THE AVENUE

F.S.S.W.

MARCH, 1950

PER ARDUA AD ALTA



CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	77
School Diary	78
De Omnibus Rebus	79
Conference on Conscription	80
Rex *v.* Paul Honigmann	81
A Dissertation on Baked Mackerel	81
The Thunderstorm	82
The Mourner	83
A Geometry Problem	83
Games—Cricket	84
—Football	85
—Under 15 XI	86
—Under 13 XI	86
—Hockey Matches	86
—Netball	87
Twelfth Night	88
The Middle Literary Society	91
The Junior Literary Society	91
Natural History Society	91
Photographic Society's Notes	93
Weather Notes	94
The Library	94

S. C. Jennings & Sons, Ltd., Printers, Redhill.

THE AVENUE

The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden

VOL. 39 MARCH, 1950 No. 113

EDITORIAL

A few days ago I was wandering round the Library with nothing much to do, so I picked out at random one of the old copies of *The Avenue* kept there. I flicked over the pages idly till a title, " At Last," attracted my notice and I read the article. The scene was the House of Commons at some future date, before a great audience in the Public Gallery, composed of peers of the realm and others interested in politics. They were awaiting the First Sea Lord, who was to talk on the Naval crisis. Eventually he rose, unattractive to look at, but with tremendous personality. For some time he traced the course of Naval history in the usual parliamentary manner and, having reached the stage where the audience was beginning to feel this was " just another of those speeches," he suddenly changed his outlook completely. " And now gentlemen," he said, " I consider the time has come definitely to stop this useless waste on armaments."

He proceeded to elaborate the point from the Christian point of view, put forward the government's proposed restrictions, and ended with a great plea for the House to follow the bent of its conscience, not its party. The Minister sat down in an icy silence which lasted for a tense quarter of a minute; then a mighty cheering broke forth from all sides of the House. The author concludes his essay :—

> " And why were they cheering so; was it because the nation had £70,000 more to its credit than an hour before? No, they realised that there in their midst was a young man who had risked all—in one speech, in one deed—a deed from which older men had shrunk with apprehension. His terrible earnestness had impressed itself upon them, they had been carried along by the sound of his voice and by a Voice long shut out from these buildings."

I thought that though this story could be criticised, the point it stressed was for a *post-war* time a good one; then I suddenly remembered the author's name on the Library plaque commemorating those who had died between 1914 and 1918, so I turned back the pages to see precisely when it had been written. The date was March, 1914.

SCHOOL DIARY

Sept.	15th.	School re-opened.
,,	17th.	Short Films.
,,	24th.	Short Films. Senior Dance.
Oct.	1st.	O.S. Games Week-end. Short Films.
,,	3rd.	Senior Literary Society Meeting. Broadcast of " The Importance of Being Earnest " heard in the Library.
,,	11th.	N.H.S. Meeting.
,,	18th.	Senior Literary Society Meeting : Readings chosen by members.
,,	22nd.	Short Films.
,,	29th.	Parents' Week-end. Lecture : " With Deep Sea Trawlers in Peace and War," Dr. F. T. Falkner.
Nov.	1st.	Senior Literary Society Meeting : Essays by members of the VI Form.
,,	5th.	Guy Fawkes Night : Firework Display.
,,	12th.	Film : " Huckleberry Finn."
,,	15th.	Senior Literary Society Meeting : Mock Trial.
,,	19th.	Lecture : " Work among Displaced Persons," Hilary Carruthers.
,,	22nd.	N.H.S. Meeting : Commander Robertson on " Bird Identification."
,,	26th.	Film : " Boys' Town."
Dec.	1st.	" Twelfth Night " : Matinée performance.
,,	2nd.	" Twelfth Night " : evening performance.
,,	3rd.	" Twelfth Night " : evening performance.
,,	4th.	Supper Party for " Twelfth Night " Cast and Helpers.
,,	7th.	Girls' Craft Exhibition.
,,	8th.	Choir at Abbey Lane.
,,	9th.	Junior Concert.
,,	10th.	Christmas Party.
,,	11th.	Carol Service.
,,	12th.	Boys' Reading Club. Reading of Topaze.
,,	13th.	Senior Dance.
,,	14th.	Packing Day.
,,	15th.	End of Term.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS

