was done, but still Oxford stood, as solid as ever.

So we went back again. Yet to what did we return? We returned to a city that during the summer months had changed. From a pleasant university city of quads, it had become a city of squads—of fire squads and first-aid squads, of stirrup pumps, fire buckets and air raid wardens. Now indeed Oxford meant business; for Oxford city had become war-conscious!

All this, however, had but a transient effect upon the University itself. It is true that the majority of the undergraduates forsake their comfortable beds several nights a week in order to preserve their colleges and the historic University buildings they love so dearly—aye! and even the New Bodleian from the Nazi menace. Everyday, too, sees groups of marching undergraduates, drilling and

undergoing rifle-practice amid the placid calm of Christchurch Meadows. Many a member of the University Air Squadron has gone without a lunch this term in order to get the most out of his afternoon's flying. And the last but by no means the least change occasioned in the University by this war, is that the undergraduates' working hours have been tremendously increased; for no longer are "Schools" to be regarded as an unmentionable event of the dim and distant future; the thought of them is ever-present, and the donning of the white tie and "sub fusc" is separated by mere weeks.

Despite all this, however, the true effect of the present hostilities upon University life can be summed up in the words of that monotonous notice which is announced from the Presidential Chair at every Union Debate: "In the event of the Alert being sounded the Debate will continue; those who wish may leave at any point during the proceedings; due notice will be given of any imminent danger." Every undergraduate is on the alert, eager to play his part under the standard of his King and Country and in the name of Freedom and Liberty. When the call for his individual sacrifice comes he is determined to prove himself a strong and sure cog in Britain's great war-machine. In the meantime he is determined that his life shall go on, unaltered by the idle threats of tyrants and dictators. His aim is to find the truth—in religion, art and politics, indeed, the very principles which are to guide his later life are now to be moulded, and so in both public and private discussion the ideals and texts of contemporaries, fathers and forefathers are dissected and closely analysed, the false and purely theoretical being rejected, until what remains is collected to form the initial ingredients of the great panacea for world salvation.

Unlike other virtues which need more conservative atmospheres, Independence has its last stronghold in the student world. While the propaganda machine churns out its tendentious half-truths, the intelligent mind remains intelligent. "To refuse to be bamboozled by verbiage is the noblest quality of the citizen."

As Jonathan was to David so is Tolerance to Independence. And the criterion for both may be found in life's less important matters. We may think that "of all the masochistic, creepy-crawly forms of personal degradation wherewith human beings have debased, flagellated and insulted their remarkable anatomical structure, velvet corduroy trousers are the utmost abomination." We may long to remove forcibly the sartorial atrocities from the limbs of their owner. But, to prove our tolerance, we shall have to endure—even velvet corduroy trousers.

For the post-war student must be preserved the independence and tolerance which are the sole foundation of real culture. Ours is the task. How can we accomplish it? Only by holding fast to our individual beliefs and by extending the same privilege to those who differ. The Nazis are not alone in their attack upon freedom. The internal struggle for the survival of civilised decency lies here with us. In the smaller worlds of the Grammar Schools and the Universities, and the larger world beyond, the students must not and will not betray their trust.—
Yours etc.,
St. Catherines Society, Oxford.

A. C. PARKHOUSE.

WHERE ARE THE DAYS WE KNEW ?

Where are the days we knew ?

We see not now as in the days of old
The distant vapour swirl across the wold ;
The silent summer dew
Which early doth adorn the new-mown hay ,
Yet e'er the broadening day
Fills every verdant valley with her glow,
Is gone as these days go—
For beauty dwells but for a little while
Upon the tender wrinkle of a smile.

'Tis not so long ago
That we would stand together, hand in hand,
Upon some lofty hill which did command

The city far below.
"The vale of progress," I would say to you,
"Is open to our view.
In those dark turrents reared against the sky
The might of man doth lie,
And from those wheels of labour, grim and grey
Shall rise the glories of a greater day."

Where are those songs we sang :
Those songs of untold splendour yet to be ;
The songs of freedom, hope and unity ?—
I hear the death-bell clang
Upon those youthful visions that were mine.
Ambition doth decline ;
The past creeps onward, flooding all the soul,
Until the warm tears roll,
Because the heart can never hope to bear
Emotion so profound as lingers there.

The flimsy veil of time
Spreads lightly o'er the swift-receding years,
And as we look behind, the past appears
Incredibly sublime.
Yet 'tis the very dimness of those days,
The deep deceptive haze
Of memory that makes them shine so fair
Amid the weight of care.
'Tis strange, we never know the joys that are
Until we turn and see them from afar.

