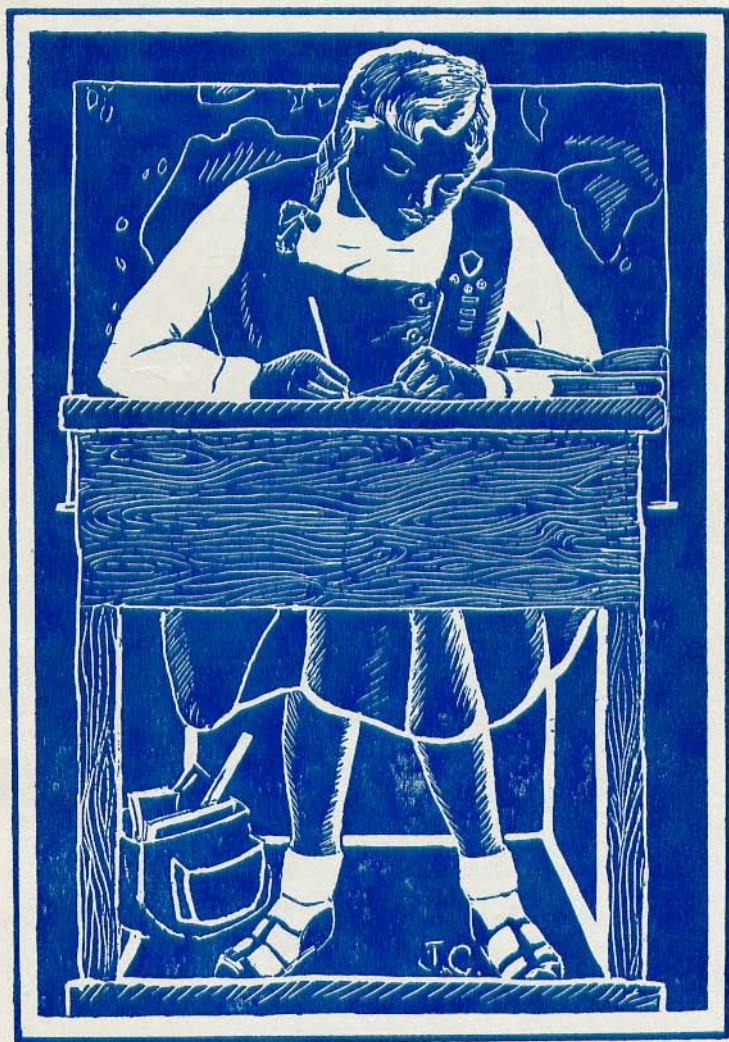


# SYDENHAM COUNTY SCHOOL



# MAGAZINE

For all your  
**NEEDLEWORK**  
and  
**KNITTING**  
**REQUIREMENTS**

come to  
**CHIESMANS of LEWISHAM, S.E.13**

Phone: Lee Green 4321

Also at MAIDSTONE AND GRAVESEND

*Reliable School Clothing*

**WOLFE & SCOTT**

**47 GROVE VALE**

**EAST DULWICH, S.E.22**

**(By East Dulwich Station)**

185 and 176 and other buses  
pass the door, and Electric  
Trains to the Station from all  
districts.

Hours: 10—5.30 daily except  
Thursday, closed all day.

Phone: NEW CROSS 0785

Velours, Panamas, Hatbands, Ties, Girdles, Overalls, Stockings, etc. Tunics,  
Blouses, Knickers and Linings, Blazers, Overcoats and Rainproofs, each  
garment well cut, stitched, and finished, and guaranteed for wear.

A large stock of carefully graded fittings is always kept, and unusual figures  
are specially cut for and made to measure.

**Current prices given with pleasure on application.**



# SYDENHAM COUNTY SCHOOL MAGAZINE

---

SUMMER TERM, 1955

---

## FOREWORD

NATURALLY, the essence of this School year, as of those before it and of those to come, must be the steady day to day work in the classroom, very much enhanced in value by the many out of school activities—expeditions, society meetings, matches and swimming contests, our increasing love and appreciation of music and our very successful inter-form dramatic contests, judged by Miss Cobby to be of a very high standard, all of which will be recorded in the following pages in some detail by the girls. They must, of course, leave unrecorded important activities to come such as the Whitsuntide holiday in Belgium, arranged by Miss State, for forty-three girls, our annual Swimming Gala and an At Home to parents, both in the last fortnight of this term.

From all this welter of activity, certain impressions of the spirit of the School stand out clearly in my mind: the joy in the spaciousness of Anerley—perhaps somewhat marred by the particularly icy blasts of winter—but still a joy—the heroic efforts made by the girls to get to School during the bus strike, the co-operation of parents at this time which made our annual Speech Day in the Town Hall absolutely normal with not a vacant seat in the whole 1,400, the parents' generous support of our annual Harvest Festival and their enthusiastic attendance in family groups at our Annual Family Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church. This year we had as a delightful prelude to our Service, a charming Nativity Play in French, presented immediately after Morning Service one day towards the end of the Autumn Term. The capable and devoted service of School Prefects and House and Games Captains, the goodwill of the Governors throughout the year, the joy of the Old Girls at seeing each other and their own School as on the occasion of the annual Careers Conference, and the happy way in which once again older girls from the Catford and Shackleton Secondary Schools have so quickly found a place in one of our Sixth Forms, all deepen our sense of fellowship within the School and strengthen our bonds of friendship with those outside it.

I am sorry to have to record the deaths during this School year of Miss Corbett, who inculcated such a love of English in the minds of so many, and of Miss Dangerfield, the first Head Mistress of this School when, in 1905, implementing the Act of 1902, the London County Council took it over as one of their first Grammar Schools for girls, its roots having been established over 40 years before in Manor Mount and Sydenham Schools. Miss Dangerfield gave us our School Song and our School Motto, "Aim High", symbolised by her in the edelweiss, now incorporated in our School badge.

In September we shall mark the Jubilee, not of the origin of the School, but of the inception of this second phase in its history, which forms as it were, the strong trunk of the tree of the School. During this time many girls left the School to make their mark in every one of the many spheres of work which have been gradually opened to them during this half century.

And now, because the London County Council has decided to implement the 1944 Education Act by the establishment of comprehensive schools, that tree must prepare to send forth many branches to embrace spheres of work as yet unknown to us. We face this gigantic task in all humility, realising that it is gigantic, but heartened by our own unity and stability which I so much appreciate as the mainspring of our present School, and by the knowledge that, in addition to various smaller accessions, we shall be able to welcome in its entirety, the Shackleton School, whose standards and outlook we admire and appreciate. We welcome them now as partners in our endeavour, entering into the heritage which has been built up for us all over nearly 100 years, and determined so to strengthen and increase it, that in years to come, others, too, will give thanks for the heritage into which they have entered.

E. M. KIMSEY.

---

## EDITORIAL

LAST year the magazine was a novelty; by next year, I hope, it will have become a habit; but this year, the novelty worn off and the habit not yet formed, the task of eliciting contributions from the authors, wits and poets of the School has been a formidable one. The representatives have shown diligence and, in some cases, ingenuity, in their attempts to bring to light the hidden talent in their respective forms, but their attractive posters, their pleas and their threats have all too often passed unheeded. This is not to say that nothing of worth has been submitted; far from it; the articles that follow are a witness to the contrary, and much that had to be



rejected for one reason or another, had merit; but there is still much light being hidden under bushels, and we shall not be satisfied until it has all been brought into the open.

The two chief obstacles in the way of our potential writers are, I think, diffidence and lack of inspiration, maladies which they share with some of the greatest artists of all time. To the diffident I will explain that if you write something for the magazine, one of three things will happen to it, according to its quality: if it is a work of genius it will be published and may represent your first step on the path to fame; if it shows promise, it will follow the same course, after revision; and if the worst comes to the worst, it will be quietly returned to you, and no-one but you and the editor will be any the wiser. But the question of inspiration is less easily dismissed. The more we seek it, the more it eludes us, and therefore it is essential to be constantly on the watch. Shakespeare, we are told, wrote some of his plays to order and in a phenomenally short time (though I suspect that even he might have been hard put to it to produce "something for the magazine" at a moment's notice); but although we may have a budding Shakespeare in our midst, most of us need leisure for our literary exercises and, lacking his storehouse of ideas, must seek them where we can find them, in our everyday lives. Please begin now to think about and to write for next year's magazine.

I should like to thank everyone who has helped to produce this edition, especially the Form representatives, who have spent a great many dinner-hours checking, counting, copying and selecting, Miss Whitehead, who has again chosen and arranged the illustrations, and Mrs. Mayo, without whom the completed work might never have appeared in print.

E. K. POMPHREY.

---

### SPEECH DAY, 1954

This year, our Annual Speech Day Ceremony was held on *October 19th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Lewisham Town Hall*. Once again Mrs. Lowe was with us, although not in her usual capacity as Chairman. Her position was occupied by Mr. Sargant. Also present, were the Mayor and Mayoress of Lewisham and the School Governors.

We presented bouquets to Mrs. Trease, wife of our Speaker, Mr. Geoffrey Trease, Miss Kimsey and the Mayoress, and a small spray to Mrs. Lowe. Then the main ceremony of the evening began with the School Song. After this, Miss Kimsey gave her usual report of the previous School year, mentioning the fact that although we had had to

work amidst a great amount of noise, owing to the building of the new school next to us, most of the girls had managed admirably to concentrate on their lessons and had not allowed themselves to be distracted. As usual, the general routine of School life had included several expeditions and outings for the benefit of all concerned. A party of girls had spent some time in Stratford-upon-Avon accompanied by members of our English Staff, and there were many visits made to museums. Miss Kimsey finished her report by thanking the Staff and Prefects for all the work they had done in making everything so easy for us.

At the end of her speech, the Junior Choir sang two songs for us.

Mr. Trease gave his address before presenting our prizes because, as he said, "Books" was to be the subject of his talk. In his address, he pointed out to us all the value of reading a wide selection of books in preference to going to the pictures or watching television. He said that it is necessary for us to read good literature and not only magazines or comics which have no value whatsoever. He also suggested that the parents themselves should read more books. He afterwards presented our prizes, certificates and other awards.

The Senior Choir sang two enjoyable songs for us, and votes of thanks to Mr. Trease and all our Governors were proposed by the Head Girl and Vice-Head Girl. Following these, the whole School rendered "Flocks may graze in tranquil safety", by Bach, and the evening was brought to a close with the singing of our National Anthem.

JULIE IBBETT.

---

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON EXAMINATIONS AWARDS

**Advanced Level.**—Sylvia Hart, Mary Hill, Sally Hillier, Greta Humphries, Madeleine Hyson, Sally Leapman, Shirley McAuslan, Angela Nimmo, Rhoda Parker, Monica Pimm, Anne Reid, Daphne Wyllie.