THIS term we heard that, for the first time in history, this School has obtained a State Scholarship. It was awarded to Alice Kendon, who is now at Girton. This was felt to be such a notable occasion by the Committee that they gave the School a half-holiday to celebrate it, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

* * * * *

In October came the joyful news of the birth of David Pierce. We all join heartily in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Pierce. In November came that auspicious event, the first birthday of Andrew Mark Mummery.

* * * * *

November 5th brought with it the usual firework display, this time held on the Boys' upper gravel. We are very grateful to Mr. Wright and Mr. Rogers for organising the display so ably, in spite of bad weather, owing to which the School had to watch from indoors. We should also like to thank the parents who so nobly provided most of the fireworks.

* * * * *

The Choir paid its annual visit to Abbey Lane. Owing to its tremendous number, Mr. Bunting, in welcoming them wondered whether this was due to the personality of Mr. Sturge, or the food at Abbey Lane. Members of the School are looking forward to Abbey Lane's return visit one Thursday this term.

* * * * *

The end of term brought the usual round of Christmas festivities. The Christmas party on Saturday was a great success, though the Choir unfortunately had a disagreement with Mr. Sturge's tuning-fork.

The Christmas dance was an extra-special affair. The hall was decorated, with a Christmas-tree in the centre which involved the use of one-way traffic. A formal invitation was sent to all the members of the Staff (and wives), and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

* * * * *

The end-of-term Concert is now recovering its previous standard of entertainment, and this concert was said, by an old scholar, to be " the best I have even seen." Several very good sketches were performed by the School, but the highlights of the evening were from the Staff. Mr. and Mrs. Whitlow, with Mr.

Small, rendered a very amusing sketch; while Mr. Darlington gave us a monologue. He told the story of Red Riding Hood, as from a barrow-boy to his younger brothers and sisters, and kept everyone hysterical till the end.

* * * * *

Junior Concert was held, as usual, at the end of term. The programme varied from items by the Orchestra, Carols from a choir of girls and many soloists. The excellent performance from Clymo and Scrivener, backed up by all the other soloists, all prove that music among the Juniors is not a thing to be laughed at, but to be taken as seriously as that of their elders.

* * * * *

We are very sorry to be losing Mrs. Todhunter and Mr. Darlington, who have both done so much for the School. We welcome in their place Miss Kitchenman and Mr. Thomas, and hope they will enjoy their stay here.

CONFERENCE ON CONSCRIPTION

IN the Easter holidays three representatives from the School attended this Conference. It was arranged and attended by Mr. Eric Tucker, and held at Reckitt House, Leighton Park School, Reading, from Monday, April 4th, to Wednesday, April 6th. About 24 boys between the ages of 16 to 19 years came from various Friends' Schools.

The conference commenced on Monday afternoon with a talk from Mr. Colin Fawcett, who acted as our host. In the evening the Rev. Clifford Macquire started a talk on "Christianity and War," which he finished the following morning. We spent Tuesday afternoon exploring the School and visiting the town until 5 o'clock, when Mr. Hugh Maw gave a talk on Military Conscription, which was especially interesting, as he himself was a C.O.

After tea we divided into three study groups, each considering a different question. The following morning the study groups presented their reports and we wound up the conference.

We all found the conference valuable in so far as it helped to straighten our thinking, and in general made us review the grounds for our conviction. The only difficulty encountered was in that although we were given the other side of the picture, the people giving it did not believe it themselves; so we found ourselves more or less without a supporter of Conscription. Thus the conference was not so much for or against Conscription, but an exchange of ideas, all opposing Conscription.

