EDITORIAL

April, 1949.

A few years ago, before the war, the main factor deciding whether a person of average intelligence could gain entrance to a University was the amount of money at his command. This has all been altered, and at the present time, instead of needing only a School Certificate and a good banking account, one needs a Higher School Certificate together with a Senior Scholarship.

The number of applicants for admission to a College or University every year is so much in excess of the number that can be accommodated, that it is only by waiting for at least a year after taking Higher School Certificate that a student can hope to gain entrance. This year is, however, spent in the Armed Forces. The candidate can apply for immediate call up at the end of the School Summer term, and is released the following Summer, so that he may go to the University in the following October. The period of National Service has now, however, been lengthened to eighteen months, so it may well happen that the poor student will have to wait for two years after leaving school before he can go to the University, the last six months of this time having to be spent at home.

Because of this uncertainty which faces a student on leaving school, he will find it to his advantage to obtain as much experience as is possible whilst still living in school. This can be attained only if the boy takes a full part in various school activities, for it should be borne in mind that a school is not merely an institution in which masters attempt to teach the rudiments of citizenship, but a place in which the pupils must gain as much knowledge and experience as is possible for themselves. A school usually offers various activities—apart from its primary and sometimes montonous one of study—in at least one of which every boy ought to take part.

This, the ideal case, unfortunately, can never be attained in a school such as this, for the lives of three-fifths of its members are governed by the 'bus time-tables which render after school aetivities almost an impossibility. However, despite this serious drawback, out-of-school activities are still maintained by a devoted few.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The following Magazines have been received, and we wish to

thank the senders, with apologies for any accidental omissions:—

The Lincolnian.
Scunthorpe Technical High School Magazine.
The De Astonian.
The Palmerian.

SCHOOL LISTS — SPRING TERM, 1949.

The School Officials for this term have been:—

Captain of School: J. C. M. Lyon.

Prefects: J. C. M. Lyon, A. E. Brooks, J. H. Cheeseman, P. Driffill, G. Foster, D. W. France, L. Green, R. A. Haddow, J. E. Johnson, C. W. Pixsley, J. D. Rands, R. Shelton, J. Stevens.

Football Captain: R. W. Waller.

Football Vice-Captain: R. A. Haddow.

Cross Country Captain: A. E. Brooks.

Cross Country Vice-Captain: R. N. Coulthurst.

"The Briggensian": A. E. Brooks and J. D. Rands (Editors), J. I. Rickett, Mr. Richards.

House Captains and Masters:

Ancholme: J. C. M. Lyon (House Captain), P. F. Lofthouse (Football), J. C. Dunham (Cross Country), Mr. Henthorn.
Nelthorpe: J. E. Johnson (House Captain), C. W. Pixsley (Football), R. D. Harrison (Cross Country), Mr. Morris.
School: R. A. Haddow (House Captain and Football), R. N. Coulthurst (Cross Country), the Headmaster.
Sheffield: G. Foster (House Captain), L. Green (Football), G. C. Monteith (Cross Country), Mr. Urry.
Yarborough: A. E. Brooks (House Captain and Cross Country), R. W. Waller (Football), Mr. Knight.

Sports Committee: House Masters and Captains, Mr. Watts (Secretary).

Sixth Form Library: J. C. M. Lyon (Senior Librarian) and all the Prefects.

2nd Brigg Scout Troop: J. C. M. Lyon (T.L.), Mr. Paisley (S.M.), Mr. Jarvis (G.S.M.).

Music Society: The Headmaster (President), Mr. Knight (Treasurer), Mr. Richards (Secretary), Mr. Pratt, Mr. Morris, Mr. Henthorn, Mr. Thumwood, Mr. Watts, Mr. Urry.

Geographical Society: G. Foster, Mr. Urry.

Gramophone Society: J. G. Hunter, Mr. Barker, Mr. Pimlott.

Scientific Society: R. Shelton, Mr. Thumwood.

Art Club: J. D. Rands (Chairman), G. W. Hogg (Secretary), Mr. Cabourne.

Jazz Club: P. A. Culpan, Mr. Romans.

Photographic Society: J. Rands, J A. Suthers.

SCHOOL NOTES

SPRING. 1949.

The term followed an uneventful course, with games uninterrupted by bad weather, mid-term examinations, and successfully organised cross-country training. R. Sumpter, last term's School Captain, who has left to become articled to a solicitor in Scunthorpe, was succeeded by J. C. M. Lyon, while L. Green, J. Stevens, C. W. Pixsley and G. Foster were made School Prefects.

Everyone was sorry to learn of R. Willey's serious condition in the Scunthorpe Hospital, and it is our earnest hope that he will recover and again be strong enough to take his usual vigorous part in games. School House has had more than its fair share of illness this term in the form of influenza that has been prevalent in the neighbourhood.

Mr. G. E. Shelton, father of Richard Shelton, was kind enough to send a letter to the Editor, giving his point of view as a parent. It is always pleasant to receive commendation from parents, and the Editors would have liked to print Mr. Shelton's letter verbatim; but so high was his praise that the general feeling was that one's blushes should be spared. We should like to say, however, that Mr. Shelton's constant interest and encouragement are appreciated and that the School is grateful for his letter.

Mrs. Holt, the Headmaster's Secretary, forwarded the sum of £7 1s. 2½d. to Dr. Barnardo's Homes as a result of the Annual Box Opening at the end of the Christmas term. Mrs. Holt reports that there are 82 members in the School Savings Scheme this year and that the sum deposited since the scheme started amounts to £364.

The Bronze Plaque, engraved with the names of the Fallen, is being cast by Messrs. Osborne & Co., of Gower Street, London, and it is hoped that the unveiling ceremony will be able to be held next term. John Rhodes, a recent Old Boy, has prepared the vellum Memorial Book, and it is to be sent away to be bound. It is beautifully done in Old English printing with black lettering and red initials.

The Old Briggensian Annual Dinner, elsewhere reported, was held on Saturday, 22nd January, and was so well attended that all dinners could not be served in the one room.

Examinations were held from 11th February to the 17th, and the half-term holiday followed immediately from Friday 18th to Monday 21st inclusive. The cross-country races were arranged for Saturday, 26th March, and two teams represented the School

at the Inter-School cross-country run held at Horncastle on Wednesday, 16th March.

Parents of boys visited School on Monday, 14th March, and were able to see an art exhibition and work being done in the laboratories and woodwork shop.

The stage, hitherto used only for concerts, was seen complete with its theatre trappings for the first time near the end of this term. Plays had been produced by Mr. Thumwood, Mr. Morris and Mr. Romans, and we hope eventually to print accounts of them.

The School has been visited by three youths from Germany who are staying in Brigg as the guests of Mr. D. J. G. Bord, leader of the Brigg Youth Club. They are here to study British ways and methods, and were most interested to see the School and to attend some of Mr. Barker's lessons, in which they took an active part. As two of them attend a boarding school near Hamburg, they were particularly interested to see round School House and to make comparisons. All three speak excellent English, which is the first foreign language learnt in German schools. After watching one of the German lessons, one of them remarked that, until he saw boys learning German, he had not realised how difficult a language it is!

A. N. Jones, who is at present stationed in Hamburg, has visited a school there, with whose pupils Form Upper IVb have an exchange of correspondence. He has given a talk on Brigg, and on the school in particular, and answered the many questions which the boys were eager to ask. It appears that the chief interest was shown in the tuck shop and particularly in bottles of "pop"!

Dates for next term are:—

Term begins: Tuesday, 26th April.
Concert: Thursday, 5th May.
Margaret Good, piano; William Pleeth, 'cello.
School Sports: Saturday, 21st May.
Inter-School Sports: Wednesday, 25th May, at Barton.
Whit Holiday: 3rd June to 7th inclusive.
Term ends: Friday, 22nd July.

SALVETE.

Sheffield:

Dummett, C. C.

VALETE.

U.VI:

FRANCE, D. W., 1941-49 (Ancholme).—Cambridge Higher School Certificate, 1948; Lindsey Senior Scholarship, 1948; Cambridge School Certificate with exemption from Matriculation, 1946; Senior Physics Prize, 1948; Senior Maths. Prize, 1948; U.Va Form Prize, 1946; L.Va Form Prize, 1945; U.IVa Form Prize, 1944; L.IVa Form Prize, 1943; IIIb Form Prize, 1942; School

Prefect, 1947-49; Ancholme House Captain, 1947-49; Ancholme House Football Captain, 1947-48; 2nd XI Football, 1947; Captain 2nd XI Football, 1947; Under XIV Cricket, 1944; Inter-School Athletics Representative, 1945-47; Athletics Colours, 1948; Secretary Scientific Society, 1947-48; Chairman Gramophone Society, 1946-48; Junior Debating Society, 1944; Member Dramatic Society, 1945; Chess Club, 1945-46.
Address: 6, Mill Lane, Brigg.

MAW, G., 1940-48 (Sheffield). — Cambridge School Certificate, 1946; 2nd XI Football, 1947-48; 1st XI Cricket, 1948; Member of School Cross-Country team, 1948; Cross-Country Colours, 1948; House Captain, 1947-48; House Football, Cross-Country, Athletics Captain, 1947-48; House Swimming Captain, 1946-48.
Address: 132, Messingham Road, Scunthorpe.

RHODES, J. A., 1941-48 (Ancholme).—Cambridge Higher School Certificate, 1948; Lindsey Senior Scholarship, 1948; Cambridge School Certificate with exemption from Matriculation, 1946; Senior English Prize, 1948; Senior History Prize, 1948; Senior Latin Prize, 1948; Sociological Essay, 1948; School Prefect, 1947-48; 2nd XI Football, 1947-48; Captain 2nd XI Football, 1948; 2nd XI Cricket, 1946-48; Captain 2nd XI Cricket, 1947-48; Ancholme House Cricket Captain, 1947-48; Chairman of Art Club, 1948; Member of Art Club, Geographical, Scientific, Debating and Dramatic Societies; Member of School Orchestra.
Address: 29, Central Square, Brigg.