**Ordinary Level.**—Audrey Ambross, Mavis Baker, Audrey Ball, Patricia Bambridge, Evelyn Barber, Rita Bartlett, Margaret Beckett, Jill Bicker, Sylvia Bigden, Brenda Bird, Joy Blakeman, Marion Blaker, Sheelah Boley, Brenda Bridle, Shirley Bristo, Irene Broad, Valerie Brooke, Sylvia Brooks, Eileen Buckingham, Elizabeth Bull, Margaret Burrows, Joyce Bush, Audrey Bushell, Ann Byfield, Ann Calveley, Sylvia Campbell, Violet Chalk, Kathleen Chandler, Margaret Chapple, Jacqueline Chilvers, Beryl Clark, Molly Clark, Joan Coates, Anne Cole, Brenda Collins, Shirley Cook, Marie Cooper, Hazel Cox, Margaret Cox, Muriel Cox, Christine Coxhead, Shirley Cramp, Patricia Crawford, Pamela Creswick, Jean Cruse, Gillian Cutting, Rita Downie, Rosemary Dubbin, Marie Duchesne, Sheila Dunn, Jane Earley, Claudette Easterbrook, Sheila Ebbs, Joan Fenn, Pamela Fennymore, Janet Fordham, Margaret Fotheringhame, Hilary Gammon, Rita Golding, Noelene



Hards, Sylvia Hart, Cynthia Hawke, Sheila Hawksworth, Patricia Hewlett, Mary Hill, Monica Hill, Patricia Hippel, Brenda Hodgson, Barbara Hollywood, Sheila House, Ann Hughes, Jean Humm, Julie Ibbett, Olive James, Barbara Jessett, Edna Jones, Dorothy Jupp, Jane Leapman, Sally Leapman, Shirley Liddon, Denise Linington, Thelma Luker, Anne Madeley, Eileen Martin, Ann Mason, Elsie Mellows, Iris Metcalfe, Maureen Mills, Diane Nixon, Joan Norman, Diana Nowell, Joan Oliver, Mavis Page, Christine Parker, Margaret Parker, Marjorie Parkinson, Iris Pavey, Patricia Peapell, Pamela Pearse, Mary Perry, Joy Phelps, Molly Read, Anne Reid, Jacqueline Richards, Jean Robinson, Beryl Rosewell, Eileen Rouse, Helen Samways, Julia Sanderson, Joan Sandland, Patricia Sawyer, Margaret Seaward, Jean Sharpe, Frances Shepherd, Ann Smith, Sandra Smith, Patricia Snell, Margaret Somerford, Janet Stanbrook, Eileen Taffs, Eileen Taylor, Hazel Thomas, Patricia Towersey, Doreen Underwood, Margaret Vosper, Marion Walton, Miriam Walton, Pauline Weller, Linda Wells, Jeanette Wright, Diane Wyatt.

### SIXTH SECRETARIAL CERTIFICATES

Kay Bartlett, Avril Briggs, Eileen Buckingham, Pamela Creswick, Doreen Davies, Marie Duchesne, Ann Dymond, Valerie Gravett, Patricia Grimsey, Patricia Hanson, Audrey Hawkes, Denise Linington, Judith Mason, Violet Mason, Maureen McCarthy, Barbara Meadows, Mavis Page, Margaret Parker, Sheila Skinner, Barbara Sheppard, Angela Warwick, Yvonne Wren, Diane Wyatt.

### PRIZE LIST

**First Forms.**—Ruth Hunt, Joan Lancaster, Margaret Weston, Thelma Wilson.

**Second Forms.**—Daphne Chartres, Toni Hayes, Joan Howell, Anne Langmead, Susan Ray, Jenefer Wood.

**Third Forms.**—Brenda Calveley, Brenda Clarke, Margaret Colledge, Pamela Gadney, Barbara Phillips, Marion Scarlett, Irene Scott.

**Fourth Forms.**—Lynne Barnes, Janet Boyce, Margaret Carpenter, Carol Cove, Jean Dommatt, Patricia Fletcher, Jean Harris, Jean Owen, Janet Ramsden, Muriel Watling.

**Fifth Forms.**—Audrey Ambross, Mavis Baker, Evelyn Barber, Jill Bicker, Marion Blaker, Ann Byfield, Sylvia Campbell, Jacqueline Chilvers, Beryl Clark, Jane Earley, Sheila Ebbs, Rita Golding, Noelene Hards, Jane Leapman, Thelma Luker, Maureen Mills, Diane Nixon, Christine Parker, Mary Perry, Joy Phelps, Helen Samways, Frances Shepherd, Sandra Smith, Doreen Underwood, Linda Wells.

**Sixth Secretarial.**—Eileen Buckingham, Pamela Creswick, Doreen Davies, Ann Dymond, Patricia Hanson, Judith Mason, Margaret Parker, Barbara Sheppard, Yvonne Wren, Diane Wyatt.

**First Year Sixth Form.**—Cynthia Hawke, Julie Ibbett, Shirley Liddon, Fay Rance, Molly Read, Margaret Seaward, Eileen Taylor.

**Second Year Sixth Form.**—Hilary Gammon, Mary Gent, Judith Glennon, Sylvia Hart, Mary Hill, Sally Hillier, Jean Hodges, Brenda Hodgson, Greta Humphries, Madeleine Hyson, Sally Leapman, Violet Mason, Shirley McAuslan (Head Girl), Angela Nimmo, Rhoda Parker (Vice-Head Girl), Daphne Wllie.

**Third Year Sixth Form.**—Monica Pimm, Anne Reid.

## THE CAROL SERVICE

Amidst all the worldly hustle and bustle before Christmas, the Carol Service of our School is something we all enjoy as a foretaste of the real Christmas. I have been coming to the Carol Services for many years along with my family, while my sister was a pupil, but this year, as a pupil myself and a member of the Junior Choir, I had the honour of sitting in the first pew.

The church was decorated tastefully by Miss Skinner and some older girls, with evergreen and flowers entwined around the pillars. The Christmas tree looked beautiful with its coloured lights and its bright stars glittering as they gently swayed. In his address, the Vicar thanked us for the Christmas tree which our School had given to the Church for letting us hold our service there.

We sang all the well-known carols, "The Cradle Song" being the Junior Choir's solo. The first six lessons were read with great expression by girls of the School, and the seventh by Miss Mulcock.

When the collection was taken, the prefects, dressed in white blouses, navy blue skirts and velour hats, came up the middle aisle, headed by Julie Ibbett, the Head Girl, and Rita Payne, the Vice-Head Girl. They knelt in front of the altar and offered the collection to the Vicar for a blessing. It was afterwards given to the Deaf and Blind.

Finally, we admired the Crib on our way out of the church.

HAZEL VOSPER, IR.

---

## GOOD CAUSES, 1954-5

During the Autumn Term, 1954, we were very active in helping "Good Causes." At the beginning of term we held our Harvest Festival, and the gifts were afterwards taken by the girls to a number of old people who appreciated both the gifts and the visits very much. We had an excellent collection for the United Nations' Children's Fund and we helped also the Church of England Children's Society and the National Spastics Society. We also sent toys and clothing and a money gift to the Bow Mission.

In the Spring Term our collections were made for S.S.A.F.A. and the U.G.S. A number of the VIth Form again attended the U.G.S. service at Southwark Cathedral in May, and eight of the prefects acted as ushers at this service. Collections arranged for the Summer Term include one for the Children's Country Holidays Fund.



The Collection taken at our Annual Carol Service was again divided between the Greater London Fund for the Blind and the National Institute for the Deaf.

M. VALENTINE.

---

## THE CAREERS CONFERENCE

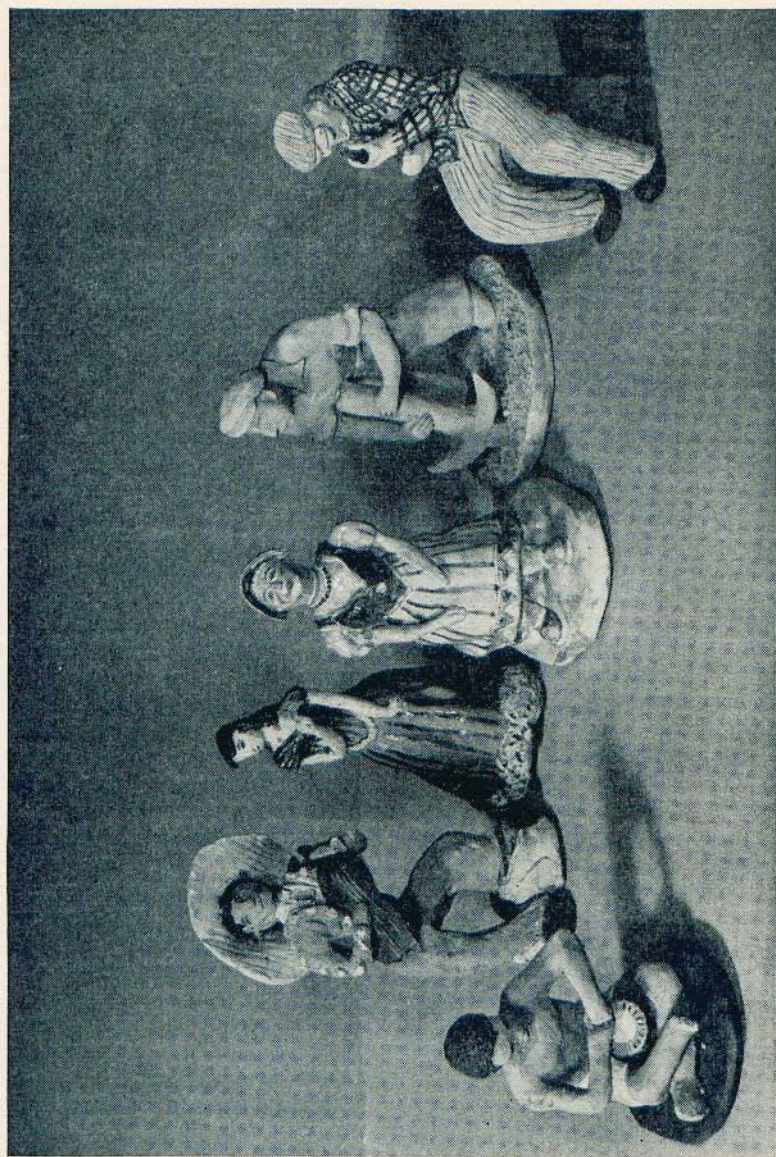
---

The eighth annual Careers Conference, held this year on March 24th, had again as its theme "I started from here." Talks were given by old girls of the School about the careers they had followed. The value of sixth form study was stressed in all the speeches because the speakers believed that the training in social graces given in these last years at school gave them the poise and interest in people needed in all their careers.

Miss Knight, who is Assistant Chief of Establishments at the Bank of England, mentioned how she had benefited by this training, and how she had gained the confidence necessary in her career, in which she dealt with the problems of many hundreds of people. Mrs. Catlow, B.Sc., a member of the Shirley Institute in Manchester, spoke about the new careers open to girls in the engineering world, and told us about the social side of her work. Science and scientific research as a career may sound dull, but Miss Widdowson D.Sc., convinced us that it was an exciting and interesting career to follow. Miss Greenshields, talking about Scientific Computing, showed the human interest in her work, in which she solved many equations but always knew how the calculation would benefit society. Mrs. Owston, A.R.San.I., spoke about catering in the new Kidbrooke School, and Miss Hobart about the training necessary to teach very young children. Miss L. Jenks brought the conference to a close with her interesting talk on Educational Missionary Work in the Belgian Congo.

I wonder if David Livingstone foresaw the day when he would have a female counterpart tackling his career with the same fervour and success as himself. Certainly some of these careers put before us at this meeting were not considered fit for women a hundred years ago. The fact that there are now more women employees than men at the Bank of England proves that the world is confident that women are capable of taking responsibility. I think that even those people who had already decided what career they would follow, found the conference valuable and interesting. It may be said to have had another theme this year: "Women can do it now."

JANE LEAPMAN.



Senior Pottery Models.

Figures from L. to R. : J. Wyatt ; J. Butcher ; C. Ogden ; I. Pavey ; I. Pavey ; E. Barton.



## SWIMMING, 1954

During the 1954 swimming season the School won the Lewisham Borough Swimming Gala and received the shield. At this Gala, Lesley Turner won the under-14 Championship of Lewisham, and Jean Norris won the under-15 Championship.

Ann Smith and Lesley Turner swam in the London Schools Gala; Ann won the *News Chronicle* Shield, and broke the record for this event, and Lesley was fourth in the "George White" Shield race. During the Preliminary Gala, Lesley showed initiative and presence of mind by rescuing a member of her team who had become unwell during the event.

Ann Smith and Christine Mason represented London in the English Schools Swimming Championships. Here, Ann tied for third place in the 100 yards free style, and Christine was fifth in the 100 yards back stroke.

The School won both Senior and Junior events this year in the swimming match against Mary Datchelor School at their bath.

Much friendly rivalry was arranged in the School Gala, which took place, as usual, during the summer term. Competition was very keen, and after a great struggle in which almost everyone seemed to join, the order in which the houses finished was: Canterbury, Winchester, York, Exeter, Salisbury, Canterbury thus being awarded the School Swimming Cup. The individual championship race was changed to make this a more all-round event, and was won by Ann Smith for the fifth time. Miss Buzzard, the Senior Gymnastics Mistress of St. Martin's High School, kindly acted as judge for the style events.