Barry Barber
Michael Comber (VIth Form)

REX *v.* PAUL HONIGMANN

THE Senior Literary Meeting of November 15th was occupied with a Mock Trial, in which Paul Honigmann stood on trial for his life on a charge of arson, in that he set fire to the dining room, headmaster's study and adjoining rooms on the evening of Saturday, November 5th. Accused pleaded Not Guilty.

Counsel for the Crown opened the case with a statement of the accused's actions on the evening concerned. Several witnesses appeared for the Crown, giving evidence relating to the movements of the accused. It was also established that he was a confirmed smoker, but did not indulge at school.

After a thorough cross-examination by Counsel for defence, who was quick to spot the vulnerable points in the statements made, the case for the prosecution was closed.

Case for the defence was opened by Mr. How, who remarked on the inadequacy of time for the crime to have been committed, and said that from the evidence it appeared that the fire must have been started earlier than stated by the prosecution. Accused was again examined with reference to his pipe-smoking tendencies.

The Crown, in the final speech, very ably pointed out the suspicious nature of the accused's actions and criticised the amateur dramatics indulged in by her opponent (laughter).

Mr. Justice Small, summing up, declared his inability to give the Jury a lead, as the evidence was mainly concerned with discrepancies in times, and that no motive had been established. If one existed, he was sure it was a very obscure one.

The Jury, on a vote, returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

A DISSERTATION ON BAKED MACKEREL

IN a part of the old Gondwanaland of North-East Africa lived a tribe of natives, the chief of whom was Big Chief Tum Tum. A neighbouring tribe suddenly made war on Tum Tum, and the news came just as he was inspecting the weapon hut. The hunters had just brought back a big fish, which was hastily buried in a pit so that the enemy would not carry it away.

In about half an hour the village had been deserted, but the warriors were not far away. They were living in the jungle or balancing on branches of trees with loads of stones to bombard the enemy.

Tum Tum had organised his army so well that by sunset he had won a glorious victory and the enemy chief was captured.

That evening amidst all the joy-making, feasting, and the burning of the enemy Chief, the cook, Great Big Salt Cake, remembered the fish, so he went to the pit with Mackerel (the head hunter) and dug out the fish, and it was so hot that a dish had to be called for to take it away to be cleaned. As it tasted so good, Salt Cake just poured a herb sauce over it and took it to Tum Tum, who agreed it did taste good.

After that they always had the fish (which was named after the hunter who found it—Mackerel) on feast-days and, when neighbouring tribes asked for the recipe, Salt Cake chanted :—

" Clean it,
Put it in a pit,
Leave for an hour,
Then devour ! "

Julia Mace (Upper IV)

THE THUNDERSTORM

WILD light leaping down the sky,
Striking over strange stark towers ;
The earth lies waiting, breathless, still,
The atmosphere oppressive, damping,
Over a land vivid from all reality.
Glows grass in patches green, uncanny,
Stand the cedars' sombre shadows,
Encompassing one small flash of eternity.
Thunder comes—resounding bass—
Peals, from all creation rending
Their great crashing echoes down.
Then the rain—relief from space to space,
Frenzy on frenzy, raining on rain.
Dim clouds are pouring out pent-up grief
In forgiveness on the earth.

Diana Jones (Upper V)

THE MOURNER

I shed no tears,
But when I remember how we had to part,
A knife-edged blade sears
Through my very soul, my heart.

You gave a sigh, one brief sigh,
And then so cold and still you lay ;
I never thought you'd die ;
Your life just ebbed away.

And the world wept for you.
The very trees bent their branches in grief.
The wind moaned too,
Leaving not a covered twig or leaf.

Isobel Jones (Lower IV)

A GEOMETRY PROBLEM

(*one which never worried* EUCLID)

ARE we wrong when we make " locus "
Rhyme with words like " hocus-pocus,"
Or would you mock us
Till we say " locus " ?

Should a friend of Cicero
Be called a Cicerine—
(Mea culpa, misero)
To rhyme with glycerine ?

I feel that " loci " 'll
Sound much too docile.
But to say " loci "
Sounds far too cocky !!