SUMPTER, R. J. H., 1941-48 (School).—Cambridge Higher School Certificate, 1948; Cambridge School Certificate with exemption from Matriculation, 1946; Constitutional History Prize, 1948; School Prefect, 1947-48; Captain of School, 1948; School Magazine Committee, 1946-47; Sub-Editor, 1947-48; Editor of the "Briggensian," 1948; School House Prefect, 1946-48; Captain of School House, 1948; School House Cricket Captain, 1948; Under XIV Football, 1944-45; 2nd XI Football, 1946-47; 1st XI Football, 1947-49; Football Colours, 1948; Under XIV Cricket, 1943-44; Vice-Captain Under XIV Cricket, 1944; 2nd XI Cricket, 1945; 1st XI Cricket, 1946-48; Vice-Captain School Cricket, 1948; Cricket Colours, 1947; Swimming Colours, 1947; Member School Cross-Country team, 1948; Cross-Country Colours, 1948; Member of School Scout Troop, 1941-45; P.L., 1944-45; Member of Geographical and Dramatic Societies.
Address: Normanby, Scunthorpe.

L.VI:

PRATT, A. P., 1941-48 (Ancholme).—Cambridge School Certificate with exemption from Matriculation, 1948; Member of School Orchestra.
Address: Belmont, Grammar School Road, Brigg.

BALL, J. W. M., 1943-48 (Sheffield).—Cambridge School Certificate with exemption from Matriculation, 1948; Under XIV Cricket, 1946.
Address: 10, Sterne Avenue, Broughton, Brigg.

U.Va:

RAWLINS, J. L., 1944-48 (Sheffield).—2nd XI Football, 1948.
Address: Mill Lane, Broughton, Brigg.

U.Vb:

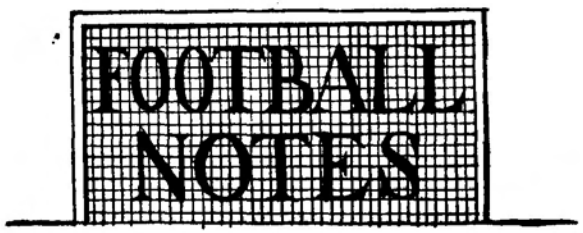
LADLOW, B., 1943-48 (Sheffield).
Address: 22, George Street, Broughton, Brigg.

U.IVa:

BRADLEY, G. A., 1947-48 (School).
Address: 2, Woodbine Grove, Brigg.

IIIb:

COOPER, S. G., 1948 (Sheffield).
Address: Ermine Street, Broughton, Brigg.



1948-49.

This season has been much more successful as regards the standard of play of all three School teams. The 1st XI, except for its heavy defeat against Lincoln, has more than held its own against all other teams, and with a little luck might have won at least two more matches. However, they finished the season with a victory, and what could be more encouraging than that as regards the prospects of next season? By bringing Pollicott into the defence and moving McLauchlan to inside right, both departments were strengthened and the side played together much better, and with added team spirit.

The Second XI, although it has not done too well, has shown considerable improvement on the previous season, whilst the Under XIV Eleven has had one of its best seasons for several years. They seem to have found an excellent centre-forward in Wilson, who has scored 15 goals in six matches, including 5 goals in a match on two occasions.

The House match competition was undecided until the last match between Ancholme and School. All the time Ancholme, School and Yarborough Houses were struggling for first place, and in the end Ancholme and School tied for it with 10 points each, with Yarborough close behind with 9 points. Nelthorpe

also put up a good show, this being due to an excellent Junior Eleven, which gained all their 7 points. Sheffield House did not have a successful season, although they were always hard to beat.

January 26th: School v. Gainsborough G.S. (Away).

Team: — Harrison; Hopper, Green; Johnson, Pollicott, Haddow; Sumpter, D., Waller, McLauchlan, Lofthouse, Pixsley.

After a very scrappy opening, with neither side being able to control the ball, McLauchlan opened the scoring for School. Just before half-time Gainsborough equalised from one of their many right wing attacks. Sumpter put School ahead soon after half-time with a good cross-shot, and Lofthouse quickly added another. Near the end Gainsborough reduced the arrears, but failed to draw level. Although there was little good football by either side, School just about deserved to win.

Half-time: School 1, Gainsborough 1.

Full-time: School 3, Gainsborough 2.

Scorers: McLauchlan, Sumpter, Lofthouse.

February 5th: School v. Louth G.S. (Away).

Team: — Harrison; Hopper, Green; Johnson, Pollicott, Haddow; Waller, McLauchlan, Lofthouse, Sumpter, D., Pixsley.

In spite of the bad conditions underfoot, the standard of football was much better than in the previous match, play moving quickly from end to end. Louth gained an early lead, but School attacked consistently towards the interval, and finally Pixsley equalised with a long lob. In the second half Louth gradually took command and drew ahead in one of their dangerous right wing raids. Then School staged a revival, but although the School forwards and half-backs overran the Louth defence and Johnson hit the cross-bar, they were unable to equalise. In this match, Harrison made some good saves in goal.

Half-time: School 1, Louth 1.

Full-time: School 1, Louth 2.

Scorer: Pixsley.

School v. C. Hill's XI (at Home).

Team: — Harrison; Hopper, Green; Johnson, Pollicott, Haddow; Sumpter, D., McLauchlan, Lofthouse, Waller, Pixsley.

C. Hill's XI: — Proctor; Silverwood, Cabourne, P.; Knapton, Tacy, Bachelor; Wray, Sumpter, R., Iliff, Hill, Squires.

School attacked from the start, but after Lofthouse failed on two occasions after beating Tacy, the visitors scored two quick goals through Iliff and Squires. However, School, playing clever football, drew level by means of two goals by McLauchlan, who almost completed his hat-trick. In the second half School were on top, team-work having a big say in the matter. Lofthouse made School's total three, and then Sumpter added a fourth after the ball had struck the cross-bar. Near the end Squires scored for the visitors. In this game School showed that team-

work counts in the end, and this was School's best match of the season.

Half-time: School 2, C. Hill's XI 2.
Full-time: School 4, C. Hill's XI 3.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
First Eleven	11	4	1	6	32	45
Second Eleven	6	2	0	4	14	22
Under XIV Eleven	6	4	0	2	30	19

Second XI v. Scunthorpe T.S. Lost 2—4.
Under XIV v. Louth G.S. Won 9—2.

HOUSE NOTES.

ANCHOLME.

This has been a most successful term for the House, and it is very encouraging to see such progress after the recent eclipse of the past few terms.

The House tied for first place with School House at football, gaining ten points out of a possible sixteen, and this result may be taken as an omen for even better things to come.

Sheffield and Nelthorpe on the first eleven pitch, and School and Sheffield on the second eleven pitch, succumbed to the better football produced by the House.

In the future, we shall miss D. W. France, to whom we owe a great share of the recent successes.

Another most encouraging sign is the number of apparently promising country runners, and also the active zeal with which these runners are carrying out their training runs. On their present form, the House should make a much better showing than last year when the Great Day arrives, unless the weather conditions are adverse.

It is hoped that the present pitch of enthusiasm will last throughout next term.

NELTHORPE.

This term has proved anything but a happy one for Nelthorpe House. The First Football XI failed to win a House match, and the Junior XI maintained the true Nelthorpe tradition by not losing one. The seven points out of the possible eight taken by the Under XIV Eleven were very welcome, because they were the sole means by which we avoided the bottom place of the House Championship table. Congratulations to the Under XIV side on its success, and condolences to the first side, whose reward lies not in the winning of its games but in the fact that it always tried.

Unfortunately the happiness resulting from this acceptable Junior team success was marred for the whole House by the serious illness of Ralph Willey, who has been in hospital for several weeks. The true condition of "Tommie" was not fully

realised until the whole school was asked to pray for his recovery. Our prayers were answered and it is fairly certain by now that Tommie is on the road to health and strength. I understand that he likes to receive letters from his school fellows and although perhaps he may not be able to reply I am sure he will be grateful to anyone keeping in contact with him. His address is: Sheffield Ward, General Hospital, Scunthorpe.

The best of luck, Tommie. We hope to see you well before long!

Another blow came to the House when only a few weeks from the end of term B. R. Andrew had to leave school to take up his new career. It seems a pity that he was unable to remain at school a little longer and win the Cross-Country for the second time. "Bandy's" contribution to the Nelthorpe efforts last year was a great one. We are grateful to him and send him our best wishes.

I recall, with some pride, that we won the House Cross-Country Cup last year, and I believe that we can repeat that performance in the coming battle. R. D. Harrison has been selected House Cross-Country Captain, and will be supported by C. W. Pixsley as Vice-Captain and, I hope, by the whole House.

Prestige is added to the House by the fact that Harrison and Pixsley have been awarded Football Colours, and also by Harrison gaining his place in the School Cross-Country team to run at Horncastle. Congratulations to these members; their rewards are well earned. Congratulations also to Pixsley on having been made a School Prefect this term.

Three weeks from the end of term we were happy to enlist another member to the House in Roger Allen. Let us help him to settle down and pull in with the rest of the House during his life at the school.

With the Cross-Country so near, I cannot help stressing as a final point the need for team work in the House. Our numbers are as strong as those of any other House in the school and we have plenty of individual ability, but these factors are useless without a team spirit, and I am convinced that we have plenty of that too. It will help us not only in the coming Cross-Country, but also in the not too distant Athletics and Cricket. As to whether my convictions are well-founded or not, we cannot yet tell, but the proof is at hand. We shall see.