An increased number of girls have received Swimming Awards during this season. There were 36 Intermediate Certificates and Bronze Medallions, three Awards of Merit, one Scholar Instructor's Certificate and three Instructor's Certificates.

Winter swimming was encouraged during the autumn term by Miss Smart, Mrs. Thomas and the girls, who formed a Swimming Club. A special word of appreciation must be said to Ann Smith and Christine Mason, who spent a great deal of time and energy helping others to improve their swimming.

We should like to thank Miss Smart and Mrs. Thomas for all the help and encouragement they have given to the swimmers, and to say how sorry we are that Mrs. Thomas had to leave us during the spring term. We are pleased, however, to welcome Mrs. Fitz-James in her place.

RITA PAYNE (Capt.).

## NETBALL, 1954-55

1st VII.	2nd VII.
*A. McCarthy (G.D.)	A. Smith (G.D.).
*C. Mason (D.).	J. Ibbett (D.).
*R. Payne (Capt.) (C.D.).	E. Dobson (C.D.).
T. Bowers (C.).	M. Chadwick (C.).
E. Read (C.A.).	A. Calveley (C.A.).
*M. Parkinson (Vice-Capt.) (A.).	J. Owen (A.).
J. Bailey (S.).	W. Smith (S.).
Under-15 VII.	Under-14 VII.
S. Ruthven (G.D.).	J. Gully (G.D.).
P. Fulton (D.).	P. Grynyer (D.). }
E. Maskens (C.D.).	S. Copping (D.). }
P. Smith (C.).	S. Sturgess (C.D.).
V. Trunkfield (C.A.).	C. Goodman (C.).
B. Attridge (Capt.) (A.).	G. Fillery (C.A.).
E. Pettitt (S.).	S. Cornelius (A.).
	R. Hunt (S.).

\* Colours awarded.

The season has been a successful one for both junior and senior teams. Players were very enthusiastic so that there was great competition to gain a position in one of the four teams.

The under-14 team started the season well, but towards the end of the spring term they suddenly became careless and were then disheartened by their losses. With a little more thought and team spirit these girls should develop into a good under-14 team.

The under-15 team has had a remarkably successful season. Five girls in the team played together in the under-14 team during the 1953-4 season; this experience has undoubtedly helped them to develop a team spirit which the present under-14 team must aim for next year.

The second senior team unfortunately had only three matches to play this year, but they showed enthusiasm at matches and school practices.

The match which was most enjoyed by the first senior team was played against Shackleton, at Shackleton School. This match resulted in a drawn game which was appreciated by both sides.

Many of last year's under-15 team brought new life into the first and second senior teams, and it was not long before the girls learnt to co-operate and found new methods of play.

Owing to the bad weather during the first half of the spring term, house matches could not be played until the last two weeks of term. It was therefore impossible to find time for the match between the first senior and staff teams. The standard of play was generally



high for the house matches, with Winchester winning both junior and senior matches.

The result of the match played between 6A and the staff was a victory to 6A, with 22 goals to 5 goals. Inter-form matches have become a very popular way of spending the dinner-hours this year; we hope that the girls will continue this next year as it undoubtedly helps the standard of junior house matches, and gives senior girls good practice in umpiring.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Coster for giving up so much of her valuable time for practices and taking us to matches, and also Miss Smart for showing interest in our play. We should also like to thank Mrs. Fox and the Tea Committee for supplying our teas throughout the year.

RESULTS				
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
1st VII ... ..	6	4	1	1
2nd VII ... ..	3	2	1	0
Under 15 ... ..	8	8	0	0
Under 14 ... ..	9	6	3	0

RITA PAYNE (Capt.).

---

## TENNIS, 1954

All the teams had a very good season this year as the results show.

Although the weather was not good all through the summer, no tennis matches had to be cancelled. The first six, as well as playing in the usual school matches, entered for the Aberdare Cup Tournament, and although they were eliminated in the first round, the matches against Westheath School and Bromley High School were thoroughly enjoyed by the girls.

A party of girls was lucky enough to obtain tickets for the Wimbledon tennis in June, but were disappointed by having to spend the whole of the time watching RAIN!

The Staff v. School Match was enjoyed by both staff and girls, and although the School team did win, Miss Smart and Miss Coster should be praised for their good team work and the attacking game they played as first couple. Mrs. Sharp and Miss Phipps, and Miss State and Miss Skinner played well as second and third couples. After the match both teams were hungry and thirsty and were pleased to have one of Mrs. Fox's special teas.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Smart for all the work she has done in coaching the team and taking us to the matches, and Miss Coster who has taken such an interest in our team.

MARJORIE PARKINSON (Capt.).

#### First Six

- 1st Couple—Ann Reid\* and Marjorie Parkinson\*.  
 2nd Couple—Sandra Smith\* and Rosemary Smith.  
 3rd Couple—Sally Leapman and Judith Mason · Margaret Parker.  
 \*School Colours.

#### Second Six

- 1st Couple—Jean Owen and Jessie Welton.  
 2nd Couple—Wendy Hepburn and Jennifer Cambridge.  
 3rd Couple—Brenda Hodgson and Judith Glennon.

#### Third Six (Under 15)

- 1st Couple—Pat Fulton and Margaret Colledge.  
 2nd Couple—Barbara Attridge and Margaret Chadwick.  
 3rd Couple—Valerie Trunkfield and Brenda Clark.

#### RESULTS

		Played	Won	Lost
1st Six	... ..	7	6	1
2nd Six	... ..	7	5	2
U.15 Six	... ..	3	2	1

### HOCKEY, 1954-5

#### 1st XI. Team

\*Valerie Newman.  
 Moira Reid.  
 Margaret Lowe.  
 \*Rita Payne.  
 Julie Ibbett.  
 \*Rosemary Smith.  
 Wendy Hepburn.  
 \*Marjorie Parkinson  
 (Capt.).  
 Annie Whitton.  
 Anne Calveley.  
 Janet Boyce.

#### 2nd XI. Team

Valerie Tims.  
 Jean Cruse (Capt.).  
 Ann Smith.  
 Janice Dodkins.  
 Jessie Welton.  
 Helen Samways.  
 Eileen Read.  
 Maureen Sadler.  
 Chérie Jones.  
 Christine Mason.  
 Jean Owen.  
 Brenda Blows.

#### Under-15 XI.

Pat Woodward. }  
 Maureen Percival. }  
 Eileen Maskens. }  
 Pamela Gadney. }  
 Audrey Weston.  
 Barbara Phillips.  
 Margaret Colledge. }  
 Eileen Maskens. }  
 Valerie Holland.  
 Valerie Trunkfield.  
 Barbara Attridge.  
 Pat Fulton (Capt.).  
 Eva Samways.  
 Brenda Clark. }  
 Margaret Jones. }

\* Colours awarded.



This season, because part of the new Comprehensive School is being built on our school hockey field, we have had to play our games at a playing field in Anerley. The hockey pitches at Anerley are in very good condition, and we have found that because of this, the teams, especially the first eleven, have much improved their stick work and have gained speed.

The first eleven had a very successful season; they played well and maintained a good team spirit, which, I'm sure, was important in the Kent Schools Tournament, where our team played particularly well, losing only one match out of four.

The second eleven played a steady, reliable game, throughout the season. The under-fifteen team played with plenty of enthusiasm this year, but they must learn to be quicker on the ball and follow up their attack! I think it should also be mentioned that there were several girls who were too old for the under-fifteen team this year but whose standard is such that they should be playing for a senior team next hockey season.

The Staff v. School match, held at Anerley this year, was a really good one. The Staff produced a very good team and although the School won by three goals to nil the match was much closer than the score suggests. Miss State, playing her usual good game at right half, worked well with Miss Smart playing at centre-half who, despite an injured hand, always cleared the ball well to her forwards. Miss Head and Miss Coster led the Staff forwards in attack and only narrowly missed scoring.

For our inter-house hockey matches we took advantage of a free afternoon, because of the County Council elections, to play the matches as a tournament. This was easily arranged at Anerley as we have several pitches at our disposal. All the house teams played with enthusiasm and the standard of hockey was very much higher than in previous years. The result:  
1st—Canterbury; 2nd—Exeter; 3rd—York; 4th—Salisbury; 5th—Winchester.

On behalf of all the hockey teams I should like to thank Miss Smart most sincerely for all the help she has given us with our hockey. I'm sure that without her advice and coaching we would not have been so successful this season.

#### RESULTS

			Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
1st XI	...	...	4	4	0	0
2nd XI	...	...	3	2	1	0
U.15 XI	...	...	7	4	2	1

MARJORIE PARKINSON (Capt.).

## ROUNDERS, 1954

U.15.	U.14.
B. Blows (B).	E. Maskens (B).
P. Smith (B.S.).	P. Fulton (Capt.) (B.S.).
M. Cooper (1B).	V. Trunkfield (1B).
*M. Chadwick (Capt.) (2B).	M. Monks (2B).
P. Woodward (3B).	S. Cornelius (3B).
V. Simpson (1D).	D. Butlin (1D).
*T. Bowers (2D).	V. Holland (2D).
*A. McCarthy (3D).	B. Attridge (3D).
P. Pettitt (4D).	S. Ruthven (4D).
B. Clark (R).	M. Norris (R).

\* Colours awarded.

The season has been a very successful one owing to a consistently high standard of fielding and batting.

At the beginning of the season the practices were confined to the hard pitch, owing to the loss of our two grass pitches. This misfortune, however, quickened the pace of the ball and thus improved the fielding.

All the matches were enjoyed by both teams, most of them resulting in very close scores. Our first match was played on a hard pitch against Aylwin. This was the only match played on hard ground, and as the fielding of both sides was very quick it was a very exciting game. The remaining matches were also very close and the standard of batting achieved throughout these matches was outstanding. These results were due to the good team spirit reached by both teams. We should like to congratulate Ann McCarthy and Tonie Bowers for gaining their School colours and for outstanding play throughout the season.

The house matches also took place this season. Again a good standard of play was maintained, and some very hard hitting was shown. I should like to thank all the girls who gave up their dinner-hours so that they might umpire the matches. The inter-form matches also took place during the dinner-hours. The juniors were very enthusiastic, and many enjoyable games took place throughout the season.

On behalf of the School teams I should like to thank Miss Coster for the encouragement and coaching she has given us and for the time she has given up so that she might accompany us to the matches. Also we should like to thank Miss Smart for all the interest she has shown in the teams. We should like to thank Mrs. Fox and the Tea Committee for all they have done for us this season.



I sincerely hope that next year's rounders' season will prove as successful as this year's.

#### RESULTS

		Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
U.15	... ..	3	3	0	0
U.14	... ..	4	4	0	0

MARGARET CHADWICK (Capt.).

### THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

On Saturday, March 19th, the South Eastern Unit of the London and Home Counties Secondary School Music Festival was held at this school. It began at 8.50 a.m. and continued until 4.30 p.m. The Schools taking part in the Festival were: James Allen, Sydenham County, Sydenham High, Blackheath High, Prendergast, Beckenham County, King's Warren and Eltham Hill. The adjudicator was Mr. Trevor Harvey.

Throughout the day members of the sixth form and many staff acted as hostesses to the visitors and Schools taking part in the Festival.

During the morning there was sight-singing for all the Junior and Middle School Choirs. At the end of each section, Mr. Harvey gave helpful advice and criticism. Our Junior Choir was successful in obtaining a first class certificate and our Middle School Choir and our Self-Trained Choir, conducted by Sheila Dunn, were awarded second class certificates. After this followed three and four part madrigals sung by some of the Schools.

After lunch there was a performance of the "Stabat Mater," by Pergolesi, in which the choruses were sung by choirs from many schools, conducted by Trevor Harvey. Miss Brenda Mason, our student from the Royal Academy of Music, sang the contralto arias, and her friend, Miss Antonina Child, sang the soprano arias. It was a very moving performance which ended a most enjoyable day for all present.