Perhaps I'll be allowed to talk of " locusses "
For, after all, A.D. has " Autumn Crocusses ".

GAMES

CRICKET

1st XI record :—Played 15, won 2, drawn 9, lost 4.

Apart from a few School XI games, three 1st XI matches were played too late in the term to appear in the summer issue of *The Avenue*. Details of these games are given below.

1*st XI* v. *Blythe and Pawsey's C.C. Home. Match drawn.*

School, 128 for one. (Webb 76 not out, Cadman 51 n.o.)

Blythe and Pawsey's C.C., 63 for five. (Cadman 3 for 12).

1*st XI* v. *Braintree C.H.S. Away. Won by* 5 *wickets.*

Braintree, 76. (Cadman three for 18).

School, 84 for five (Dutton, J. 26, Webb 31 not out).

1*st XI* v. *Harlow College. Away. Match drawn.*

Harlow, 156. (Dutton, J. four for 16, Clymo, R. three for 19).

School, 70 for eight. (Webb 26).

In spite of some bad patches, D. Webb was again our leading batsman, scoring 279 runs for an average of 21.4. Some of his better efforts, however, were in School XI games ; notably his 72 not out against Welwyn Garden City. We shall miss his skill next year, but look to the promising records of Cadman, Clymo and Dutton with considerable optimism. All of them kept their bowling averages under double figures, capturing 27, 26 and 24 wickets respectively. Clymo returned the best figures, but to distinguish between them would be invidious. Cadman and Dutton averaged 18 and 11 respectively in batting, and must be considered our chief batting assets for 1950. It is already clear that there will be room for promising batsmen in the 1st XI next year, and we hope that the necessary talent will be available to maintain a reasonably high standard of cricket.

Towards the end of the season, R. Brown, Captain of the XI, was awarded his Cricket Colours. A moderately good batsman and change bowler, but a very good fielder and an even better captain, Brown well exemplifies both the true cricketer and our willingness to honour him. It is not given to every boy to have the cares and honour of a school games captaincy laid upon his shoulders ; but then, it is only the few who show the leadership, the judgment, the unselfishness, the fidelity and the capacity for sheer hard work, which are some of the qualities required of them. I personally wish to record my recognition and my gratitude to Brown for his excellent services to the School, both on and off the field in his leadership of school games.

Football

1st XI Notes.

Record to date :—Played 10, won 6, drawn 0, lost 4.

Our best XI is : Abrey, Dutton (J.), How, Burman, Spendlove, Fieldgate, Cadman, Clymo (R.), Brown (Capt.), Atkins, Ziegler.

With more than half our fixtures now completed, it seems that we have achieved a better standard of play and more satisfactory results than for some seasons past. Brown, to whose qualities of leadership I have paid tribute elsewhere, has again led both his team and his forward line most effectively, and it is a great pity that both he and Atkins, who has been playing excellent football at inside-left, have to leave us at this stage. They have largely contributed to inspire the forward line to score 25 goals in ten games. Cadman's finishing ability and Clymo's power of initiating an attack have also been major factors in this most successful attacking record. Outside left has been a problem to us almost as far back as I can remember, but Ziegler has tried very hard, and with improved ball control will make a very satisfactory winger.

Our defence seems to have passed from a very shaky period to a very safe one and then back to an undependable stage once more. It must be added, however, in fairness to them, that the last few weeks of term produced some gruelling matches on heavy grounds, and that it was not surprising that the defence showed signs of breaking up under such heavy pressure. J. Dutton has been very reliable with his sure kicking and How played some most effective games, particularly in mid-term, when Spendlove, another greatly improved player, vied with him in very sound defensive football. Of the wing halves, Fieldgate is the most promising. His chief need is for greater stamina. Burman has also played some useful games, and will do even better when he has learned accurate and quick distribution of the ball.