J. E. JOHNSON.

SCHOOL.

This term we welcome A. S. Denton into the House, and at the same time say goodbye to G. Bradley, who has gone to a new school in Devonshire, and to R. J. H. Sumpter, our former Captain of House, who is articled to a solicitor. We wish them both the best of success in their future careers.

School House has been very successful this term. After a rather poor start in the battle for the Football Cup, we finished superbly, and did in fact tie with Ancholme for the Cup. The result was decided in the last match, in which School collected the vital four points. School House's first eleven must be congratulated on their feat of having won all their matches for the last two years.

Under the excellent captaincy of R. Coulthurst, School House is training hard for the Cross-Country, in which our prospects seem good. We entertain hopes of having both Junior and Senior winners in the House.

The House is well represented in the Inter-Schools Cross-Country teams, by R. Coulthurst and J. I. Rickett in the first team, and by G. R. C. McLauchlan, A. G. Collins and R. Haddow in the second team.

Early in the term we were both pleased and excited to see a huge furniture van arrive. The senior body spent a considerable time unloading the cargo of wardrobes. After a great deal of contriving, these fifty odd pieces of furniture were put in position, and now each boarder is the proud possessor of his own wardrobe.

This term the woodwork class and Scouts have been well supported. May we take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Watts for spending so much time in supervision of the class.

Now for the future. Let us hope that we may meet with as much success in Cricket and Athletics as we did last year. Let us hope also that we may maintain the tradition that "School House always wins the Swimming Cup."

We have been pleased to see Old Boys R. H. M. Markarian, N. Boocock, J. M. Greetham, W. W. Cook, J. E. H. Kingdon and A. G. West.

R. HADDOW.

SHEFFIELD.

The football season has not been a happy one for Sheffield House, but this is nothing out of the ordinary. We were handicapped by travel difficulties and were unable to arrange one practice match this season. The Senior Eleven secured our only two points, beating Nelthorpe by the odd goal in five. After taking a three-goal lead, the defence faltered, and during the last five minutes Nelthorpe scored twice. In our struggles with Ancholme and Yarborough we lost only by the odd goal. Ten minutes from time we were beating Ancholme four goals to two, but the defence collapsed and our opponents scored three in quick succession, two from penalties. When the half-time whistle blew in our match with Yarborough we once again found ourselves in the lead by two goals to one, but it was the same old story, and "Sheffs" lost by three to two. We finished up at the bottom of the table, but it was not through lack of trying, for everybody pulled his weight.

The Cross-Country Race approaches and I am pleased to

1st XI, 1948-49.

Standing: Green, L., Johnson, J. E., McLauchlan, G. R. C., Hopper, J. T., Harrison, R. D., Sumpter, D. S., Foster, G.
Seated: Lofthouse, P., Haddow, R. A., Waller, R. W., Sumpter, R. J. H., Pixsley, C. W.

say that we have had no excuses of sprained ankles, carbuncles or other petty ailments, up to now, from any of our members who wish to escape training. We have a prospective winner in Brian Marris, who is a member of the team chosen to represent School at Horncastle, but it is the first eight "Sheffs" home that count, and we have several good runners who should do well.

We extend our best wishes to Michael Ball and John Rawlins, who have left us this term. GEOFFREY FOSTER.

YARBOROUGH.

As far as the writing of these notes is concerned, it is rather a pity that the Cross-Country takes place at the end of the term, and prevents inquests on the race being included in this magazine.

The present system under which Cross-Country training takes place has proved very useful to members of our House. It was always very difficult to arrange training runs after school on account of 'buses. The area over which Yarborough House extends is so large that there is not a sufficient number of boys coming from any one district to warrant a special school 'bus being engaged, and it was always difficult to arrange training to fit in with the times of service 'buses.

We hope to maintain our supremacy of last year in the Junior Race, and last year's Juniors, who are Seniors this year, should help the rest to do a little better in the Senior Race this year.

We are represented in the Inter-Schools Cross-Country Race at Horncastle by Brooks and Driffill, P., both of whom are in the first team.

This year we have seen more of the old Yarborough House keenness and skill on the football field, and, although we were only third in the table, this is not a just indication of our efforts, as two Houses tied for first place, and we were only one point behind. The First Eleven won all its matches except the one against School, losing that one 5-3. The game against Sheffield was the most exciting; we were losing for the greater part of the game, but managed to pull out a little extra towards the end, and won 3-2. The Under XIV Eleven started off slowly, but finished rather better by beating School House 2-1.

Sports Day comes around once again at the beginning of next term, and I ask all members of the House to put in some hard training in the first three weeks of the term, and let us all do our utmost to bring back the Cock House Cup to Yarborough House. A. E. BROOKS.

MUSIC NOTES.

The experiment of holding the Christmas Concert on two nights was successful, for not only were all the boarders and day boys who wished to come able to hear the concert, but

everyone heard it in greater comfort. It was the third concert of its kind, and many were kind enough to say that it was the best yet.

The audiences were soon infected with the Christmas spirit and joined in the singing with great vigour to the accompaniment of the orchestra. Mrs. Arthur Briggs and Mr. F. E. Rhodes, both parents of Old Briggensians, sang solo parts with great success, while Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Tyson, Miss Bevans and Miss Fulstow provided the upper-parts in a double quartet. Their kind help enabled quartets to be heard that otherwise we should regretfully have had to omit. There was, alas, not sufficient time to teach under-parts to boys with little or no experience of part-singing. Mr. C. Tyson and Janet once more gave valuable support to the orchestra.

Though the concert seems remote, it may be considered useful as a record to print the main items:—

Masters in this Hall	Unison Carol	French
Unto us a Boy is Born	Unison Carol	German
The Birds	Treble Solo	Czech
On Christmas Night	Treble Voices	arr. V. Williams
Christmas Day in the Morning	Treble Voices	arr. Moeran
This is a Happy Day	Treble Solo	French
"Christmas"	Verse Speaking	G. Wither
King Herod and the Cock	Unison Folk Song	arr. Sharp
Old Provencal Carol	Piano Solo	Listz
Noel	Piano Solo	Gardiner
Waltz in E Minor	Piano Solo	Chopin
I Sing of a Maiden	Male Voices	arr. Woodgate
Alsatian Cradle Song	with Trebles	arr. Moeran
Dream of Christmas	Solo with Trebles	Holst
The Peasant's Pilgrimage	Solo	arr. Terry
Lullay, My Liking	Double Quartet	arr. Holst
Jacques, come here	with Solo Voice	French
Old French Carol	Male Voices with Trebles	
The Waits		
No Room at the Inn	Solo Voices with Quartet & Strings	
The Boar's Head	Male Voices	

The Juniors sang sweetly and commendably in tune as one would expect of the picked voices of the school. The Seniors sang with more vigour than musical skill, but their contribution was valuable. All these boys volunteered their services and gave up a great deal of their limited free time to rehearse.

J. Sunley showed that he is being extremely well taught and his verse-speaking gave much pleasure.

Askew sang with great courage. He seemed to be surprised at his own temerity in being on the platform at all. He is his own severest critic, for in rehearsal his face expressed disgust at every mistake before it could be pointed out. Not all singers have the

ability thus to listen to themselves.

R. Leefe is well endowed as a singer, for he has a good voice and is most responsive to instruction. His own contribution was an outstanding achievement. Dressed as a French peasant he allied movement with voice in a most convincing way and his performance was one of the high lights of the evening.

G. Jackson's pianoforte solos showed that his talent is being well directed. He captures the spirit of what he plays, shows that his technique is more than adequate, and does his audience the compliment of playing from memory. However good a scientist he may become, he will certainly be a good pianist.

The Masters had more than usually beautiful carols to sing and they were most effective with a few treble voices as soloists. It is not usual to find a male voice choir from the staff of a boys' school and still less usual to find one so well balanced. The choir still hopes to include in its number other masters whose diffidence at the moment exceeds their undoubted talent!

One of the best and most moving performances was given by R. Jeffery with G. Henthorn and B. Motson. Jeffery has a baritone voice of exceptional quality for one so young, and Henthorn's and Motson's voices blended exquisitely. Their carol was so delightful that one longed for a permanent record of it.

The Waits have become a tradition in this concert. Their item was provided with dialogue, and Wheatley, Miss Marshall and the Headmaster contributed much to the fun, not to mention Taylor's "deliberate mistake" on the trumpet and Morton's unwelcome presence as a cuckoo in the nest, or, more aptly, a crow among thrushes. Mr. Watts' street lamp-post amazed us all, and Miss Stewart was so delighted with it that she was heard to say that the High School would make haste to perform a play that required a lamp-post.

"No Room at the Inn," a translation of one of the best known French carols, is one that lends itself admirably to dramatic presentation. R. W. Waller and J. E. Johnson are specially to be commended for their part in it. To J. Rand's quietly played accompaniment on the violin, the old, familiar story was told in song and action of Joseph's and Mary's vain search for shelter, until in spoken verse we heard of their success and an unseen quartet sang out the joyful news of the birth. The success of this item was assured by the beautiful costumes provided by Miss D. M. Stewart, and to her and to Mrs. Richards who also provided costumes our thanks are offered.

The boar's head was this year carried by a kitchen scullion in the person of D. Thompson, and the gratitude and exhaustion with which he at last put it down made one appreciate how glad Mr. Morris must have been to extol the boar's head in song without the burden of carrying it himself. The masters' torches made a brave show, but Mr. Pimlott has promised to contrive

some means of illuminating the boar's head on another occasion.

The bells that pealed out provided an appropriate finish, but next year we should like them almost to hurt our ears with clangorous noise.