The world moves slowly on.
We stand beneath an ever-changing sky,
And dreams and dreamer all alike must die—
At last we are as one.
The earthy present melts into the past ;
This day is fading fast
Whose glory at the sunset will be seen
And all our might-have been.
Then we shall pause upon our endless way
And sigh for the return of yesterday.

KENNETH C. BELL.

OUR HERITAGE IS LONG.

The recent death of Sir Walford Davies has reminded us of the official position which he held in the English Court, that of Master of the King's Musick, an office created by Charles II in 1660. In Richard II's day, the chief musician had the title of King of the Minstrels, and though perhaps the Master of the King's Musick and too the Poet Laureate cannot be claimed as survivals of the ancient Bardic professions, nevertheless they bear such strong resemblance to them that it may interest the reader to know something of those Bards of old.

The primitive British Bards were a most respected order. They were the scientists, the national instructors, musicians, legislators, priests, prophets and often princes. They kept an account of the descent of families, and composed songs to commemorate the actions of the worthy and brave, and sang and accompanied them on the harp. They were therefore the national chroniclers. Their training was long and arduous, for they would spend as long as twenty years in learning their craft, and the number and intricacies of their metres was prodigious.

It is not possible to say when the Bards lost their priestly character, and little is known of their activities after the extinction of the Druids, until in the first half of the tenth century Howel the Good in Wales included in his laws some that regulated the conditions of the Bards. There were the Bard of the Palace and the Chaired Bard. The latter won his pre-eminence in a musical and poetical contest held every three years in the royal palace. He was a Bard of a district or county, and chief president of music and poetry in his area. He was also a teacher, and at stated periods he prepared the undergraduates to take their degrees, which were ratified by the sessions of the Bards every three years. He held his land free.

Before the year 1100 it was the duty of the Bard to praise virtue and censure vice. He had to possess learning and even genius, skill in pedigrees and arms, metres of poetry, the art of singing, knowledge of harmony and to

be a perfect master of an instrument. Such a variety of excellences was hardly within human capacity, and the Bards were therefore distributed into three grand orders of Musicians, Poets and Heralds.

Although the Bards were suppressed at different periods in Wales, yet to record English achievements and to marshal and conduct their pageantries, it was found necessary to revive a class of them in England about the year 1340.

These were the Heralds, who still continue in a great degree their primitive occupation. Their business was to register genealogies, adjust ensigns armorial, regulate funerals, coronations and other solemnities, take messages between princes, and to proclaim war and peace. Their chief was called King of the Bards, a title still retained by the three principal English heralds: Garter, principal King at Arms, Clarenceux King at Arms and North-roy King at Arms. Besides these three are six provincial or county heralds, those of Chester, York, Lancaster, Windsor, Richmond and Somerset, and four Marshals or Pursuivants at Arms, Blue-Mantle, Rouge-Cross, Rouge Dragon and Portcullis. Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, was the first who had the title of Marshal of England. Later the Earl of Pembroke was made hereditary Marshal of England, and his family held that office until it descended to the predecessors of the present Duke of Norfolk, who now is Earl Marshal of England.

There was another office in the English Court which is now obsolete, but which was very similar to that of the Welsh domestic bard of the Middle Ages. He was the Jester, whose occupation was to solace and enliven the leisure of his patron with wit and pleasantry. Queen Elizabeth had a Jester called Pace, who at one time had become so bitter in his retorts upon her that he was forbidden her presence. But someone begged the Queen that he might come to her, answering for him that he would be more careful in his speech. So he was brought to her and the Queen said, "Come on, Pace, now we shall hear of our faults."

"No," said Pace, "I never talk of what is discoursed by all the world."

Though the triennial festival of the Bards fell into abeyance for some 130 years, it was revived in 1822, and is now held annually in Wales under the name of the Royal National Eisteddfod. Its ceremonies affect the pageantry of old time, and the Bards may still be seen robed in colours appropriate to their distinction in literature, music and art.

VIKING TO VALHALLA.

"The chief is dead," the cry goes round,
The women mourn and sigh.
"What shall we do?" the children weep
As in the huts they lie.

The sail is rigged with golden cloth,
His treasures in the hold,
The slender mast is covered with
Most finely beaten gold.

And now the men their chief prepare,
They put him in his mail,
And lay him in his gallant ship
And outward let him sail.

But not till they have fired the ship
And said a prayer for him
Do they release it from the shore
And watch till it grows dim.

And then a wailing rises loud,
From watchers on the shore;
The sun has sunk behind the hills—
And Sigmund is no more.

THE PRESENT POSITION IN THE PACIFIC.