RITA BARTLETT, 6B.



Middle School Pottery Models.

Reading from L. to R. : J. Cousins ; W. Lanzaro ; T. Hayes ; C. Clark ; P. Wallace ; J. Wright.



## CANTERBURY HOUSE REPORT

As Canterbury House Captain, may I offer my hearty congratulations to the hockey and netball teams of last season, who have achieved second place in the running for the House Games Trophy. Having played a final hectic match with Exeter we defeated them and consequently became hockey champions of 1955. The netball teams, although disappointed by their defeats, are nevertheless to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and team spirit. I am sure the whole house will join with me in thanking Marjorie for all the interest and energy she has shown in the organisation of the house teams.

The house event of the year was the Social, held with Salisbury, at the end of the Michaelmas term. I hope that all staff and girls present enjoyed the festivities and that next year they will once more display their generosity in contributing to the merry feast!

To conclude then, I shall seize this opportunity to thank all house staff and prefects for their support in the past year, and to wish the house every success in the years to come.

FAY RANCE.

---

## EXETER HOUSE REPORT

This year, Exeter started off very promisingly with plenty of support from all members of the house. We hope that this spirit will continue so that Exeter may one day be top house.

At the beginning of the year we had more prefects than we have had for many years. Christine Coxhead left us at Easter, and so now we number six.

At Christmas we combined with Winchester for the annual social. We all contributed to the cost of the food and many girls generously brought jellies and blancmanges, which were made after school by members of the sixth forms. The House Mistresses once more provided the liquid refreshments, and so relieved us of some of the trouble. After tea there was dancing and some wall competitions which took place in the hall. The dramatic group presented an excerpt from Shaw's "Pygmalion", and Mrs. Sharpe and Miss Phipps acted a very amusing comedy piece, which took place at a railway station's lost property office. I hope that every one enjoyed the social, and I now thank all those who helped to run it.

At games this year, Exeter is not yet ahead in points, but I feel that we have done better than in the past. Our junior netball team

was very enthusiastic, but, unfortunately, was not rewarded, having won only one match and drawn one. Our senior netball team was also not very successful. Exeter House hockey has shown a great improvement and we were very pleased to be placed second, next to Canterbury. I hope that we shall gain many more points in our tennis and swimming this summer.

As a conclusion I would like to thank our House Mistresses for all the help they have given us throughout the year.

MAUREEN MILLS.

---

## SALISBURY HOUSE REPORT

Unfortunately, so far this year, Salisbury has not had much success in the field of sport, and the results of the senior hockey and netball matches were disappointing. I should like to offer my congratulations to Margaret Chadwick, however, who, together with Ann McCarthy, showed a great deal of enthusiasm and efficiency in organising the netball teams, and also to Moira Reid who was indispensable in the field of hockey. In spite of the results, the teams managed to pull together quite well and displayed enthusiasm, and the results of the junior netball show promise for Salisbury in future years.

This year, we held our social with Canterbury at the end of the autumn term, and the whole thing went off very well, with both staff and girls enjoying themselves. I am sure the whole House would like to join me in thanking the staff, especially Miss Platt, for their generous contributions to the one annual social event of the year.

Finally, I should like to wish Salisbury all the best in the summer sports and urge everyone to work hard to attain more favourable results. Good luck.

MARGARET SEAWARD.

---

## WINCHESTER HOUSE REPORT

In September the whole house assembled to elect the games captains for this year. Helen Samways undertook to be our Games Secretary, and also our Hockey Captain. Eileen Reid was the Netball Captain and coached and encouraged the teams with great success, especially the junior netball team, who won all their matches. The



senior team played with great enthusiasm and success, and won three matches and drew one. Since we do not now have a hockey pitch on the school premises the hockey team could not practise together and the results were therefore not as good as the netball. In spite of this our house gained the highest total of points in the winter sports and we have a very good chance of winning the Games Cup.

I know that the teams would like to thank Miss Smart and Miss Coster for umpiring all our matches and for showing such an interest in all our sports.

Our House Social was held this year with Exeter. Mrs. Sharpe and Miss Phipps prepared in secret a sketch which they performed after tea, much to our enjoyment. A scene from "Pygmalion" was also acted by members of the Winchester and Exeter Dramatic Society. The Social proved a success, thanks to the advice given us by Miss Phipps and to the united efforts of our eight prefects.

In the Easter holiday we arranged a hike in the country, but we had more support from other houses than from our own. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable day and we were fortunate enough to have had fine weather.

In conclusion I should like to thank Miss Phipps, our house mistresses and prefects who have given me so much support this year.

JANE LEAPMAN.

---

## YORK HOUSE REPORT

So far this year York House has not been very successful in inter-house matches. We were unfortunate in coming last in the junior netball, but we managed to gain second place in the senior netball and third place in the hockey. Netball colours were awarded to Maureen Brain and Margaret Colledge, and hockey colours were awarded to Maureen Brain, Margaret Colledge, Barbara Attridge and Joan Bushell.

At the beginning of the autumn term, Ann Mason, one of our prefects, started a dramatics club for the first and second forms. The play which they produced was to be acted at the House Social at the end of the term, but unfortunately one of the main characters was absent on the day of the Social and the performance had to be cancelled.

This year, York held its Social alone, and each girl in the house was invited to bring a friend. Tea was held in the dining unit and then the staff and girls went over to the hall where everyone was kept

busy trying to win the prizes which were offered to the winners of the games and novelty dances.

During the autumn term some 6th formers in York coached a small choir, and on one evening near the end of term we were joined by 4ths, 5ths and 6ths from other houses when we sang carols at an Old People's Home in Dacres Road.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Bridges, the house mistresses and the prefects for the support they have given to the house activities during the year.

JEAN CRUSE.

---

## LE CERCLE FRANCAIS

Le cercle Français a commencé à manifester son existence par une affiche brillante, aux dessins adroits—La Tour Eiffel y voisinait avec un redoutable agent de police et le programme annoncé comportait jeux, chants, mimes, causeries et même films.

La première réunion, dans le hall, fut très animée: un jeu d'annonces publicitaires mit tout le monde en train et le chant mimé "Catherine était Chrétienne" fut très apprécié.

En dehors de l'école, une sortie fut organisée pour aller voir "La Belle et la Bête" de Jean Cocteau. A la fin du premier trimestre, "Le Jeu de l'Hôtellerie" jeu de Noël, moderne, mais inspiré des jeux du Moyen-âge, fut présenté devant l'école réunie. Les répétitions prirent du temps et certains rôles étaient longs à apprendre, mais le succès récompensa l'effort de nos actions.

La prochaine réunion du cercle sera bientôt, à notre retour de Belgique, et l'on dit dans les coulisses que Mrs. Sharp prépare une superbe paire de moustaches! Nous espérons clore l'année scolaire par une manifestation du 14 juillet à la française avec guirlandes, pétards, et farandoles—et souhaitons BONNE CHANCE au cercle Français.

O. TERRAIL.

---

## THE CURRENT AFFAIRS SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Current Affairs Society this year was on October 26th, the subject being "The London County Council." The speaker was Mrs. Ruston, whom we have met before at Sydenham. Mrs. Ruston presented us with a very interesting account of how one becomes a member of the L.C.C. and the kind of work one does when one finally reaches this stage.



The next meeting was held on December 10th. The subject this time was "Arab Refugees", by Miss K. Wells. This meeting was badly attended and the talk was not quite what we expected as it was mainly concerned with statistics rather than the story of the Refugees. Miss Wells was unable to use a film strip she had brought as we had no suitable projector. No doubt this would have made her points easier to understand.

The last meeting was held on February 28th, and the speaker was a probation officer, Mr. Shervington. The attendance at this meeting was much better and the speaker proved very interesting. Mr. Shervington illustrated his talk with pictures and answered many questions from girls and staff.

RITA BARTLETT.

---

## THE SCHOOL FILM SOCIETY

---

*President:* Mrs. Evans. *Secretary:* P. Fletcher.

*Treasurer:* J. Ramsden. *Publicity:* S. Clynes.

There have been several suggestions that our School should have its own Film Society, and when, halfway through the autumn term, Mrs. Evans enquired how many would be prepared to give their support, she found the whole School very enthusiastic. Every form in the school elected its own representative, and a special committee was formed with a representative for the fourth, fifth and sixth years. As Mrs. Evans had already done so much for the Society, we all agreed that she should be our President. The Society also depends a great deal on the help and advice of Miss Barr, Miss Hartley and Miss Whitehead.

Apart from showing films in school, we hope to keep the School informed about films worth seeing at the local cinemas, and, if possible, arrange for the whole School to see an exceptionally outstanding film.

We have already had one meeting, in which we showed Margot Fonteyn in "Les Sylphides", Danny Kaye in "Eye Trouble", and the story of a Welsh miner, "David". But unfortunately, owing to faulty equipment, the result was far from satisfactory. The machine has been inspected and we have been promised a new loudspeaker. Meanwhile we shall content ourselves with a small showing of "The Life Story of Hans Christian Andersen".

We should like to thank Mr. Smith for arranging the seating in the hall, and Miss Barr for doing the projection.

PAT FLETCHER.

## GEOGRAPHY CLUB

---

This Club has been formed only recently by members of the sixth form and the geography staff, and it is still in its infancy. There has been a good response from most years of the School, and we now have over 200 members. We found it necessary to charge a small subscription fee in order to cover such expenses as films and speakers.

A field-work expedition to Boxhill has been arranged for members of the fourth and sixth forms on May 25th. Other educational outings are planned for the rest of the School, after the public examinations. We also hope to have speakers and films from foreign lands in the near future.

MARGARET FOTHERINGHAME.

---

## THE POETRY AND MUSIC SOCIETY

---

The Poetry and Music Society has still continued throughout this year, although it has met less often than usual. At the first meeting, held as usual at 3.30 on a Friday afternoon, a miscellaneous programme of records was played in order to attract new members, for we had lost a considerable number at the end of the previous term.

Among other meetings of the autumn term was one devoted to every aspect of the animal kingdom which included humorous, descriptive and unusual verse and music. The Christmas meeting—one to which the girls themselves made several contributions—provided a selection that included almost everything from Handel's "Messiah" to "Wind in the Willows". Extracts from the latter were read by some first form girls who also sang a carol. This was particularly welcomed, as first formers do not usually attend.

The first meeting of the spring term, that concerned with "Feasting and Drinking", seemed for some reason very popular, but no less so than the other meeting, devoted to "The Facets of Love". This was one of the longest and certainly one of the most interesting meetings ever held, for the material was abundant.

We should like to thank all those who have been concerned in any way with the production of these and other programmes and to register our appreciation of the "willing horses"—their number somewhat reduced this year—who habitually help to serve tea and wash up for us.

LINDA WELLS.



## SCIENCE CLUB

---

The Science Club has not had a very busy year owing mainly to lack of support. At the beginning of the year, Frances Shepherd and Anne Madeley were chosen to be joint Chairmen, but unfortunately, Anne left us during the spring term, so Frances has continued with the help of a committee of the following girls elected in the early spring: B. Clarke, S. Clynes, M. Brown and J. Welton.

In the autumn term a party of sixth form girls visited an electroplating factory at Blackheath. The trip around the works was most interesting and we were made extremely welcome, especially in the laboratory. We extend our thanks to Miss Hollens, who accompanied us there and helped us to understand some of the more difficult plating processes.

Our meetings have consisted mainly of films; in December, two films were shown on glass-blowing and the manufacture of sheet glass. Early in the spring term two fifth formers ably conducted a meeting, giving us a very interesting account of the history and manufacture of silk, together with a film about the Lullingstone Silk Farm in Kent.

Representatives from the fourth, fifth and sixth forms took part in a general quiz held later on in the term. Our congratulations went to the fourths who were easy winners. After the summer exams a party of girls will go to the Royal Mint and I am sure they will find it most interesting.

Our grateful thanks go to Miss Barr who has shown great skill in dealing with our extremely temperamental projector, without any serious hitches.