Honourable mention must be made of the three Old English Kissing Boughs which Mr. Cabourne made. They were appropriate and decorative and were so much admired that they were later borrowed to decorate the dining hall of School House for the annual party, and—a still greater honour—borrowed by the Vicar to hang above the choir stalls in the Parish Church.

During this term the orchestra has met to rehearse theatre music for some end-of-term plays. The Redshaw Singers made their second appearance at the school on March 24th. May we finally remind you that Margaret Good and William Pleeth will be giving a joint recital early in May.

SCOUT NOTES

The 2nd Brigg Grammar School Troop has continued to run smoothly throughout the term. During it we have welcomed T. Russell to the Troop, and L. Pieroni, J. Askew, R. B. Clark, A. Tracy and P. West have passed their Tenderfoot, and have been invested. G. Henthorn and A. Pieroni have passed their Second Class and have also obtained their Hobbies Badge, and C. Wood and B. Bowles have obtained their Hobbies Badge.

B. Motson has been promoted to Patrol Leader of the Seagulls, C. Windass to Second of the Seagulls, and F. Flear to Second of the Peewits. B. Bowles has been appointed Treasurer, and F. Flear Secretary.

The Patrol Leaders have been helping the S.M. to prepare the programme for our meetings on Wednesday nights, and we hope there has been an improvement. The Seniors have obtained permission from Colonel Nelthorpe to build a bridge in Twigmoor Woods.

It has been proposed that the Troop should go to Grimsby in June on the occasion of the Chief Scout's visit. For our Summer Camp we hope to go to the Scout Association's Camping Ground at Brynbach, in North Wales. Week-end camps are again to be held at Worlaby during the Summer Term. It is hoped that much useful Scout work will be done there.

B. BOWLES.

THE ART CLUB.

Both within and without Rooms three and seven, members of the Club have been working with the utmost diligence, for the past term has been one of comparatively great activity.

Mr. Cabourne has continued his lectures in the series "Looking at Pictures," by giving us talks on a welcome subject—English Painting. The first of these dealt with the novel—but in some ways tragic—Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Among Mr. Cabourne's large collection, we saw various reproductions of Holman Hunt's "The Light of the World," and a book of Rossetti's, which besides bearing the owner's signature, vividly shows his apparent contempt for Rubens. The second talk was devoted entirely to the works of Constable. Members must by now have realised that it is not a sin to attempt to alter a painting, but rather a necessity. At the time of writing a talk on Turner's works remains yet to be given—it should be the most interesting of the three.

Outside the school, but within another, a few boys, members and non-members, have attended a second series of lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, given by Dr. Klingende, of Hull. These covered art from very early times, about which we found ourselves to be comparatively ignorant, but for this reason the lectures proved to be very interesting.

Reverting back to school, we have been working for the Parents' Open Night. Here we hope that we shall again have made Room three the talk of the night and so preserve and consolidate our reputation.

Concluding, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Cabourne for his assistance and for his excellent and instructive talks.

J. D. RANDS.

THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB.

The music that has been played this term has differed from that of other terms, not in quantity, as I should have hoped, but in quality. The term set off to a lively start with the Polonaise and Waltz from Tschaikowsky's opera, "Eugen Onegin," together with Haydn's startling symphony, "The Surprise."

Then came the miraculous change. For the first time in

its history the Club has had a partly oral programme. We managed to present a few recordings of speeches and of William Walton's music to that well-remembered film, "Henry V," which shortly afterwards received an encore by being played in an English period to the "Maths and Science" Sixth.

The following week saw yet another change, for it was the first time that the rumbling strains of an organ had thundered through our amplifier. The organ piece, or pieces I should say, were the famous second and fourth concertos of Handel, which were ably supported by the rousing Prelude to Act III of Wagner's Lohengrin. Our latest concert consisted of one work only, the ever popular First Piano Concerto of Tschaikowsky.

Many will doubtlessly think that the pieces I have mentioned make no appeal, but good music is like many other things; you just have to get used to it, and you would not find it a difficult task to listen to an occasional programme or two.

J. G. HUNTER.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB.

I must confess that I felt a little dubious at the beginning of the term when we decided to form the Photographic Club. The school had never had such a club before and there was nothing to indicate that more than about five people were really interested in photography.

At the first meeting, however, any such doubts were quickly dispelled, for at least twenty people assembled in the Physics Lab. to hear J. Rands give a talk on "The Development of the Camera" and J. Suthers give one on "Developing a film at home." At the next meeting even more people heard a talk by J. Elwood on "Printing a Photograph."

The real highlight of the term, however, was an actual demonstration of developing and printing. The meeting was held at 7 p.m., and everyone had a good time in splashing developer and fixer everywhere.

What of the future? Many of the members have expressed a desire to hear a talk on colour films, and were none the less daunted when they were told that such films cost about 10/6. We have still to include such subjects as trick photography, the use of filters, photography at night and table top photography in our talks, to mention but a few subjects, and next term should see even greater efforts on our part to prove to the school that photography can be so much more than merely pressing the button and letting the chemist do the rest.

J. SUTHERS.

INTER-SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY.

The Inter-School Cross-Country Race was held this year on the 16th March at Horncastle. The School team was anxious to improve upon its performance of last year when the leaders lost their way, and partly as a safety measure, a second team was entered.

The course of about 3½ miles included a long steep hill, stubble, some fields of rough tussocky grass, about a dozen fences, and roads varying from first class metalled to fourth class rutted, but nothing approaching the consistency of Brickyard slime.

There were eleven teams of six runners each from seven schools, and four runners in each team were to count. The Brigg first team drew the third pen, and were much better placed at the start than the second team, who drew the ninth pen. At the pistol, the first team men wisely made the most of their good position and got away unhampered through the narrow exit from the playing field. The second team, particularly Pattie, were not so fortunate.

At the half mile, near the summit of the steep hill, Coulthurst was leading the field. but was passed by a Winteringham runner. Marris was third, with Altoft and Rickett lying handy, so things looked promising for Brigg. Driffill was twelfth. Rickett looked rather distressed, but was to show that he had reserves of strength left.

Driffill later made up several places, but lost them owing to an attack of "stitch." The rest of the first team managed to hold their positions over most of the course.

At the finish, the Winteringham runner came in sight first, looking fresh and holding a comfortable lead over Coulthurst, who had made a brave challenge and had run himself out. Marris was narrowly beaten for third place, but when Altoft (5th) appeared, and then Rickett, finishing strongly to gain the 8th place, it was obvious that Brigg first team had won. Driffill and Harrison were close at hand, and the second team packed well to gain sixth place.

Caistor won second place, in spite of being the smallest school. Both our teams are to be congratulated upon their

keenness in training and upon their excellent performance in the race.

We commiserate with Brooks, the captain, who was compelled to give in to the 'flu germ on the last morning. His work and example during training were important factors in the teams' success.

Finally, we thank Horncastle Grammar School for their hospitality and excellent arrangements before, during, and after the race.

Details:—

1.	Brigg 1st	19 points
2.	Caistor	52 „
3.	Scunthorpe 1st	61 „
4.	Clee	83 „
5.	Louth "L"	95 „
6.	Brigg 2nd	99 „
7.	Horncastle	111 „
8.	Louth "E"	113 „
9.	Winteringham Red	116 „
10.	Scunthorpe 2nd	194 „
11.	Winteringham Green	214 „

Individual winner's time:—21 mins. 30 secs.

Brigg individual results:—

Brigg 1st: 2, Coulthurst (21 mins. 55 secs); 4, Marris (22 mins. 10 secs.); 5, Altoft; 8, Rickett.
Reserves: 9, Driffill; 37, Lofthouse.

Brigg 2nd: 11, Harrison; 24, Collins; 28, McLauchlan; 36, Dunham.
Reserves: 40, Pattie; 45, Pixsley.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY. 26th March, 1949.

Both races this year were badly affected by the influenza epidemic. Many good runners, including two house captains, who might have played an important part, had to be content with joining the unusually large body of spectators. This ill wind was a boon to slackers, who have had a wonderful year. The magic word "'flu" ended all argument. There seemed to be no lack of interest, however, in fact, on at least two occasions, over-eager spectators with bicycles interfered with the runners.

The Junior Race. The juniors were the less affected by illness and a field of 113 got away to a very fast start. At least four runners were strongly fancied for the individual race and there was a long struggle for the lead.

The First Stile: Thompson, D., leading but looking distressed. Melless (much fancied) second, Willoughby (also much fancied) third, Wells fourth and the Scarborough brothers (both fancied) just behind, running abreast. A bunch of cheerful heavyweights bringing up the rear.

St. Helen's Well: Thompson, still leading, overcome with cramp in the stomach and had to drop out. Willoughby took the lead from Melless, strongly challenged by the Scarboroughs.

Wrawby Village: The early struggle for the lead was beginning to have its effect. Melless looked to have shot his bolt and Scarborough, J. S., took the lead, followed by Willoughby and Scarborough, H. D., with Wells, Parkinson and Howlett well up.

Brickyard Lane End: Willoughby led by about four yards but the Scarboroughs looked fresher than he. The rest of the runners were well strung out.

In the end, Willoughby proved too strong for the others and drew away to win comfortably in a time which has only once been beaten. Scarborough, J. S., was second, in front of his younger brother whose performance deserves special mention, together with that of Parkinson, who was only beaten into 5th place because he missed the funnel. Scarborough, H. D., and Parkinson are in their first year and only just old enough to compete. They are both stylist and we shall hear of them again.

The House competition was won by Sheffield House, a victory for the big battalions, but clear cut and well deserved.

The Senior Race. The senior "field" must have been the smallest on record, only 62 from the five houses. After several trials and the inter-school event, it might have been imagined that the order of the runners at the finish was a foregone conclusion. If this was the opinion of some spectators, it was not shared by the runners, who gave us one of the best-fought races in the history of the event.