The season opened for us in sensational fashion at Braintree, where, 3—1 down at half-time, we staged a second-half display of " trap the ball and pass," to win 7—6 in a sea of mud against a defence blinded by torrential rain and badly out of position. The next game, which we lost 3—0 at Ely, provided a striking contrast both in pace and conditions. It was a sluggish game on a very hot day, and we never really got going at all. Four wins, two of them away followed. In this bright patch we achieved two victories over Earls Colne (1—0 away and 3—0 at home), a home win over Harlow (5—3), and an away win at Bury St. Edmunds (1—0) on surely the wettest Guy Fawkes Day ever. If these two away victories were rather lucky—and I thought a draw would have been a fitting conclusion in each case—we were certainly unlucky

to lose two home games to Soham (2—1) and Ely (4—3). Another defeat (5—1) awaited us at Newport, but a victory over St. Christopher's (3—1), unbeaten till that day, provided us with some compensation in a hard and rather unlucky fortnight.

Three Staff XI games with the Old Scholars (10—2), St. Catherine's College 2nd XI (6—0), and St. John's College 2nd XI (6—3), provided us with a record of one hundred per cent. success and, what is much more important to us, with three very good games.

1st XI colours have been awarded to :—

A. Spendlove, J. Dutton, M. Atkins, R. Clymo, J. Cadman. R. Brown and M. How had already received Colours last season.

Under 15 XI

Played 5, won 1, lost 4.

Team :—Skelton, Dale, Chalk, Nash, Wood (C.), Frizzell, Bennett, Dutton, R. (Capt.), Baker (R.), Gutwein, Marriage.

Elsworth and Morgan also played.

The season has not been very successful so far. There are obvious weaknesses in several positions. Various experiments have failed to remedy them and it appears that the material is not available.

Under 13 XI

The Under 13 XI drew one of their matches and lost the other four, but in each of the games they had as much of the play as their opponents. The defence was usually sound and three of the games were lost by the odd goal, so that it was clear that the chief weakness was in the finishing of the forwards, who lacked the necessary thrust in front of goal.

There is still too much aimless kicking and the ball is not kept on the ground when passing, but the players are developing into a team and are always full of enthusiasm.

Hockey Matches

Saturday						
Sept. 25th.	1st XI *v.*	Cambridge Youth Club	Draw	1—1	H
	2nd XI *v.*	,, ,, ,,	Lost	2—9	H
Oct. 1st.	1st XI *v.*	Old Scholars	Won	7—1	H

Wednesday

Oct. 5th.	1st XI *v.* Camb. & Co. High School	Drew	0—0	A

Saturday

Oct. 8th.	1st XI *v.* Herts & Essex High Sch.	Lost	7—0	A
,, ,,	2nd XI *v.* ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	Lost	10—0	A
,, 15th.	"A" XI *v.* Hockerill Tr. Coll. 2nd XI	Won	5—0	H
,, 22nd.	1st XI *v.* Bishop's Stortford Ladies	Drew	3—3	A
,, 29th.	"A" XI *v.* Cambridge Youth Club	Drew	2—2	H
,, 19th.	1st XI *v.* Braintree High School	Won	6—3	A
Dec. 3rd.	1st XI *v.* Cambridge Town Ladies	Won	4—1	A

Analysis: 1st XI played 7, won 3, lost 1.

Team.

Goal .. J. NEWMAN	R.W. .. E. RICE
R.B. .. J. STRACHAN	R.I. .. C. MOON
L.B. .. G. JACKSON (Capt.)	C.F. .. B. BARBER
R.H. .. J. BAKER	L.I. .. N. SARGANT
C.H. .. R. RUMSEY	L.W. .. O. SHEERAN
L.H. .. W. HOPKINS	

NETBALL

Many fixtures were cancelled for various reasons and the Under 13 team, which is very strong, played only one match, unfortunately. They beat Chantry Mount 12—6 (A).

Under 15 team :—Lost to Chantry Mount 11—12 (A) and lost to Camb. & Co. High School 9—17 (A).

