R.A.F. Section at R.G.S. remains disappointingly small, and the possibilities offered to a keen and interested cadet are very considerable. It is hoped that more cadets will take the opportunities offered them and join the Section next term.

C.N.D.

THE SCIENCE SIXTH PLAY

This year the Science Sixth presented *Juno and the Paycock* by Sean O'Casey. This difficult play was an ambitious choice justified by the success of the production. The cast acted, for the most part, with conviction and confidence, and managed comedy and tragedy well, although more at ease with the former. Any faults were due to inexperience or nervousness and not to self-consciousness or insincerity. Occasionally a line was mis-timed and its effects lost, but when the audience gave the actors a chance (as on the second night) they played scenes of high dramatic tension excellently.

The Paycock, the likeable liar, idler and drunkard, "Captain" Jack Boyle, was played by D. C. Thompson, who committed his malapropisms ("yogis" was a fine touch), and displayed his non-existent knowledge with considerable energy and stage-presence. He introduced a rightly unpleasant note of self-pity before his departure on the final spree, and was convincingly drunk in the last scene. K. Franks was very good indeed as Jack's tired, resigned wife, Juno, always ready with a cup of tea, always vainly trying to keep the house clean and her husband in work. Franks is a sensitive actor, and spoke with sympathy and restraint. The star comic turn was K. Robson as the sprightly and irrepressible rogue "Joxer" Daly. His accent and eccentric vocal expression were splendid, his movements well-timed, his clowning very funny. He was the perfect undesirable companion for the Captain. "Needle" Nugent, the smug and nasty tailor, was played well by P. M. Woodmass, and R. Wood was a success as the formidable and determined battle-axe, Mrs. Maisie Madigan. His idiosyncratic delivery and accent, like Woodmass's, had more affinities with Scotswood Road than Dublin. A. Jackson and R. T. Jagger, two Removal Men, flung heavy furniture about with cheerful abandon.

It is not easy to play women on the School stage, and it was probably through justified fear of the audience that C. Woodward, as Mary Boyle, had an unemotional voice and tended to underact. However, he certainly looked the part, in spite of his ludicrous hat, and did well in the third act. Mary's unsuccessful trade-unionist suitor, Jerry Devine (P. S. Warren), may have been popular with the men, but he

was certainly not a good speaker, as he claimed. His voice was curiously flat and uncertain, he lacked confidence, and seemed to hover tentatively rather than stand firmly. K. B. Knox was suitably oily, suave, smooth, poised, well-dressed and confident (with a pure English accent) as the school-teacher and seducer, Charles Bentham. His condescensions were subtly done, although his speech was sometimes a little wooden.

M. H. E. Larcombe, with shadows under his eyes and an empty sleeve, acted well as Johnny Boyle—Ireland's irritable, resentful, shell-shocked hero, who turns out to be a wretched coward and traitor. Especially good were the hallucination about Tancred, the man he had betrayed, the encounter with the ominous Mobilizer, J. Bowman (who made the most of his memorable line, " Boyle, no man can do enough for Ireland ") and the final scene with the pitiless Irregulars, E. E. Thompson and G. Twizell, where Johnny was dragged off to his death. Mrs Tancred and a Neighbour (D. I. Laidler and A. Jackson) made a gaunt and terrible entry in mourning black, which shocked the audience into total silence. Laidler almost keened his words, which were repeated by Juno—" Take away this murderin' hate an' give us Thine own eternal love ". It is to the credit of the cast that this darker side of the play was as successful as the brilliant comedy scenes. This outstanding Science Sixth production was by Mr Thornton.

H.M.P.