In concluding this report I should like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the few members who remember that the Science Club is still in existence and I hope that next year's fourth formers may show that spark of enthusiasm that is needed to keep the Club alive.

AUDREY M. AMBROSS.

---

## STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

---

This year has seen an increase in our numbers, at which we are all very pleased, for we feel that a greater interest in S.C.M. should help in the well-being of the School at large.

Among our activities in the Christmas term was a talk by one of the old girls, Elma Peters, who is now training as a nurse at

Westminster Hospital, a Bible quiz, won by the fifth forms, and a social which everyone enjoyed, thanks to the efforts of Margaret Cox.

In the Easter term, we had a discussion on "Denominations", a talk on the work of the Mission to Lepers, and on the last day of term, a service. This service was a new venture and took the form of readings and hymns appropriate to the Easter theme, with music from the St. Matthew Passion.

At the end of the Easter term, we said goodbye to Christine Coxhead, our Vice-Chairman, who has started training as a physio-therapist. We were sorry to lose her, but at the same time very pleased to welcome Margaret Cox in her place.

Our future activities include a visit to hear Billy Graham, a talk by a woman Minister, and a post-exam outing—destination as yet unknown.

I should like to thank the committee for serving so admirably, and all members and friends for their loyal support and interest.

In Zech. 4, 6, we read these words: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." May the S.C.M. prove these words in the future.

AUDREY BALL.

---

## THE DRAMATIC COMPETITION, FEBRUARY, 1955

---

### PRODUCING "RICHARD II"

When I was asked to produce "Richard II" for the School Dramatic Competition I accepted the offer with mixed feelings. I wasn't as fearful as I might have been because I had already, with a great deal of help from Miss Hartley, produced "She Stoops to Conquer". The first thing I did was to make a list of the girls in the English Division who were likely to act, and then to seize my copy of "Richard II" and begin frantically searching for a possible scene. I selected several. They were mostly scenes with quite a number of characters in them because I knew how disappointed some girls would be if I didn't allot them a part.

My first meeting consisted of all those who would be keen to act the play. They were mostly those who I had anticipated would attend. A vote was taken on the scenes which I had selected as possibles and then we got down to the tricky job of choosing the cast. This was comparatively plain sailing with the exception of choosing "Richard". There were two girls, both of whom could have acted the part admirably, and I couldn't decide which one to choose. Finally, with the



co-operation of Miss Pomphrey and Miss Hartley, one was selected and we proceeded with the rehearsals proper. These, I am sorry to say, did not go as well as they should have done, and often, after a particularly trying half-hour, I felt like relinquishing the whole effort. The fact is, I think, we were all becoming tired of the word "rehearsal". It seemed to dominate our school life! But soon, when we got down to more interesting things, e.g. making costumes, things became brighter.

The great day of our dress rehearsal arrived and it really was good. I was very pleased with the whole cast because I felt that from Richard right down to his little page they had all tried hard. We were all living in hopes for the heats after that. But at the heats themselves we weren't so confident. The remarks about Miss Pomphrey's division were very complimentary and they really had done well; and the remarks about our scene were rather critical. But then, Miss Phipps announced that she and Miss Butler had decided to put our effort into the finals. How thrilled we all were! I felt really sorry that not every division could be entered, because the other plays I had seen were very good. But I think that we were the lucky ones this time, and if the others feel a little crestfallen, well, cheer up! You'll probably do it next time!

And now I would like to thank my cast very warmly for the way they co-operated with me. I think you all gave a magnificent performance. Thank you!

JOAN BUSHELL, 5W.

#### ACTING "RICHARD II"

The Domestic Science Room had been transformed into a dressing room; clothes were strewn about, there was a cloying smell of grease-paint and "actresses" were having a last look at their make-up. Amidst all this, I was sitting on a table drinking T.C.P. and water, becoming more terrified every minute, for the night before, I had lost my voice and was now faced with the prospects of losing it completely on the stage. At last the time came for our play to begin and I sat down in the wings to wait for my entrance. Thoughts began to crowd into my mind—*Would* my voice break? *Would* I forget my words? *Would* someone else forget hers? *Would* the glass mirror break when I dashed it on to the floor? *Would* I trip over the steps as I entered? But worst of all was the thought of all those people who would be watching! Then the moment came. Almost without realising it I was walking down the steps and saying my first lines. I cannot remember any definite feelings I had when I was actually on the stage but I was

vaguely aware of the dim shapes of the audience in front of me and could feel the glare of the footlights and arc-lamps in the wings, and I can remember Janet Ramsden standing in front of me in all her robes as Bolingbroke. But I cannot remember how I, or any of the others, said the lines and did not realize, until someone told me afterwards, that I had missed out a whole speech!

PAT CALNAN, 5w.

#### COSTUMES FOR "RICHARD II"

Ingenuity was the keynote of our costumes for the scenes from "Richard II" which we performed in the Dramatic Competition.

Finding nothing to suit our needs in the property cupboard we set to work to make our own costumes. The queen's dress was of royal blue velvet, and after a small adjustment it was suitable. The tiara was made for us by a girl's father out of wire and beads. The two maids wore identical pale blue bridesmaids' dresses with chiffon head-dresses. The two gardeners had to look rough and untidy, and they achieved this by wearing old army shirts cut up, and old pyjama trousers dyed a dark colour. Next we had to provide uniforms for the two guards who escorted Richard to prison. We did not relish the idea of knitting chainmail, so we decided on hockey tunics with full length green curtains used as cloaks. The only thing we really had to make was Richard's trousers, and, as one judge remarked, they looked slightly Edwardian. She said, however, that Northumberland's trousers were just right. Little did she guess that they were long underpants dyed black! But we were fully rewarded when we were highly commended on our good costumes.

MAUREEN BROWN, 5v.

#### SETTING THE STAGE FOR "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"

Members of the fourth form, intent on producing two short scenes from Helen Jerome's adaption of "Pride and Prejudice", looked feverishly to find helpful suggestions for that difficult setting—an elegant Regency drawing-room. These were not hard to find, and generous offers of suitable furniture from the mother of one of our cast enabled us to put our ideas into practice, though the transport of these articles proved such a labour as to make our other problems—about costumes, for instance—seem negligible. In the end, files of us bore them by hand from Dacres Road and found appreciative audiences in the workmen engaged in repairing the road.

The writing desk belonged to a member of the staff who found transport more easy. The "bell-rope" was, in fact, a dressing-gown





"Pride and Prejudice." Lino cut by June Wyatt, 4B.



Line cut by Jean Cruse, VIA.



cord held by two pins, and there was always a moment of suspense when Mr. Collins had to ring it.

The flowers were very effective and here lies a secret. Just before the finals we made secret expeditions to rooms three and four to collect potted plants for the window-sill. Suzanne Clynes (Jane) drew the miniatures and was a most helpful member of our team. The wine in the decanters was cold tea and cochineal, so, needless to say, we never reached a bibulous state.

The actors in our play worked hard, and hardly a dinner-hour passed without a rehearsal. I should like to commend Joan Shepherd and Pamela Pennington for some humorous but good acting. Although she played only a minor part, Pamela Gadney did well as Hill, the butler.

We were fortunate in many ways and our success was, I am sure, largely due to the right atmosphere which the Regency furniture gave to our play, and also to the team spirit which never flagged.

EILEEN MASKENS, 4B.

#### LIGHTING "SAINT JOAN"

The lighting played a very important part in the Epilogue from G. B. Shaw's "St. Joan". A great deal of experimenting took place before all difficulties were overcome with the small range of equipment available.

The scene representing the king's bedroom took place in semi-darkness and the lights had to be varied as each character entered or left the stage. Those in charge of the lights had to produce the effect of the supernatural, and because the cast had to remain on the stage, repeatedly saying their lines, there was a rather tense atmosphere until we were at last successful. The visions of Winchester and Rheims Cathedrals caused the most trouble and gave several of us many sleepless nights. It was not possible to give a proper representation, and we used a red light shining from above on to the stage, but because the stage had to be in darkness except for this light it had to be practised several times. The producer was never sure whether the stage would be in total darkness or whether the red light would be insignificant amid all the other lights. The spotlight was another cause of anxiety as we were never sure whether it would be in the right place at the right moment, but owing to split-second timing, everything was perfect on the day.

Altogether, in spite of tension in the air and difficulties, it was an interesting experience which often gave us many laughs.

MYRA SKIPP, 6A.

#### IMPRESSIONS OF A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE

On Thursday, February 17th, we assembled in the hall to watch the finals of the Dramatic Competition. As the curtain rose, I was particularly struck by the scenery and costumes of the first play, "Julius Cæsar". Shakespeare is hard to comprehend, but the characters were admirably portrayed by members of the third form.

After this performance of Shakespeare, I was pleased to see a change to a light play, "Pride and Prejudice", by Jane Austen, performed by the fourth forms. The girls really got into their parts, and I think this play was immensely enjoyed by the audience, especially the firsts, who, I gathered, thought Shakespeare rather stuffy. Mr. Collins was well played, and the supporting cast were excellent. The inkstand on the bureau suggested the period very well, and whoever painted the delightful background, deserved special credit.

The next play was a return to Shakespeare, "Richard II". The fifth form were wise in their use of levels. A rostrum was Bolingbroke's throne. They acted the Deposition scene, and the girl who took the part of Richard gave an outstanding performance. At the time, I thought the audience seemed bored, but afterwards I heard that they thought it was well acted, too. The scenery was simplicity itself, and was a delightful contrast to the other elaborate sets.

6B's "Henry IV" was an interesting performance. The prologue was well spoken and merry, and Prince Henry was well played. Falstaff was jovial and the supporting cast were very good.

6A performed the epilogue of Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan". This was excellent. The lighting was marvellous and we all enjoyed watching this play. The "Saint from Hell" was well played also, although she was a little ladylike.

This concluded the plays, and Miss Cobby, the adjudicator, spoke a few words of criticism. She then presented the trophy, a bust of Shakespeare, to the producers of "Pride and Prejudice" and "St. Joan".

SHEILA GREENLEAF, 2P.

---

#### SOME EXCURSIONS FROM STRATFORD-ON-AVON SUMMER, 1954

---

In July, 1954, a party of thirty-two girls and two members of the staff spent ten days in Stratford-on-Avon. Though we stayed in Stratford, we seldom spent a full day there, as we visited by coach several other places of interest. One of these places was Worcester,



where we visited the Royal Worcester Potteries and the Cathedral. We spent quite a long time in Worcester though the weather was rather bad. The Worcester Potteries were very interesting. We were split up into two parties and taken round by a guide, who showed us all the different stages in the making of the pottery, and the ways in which the designs are put onto the cups and plates. Many of the ornaments are handpainted by girls who are trained at the potteries, several of them from school-leaving age. The work is very intricate, and when they are finished the little ornaments are sold for very high prices, a very small one costing perhaps £1 or even £2, and the larger hand-painted plates, which are done by men, costing at least £15 each. After we had completed our tour of the pottery workshops, we were taken into an outer room where all the work which was finished, but was damaged in some minute way, was on sale to visitors. Though damaged, these things cost so much that very few were bought.

After lunch we visited the Cathedral which stands by the River Severn. It is very old and very beautiful, but we did not stay inside very long as we wished to visit Malvern where we stayed for tea. We were unable to visit the Malvern Hills on foot owing to the bad weather, so after going as far as possible by coach, we returned home.

Another place of interest, which we visited on July 19th, was Longleat House. We stopped there on our way to Bath, where we planned to spend an hour. Longleat House is the seat of the Marquis of Bath. It dates from the thirteenth century, and was built by Sir John Thynne on the site of Longleat Priory, although much of it has since been added. In one room of the house, standing on the table, is a priceless silver centre-piece which represents the last stand of one of the family ancestors in some great battle. The walls of this same room are of padded leather, most beautifully worked by hand, only one example of the wonderful wall-coverings in the house, which is full of the most beautiful ornaments and china, the latter being, for the most part, from the Worcester Potteries.