TWELFTH NIGHT

THE Dramatic Society's production of " Twelfth Night " in December was generally considered to be their best achievement during the last few years. The play was enthusiastically received by the audiences which saw it.

Among several excellent performances Michael How was outstanding as Sir Toby. His acting was convincing throughout. He was ably assisted by Rajan Chetsingh as Sir Andrew. Paul Honigmann played the part of Feste, the jester, effectively. His voice was admirably controlled and suited to the songs he sang. Mr. Whitlow was a great success as Malvolio.

Susan Whiteman (Olivia), Naomi Sargant (Viola), David Matthews (Sebastian) and Mr. Small (Orsino) played the more straightforward the therefore less rewarding parts very well, while Eleanor Marriage was a vivacious and mischievous Maria.

Among those playing small parts, Robin Webb (Fabian) gave an outstanding performance.

The sets and make-up were of a high standard. Mr. Small and Mr. Whitlow are to be congratulated on the all-round excellence of the production.

* * * * *

An Old Scholar has sent the following criticism :—

On 1st, 2nd and 3rd December, 1949, members of the Dramatic Society presented " Twelfth Night ; or What You Will." It is always tempting to choose one of Shakespeare's plays, because it will certainly be rewarding for the actors, it is likely to please most of the audience, and it might even disarm the critic of one of his favourite shafts, " What made them pick on a silly play like that ? " The danger, however, is that, deprived of the opportunity of commenting upon the choice of play and largely prevented from discussing its plot, the critic will concentrate upon the production and the acting. Now producers, actors, and actresses don't mind if the author and the plot are sharply treated, but they cannot be expected to welcome the prospect of being the sole target of criticism. The critic has anxieties too ; he begins to prepare himself, and sometimes his friends prepare him, by saying that allowances must be made for amateur performances. Is he then under an obligation only to praise, and to pass silently over any weaker moments in the play ? Clearly this would be dishonest and a wrong function of criticism which, to be worth making, must be not merely an epitaph, kind or unkind, on what has passed, but even more a pointer to what might be done better or differently next time.



[*Photo by J. D. Campbell*

Reproduced by courtesy of the Editor of the "Saffron Walden Weekly News"

These thoughts were not in my mind when I saw the play, for I had no suspicion that I would be asked to write a review. I had not seen a School play for many years, and I was confident (Old Scholars usually are) that I must not expect too much. But the Dramatic Society clearly knows how to reckon with Old Scholars of this sort. " Twelfth Night " was a delightful entertainment for which we are most grateful to all who took part in the play and in its preparation.

The production was careful, with many touches of imagination to give life to performance and words. The play would have moved faster if, to mark changes of scene, the producers had relied less on the curtain and more on lights or even the rhymed couplet, as Shakespeare did. It is always difficult to prevent small silent groups from looking wooden or detached, but it can be done. Gestures, too, are difficult and important; producer and actor must work hard together to get these right. No gesture at all is better than the hand which gropes in the air ; but Sir Toby, Maria, and Malvolio knew what to do and when to do it.

In Shakespeare especially the small parts must be played as competently as the principal. Here was the main weakness. The casting of the main parts was admirable, but Officers, Sailors and Attendants, with much to say or little, must act and not just appear. If Sebastian was snatched " one half out of the jaws of death " by this Antonio, Fortune, too, did her share. And Sir Toby had a right to be surprised at his cudgelling by Sebastian, who seemed to me hardly more mettlesome than his sister.

If some players, however, did not bring to their parts all that we should expect, it was mainly because of the high standard set by Sir Toby and Maria, who had clearly mastered their characters; by Malvolio, whose expressions were a delight ; and by Viola, whose dignity and hidden love for the Duke were skilfully portrayed. Finally, a special word of praise to all for their clear and rhythmical speech ; this is supremely important in Shakespeare. English is so often badly spoken to-day that we should be the more grateful to the players of " Twelfth Night " for their fine rendering of the prose and poetry of this play.