The First Stile: Coulthurst (the favourite) leading from Marris and Altoft, but there was little in it. Coulthurst jumped the stile neatly. Marris caught the top but was unhurt. At a distance came Rickett, Dunham and McLauchlan, then another bunch, Lofthouse, Collins and Denton.

St. Helen's Hill: The order unchanged except that McLauchlan and Collins had each gained a place and Driffill had joined Denton. The leaders still within a yard or two of each other.

Redholme: Coulthurst and Marris lead in turn. Neither could gain more than a couple of yards and Altoft kept within striking distance. Driffill had come further up and the order, after the first three, was now Rickett, Driffill, Collins, McLauchlan, Denton, Lofthouse.

Brickyard Lane End: Coulthurst, Marris and Altoft still fighting for the lead followed by Driffill, Rickett and Collins.

It was not until three or four hundred yards from home that Coulthurst was able to establish a lead, and even then it was no more than ten yards. Marris made gallant but unavailing efforts to close the gap. He had run a splendid race for one who was running for the first time as a senior and it was fitting

that he, as well as Coulthurst, should beat Roger Cobb's record of 1942, for it was indeed a joint effort. The conditions were ideal. Coulthurst's strength and his neatness in negotiating fences were the deciding factors. School House won the house competition with some very good packing.

TABLE OF RESULTS.

			Time:
Junior:	1st	Willoughby (Nelthorpe)	22 mins. 38⅘ secs.
	2nd	Scarborough, J. S. (Sheffield)	(Record:
	3rd	Scarborough, H. D. (Sheffield)	22 mins. 22⅗ secs.)
	4th	Howlett (Ancholme)	
	5th	Parkinson (Yarborough)	
	6th	Wells (Nelthorpe)	
Senior:	1st	Coulthurst (School)	Time: 26 mins. 8⅗ secs.
	2nd	Marris (Sheffield)	(Previous record:
	3rd	Altoft (Ancholme)	26 mins. 9⅘ secs.)
	4th	Driffill (Yarborough)	
	5th	Collins (School)	
	6th	Rickett (School)	

HOUSE POINTS.

		Junior Points		Senior Points	Combined Points	Position
Ancholme	194	4	131	12	16	3
Nelthorpe	191	6	273	3	9	5
School	299	2	119	15	17	2
Sheffield	96	10	157	9	19	1
Yarborough	141	8	160	6	14	4

PARENTS' EVENING.

On Monday, March 14th, many parents and even three young brothers took advantage of the Headmaster's invitation to meet the staff once more. There was much to talk about, much to see and a little refreshment to be had, served by some eager young waiters, anxious that all should be served and only a little concerned that there should be a crumb or two left for themselves as their only reward — or perhaps a late night was sufficient reward in itself.

The Art Exhibition was much admired, and a detailed account of it will be found elsewhere. Very responsible boys could be seen busy with experiments; in the Chemistry laboratory Haddow and Cheeseman, Shelton and Stevens experimented on the law of Mass Action, Lyon on the preparation of Chloroform and of various essences for flavouring, and Hunter and Suthers on the qualitative analysis of an ore. In the Physics laboratory Rands and Driffill did an experiment on the thermo-electric effect, Rickett and Coulthurst on the thermal conductivity of copper, Bowles and Holmes on the mechanical equivalent of heat,

Bosett and Ladds on electro-magnetic induction, Eccles and Pollicott on the effect of pressure on the boiling point and the freezing point of water, B. Taylor and Silburn on specific heat and showed a home-made wireless receiving set, Goodman and Flear did light experiments, Grimble and Motson experimented with the extension of a spring and with the simple lever, A. J. Taylor and Edlington with systems of pulleys, McLauchlan and Clark did thermometry experiments, and Leefe and Robinson plotted magnetic fields.

In the woodwork shop boarders of the popular Friday night class could be seen continuing their work on useful articles of their own choice, such as coffee tables, book stands, table lamps and panelling for the walls of the prefects' room.

Nor was School House out of the picture, for a number of parents went over to see Matron; one was shown round the house for the first time and was heard to express the opinion that her son would never want to leave it, or at any rate would leave it with regret.

THE OLD BRIGGENSIANS' ASSOCIATION.

This year marks the Silver Jubilee of the O.B.A. in its present form. Previous attempts to form an Association had been made in the years immediately following the First World War, but it was in 1923 that the O.B.A. as we know it came into being under the chairmanship of B. E. Spink. It is not, therefore, surprising that Old Boys turned up in force on 22nd January to the Silver Jubilee Celebration and Annual Dinner held at the Angel Hotel. The number of diners, 125, including guests, was a record, and it is true to say that the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The guest of the evening was Col. S. F. Thomas, Headmaster of Clee Grammar School. Proposing the toast of "The School," he recalled his acquaintance with the School under three fine Headmasters, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Daughton and Mr. Matthews. He paid tribute to its achievements and to the sportsmanship of its boys, and said that a school could be judged by its Old Boys. Col. Thomas made some amusing and caustic remarks about the spate of forms and regulations which were inflicted on the Headmaster to-day. In more serious vein he referred to the hard fight which lay ahead of the Grammar Schools if they were to maintain their present standards.

Mr. Matthews responded, and outlined the year's progress. He announced that the War Memorial Fund now stood at £2,031, and that Henry Etherington, an Old Briggensian, was preparing plans for the new swimming bath.

The toast of "The Association" was proposed by the Rev. C. J. Chappell, Vicar of Brigg. He spoke highly of the qualities of the

boys turned out by the School, and professed himself a firm believer in the old school tie.

Mr. E. Urry, who has taken on the Secretaryship following Mr. A. Lyon's resignation and appointment as Chairman for the current year, responded. He thought that in view of the number of boys who had passed through the School since 1906, namely 2,242, the membership of the O.B.A. should be greater.

In his characteristically witty fashion, the President, Col. O. S. Nelthorpe, proposed the toast of "The Guests." Mr. C. T. Lee responded.

Mr. A. A. Rhodes was prevailed upon to give some reminiscences of his days at the School, which began in 1882.

Entertainment of a high order was given by Albert Hewson (bass) and Joseph Crooks (magician). Charles Bramley, as usual, was an efficient accompanist.

The guests were: Col. S. F. Thomas, Dr. F. J. O. King, the Rev. C. J. Chappell, Mr. C. T. Lee, Mr. E. Howarth and Dr. R. E. Holme.

O.B.A. members present were: Col. O. S. Nelthorpe (President), A. Lyon (Chairman), the Headmaster (Mr. N. C. Matthews), Mr. J. T. Daughton, A. W. G. Aitken, J. Baggott, S. G. Belsom, G. Bains, H. Botton, W. Brown, W. Bains, C. Bramley, W. Brookes, H. Bartle, J. R. Baker, G. W. Brocklesby, K. Baxter, J. Barnes, G. S. Burgess, B. Carpenter, T. W. Clark, P. Cabourne, J. Cabourne, E. R. Clark, S. Chapman, N. Cobb, C. Cobb, E. Cuthbert, J. Davenport, J. W. Day, J. O. Day, E. Dodd, B. Ducker, J. G. T. Eccles, S. V. Eccles, J. Edlington, H. M. Etherington, C. Ellerby, J. M. Gray, G. Goodman, J. T. Gilbert, W. Good, R. E. Green, E. Godfrey, D. Gilgallon, C. Hockney, J. W. Harrington, M. J. Hill, J. C. Hill, G. Hounslow, W. Jackson, C. A. Johnson, A. J. Jeffrey, J. I. Jeffrey, A. E. Knight, J. P. Kemp, A. King, J. Laverack, W. E. D. Lee, R. R. Lawson, F. Lowish, C. Metham, G. Mawson, H. Maitland, H. A. Marshall, R. B. North, E. W. Nixon, T. R. O'Neill, R. L. Patchett, J. Rose, C. S. Rowbottom, J. A. Rhodes, A. A. Rhodes, G. A. Robinson, J. Robinson, T. F. Raby, S. G. Sass, D. W. Shaw, W. C. Stainton, E. D. Sykes, T. N. Sumpter, R. Sumpter, A. J. Stevenson, R. L. Stevenson, D. Stevens, E. Taylor, R. Taylor, R. Tear, C. Tyson, J. C. Thompson, H. J. Turner, H. B. Trafford, E. Urry, B. Usher, J. M. Wood, J. R. Wright, D. Wright, B. Whitfield, J. Whitfield, G. W. Cabourne, F. Henthorn, A. I. Morris, T. G. Richards, J. Foulkes, W. Watts, S. G. Jarvis, J. Herring.

Some forty or fifty Old Boys attended the Annual General Meeting which preceded the Dinner. The results of the election of officers may be read on the inside of the back cover of this Magazine. During the meeting the Headmaster passed round for inspection a photograph of a wall plaque similar to the one which it is proposed to erect over the Main Staircase as a Memorial to Old Boys who fell in the War.

OLD BOYS' NEWS.

Orders for the School Plaque were taken at the Dinner and all but one have been despatched. There is, however, one order outstanding, but the name was not noted at the Dinner. If the O.B. concerned will write to the Hon. Sec. his plaque will be forwarded.

Frank Wells is to be congratulated on his appointment as Headmaster of Hibaldstow County School. He comes to Hibaldstow from Immingham Secondary Modern School.

G. B. Marris is in the R.A.M.C. He is stationed at Bedford and is doing clerical work.

R. M. Ridgway has qualified as a member of the Pharmaceutical Society.

M. D. Hancock hopes soon to leave the R.A.F. and commence his course at Loughborough Training College.

R. R. Hancock is teaching at Glebe Road School, Brigg.

N. Hancock is working at the Steelworks in Scunthorpe.

G. F. Wood is still in the Navy and is at H.M. Dockyard Apprentices' School, Malta. He is to be congratulated on the birth of his daughter in January.