After leaving Longleat, we drove to Bath, where, unfortunately, we were unable to spend longer than an hour. During that time we were fortunate in obtaining several good photographs of Pulteney Bridge which was built by William Pulteney in the eighteenth century, and which is the only remaining bridge of some length, with a complete row of houses. We also managed to find some of the actual Roman baths after a long search, during which we walked several hundred yards in the wrong direction. However, this only added to the interest of the hours, as it enabled us to see some parts of Bath which we should probably have otherwise missed, though it did have

its disadvantages, one being that we did not have time to have any tea.

Besides these we visited many other places of intense interest, and we were all, I think, very sorry when the holiday came to an end and we had to prepare, all too soon, for the return to London. But when we did return, we carried with us the memory of a very wonderful holiday.

JANE EARLEY, 6B.

---

## THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON MEMORIAL THEATRE SEASON, 1954

---

On the banks of the River Avon stands the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, designed by Miss Elizabeth Scott, and finally constructed and endowed very largely by the contributions of American Shakespeare-lovers. During the Stratford Theatre Season, the Shakespearean productions attract international audiences of a unique character. They also attracted us, and last year, as Jane has already told you above, Miss Platt and Miss Hartley accompanied about thirty of us to the 1954 season.

To visit five plays within the short space of ten days is, indeed, an unforgettable pleasure and I shall do my best to drive away the cobwebs from my memory, to give you some of my lasting impressions of the performances.

Comedy was represented by "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The Taming of the Shrew", tragedy by "Romeo and Juliet" and "Othello", and a combination of comedy, tragedy and history by "Troilus and Cressida". "The Taming of the Shrew" delighted us, partly because we were virtually unacquainted with the play, and partly because the boisterous spirits displayed in the production, somehow reflected our own gay holiday mood. May I call your attention to the youthfulness of the Company, since this observation was particularly striking in all the five plays. For the first time in the history of the Stratford Theatre, the present directors of the Memorial Theatre resolved to offer opportunity to a whole group of promising young actors, rather than to individual players who have already won their laurels of stardom. Consequently, to our immense delight, we were confronted by a Juliet of 19, a Romeo of 24, a Petruchio of 26 and a Katharina of 23. Therefore, as we watched "The Taming of the Shrew" we particularly appreciated the youthfulness of



Barbara Jefford as the fiery shrew, Katharina, and of the tamer, Petruchio, a bold, wiry and equally fiery individual.

In this play I was fascinated by David O'Brien's performance of Biondello, servant to Lucentio, as he tripped across the stage with the speed and rigidity of a newly-wound-up wooden soldier. I was thrilled also by "Othello", being once more unacquainted with the play. Raymond Westwell portrayed the despicable and evil Iago with admirable force, and Barbara Jefford as the wretched Desdemona, and Anthony Quayle as the grief-stricken husband, brought the play to an overwhelmingly tragic conclusion. The production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" provided a charming evening's entertainment by reason of the extreme youth of the lovers, the ethereal quality of the "Little Folk", and the regal performance of Titania and Oberon, who created a vivid splash of colour on the stage, with their magnificent floating costumes of feathers and fairy wings. Despite the highly amusing clowning of the rustics headed by Bottom, the delightful lovers and the frolics of that impertinent sprite, Puck, it was a very humble little being who attracted my undivided attention. That was the minute imp, Cobweb. Clad in ethereal costume of smoky grey, this tiny figure with her ever-revolving arms, imitating the spider weaving his web, enthralled me. Alas, however, "Troilus and Cressida" failed to have the same effect upon me. This strange combination of comedy, tragedy and history, has been called a comedy of disillusion. Although completely new to me, this play failed to interest me as much, say, as "Romeo and Juliet", perhaps Shakespeare's greatest romantic tragedy. As the young lovers, Lawrence Harvey and Lena Walker gave sensitive performances of children, destined by their own death to reunite their warring families, the Montagues and the Capulets.

At length, however, "Time's wingèd chariot" hurried nearer to the moment when we would all have to depart from the country of the "Sweet Swan of Avon". But before I depart also, I should like to thank most sincerely both Miss Platt and Miss Hartley for the experience of a life time, which they enabled us to enjoy.

FAY RANCE, 6A.

---

## THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF PEAK FREAN'S

Last November a party of ten girls from Sixth Secretarial, accompanied by Mrs. Mallett, went to see the "other side" of Peak Frean's, the biscuit manufacturers—to have a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes.

The building was tall and formidable-looking, rather dirty—but then all the buildings in London are. We were now out of the dirty street in a well-lit, carpeted room. As we came through the glass doors, we saw before us a replica of the Queen's Wedding Cake, in a glass case. The work on the tiered cake was intricate and wonderful.

As we looked round the room we saw many different kinds of biscuits displayed, in cases, round the walls. There were the familiar Custard Creams, Bourbons, Shortcakes, and the rest.

In the middle of the room there was another showcase displaying the products—no, not of Peak Frean's—but of Meltis and Suchard, a French firm. Those chocolates looked so inviting! We learnt later that Meltis and Suchard are joined to Peak Frean's.

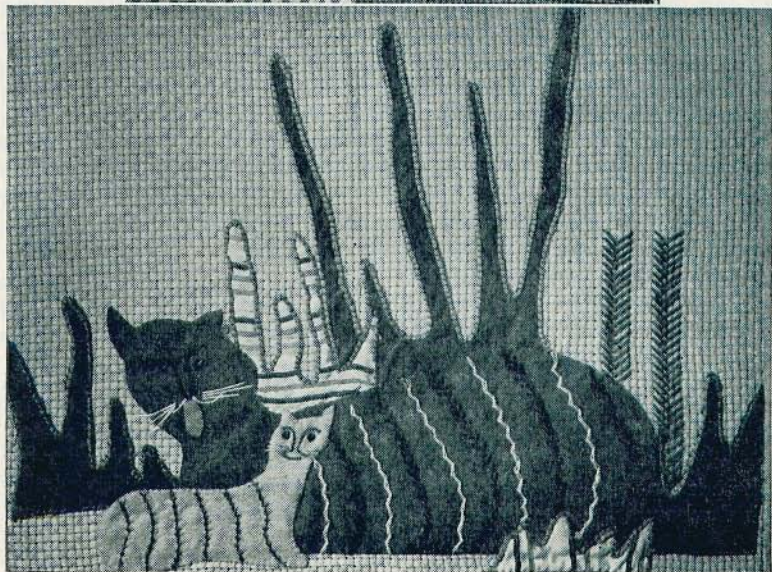
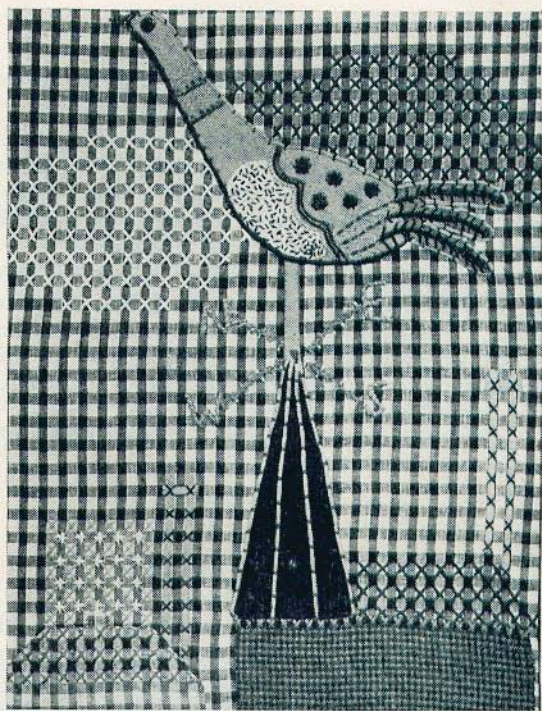
Miss Haines, the Assistant to the Staff Manager, then took us along a dark, narrow passage—most of them were—and into a well-lighted, large room where there were mostly men. Some of them were talking into what looked like microphones. Miss Haines explained they were dealing with the correspondence; their voices are recorded and the recording goes up to the next floor where the typing pool is. We went up to the typing pool, and out of the dark passages into the large room—there was always this contrast, the contrast between the old, dark passages and winding staircases, and the modern, well-lighted large rooms.

Some of the girls looked up as we entered, but only for a second, and then got back to work again. Miss Haines explained they were working against the clock—piece-work. Downstairs there had been the low murmur of voices, up here there was an irregular tap-tap of typewriters. All the typists who were dealing with correspondence had earphones on, and beside them was a machine. The recorded correspondence from downstairs was put on a dictaphone, which had various speeds, and the needle was put on, and the headphones, and the record played and the girl typed. This method is much faster than using shorthand and typing that back.

The next room we went into was the room where the orders are taken. This room was fairly quiet. There was an atmosphere of speed without haste. Girls and women were doing arithmetical sums like lightning—working them out in their head as they wrote them down.

Out we came again into the narrow passages and into another room—the Wages and Salaries Office. This office was much tidier than the others—but the noise! Two girls worked machines which punched holes into cards—thus working out the hours and rates of pay each employer spent. These cards were then sorted out in a





Embroidery by J. Badmin (above) ; B. Evens (below).

machine that works, as we thought, very fast, but we were told that Lyons have a similar one that works at the speed of light.

In the last room into which we were shown we saw money (the wages), being put into the pay packets. This office, too, was very tidy, and the typewriters had very long carriages. There was a money machine that shot out the exact money required. In this office all the paying in of cheques is done on the same afternoon.

We were escorted down to the canteen where we had a lovely tea of water-cress sandwiches, paste, jam, tea, and all sorts of Peak Frean's biscuits. When we were taken downstairs again and out into the street, where we said goodbye, we felt that now we knew something of the organisation and production that is packed into those boxes along with the biscuits.

SHEILA DUNN, 6 Sec.

---

## A VISIT TO HARRODS

When we think of Harrods it is usually as one of the largest stores in London, and we do not stop to consider what goes on behind the scenes, to ensure the smooth running of this organisation. It was for this purpose that a group of us, taking a secretarial course, went to visit the offices of Harrods.

The offices were situated underground, and covered a large area with all their different departments. When we went underground to these offices, leaving the bright, dazzling, modern store behind, it was like entering another world which was a positive hive of industry. Everything "down under" was overwhelmingly efficient, with everybody knowing exactly what he had to do and caring little for anybody else. There were departments for everything under the sun, and to name a few, packing, accounts, typing and dealing with change. The passages leading to different places bore the same names as the busy streets of Knightsbridge above them. They led into large rooms containing various different commodities and bearing suitable names like "China House", which immediately suggests china.

I think one of the most astonishing things we discovered was the way by which the customer obtained his change. When the customer had chosen his goods and handed over the money, the assistant wrote the bill and put it with the money into a container and into a tube where it was whisked away out of sight to the depths of Harrods, and a girl who worked a machine extracted it and pressed various buttons



on the machine to obtain the change which she returned to the customer by another tube in no time at all. It may surprise you to know that there are thirty-nine miles of this tubing which reached out to the extremities of the store.

Every process in the offices was carried out with meticulous efficiency in the minimum amount of time, which is fascinating to watch, but very hard work. Going underground was like a voyage of discovery; you never knew what would turn up next. There was anything from bicycles to dogs. One of the pleasantest moments of the visit was the discovery of the kennels, where the customers were at liberty to leave their dogs while patronizing the store.

It was with relief that we wandered, mentally exhausted, around the gaily lit store, displaying all its Christmas stock, to dream of all the things we'd like to buy if only we could afford them.

MARION WALTON, 6 Sec.

---

### AN AFTERNOON VISIT

---

Do you know what "an oven buster" is, and would you think of going to the butcher's shop for "a bit of skirt"? We members of the fourth form Cookery Division now know that the former is not some form of atomic weapon, but a harmless joint of beef, and the latter, not a cockney's girl friend, but an excellent cut of steak for making pies and puddings. We gathered this and much other useful information, when we paid a visit to the butcher's one afternoon in the autumn term. When we arrived, the Manager had spread out both tender and tougher cuts of meat of every kind, and by the time Mrs. Evans had finished demonstrating, there was quite an interested row of spectators, not only inside but outside the windows.