THE MIDDLE LITERARY SOCIETY

MIDDLE Literary Society is being held for the first time in many years. Its members are drawn from Upper and Lower IV. The Society meets fortnightly on Tuesday in the Assembly Hall from 7.30 to 8.15.

A Committee, consisting of nine members, meets also fortnightly to arrange the programmes.

We have had quite a variety of items this term. At the first meeting we had a sketch produced by John Skelton followed by some impromptu speeches. Another time we had a play reading called "The Misadventures of Li Sing." We also had a quiz and some miming. The subject for the miming was bowls. To round off the term we had a musical evening which consisted of piano solos, a trio with two violins and a piano accompaniment, some of the girls sang and one of the boys gave a flute solo.

We have only managed to have four meetings this term, but hope to have more in the coming year.

Patricia Cadman, Lower IV

THE JUNIOR LITERARY SOCIETY

THE meetings of this Society are held on alternative Fridays and are open to the Third Forms. All the boarders attend and quite a large number of day scholars. At one meeting some of IIIB read the "Wise Men of Gotham"; another was given over to miming and acting; and at another Mr. Darlington showed us his films on birds. "Twenty Questions" also proved a very popular item. Our programmes are very varied and we try to arrange them so that everybody takes part in them sometime during the term.

Gloria Topple
Ann Sayer, IIIa

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AUTUMN TERM, 1949

THE term has been a very active one for the Natural History Society, which now has a record membership of 44. Six formal meetings have been held and various field activities have been carried on. The two most important of these were the continuation of the bird-ringing scheme and the two nights of listening for migrating Red-wings.

During the term 179 birds of 13 different species were ringed. This brings the total number ringed since January 24th (when the work was begun) to 948. An innovation this term was the pair of " bell traps," so constructed that a bird entering either automatically rang a warning bell in the Biology Laboratory. It is hoped that valuable data concerning the precise feeding-times of birds commonly obtained in the traps will come to light through the use of this equipment.

The Red-wing watches were held during the nights of October 22nd—23rd and November 12—13th. On each occasion, nearly 20 people listened in shifts at Poplar Farm, Strethall, and noted the times when the calls of passing Red-wings were heard. The pattern of activity was clearly revealed on both nights, although high wind in November greatly increased the difficulty of listening.

In September, the Society's meteoroligical station was put into daily use, and regular readings of air, ground and soil temperatures, sunshine, rainfall, humidity and wind-force, have been taken throughout the term. The information thus obtained has already proved of value in the Red-wing counts. A start has also been made this term in compiling a register of the flora and fauna of the Walden district, a task which will probably extend over several years before even provisional lists can be drawn up.

Of the six formal meetings, the first was mainly concerned with the business for the winter season and a discussion of the field-work schemes for the term. At the second, Mr. Darlington showed his film " Avian Curiosities " and explained the technique used in obtaining shots of the Cuckoo laying her egg in the nest of the Meadow Pipit. Mr. Haselgrove lectured to the Society on " Colour in Nature " and illustrated his talk with excellent photographs of his own taking. Some very interesting papers by members were given at the fourth meeting, and it is hoped that more members will be prepared to come forward and read papers on future occasions. Our visiting lecturer for the term was Commander Alec Robertson, R.N., whose witty talk on " Bird Identification " was much appreciated by all the members who heard it. The last meeting took the form of a film display, two Gaumont-British International pictures, " Life on a Rocky Shore " and " The Development of the Chick " being shown to an audience which included several visitors from the Staff and the Sixth Form.

At the conclusion of the film display, Mr. Pumphrey thanked Mr. Darlington for his work on behalf of the Society. We should like to add our thanks for all he has done, and to wish him luck in the future.