John Cabourne is working on a course at the Hull Technical College for the qualifications of the Royal Sanitary Institute. At present he is engaged on the practical side of his training in the Scunthorpe Health Department.

His brother, Pat Cabourne, hopes to begin his University course at Birmingham in October. Meanwhile he is doing some teaching at Barton. He has joined the Territorial Army, and is commissioned as Lieutenant.

Gordon Maw, who is in the Navy, went on the "endurance trip" to the Arctic.

R. Stringer is now on demobilisation leave from the Navy.

John Kingdon is a Sergeant in the R.A.F. He is doing educational work and is stationed at H.Q. Flying Training Command, Reading.

Alan Pratt is articled to the accountant firm of Stephenson, Smart and Co., which already contains two Old Boys, J. R. Gregory and J. P. Kemp.

Basil Gregory is at Bristol University.

N. H. Boocock, who is studying to be a Quantity Surveyor, has accepted an appointment with the Scunthorpe Corporation.

R. H. M. Markarian, School Captain 1947-48, joined the R.A.O.C. last July and was commissioned in January. After a spell at the regimental depot he has been posted to Great Dunmow, Essex, where his unit is using a former R.A.F. airfield.

Terence Organ, at University College, Oxford, is working hard for his finals in June. He called at School with his wife during the Summer holiday, but of course found it deserted.

Brian Organ is stationed at Dover.

K. C. Bell is progressing well after an operation. He and his wife have settled down happily in Sheffield and are living in a very pleasant district, 157, Hunter House Road, Sheffield, 11. He finds his work on the "Sheffield Telegraph" interesting and conditions very good indeed.

R. B. Creasey has been in the Divisional Education Office at Scunthorpe for two years. His brother, M. J. Creasey, is with Ruston-Bucyrus, Lincoln, on a seven years' apprenticeship. W. P. Creasey has been accepted at Westminster College for October.

Clive Briggs, M.R.C.V.S., is joint author of a paper to be read at the 12th International Dairy Congress at Stockholm during the coming summer. He has published some of the results of the research which he is doing for his Ph.D. in Proceedings of the Biochemical Society, the Nutrition Society, the Bulletin of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology, and the British Journal of Nutrition. He has also read papers before meetings of the Biochemical Society and the Nutrition Society and given a number of lectures on various subjects to certain branches of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading University and the Staff Association of the Royal Veterinary College. He is a member of the panels of abstractors for the Veterinary Record, the Veterinary Bulletin and Dairy Science Abstracts.

J. F. Laverack is an auctioneer's pupil at Messrs. Dickinson, Davy and Markham at Louth.

M. Craven and R. B. Tatam, both of whom took the National Diploma of Agriculture at Loughborough in July 1947, are both on their fathers' farms.

J. O. Day, B.Sc. (Agric.) of London University and National Diploma in Agriculture, is now farming his own land at Pyewipe, Redbourne.

S. G. Belsom is with British Railways at Lincoln.

N. Cobb, B.Sc. (Leeds), was appointed to the staff of the Technical High School, Scunthorpe, last September.

J. M. Wood (1936-40) is often to be found at Brigg Market as commercial representative for the Manchester Oil Refinery. He lives in Lincoln.

Robin Sumpter is articled to R. A. C. Symes & Co., Solicitors, of Scunthorpe.

Wedding. W. Michelson to Cassie Fisher at St. John's Parish Church, Brigg, on Saturday, 29th January, 1949. J. Waters was best man.

Birth. To Charles D. and Mrs. Westoby, a son, Stephen Charles, on 2nd March, 1948.

In his speech at the Annual Dinner, the Headmaster appealed to Old Boys to send their sons to the School.

It is interesting to note that the following Old Boys have sons in the School at present:—H. J. Turner, R. Peatfield, W. Grimble, F. G. Motson, R. Etty, G. Goodman, A. Stringfellow,

H. A. Peacock, W. Bains, R. E. Cuthbert, H. Sumpter, C. H. Eccles, H. Markham, T. W. Clark, C. W. Dunham, G. A. Rands, G. W. Golland, J. Staniland.

Visitors this term have included:—K. C. Horton, R. J. H. Sumpter, G. Maw, S. R. Skelton, Albert Foster, Henry Hall, C. G. Taylor, G. B. Marris, A. Maw, R. H. M. Markarian, Oliver Wright, J. Cabourne, P. Cabourne, N. H. Boocock, R. Hall (1916-1920), R. B. Creasey, D. Bell, M. Hancock, J. Skipworth, J. E. H. Kingdon, G. W. Shaw.

THE ISLANDS ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD.

Such is the title given to these Islands, of which I am now the priest in charge, and I think you may be interested to hear a story from the past showing how this appellation came to be earned.

On Christmas Day, 1948, there passed to her eternal reward the oldest parishioner and communicant of The Magdalen Islands (Province of Quebec), Mrs. Catherine Clarke—a sprightly ninety-three. A lifetime of hard work for family, friends, and Church, was symbolized by her last piece of manual labour—a pair of long woollen stockings for her parish priest who had to travel the ice-bound sea in an open sleigh . . . . May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace! She is survived by her husband, with whom she had spent sixty-three years of happy married life. He is now the oldest English-speaking resident of the Islands, and in him we have a direct link with what is, perhaps, the most heroic and tragic happening in the history of this small corner of the world.

In 1847, year of the great potato famine in Ireland, a ship carrying Irish peasants away from their starving homeland to Canada, was wrecked in one of the terrible storms that made these shores a veritable graveyard of sailing-vessels. The survivors of the wreck, crawling to an exposed sandy shore, and being, for the most part, in the throes of "ship-fever" caused by the insanitary conditions then common in emigrant ships, were in a pitiable state. The temperature was well below zero, and a gale was blowing. Nowadays, houses can be seen from any point, but then they saw no sign of human existence; however, there was one house within reach. This was the dwelling of James Clarke, grandfather of our oldest inhabitant (who still lives in this same house). James Clarke was a veteran of the Waterloo campaign, and now had settled with his wife and several young sons at East Cape—a little hollow of green between three towering rocks, near the beach where the doomed ship went aground. Quickly arriving on the scene, Mr. Clarke and his sons found a scene of unparalleled wretchedness. Nearly four hundred freezing yet fever-racked people of all ages lay on the sand, besides many who were beyond all feeling . . . . Mr. Clarke and

his boys got the worst sufferers up to his house, and soon house, barns, and cattle-sheds were full. Others were partly protected by canvas screens erected near the shore. Mrs. Clarke and family nursed them for many weeks until most were well again (though enough people died to fill a large common grave nearby). The last victim of the fever was Mrs. Clarke herself . . . .A fitting conclusion to this story of self-sacrifice and heroic struggle against disease and the elements waged by one small family on behalf of hundreds, is the following letter (still preserved at East Cape):—

"This is to certify that the ship 'Miracle' under my command was wrecked on the Magdalen Islands on the nineteenth day of May, 1847, with 446 souls on board, and through the exertions of Mr. James Clarke and his sons succeeded in saving nearly the whole of them. And they deserve great praise for their exertions both in supplying them with provisions and shelter . . . ." H. H. Elliott (Master).—One is tempted to add the words "an understatement."

W. M. H. THOMAS.

University College,
Oxford.
March 12th.

To the Editor of "The Briggensian."

Dear Sir,

It is rather a dreary wet day in Oxford to-day as the Hilary Term ends and the majority of undergraduates go down. Oxford has been very full during the last two terms, but one is led to understand that the peak has been passed and that numbers will fall in the future. The majority of ex-Servicemen seem to have returned, and future freshmen will come straight from school or after a very short stay in the Services. I have little news of Briggensians in the University. Peter Saynor went down last June, and Michael Hunt has moved from Wadham College to St. Stephen's House to carry on his theological training. John Hunt is, I believe, still in residence at Wadham, and I have seen another familiar face. I think it is Alan Dove, but I am afraid I know no more of him than that he is in Oxford.

From a weather point of view we have been extremely lucky this Winter and have enjoyed Spring-like conditions in spite of one snow fall in early March. Sport has consequently played a great part in University life, and so far Oxford have had a very good season in Inter-Varsity games with Cambridge. Torpids took place in lovely sunshine as opposed to the dull cold conditions of last year. Inter-College Cuppers have been completed, and Trinity College have had a very good year, winning the Rugby, Hockey and Squash Cups. University College, however, have not been disgraced in that they have reached the final in two of these events.

2nd XI, 1948-49.

Standing: Bonsell, R., Rawlins, J. L., Driffill, P., Cheesman, J. H., Jackson, G. W. S., Pollicott, D., Howlett, G., Melless, J.
Seated: Smith, E. R., Underwood, M., Rhodes, J. A., Foster, K., Altoft, D.

Last term the University was honoured by a visit from Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, when she received an Honorary D.C.L. degree. Those of us who were lucky enough to attend the ceremony were all impressed by one who must surely rank as one of the truly great women of this century. At the time the University was mourning the loss of Dr. Stallybrass, who was the first Vice-Chancellor to die during his term of office. It was indeed a great loss to Oxford when he fell from a train when returning from London.

University College, Oxford's oldest college, is this year celebrating the 700th Anniversary of the benefaction of William of Durham, and a rather special Commemoration Ball is being held in June. It is hoped that Mr. Attlee, a "Univ" man, will be able to attend. In spite of this official 700th Anniversary, and the views of eminent mediaevalists, many stalwart "Univ" men still value the rather mythical connection with King Alfred.

From recent Magazines I have seen that several Briggensians are hoping to come up to Oxford after doing their National Service. I hope they are soon able to come into residence and may I wish them due success when they arrive.

Yours, etc.,

TERENCE J. ORGAN.