We can now recognise beef from lamb, and lamb from veal, etc., and know when a cut of meat is likely to be tough or tender, and their relative prices, which should help us to be much better housewives later on and save our housekeeping money.

No longer shall we suggest a whole leg of beef as the Sunday joint or a piece of fat pork for stewing.

Our grateful thanks are due to the Manager of "Chalk and Cox" who gave up his free afternoon to show us these things and who readily fetched every joint for which we asked.

THE MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH FORM COOKERY DIVISION.

## THE ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF PRIZES AWARDED FOR LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXAMS

---

After a rather bewildering, but extremely interesting walk through the narrow streets near London Bridge, our party of sixteen girls from Secretarial Sixth, arrived safely and a little early for the annual prize-giving of the Commercial Educational Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

It was held in an extremely beautiful and imposing hall in Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, and during our short wait before the proceedings were due to start, we found ample subjects to interest us. The London Chamber of Commerce had been very generous with its literature and we had pamphlets handed to us giving details of examinations and commercial courses, and the programme for the afternoon's meeting; these, with the royal portraits round the walls and the painted ceiling, would have been enough to hold our interest for the whole afternoon.

There was silence as the Commercial Educational Committee entered with their guests, and the Right Honourable Lord Mayor opened the proceedings. The Right Honourable Lord Luke, T.D., D.L. (President of the Chamber, and Chairman of the Committee), then reported on the work of the Committee, and it was very interesting to hear details of the Private Secretary's Diploma and the use of films in examinations, among other things.

The Right Honourable Lord Tweedsmuir, O.B.E., LL.D., presented the scholarships, awards and prizes and addressed the meeting in a very lively and interesting manner, remarking on the various tastes the receivers had shown in their choice of book, varying from travel books to novels.

Various members of the Committee and the Council of the Chamber then proposed official votes of thanks, and these were in their turn acknowledged by Lord Tweedsmuir and the Lord Mayor, who wound up the proceedings.

Their final exit was followed by congratulations all round, the proud prize-winners (among them being two of our old girls, Eileen Buckingham and Pat Grimsey) showing their books to all their friends.

We left that imposing building and turned for home, all ambitiously wondering whether we would ever have the honour to receive a Chamber of Commerce Prize, in the not so distant future.

PAT SNELL, 6 Sec.





Junior Pottery Models.

## THE MAGIC TOUCH

---

There was once a little elf who was very mischievous. One day, Twinkle, the little elf, went out in the woods for a walk. He was in a naughty mood. Suddenly, there in front of him was a little cottage. Twinkle felt as if he would like to peep in and see who lived there, but when he touched it with his foot, it vanished. Twinkle was astonished. He went on his way wondering what had happened.

Soon he saw a chaffinch. He watched it, found where its nest was, and crept up to it and started to do a very wicked thing. He started to take the eggs—not one, but all of them. When he clutched hold of them one by one, they vanished as the cottage had done. He went away thinking how strange it was, but he soon forgot, as he saw some other elves throwing stones at a frightened puppy. He thought he would like to join in with the elves, so he picked up two or three stones to throw, but they, too, vanished.

Twinkle went away looking very puzzled. He thought a little. "I'll go to Witch Raggsbox and tell her, that's what I'll do." And he did. When he reachedd Witch Raggsbox's cottage he knocked on the door, but the knocker vanished, so Witch Raggsbox did not hear him. He knocked at the window, but the same

thing happened. He kept on knocking, but everything he touched vanished. In the end he called out.

Witch Raggsbox heard him and came to his aid. When he had told her, he opened the window for some fresh air. He was again astonished, but this time because the window did not vanish. He turned to Witch Raggsbox and asked her why it did not vanish as the other objects had done.

"Well," she said, "every time you touch something you should not, it will vanish. But if you do a kind deed, like opening the window, everything will be normal."

So Twinkle went away happily, saying to himself as he went, "Well, I'll never, never be naughty again."

MARGARET DAWSON, 1s.

---

### SAINT GEORGE

Saint George was a knight, gallant and brave,  
Who was asked by the king England to save;  
For a dragon nearby demanded to eat  
Six children a day. Oh, what a treat!  
The townsfolk drew lots for this cruel thing,  
But soon came the turn of the child of the king.  
Then Saint George, without more ado,  
Into fierce battle with the dragon he flew,

And he did lay his lance in rest  
And pierced through the dragon's breast.  
The dragon rolled over, dead as a stone,  
And Saint George was praised like a king on a throne.

JACQUELINE HUMBER, 1l.

---

### PALM SUNDAY

Our Lord rode through the crowded streets,  
—'Twas on a morning bleak—  
Between the rows of waving palms,  
Upon an ass so meek.



He bowed His head and took the cross  
That He alone could bear,  
And all that follow Him along  
Will meet in Heaven fair.

He climbed the hill with steady step,  
He nothing did resent,  
The Lord of Hosts, the King of Kings,  
Messiah from Heaven sent.

EUNICE CHERRY, 1s.

---

### ON PASSOVER EVE

---

On Passover Eve, in Jerusalem street,  
Thirteen pilgrims with dusty feet  
Climbed a stair in the evening gloom  
And slowly trooped to an upper room.  
Tired and weary were all the thirteen,  
And each the towel, basin and pitcher had seen,  
But none wished to rise and the water outpour,  
For each his companions was waiting for.

Twelve men supped and one's love burned low,  
Till noiseless in the sunset glow  
Jesu, in such a friendly way,  
With no reproving word to say,  
Arose and laid his garments by.  
(The twelve apostles were wondering why) ;  
When pouring out water, cool and sweet,  
He washed those hot and dusty feet.

Then Peter to his Master said,  
"Lord, wash my feet, my hands and head,  
For if we are not washed of Thee  
We cannot go to Heaven and be  
Freed from the care of life on earth,  
Where all is strife, though all seems mirth.  
Oh yes, Lord, wash my hands and head,  
That I may by Thee to Heaven be led."

PAMELA BRICE, 2h.

## SNOW

---

The world is dark and fast asleep  
When down upon it falls the snow.  
When children from their windows peep  
They see a soft ethereal glow.  
The snow is quite unspoilt yet,  
But when the milkman on his round  
Passes along the road so white,  
He leaves his imprint on the ground.  
Yet where is seen a lovelier grace  
Than when the trees are clothed with snow ?  
But when the sun comes out next day  
The snow will very quickly go.

LYNDA ELLIOTT, 2H.

---

## A HAPPY FAMILY

---

When Spring her winter garment sheds,  
And birds return from lands afar.  
The fledglings lift their eager heads,  
And justly proud the parents are.  
When man lays down his weary head,  
The mother bird her vigil keeps.  
The plunderers will not be fed,  
And cruel night no harvest reaps.  
As dawn her tapering fingers spreads,  
And night is pushed into the deep,  
The young ones worry to be fed,  
And from their nests do peep.

SHEILA GREENLEAF, 2P.

---

## LA CRECHE

---

Une nuit les bergers étaient sur une colline. Les anges chantaient, "Le Christ est né." Les bergers ont visité l'écurie dans laquelle était couché l'enfant Jésus. Ils lui ont donné un très petit mouton. Trois hommes sages ont visité le bébé avec leurs cadeaux :





"A Happy Family." Lino cut by Diana de Jong.

de l'or, de la myrrhe et de l'encens. Dane l'écurie le boeuf et l'âne soufflent dessus pour échauffer dans sa crèche l'enfant qui a froid sur la paille.

JEANETTE MADELY, 3D.

---

### A WET DAY IN SPRING

---

We had not had rain for two weeks, when, on what was thought to be a fine day, it suddenly came.

The day had dawned bright and warm. The clouds were only few, but by mid-morning it was rather dark. Suddenly the raindrops fell like water out of a pail. Soon the dusty road was shining wet, and puddles formed in cracks in the paving. The rain ran down the window panes in rivulets; it splashed into empty water-butts; it dripped through the roofs of ancient barns; it made the sluggish stream jump into life, into a life of rapid, swirling eddies. The blossoms on the bent old apple trees became as pearls amidst a sea of sparkling green.

It stopped as suddenly as it had started. All was left clean and gleaming. The road began to steam as the weak sun came out. A blackbird started to sing his melodious song. The new leaves shone green and fresh; the newly-woven spider's web hung sparkling with its fine threads jewelled with raindrops. The yellow kingcup held a drop of rain as if it was a golden goblet holding wine; the grass was shining and all the blossoms and flowers gave off their loveliest scents.

How lovely rain is, with its power to turn a dusty, tired world into something new and clean and shining.

JENEFER WOOD, 3H.

---

### TRAVELLING BY NIGHT

---

It was my first experience of travelling by night, and I do not wish to repeat that experience.

The coach seats were far from being comfortable, and sleep was not forthcoming. At first, as we travelled through towns, the journey was rather boring, but as we left them behind, it became more interesting.

There were two coaches in front of us, and with their lights shining from their windows, they looked like ghostly ships sailing



along dark, twisting pathways. From a distance the roads looked very beautiful, illuminated with "cat's eyes", and they seemed to suggest to the casual onlooker a diamond-studded train.

As we passed open fields, the lights from our coach illuminated the grass and it appeared to the onlooker to be daytime. But at the same time, they transformed bushes and trees into huge fantastic shapes. We drove on and on, through the endless gloom. Now and then we would see a lone traveller, although most of the time nothing was visible.

Although the journey had been fascinating at times, it had had its drawbacks; for instance, the lack of sleep. So I firmly state that I do not think I shall ever travel by coach at night time again.

PAMELA GADNEY, 4M.

---

## HIGHWOOD HOSPITAL

---

I first entered Highwood Hospital on December 15th and felt that I was going to my doom. Its appearance is rather overpowering, but the inhabitants are warm and friendly.

When taken to my ward I was served with my first Highwood dinner, and felt that I'd rather go home. After dinner I was taken to my bed upstairs. My horror increased when I was led out on to a balcony which had all the windows wide open. As I said before, this was December 15th.

On Christmas Eve carol singers came round all the wards, and Dr. Bentley, the head doctor, came to wish us all a "Happy Christmas."

Christmas Day was quite pleasant, although I had to sit in a chair all day. There was a present for everyone from the hospital, and there was even a "Father Christmas" for the smaller children. In the evening those who were dressed went to a party in the adjoining boys' ward, and I stayed by the fire with the others who could not go either.

On December 28th I had my first streptomycin injection, the first of the eighty-five that the doctors decided were to be my treatment. From December 28th to March 23rd I lived in fear of the injection tray.

Schooling is continued at Highwood either in the ward or, if you're allowed up for long enough, over at the school. The lessons are pottery in the morning, and English and typing or mathematics in the afternoon. Needlework is once a week.

On alternate Saturdays we can go to the cinema. The films are not exactly modern and sometimes it is a relief when the projector breaks down. This happens two or three times each week, but considering the fact that this is a hospital, we are very lucky to have a cinema at all. We also have our own church, which we attend three times per week—on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Sunday is our favourite day of the week, for that is the only day we have visitors. They are allowed in at 1.30, and the hour's rest we have beforehand seems a lifetime. Then suddenly the word flashes, "Rest's over!" and there is a frantic dash for the bathroom for the paraphernalia with which one tries to make oneself beautiful.

It's impossible to say life in Highwood is tedious, for it is exactly the opposite. Never a day or night passes without some form of excitement. For example, it was three o'clock in the morning when I was awakened by a peculiar noise somewhere around my bed; I sat up and the noise ceased, so I lay down again. Outside, cats could be heard squeaking and somewhere an owl hooted, and still this noise continued. Suddenly I realised the noise came from my bed. There, seated on my bed was a mouse, happily crunching a biscuit. The next night it was found in someone's locker, so many traps were laid and we breathed again.

All the patients are X-rayed once a month, and we are taken to the X-ray department in a yellow van. The roads are inclined to turn sharply, and frequently we seem to go round the bends at a terrific speed. This yellow van also conveys bed patients to the cinema and to the dentist.