Ever since the day that Japan signed the Tripartite Pact, considerable thought has been given in this country to the Pacific Question. Japan is a menace both to the U.S.A. and to our possessions in the Far East and the Pacific. America has had good cause to be anxious, ever since Japan became a first-class naval power. The present-day anxiety has been brought about by the attitude of the Isolationists and a certain foolish act at the conclusion of the First Great War. Japan, with a rapidly growing population and a strong acquisitive nature hopes to become mistress of the whole of that part of the Pacific which extends southward from Japan to (and, if possible, including) Australia. Should this occur, the western trade of the U.S.A. would be almost completely at the mercy of Japan.

After the Spanish-American War of 1898, Guam and the Philippines fell into the hands of the U.S.A. Fairly recently the Philippines became nominally independent, but the President still keeps an eye on them. Guam is strategically a priceless possession, and has an excellent climate, and a magnificent harbour. At the conclusion of the First Great War, for her services to the Allied cause, Japan was given a mandate over the Caroline Islands, and the Marshall Islands; thus Guam was surrounded by potential Japanese submarine and refuelling bases, and the Japanese Empire was brought 1,800 miles nearer to Australia.

When the U.S.A. has developed her natural defences she will be in a strong position. She holds the Aleutians, Hawaii and Tutuila (Samoa). No better example could be found, of how the long arm of sea power can be applied to defence, than that presented by these potentially strong posts, stretching 3,000 miles from the American coast. Also Guam is only 1,360 miles from Tokio, and a strong fleet at Guam would form a direct threat to the

Japanese Islands. It would be madness for Japan to send a fleet to America, 4 500 miles away, thus leaving her own shores open to attack. A strong force at the Philippines would also cause anxiety to the Japanese island of Formosa. All the cards lie in the hands of the U.S.A., but the Isolationists, who are blind to strategic principles, have used their influence to prevent even the proper development of Guam.

Let us look at our colonies and dependencies which border the Pacific. The Japanese-owned islands nearest to the Dutch East Indies are 600 miles from New Guinea, one half of which is owned by Holland and the other half by Great Britain. If Japan was allowed to seize the other Dutch islands of Sumatra, Java and Celebes there is little doubt that Japan would take the whole of New Guinea. She would then be only 100 miles from the coast of Australia. Naturally the Philippines also would drop like a ripe plum into Japan's hand.

Unless Japan has a secret arrangement with Russia, her joining the Axis Powers seems to be a false step. The staying power of the U.S.A. is infinitely greater than the now almost bankrupt Japan. If Japan goes to war with America and continues her war on China, she will be courting disaster, and if she discontinues the latter she will lose face in the East, which is almost synonymous to committing Hara-Kiri. The position in the Pacific therefore, is not so bad as one thinks, and it will improve daily as the American fortifications improve.

STRATEGICUS MARIS.

A BREEZY RETORT.

"'Call it a draw,' Mister Hitler?
 My word, man, you have got a cheek!
 Now what do you take us for, Mister,
 A team that is fagged out and weak?
 By heck, if you do, you're mistaken,
 For our chaps are out for a win,
 And the match won't be drawn or abandoned,
 Till we've marched through the streets of Berlin."

C. A. SNELL.

SIREN SONG.

Sing a song of sirens, wailing in the night,
 Be sure to put up blackout, before you get a light.
 For when lights are spied by Jerries, the bombs will
 surely fall,
 And then there'll be no houses left to blacken out at all.

Sing a song of sirens, hear the warning wail,
 Get a little stirrup pump and some water in a pail,
 Then if your house is blazing, and the fire brigade has gone,
 Take your little stirrup pump and spray some water on.

W. BEE.

FROM THE RECENT EXAMINATIONS.

"The children of Israel ran short of food and the Lord supplied them with manure from Heaven."

"Why did the early Hebrews live in tents?"—"Because they were moving from palace to palace."

TAILPIECE.

"B - - - k - - l, show me your prep."

"Please, sir, I couldn't do it. My dog ate the paper."

SOLUTION TO CHESS PROBLEM.

Key:—1. R—KB4 - - - - -

Variations:—

1. - - - - B(QB2), any move.

2. Q-Q5 mate.

1. - - - - P move.

2. Q-Q5 mate.

1. - - - - R × Q.

2. Kt × R mate.

1. - - - - B(K7)—QB5.

2. Q—QB5 mate.

1. - - - - Q—KKt7.

2. Kt—Q7 mate.

1. - - - - Q—Q6.

2. Q—K6 mate.

1. - - - - Q—KB6.

2. Q—K6 mate.

1. - - - - Q—Q2.

2. Kt × Q mate.

1. - - - - B—KB6.

2. Q × R mate.

HOW TO JOIN The Old Boys' Association.

Chairman: T. N. Sumpter.

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 Old Boys' Cricket Week and other Old Boys' Games.

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