In offering the poem, "Sea Window," K. C. Bell writes:

"This is my first effort in free verse, though, as you will see, it is not alarmingly unorthodox. Obviously it is futile to pursue the same struggles as the old masters. Tennyson, Shelley, Wordsworth, all revolutionaries in their day, reached the very pinnacle of achievement in their own fields. The new poet, therefore, must seek 'fresh fields and pastures new.'

"It is this desire for exploration and experiment which has given birth to modern, surrealist poetry, much of which, in my opinion, is simple incomprehensible drivel. Many contemporary writers of verse seem to consider their main end in life is to bewilder the reader. Many alleged connoisseurs dismiss as trite any poem which they can fully understand. What an absurd state of affairs! Surely it is the task of the poet to convey his ideas and his feelings to others. If he alone can understand his writings, then his words are not worth the paper on which they are written.

"I recognise the need for change, adventure and experiment, and I deplore imitation. But revolutions have a tendency to overshoot their purpose and that, I feel sure, applies to the twentieth century revolution in poetry. 'Sea Window' is an attempt to do something new without sacrificing simplicity or the music of poetry."

SEA WINDOW.

Shall I close the window and shut out the sea?
I cannot see the frenzied waves
Assault the unshaken shore, flinging
Their hollow battle hymn to the black world;
But the melancholy murmur of the wind
And the dull, unceasing moan
Of the sea's voice surge into my room
Like a mad music
Tearing the soul asunder.

No whisper from the wind.
Not the breath of a sigh from the sea.
The barren moments drag themselves along,
And the walls creep in
As though my life were close-confined,
Devoid of impulse,
Meaningless.
The earth revolves without me,
Who thus aloof, alone
Am suspended in the clinging stillness,
Safe as a hermit on an unknown island.
There is no peace in this;
No comfort in the cold security.
Better endure the whips of the world
And the fury of pitiless years
Than the stark stagnation of chanceless days.--
This screaming silence is worse than pain.

I will listen again to the wind and the sea,
For the wind is a great traveller,
And the sea is an old philosopher.
These two have listened to the shouts
Of a million shouting years,
Through all the clashing purposes of men.
They have watched us, in our feebleness,
Assail the future with wooden swords
And weep because we fail.
They know our littleness.
Yet—
They have seen much of beauty, much of love,
And have watched us go from stage to stage,
Dreaming, seeking, building,
And, ever with onward eyes,
Singing our songs of to-morrow.
They are the witnesses of all the scenes,
But their words have many meanings
Not easy to divine.

Long will I listen,
And in the end I shall understand.

Through the open window the wind leaps in,
And the sound of the sea.—
Beyond the bay the little lights spring out,
Piercing the gloom
Like the beacons of a goal ungained,
Urging us on along uncertain ways
Through the uncertain night.

KENNETH C. BELL.

St. Stephen's House,
Oxford.
Lent, 1949.

To the Editor of "The Briggensian."
Sir,

I am afraid that this is not an "Oxford Letter" in the accustomed tradition, but then, St. Stephen's House, being a theological college, is not strictly part of the University, so perhaps I have no business to be writing one at all!

You may like to know something of our life here. There are just over thirty of us and we are a very happy community; ages varying from the early twenties to the late thirties. Roughly, our daily routine is as follows:—We start the day with Meditation, followed by Holy Communion. After breakfast we study either in the House or in the University, then after lunch the afternoons are free. Study recommences at five-thirty and goes on until Evensong at six-thirty. After supper at seven, we are free until eight-thirty, when we work until nine-thirty, and then, after Night-prayers, there is silence in the House until before breakfast the next morning. On Wednesdays we may have a late evening if we wish, but our free day is Sunday, when we are free to do what we please from breakfast to Night-prayers.

All this is not as bad as it sounds and we have plenty of opportunities to enjoy ourselves!

I was very pleased to find out the other day that Eric Kemp was a member of St. Stephen's House before the War, and that I am, so to speak, following in his footsteps. I realised too, that since his time, I am probably the only Briggensian hoping to be ordained in the Church of England. People have very odd ideas about the Church and her Ministry, and whereas on leaving school most of us have some conception of the vocations we intend to follow, the "call" to the Priesthood is regarded as something essentially private, and seems neither to be fostered nor encouraged. It is true that in many cases, my own included, the decision to put one's self forward as a candidate for ordination does not come until after leaving school, but it does seem a very

great misfortune that so little is known about the Church and the Priesthood in the pre-school leaving period. The fault rests not so much on the academic side, but rather with the general religious knowledge and comprehension of the individual. It is all very well to wait until one "feels the call"—as the popular expression is—but the lack of knowledge in religious matters can stifle the desire to come forward for ordination, in fact it can prevent any such desire arising at all.

The vocation to Holy Orders (and I speak with all humility) is not just a feeling from within that "I must try to do some good in the world"; we all should be able to do that in whatever job we do. But it is the growing realisation not so much that you have decided that you would like to become a priest, but that God may be choosing you, so that it is your duty to present yourself as a candidate for ordination, content to be accepted or not, as God wills through His Church.

Consideration of the Priesthood as a vocation is worth all you can give it. The world situation is serious; everywhere there is an appalling ignorance of Christian doctrine. But I believe that I am right in saying that the modern generation is trying desperately to find a faith which makes sense of Life. And more and more people, thank God, are beginning to realise that the faith that does make sense of Life is Christianity.

Christianity is not a faith based on sentimental or emotional feelings. It is based on the fact, the historical fact, of the life of a Man Who showed Himself to be God incarnate, Who to redeem the whole world—and it is good for us to remind ourselves of this as Eastertide approaches—suffered an agonising death on a hill outside Jerusalem, nineteen hundred years ago. And there was nothing soft about that.

So I do stress, most seriously, the need to consider this vocation.

Yours, etc.,
MICHAEL HUNT,

ART EXHIBITION, 1949.

The world is divided into those who can draw and those who cannot. The very high — almost frighteningly high — level of performance in this exhibition makes it clear that between the two there is a great gulf fixed. One is born with the talent: one does not acquire it. Consequently age counts for little. Undoubtedly talent matures and is perfected with the years, but even the youngest boys have the ability to make pictures which are not merely accurate representations of things and people, but also expressions of ideas and the means of evoking atmosphere.

B. Robinson's "Oyster Catchers" is a remarkable effort for a boy in his first year in the school. W. B. S. Dobie's "Speedboat" really suggests swift movement, and A. Turner's "Snowed Up" is

vigorous and brightly coloured. (Turner likes colour, judging by his "Old-fashioned Winter"). C. R. Redpath too has a good "Winter Scene." As might be expected from younger boys, there are animals and birds—Evett's carefully done "Dog's Head," H. Ward's "Heads of Horses" (in pen and ink), A. Taylor's "A Cow"—surely a prize cow, W. B. S. Dobie's "Osprey," and G. Bradley's "Scottie." Among pictures of a different kind are "The Bridge" by A. Taylor, neat and well arranged, "A Rural Scene" by A. R. Cuthbert, a thoughtful, original composition, and a picture by J. D. Hargreaves—"The Forest's Edge"—which with its sombre, menacing colours suggests a fairy tale in which enchanters cast spells and witches brew magic potions. J. B. Turner's "Autumn Woodland" is a contrast with it—a more natural wood in honest, straightforward colours. A. R. Cuthbert has a second "Rural Scene," notable for the skill with which the trees are done. B. L. Taylor has two pictures here, one a colourful representation of a cottage and the other a colder scene with a ship at sunset on a sea whipped by a strong breeze. There are two "Still Lifes" by younger boys—a pencil drawing by B. H. Wilson showing effective use of light and shade, and a water colour by M. A. Taylor representing a candlestick and candle. Taylor's "Sailing Boats" shows the same sort of restrained use of colours as the "Still Life." The most outstanding, perhaps, among the younger boys' efforts are J. E. Thompson's "Kent Landscape," a clever arrangement of colours, and "Still Life—Football Boots," where colour is used delightfully and decisively to make what are in themselves rather ugly things appear beautiful.

Older boys have sent in studies of birds and animals: D. E. Austin "The Magpie" and W. G. Hogg "A Heron"—both most life-like; the first is in water colour, the second in pencil. Austin has in addition a vivid picture of kingfishers. D. Pattie's heads of a buffalo and a polar bear are photographic, but so well done in pen and ink as to be improvements on the camera. There are some really excellent flower studies by K. Foster ("Red Clover"), F. Richards ("Wild Strawberry" and "Spray of Fuchsia"), D. F. Austin ("Scarlet Poppy) and R. Bonsell ("Dahlias"). Foster and Richards are most versatile. The former has, besides the picture already mentioned, a "Madonna and Child" and "After Sunset." The last is a completely different and perhaps not altogether successful style. Richards exhibits "The Snow Man" in poster colour and "Barnetby Church." The latter is an ambitious attempt in oils. E. R. Smith has a water colour of Barnetby Church. As might be expected, the atmosphere of these two pictures having the same subject is quite different, Smith's being less shut in and claustrophobic and less comfortable. Smith has in addition a picture of a style which shows control in the use of colour and careful draughtsmanship. J. G. Hunter has a pleasant, unusual "Riverside," and W. G. Hogg a most carefully

executed pen and ink "Church Farm" with very effectively-done trees.

Old Boys are amongst those present. J. Edlington has two oil paintings—a sombre "Sunset" and an appetising—too much so at 8-30 p.m. at school—"Pig Cheer." I. Clayton has left a contribution—"Wild Moorland," technically much the best picture here, a brilliant piece. But where all are so good it is unfair to attempt an order of merit.

THE RIVER.

I wonder how many people, when they pass over the two bridges in this small town of Brigg, realise what a lot of pleasure there is to be found on the River Ancholme; adventures, exercise, fishing and boating; particularly boating.