Now I am allowed up for eight hours a day and have only two weeks left at Highwood. I shall be very sorry to leave, for Highwood is a wonderful place, but, Oh, to return home after five months will be even more wonderful!

PAULINE CROSS, 4M.

---

## A YEAR OF HOPE

When happy Christmas songs, with festive cheer,  
And "Peace on earth, goodwill to men," are sung,  
Then through the opening doorway comes New Year—  
And One whose blessings spring for everyone.



Receive Him then into your humble home ;  
Although unseen—you'll feel His presence near ;  
Remember Him when travelling far from home ;  
Forsake Him not, but vow to hold Him dear.  
And so each day throughout the year to come,  
When things go wrong, and you feel sad, forlorn,  
Remember Jesus Christ, the Blessed One—  
And kneel in praise to God for that blest morn  
When Christ did come to men who did but grope,  
Faith to restore—to bring a year of hope.

JANET RAMSDEN, 5v.

---

### THE STAFF v. SCHOOL HOCKEY MATCH

---

The Staff agreed to play a game  
Of hockey with the School.  
We hoped to have a sunny day,  
But really 'twas quite cool.  
To Anerley we went in glee  
To watch the two teams play,  
And wondered who 'twould be—the Staff  
Or School to win the day.  
The teams arrived and shed their coats—  
We grabbed them with a cry—  
“ My dear good friends, you will get cold!  
Well, rather you than I ! ”  
The whistle blew ; the match began.  
We held our breath for fear.  
The Staff were good on the attack  
At first it did appear.  
A lovely hit by our side there !  
“ Well done, old girl ! ” we shout.  
Now someone's whammed it to the goal,  
But the gardener keeps it out.  
We shiver as the wind blows cold,  
Our teeth are chattering too ;  
The teams—they puff and pant, quite warm,  
While we're slowly turning blue.

The Staff play very well indeed,  
And some surprise us too!  
We didn't think that they could run  
As swiftly as they do.  
Excitement high—we're near the goal—  
Now, will we get it in?  
Yes! In it goes! Oh, what a noise!  
The cheers make such a din!  
Another goal is scored quite soon—  
The School has won the day;  
But how we cheer the sporting Staff  
For the match they've helped us play.

JOAN BUSHELL, 5W.

---

## THE BRONTË COUNTRY

---

The wind from the Yorkshire moors blew the hair from my face, and, glancing in at the windows of the little antique shops of Haworth village, I was surprised to see how excited my eyes looked. I was for some reason excited: I did not know why, but with the same eager anticipation that I always await the rising of the curtain in the theatre, I toiled up the cobbled street of this village which for so long formed the limit of the Brontë sisters' restricted horizon, and came first in view of the church at which Patrick Brontë had been parson for so long. I stood for several minutes looking at the beautiful altar, then, passing the stained glass windows, went to the back of the church where the Brontës were buried. It was a delightful little church, but that something I was looking for was not there.

To the north of the church, with the front windows looking down upon it, stands the parsonage, and once inside I was sure I should be satisfied there. Up the stone steps, through the oak door that Mr. Brontë had so often barred against his son Branwell when he returned from the inn late at night, I passed the grandfather clock, still ticking peacefully, and so into the parlour.

Although I was interested in the lower rooms, I soon found my way upstairs, where I was absolutely intrigued. There were the ordinary objects that the family had used, the heavy, home-made spoons which, because they were in glass cases, seemed to



be something extraordinary. Apart from the nursery, where each child in turn had added her contribution of scribbling on the wall, I spent most of my time in Charlotte's room, studying her clothes and the sketches she had produced. In the library I was amazed to find their works in many languages, but what really attracted my attention were the excerpts from the sisters' diaries, telling of their plans to set up a school and describing the affairs of the household in accurate detail. However, I realised that every minute spent in fascinated study of the neat, minute manuscripts meant one minute less on the moors, and, turning from the house, I understood readily why Charlotte's sight was threatened when she was still a comparatively young woman.

The path on to the moors was a long one, but it satisfied me to remember how many times Charlotte, Emily and Anne had trodden the way together. Within half an hour I had reached the Brontë waterfall, a beautiful place where a rough stone bridge passed over the swirling cascade of clear, fresh water. It was easy to imagine any one of the sisters standing there, silhouetted against the bleak surroundings, seeking inspiration for her poem. But this was not the end of my journey, for I had planned to reach Upper Withens, the ruined house on the top of the moors upon which Emily based her novel, "Wuthering Heights." From this point, and now absolutely alone, I relied largely on my own sense of direction, for I could see the ruins on the distant horizon.

Although the ground was much rougher now, and the marshy patches more frequent, I tried to mend my pace. Crossing the last stream, I took a final pause to regain my breath and to survey the valley, opening wider and bleaker behind me; but I had no eyes for the view, and I struggled up the last few hundred yards. At last I was there!

Flinging myself down among the heather and the rough grass, I remained motionless for several minutes, while it occurred to me that I had climbed for nearly an hour to reach—a pile of stones! But for me these stones had a special significance; I went to the doorway and looked in. The roof, originally supported by twisted wooden beams, had long been destroyed, and the window spaces filled in; but as I stood there, phrases and quotations began to run through my mind. I pictured Heathcliff coming through that very doorway, and overhearing Catherine discussing him with Ellen. I saw his fight with Hindley, and heard the ring of his voice, as it re-echoed in his rage from the wooden beams, lingering in my ears. At last I could sense that spirit that had so moved Emily in her writing.

Satisfied, I slowly wandered back outside ; then madly I began to run down the slopes, on and on over streams and past rocks. I imagined Heathcliff and Catherine on those evenings when they had escaped gaily and freely together, and it suddenly occurred to me that the Brontës were not as gifted as I had before thought. For it seemed now that inspiration must surely come to anyone who stands alone on the moors on a windy day.

To roam aimlessly on the moors and allow the spirit of the place to take hold of one is a sensation that can never be forgotten. Although the wind was comparatively calm, it was easy to imagine how all the three sisters died before they reached their fortieth year, but nevertheless, the mark that the three Brontë sisters left upon the world is as great as the impression that those grey, sombre, misty moors left upon my memory.

LINDA WELLS, 6B.

---

## CINDERELLA

---

The kitchen was in a state! Here lay an over-turned bottle, the milk trickling across the floor, there a half empty jar of jam (Hartley's, of course), and a family of mice were making a hearty meal off a loaf of bread, fresh that morning from the baker. In the midst of it all sat Cinderella, wishing she could go to the Valentine's Day Ball.

"Would that I had never been bourne!" she sighed; but even as she spoke, her fairy godmother stood before her, and in a trice her ragged overall was changed into a beautiful evening dress, her lyall stockings into nylons, and her hair, which usually hung in a platt to her waist, was piled high on her head and adorned with a diamond tiara.

"You do look smart! Far nicer than your ugly sister, though she did dy 'er hair before she went," said her godmother approvingly.

"May, o may I go to the ball?" gasped Cinders.

"May hew? Of course, you may. But you must be back before twelve in case the footplate men decide to strike to-night. You never were much of a walker you know. The butler will barr the door at mid-night and go to bed, and nothing short of a blow with a mallett on his old white head will rouse him once he's asleep. How 'ie manages it I don't know. But we won't cross our bridges before we come to them. Look sharp now, dear, and remember what I've said."

\* \* \* \*

At half a minute past twelve Cinderella remembered. It was a long walk home, but once there, she got in quite easily—the butler



hadn't noticed the loose rivett when he locked the door. She rummaged in her purse for a gas coyne to put in the meter, and once the light was on she noticed that she had lost one of her shoes. No wonder her feet were sore! That evening had cost 'er dear.

All was well, however. The shoe was, of course, clearly marked, and next morning Prince Charming arrived to claim his bride and carry her off to the parson's.

---

### DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

---

Ralph Hodgson wrote a poem called "The Belles of Heaven."

In the Dramatic Competition, the fifths acted the decomposition scene from "Richard II".

The prophets said that if people continued in their sin they would eat woodworm and gall.

When rain-water passes over the industrious areas it collects dirt, dust and soot.

Orlando Gibbons was born in 1583 at the early age of twenty-three.

*Land-drill instructions*

"On the command 'One!' put your left foot outside your partner's right and your right foot round the middle of her waist."

(With admirable presence of mind, the girls realised that Miss Smart meant "hand" and not "foot", so there were no nasty accidents).

---

### BIRTH

---

To Mr. and Mrs. Rundle, a daughter, Lesley Alison, on February 28th, 1955.

---

### MANOR MOUNT AND SYDENHAM OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

---

During the past year the Old Girls' Association has had its customary meetings each term to which all members and past and present members of the Staff have been invited.

We were fortunate to have good weather for the Summer Meeting which was held in the grounds, and at the Annual General Meeting, held in November, the following members were elected to the Committee: Sally Leapman, Gladys Malt and Edith Grist.

By way of an experiment a social was arranged for the meeting in March, and this was a very enjoyable evening.

We do hope that all girls leaving this summer will continue their connection with School by joining our Association. The annual subscription is 3/6 per annum—quite a reasonable figure, whilst for those who are able to do so, Life Membership costs as little as £2/2/-.

Our next meeting is to be held on Saturday, July 9th, 1955, from 3—6 p.m., and we would ask all those who will be leaving from the 5th and 6th Forms at the end of the Summer Term to come along. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

If there is any further information I can give you regarding the Association please do not hesitate to let me know.

48, Dacres Road,  
Forest Hill,  
London, S.E.23.

MARY RAMSDEN  
*Hon. Secretary.*

---

### GENERAL NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

Rowena Colmer (1951). B.A. at King's, London.

Gillian Garrod (1953). In the W.R.N.S.—now posted to Co. Derry, N. Ireland.

Peggy Hopkins (1951). B.Sc. at Bristol University—June, 1954.

Margaret Leggett (1950). Joined W.R.N.S., 1952.

Joy Ward (1951). Graduated at Southampton in History—June, 1954.

---

### ENGAGEMENTS

Joyce E. Clark (1952). To Trevor Windsor, in June, 1954.

Gwen Crowder (1951). To Leonard Worrell, on July 3rd, 1954.

Delia Peachey (1950). To B. Hammett—to marry March 12th, 1955.

Margaret Roe (1951). To David Marsh, on November 6th, 1954.

---

### MARRIAGES

Pat Archer (1950). To Robert Bedford, 7.8.54.

Jean Ballard (1950). To Jack N. Abbott, 11.9.54.

Rita Davis (1953). To Allan Whitehead, 2.4.55.

Yvonne Eaglen (1950). To W. L. Glen, 26.6.54.

Rita Franklin (1950). Married, September 11th, 1954.

Muriel Gibson (1950). To Charles Tookey, 2.4.55.

Pamela Snelling (1950). Married at the end of August, 1954.



# R. H. EDWARDS

High Class Baker & Confectioner

Wrapped and Sliced Bread available

WEDDING CAKES    BIRTHDAY CAKES  
FANCIES A SPECIALITY

51 HINTON RD., HERNE HILL, S.E.24

Phone : BRI 1744

Also at 107 KIRKDALE, SYDENHAM, S.E. 26  
and 57 HONOR OAK PARK, S.E. 23



**WILLIAMSONS**  
LTD

*The  
Family  
Grocers*

WEEKLY DELIVERY SERVICE

FULL OFF-LICENCE  
FROZEN FOODS

15/17 Dartmouth Road,  
Forest Hill, S.E.23

# Timpson's

THE SYMBOL OF COACHING COMFORT

For MODERN LUXURY COACHES

## Timpson's

*are at your Service*



YOUR ENQUIRIES WELCOMED AT  
THE DARTMOUTH COACH OFFICE

26 DARTMOUTH ROAD, S.E. 23

Phone - FOR 3591

FOR ALL TRAVEL AND PRINCIPAL ENTERTAINMENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

# M<sup>c</sup>Dougall's

\* \* \* \* \*

*the self-raising flour*

*for easy cooking*

\* \* \* \* \*

**IT'S NATURALLY  
WHITE!**



WHEATSHEAF MILLS, MILLWALL DOCKS, LONDON E14