J. Strachan
R. Clymo

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NOTES

NO one can say that we did not ask for it, but little did we imagine what we had asked for! Our last notes in *The Avenue* concluded with a request for work at other people's expense. Within three months we were immersed in the task of producing about seven hundred prints and mounting them for sale as Christmas cards in aid of the School Building Fund, for which we ultimately made £13 or so. Gerstl and Brown on the boys' side, and Judith Baker and Mary Watchurst on the girls', bore the brunt of the printing, producing work which proved by direct comparison to be far better than we could get done commercially at a comparable cost. A hard working team of girls, Valerie Jack, Jennifer Edwards, Elizabeth Paul and Shirley Pyne, met frequently to mount the prints, and many other folk rallied round and supplied useful help at critical periods. At any rate the members who contributed anything at all to the venture must have learned valuable lessons from their activities, even if it was only the danger of undertaking light-heartedly to roll a snowball to the top of a hill of indeterminable length.

Our equipment is gradually increasing (for which we owe further thanks to Miss Priestman and to the Headmaster) and our skill is following suit. That our numbers are reasonably small is due to the wisdom of the members who, last autumn, so organised our society that the dilletante is discouraged from joining. "Quality rather than quantity" has proved a useful motto—though we have proved for once that they can go together if you have the time. It may come as a surprise to our members who spent so much time in the dark rooms last term to know that quite as much work was also done out of them, to make the Christmas card venture a success. In particular, Miss Ellinor dealt with all the rest of the complicated business, and Mr. George Oakes gave us absolutely invaluable technical help in all manner of ways.

If the final results satisfied the ultimate recipients we can hibernate happily.

By the way, do you ever send Easter Cards?

M. L. H.

WEATHER NOTES

DURING last summer term a Stevenson screen was placed on the School fields. The less enlightened of us speculated on the possibilities of this strange white box, and there were rumours in the lower part of the School to the effect that it was a new type of beehive. But the buzzing of the bees was replaced by the ticking of a thermograph, the honeycombs by thermometers and, at the beginning of the autumn term, the first of the meteorological observations were taken by members of the Natural History Society.

The rainfall over the whole term was rather low, only 5.278 ins., indicative of the severe drought of the year 1949. An official drought (13 consecutive days without rain) occurred once only, but there were long periods in which only a trace of rain could be found.

For an autumn term, the temperature readings, to start with, were rather high. The maximum reached was 75 degrees F. on 25th September, and the minimum air temperature was 26 degrees F., recorded after the night of November 28th, but on the 1st November there were 10 degrees of ground frost.

The 4-foot thermometer started life at the beginning of the term, at 60 degrees F., gradually decreasing at 46 degrees F.; the 1 foot starting at 63 degrees F. and dropping in a more erratic manner to 39 F.

The relative humidity was 100% on 43 out of the 81 days on which records were taken, and it never went below 62%.

The wind came mainly from the S.W., but a large proportion of southerly winds were also recorded. The strongest wind of the term was on the 18th October, when the speed exceeded 34 miles per hour.

The Beekeepers

THE LIBRARY

SINCE April, 1949, 114 books have been added to the Centre Library. Fifty-four of these were given to the Library and the Librarian would like to express his thanks to the following donors for their generosity: Howard Diamond, Frank Kendon, Eleanor Littleboy, Gerald and Gwendoline Littleboy, Agnes Moss, Meurig Pierce, Helen Radley, Charles Reed, Barrington Whitlow, Margaret Yapp.

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following, at the same time apologising for any ommissions :—

" The Archway " (2 numbers)	(Sibford)
" The Beckside " (2 ,,)	(Ayton)
" By Kent and Skerne " ..	(Polam Hall, Darlington)
" The Cupola "	(Ackworth)
" The Georgian " (2 numbers)	(St. George's, Harpenden)
" The Leightonian " ..	(Leighton Park)
" St. Christopher Magazine " (2 numbers)	(St. Christopher, Letchworth)
" The Island "	(Sidcot)
Cambridgeshire High School for Boys Mag.	
" The Brook "	(Friends' School, Wigton)

BARRINGTON WHITLOW

SINCE going to press, we have learned of the sudden death of Barrington Whitlow, for many years Treasurer of the School Committee. We should like to express our deep sympathy with Kenneth and Anne Whitlow in a loss which is shared by the whole School.