Perhaps you will have noticed a collection of various kinds of boats on the river; some very good, some good, and some not so good. The very good ones are amazing vessels inside, beautifully fitted out, with electricity, hot and cold water, panelled saloons and real kitchens; a floating home. The good ones and not so good ones are still floating homes, and in them one can enjoy all the thrill of exploring the country by water, and, if one likes, can still enjoy a sense of danger by going out into the Humber.

It is possible to travel by the inland waters of this country for over a thousand miles, starting from Brigg; through the Midlands to Bristol or to London; across the Humber to Goole, and through the canals to Liverpool or Manchester. Again it is possible to travel by water in a small boat through the Midlands, by way of the Humber and Trent, then through the canals to Wales; almost to see a new world away from roads and railways, through the most beautiful scenery.

The beginning of the waterways for us is right here in Brigg!

Even on my small dinghy with its small sail, there are always adventures and pleasures; thrills in a strong breeze, and enjoyment on a sunny day, just drifting, looking at the flowers and watching the fish, wondering perhaps when we shall be able to start on a voyage to sea in a bigger boat, to feel the thrill of the lift of the waves and the immense pressure of the wind on a big sail.

We shall be having a small fleet of sailing dinghies on our river this Summer, and we hope to arrange races on the river and in the Humber. The grace and speed of these boats has to be seen to be believed, and the thrill of sailing them is something no one can describe.

Just think of these things when you next cross the bridge over "Our River."

B. L. TAYLOR, U.IVa.

AMATEUR SHOPKEEPER.

"A 'B' pencil, please." "2d. sheet of blotting." "How much is the ink?" "Have you any pen-nibs, please?" These are only a few of the multitudinous requests made by schoolboy customers in the tuckshop. These requests are mainly made on the morning that exams begin. Usually, after a boy has asked for half a sheet of blotting paper, he decides he would like a whole sheet. Some boys, including C——y, just can't make up their minds.

The tuckshop seems to be a meeting place for most boys. There they have a good yarn. "Go to pictures last night? So did I. What did you think of Jane Powell? Smashing bit of homework, isn't she? Coming to the Youth Club on Saturday? Okay, see you there. Cheerio."

A——h, a certain day boy, often thinks he's Dick Barton or Tarzan. He gets all his crazes from films and he provides plenty of entertainment.

Even the masters are full of requests. "May I order a book, please? I'm sorry, but I've forgotten the publisher's name." "Have you any Senior Service, please?" "May I pay for my papers at the end of the month?"

Often a boarder comes in the tuckshop for "an ounce of Players Medium." Certain witty remarks are cast upon him, such as, "What, smoking at your age?" when all the time the tobacco is for a master.

When a traveller comes into the tuckshop to show his goods, a thousand eyes peer into his case. "Oh! Mr. Clark, I should have some of this, I'll buy some." "No, I shouldn't have any of these, they're not worth it." The traveller gets his order from everyone but the right person.

Two brothers in the school can often be heard quarrelling in the tuckshop. The younger one, apparently in financial difficulties, demands of his brother, "Lend me sixpence." "No!" "Oh, please" "I said 'no'; I've already lent you a shilling." "I'll pay you back on Saturday." "I don't care." "Why, you big rotter!" "Oh, go away." This conversation makes one think of "brotherly love."

A fat boy with bulging pockets ambles over the threshold and asks, "Have you any sweets?" "Yes, but I think it would do you more good to go on a slimming diet." "What kinds have you?" A variety of sweets is brought out and after staring at each in turn with gluttonous curiosity, he says, "I'll have a quarter of those, please." After delving in his trouser pocket for some time he finds his purse, but as he is taking it out he lets it fall on to the floor and all his well-scrounged coppers go rolling about the floor and a shout goes up, "Who's throwing money away?" After crawling about amidst much laughter, he eventually collects his hoard together and manages to find the correct number of halfpennies for the sweets. The next task is

to find his coupons and he begins to search among crib-sheets and sticky toffee papers for a very evasive piece of orange paper. Meanwhile the shop assistant is growing more and more impatient as the customer is searching. Then a voice from behind says, "I have found these," and they prove to be the customer's sweet coupons. How they came to be in the other boy's possession I'll leave you to guess! After April 24th the trouble of looking for sweet coupons will be saved, but then I should think everyone will lose his money, or sweets will be "under the counter."

Some rather awkward boys in the tuckshop often come in and say, "Any blotting, please? I'll have a sheet. How much?" "4d., please." When the boy has handed over half-a-crown and has been given his correct change, he says, "Oh! and an H.B. pencil, please." After looking through nearly a hundred pencils an H.B. is found. "Oh no, better make it a 2.H." Then there's the question of ink. Some want Swan blue, others Watermans, others Quink, and a lot just can't make up their minds which to have.

Altogether shopkeeping is a very tiring but interesting job. It means early rising and often late going to bed. Of course, "amateur shopkeepers" only serve when they feel like it!

J. L. MORTON.

"YOUR FISH, SIR!"

Do you know what a seine-netter is? It is a ship that catches the more expensive type of common fish, such as plaice and sole. A good size seine-netter is fifty to fifty-five feet long and about fourteen or fifteen feet in width. All the crew live in one room. The men's bunks are built into the side of the men's quarters. The bunks are like coffins that have been tilted on their sides, but a little more spacious and fitted with sliding doors. The engine is usually diesel or half-diesel, which can be fully operated from the wheel-house by one man without the help of an engineer in the engine room. There are usually four or five men in the crew of a seine-netter, including the skipper.

When fishing operations commence, a large buoy is thrown overboard and anchored to the sea floor. A rope is attached to the buoy, and the boat steams off, shooting out the rope behind it. Just before all the rope has been shot, the boat turns at an angle of about 45 degrees, and the net which has one side of it attached to the rope is shot. When all the net has been shot, the boat turns and heads for the anchored buoy, shooting out more rope which is attached to the other side of the net. About a mile of rope is used in this process, roughly a half-mile on each side of the net. The anchored buoy and the rope attached to it is picked up by the boat. The two rope ends are then put into a rope coiler. The men haul in the net, and the rope, as it

is hauled in, passes through the rope coiler and is neatly coiled ready for use again. As the rope is being hauled in, the net is dragged very lightly along the sea bed, and if there are any fish in its path, they are nearly all frightened into it.

The most exciting event of course is the moment when the net has been hauled in, and all the flapping, wriggling, slimy fish are shaken out of the net on to the deck which has been specially boarded off to keep the fish together and stop them from flapping all over the deck. The men gut and wash the fish. If you have not had a reasonable amount of practice at gutting fish, it is a very difficult task. You not only have to hold a slimy, wriggling fish, but also have to stick a knife into it. After being gutted and washed, they are sorted into their different types and taken away in baskets to the fish-room, where they are packed in ice.

The work on a fishing boat is very tiring and monotonous. If there is a lot of fish to be caught, the men will go on fishing as long as they can and as long as the fish stay there. The men seem to live on steaming-hot mugs of tea or coffee, and the only times when they get regular meals are when there are no fish to be caught or when they are on their way home. The meals are usually quite good. Bread after two or three days gets stale and it is then soaked in water and re-baked in the oven. This bread is not very nice, but I suppose one could have a lot worse to eat.

R. C. JACKLIN.

BIG GAME.

One of the penalties of having a world-wide reputation as a hunter is the suddenness with which one is asked to accept contracts.

A few months ago I received an urgent call from India, asking me to secure a white elephant for a religious festival for which extravagant preparations were being made. White elephants are, of course, notoriously difficult to come by, but it so happened that I had heard well-founded reports of a few in the Belgian Congo during my last much-publicised travels in Africa.

Having had enough of cocktails and ridiculous sandwiches in the houses of ambitious hostesses who vied with each other in lionising me, I was all too eager to return to a man's life, and made my preparations for departure. On board I did with some difficulty avoid the stupid questionings of unintelligent tourists and enjoyed the transparently obvious jealousy and indifference of other persons, fairly well-known, whose travels were not as extensive as my own.

To cut a long story short, I found myself at Boma, and used one of the few passenger craft to go up river, until I reached

Ankoro, an obvious base to work from in search of elephant. Being very much accustomed to the game of selecting the most reliable fellows, I engaged what porters I needed, scorning the persistent offers of a guide who said he knew the exact location of the white elephants.

We travelled westwards into dense tropical jungle, damp and steaming. Huge lianas hung twined to harass our progress. Insects hummed incessantly — but I will not tire you with descriptions of this kind of country you must have read in my many travel books. Suffice it to say that we made camp and many days were spent in searching for spoor, until we found the elephants' watering place and innumerable evidences of the fact that it was a regular one.

At nightfall I climbed a tree above the track that led to the watering place and waited. It seemed an eternity, but it was probably not more than two hours before I heard the sounds of their approach. The extraordinary thing was that it was no herd approaching, but a single lone elephant, and, to make the extraordinary more remarkable still, it was beyond dispute a white elephant, for his progress was slow and delayed by much trumpeting, and in the faint light cast by the river I could make a fairly accurate examination.

Restraining my excitement at this unexpected success of my quest, I made sure my equipment was ready, and just as he was about to pass under the tree I lowered the apparatus I had myself devised to effect a capture. Unfortunately my hand was unsteady, so that he missed the trap, and in evident displeasure he continued on his way to drink.

However, as he came my way once more after drinking from the river, I again held the currant bun by means of my fishing rod, this time with greater accuracy, before his head. Once more, and I cursed my luck, I jerked the rod and the bun out of his reach. This time I had really angered him and he stood, snorting and blowing, and actually stamped his foot with annoyance. All of a sudden he looked up and saw me sitting in the tree with the bun in my hand. That was the last straw! He turned black with rage.

Anybody can catch a black elephant!

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