THE AVENUE

F.S.S.W.

MARCH, 1951

PER ARDUA AD ALTA



CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	125
De Omnibus Rebus	125
Games—Football	126
—Under 15 XI	127
—Under 13 XI	127
—Cricket	128
—Under 14 XI	129
—Athletics	129
—Girls	130
Midsummer Night's Dream	131
—From an American Teacher	133
—From a Younger Member of the Cast	134
Library Report	135
Photographic Society	136
Natural History Society	137
Couples	138
Just a Thought	139
Christmas	140
Translation from the German of Goethe	140
The Lark	141
Extract from the Biography of a Business Man	141
Thoughts in Meeting	142
On it by an Addict to it	143
Acknowledgments	144
Editorial Board	144

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THE AVENUE

The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden

VOL. 40 MARCH, 1951 No. 115

EDITORIAL

AT the time of writing it is winter. A few patches of snow on the ground here and there point out the shape of things to come. There is a feeling of preparation in the air. Everyone seems to be preparing something. In the Assembly Hall the Music staff are arranging the final details for the Junior Concert. At Croydon House people are putting the finishing touches to the Christmas cakes. In the workshop, energetic enthusiasts are polishing presents. In the Art Room, Christmas cards are being made. The Staff are filling in reports. But reports, fuel crises, and even the bad luck of the M.C.C. in the first Test Match, are all forgotten with the approach of the year's happy old age—Christmas.

There is a time-lag. When *The Avenue* is published in the Spring term Christmas will be over. The New Year will have come and gone. Decorations will have been taken down—may have been forgotten. Yet there will still be an atmosphere of preparation. The United Nations may be united in deadlock at Lake Success, but Forms V and VI will be swotting for Mock Matric. or Mock Higher. The mushroom clouds of atomic bombs may hang over us, but the Choir will be singing Handel on Wednesday evenings. World situations may threaten us, but the School will be preparing its Pageant. Whatever happens, the spirit of Walden will exist, in preparation.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS

WE are very sorry to be losing Miss Tebbott. She is going to Carnegie College, Leeds, and we hope she will be happy there. In her place we shall welcome Miss Mercer as boys' matron.

* * * * *

There is room in this edition for only a brief mention of the Choir's activities so far this year. We paid our annual visit to

Abbey Lane, where Mr. Sturge, as usual, lost his braces. A new innovation was the visit the small choir paid to Newport. We arrived in time for Evensong and sang a group of carols afterwards.

* * * * *

One request, which is strongly supported by all unfortunates who have been in the San. lately: If there is anyone with old books, games or jig-saws which they no longer want, could they please donate them to the San.?

* * * * *

We are very pleased to congratulate Owen Edwards on obtaining a Major County Scholarship.

* * * * *

The Editorial Board regrets the *faux pas* in the last issue, but if you did not notice it, do not look for it now.

GAMES

FOOTBALL

THIS season has, so far, proved to be our most successful one for many years. The 1st XI have won all their matches except those against Soham Grammar School; the Under 15's and Under 13's both show much improved records; and the general standard of team work has been considerably better in all three elevens.

The strength of the 1st XI has undoubtedly been their defensive covering, and the fact that in the defence there has been no weak spot. Spendlove is a much improved player at centre-half; Fieldgate has developed into a fast and much more reliable right back; and at wing half we have been fortunate enough to be able to call on tireless workers not only in Burman and Webb, but also, when necessary, on Appleton as well. Yet above all, Abrey and Dutton (J.) have excelled in defence. To Abrey we have now said good-bye. We have lost an excellent goalkeeper, who was not only competent, but polished in his art. Dutton, however, remains as a full back whose sure kick with either foot, excellent sense of position and coolness in emergency stamp him as a real footballer. The best tribute I can pay to this defence is to let the "goals against" column of the 1st XI record speak for them:—

Played	*Won*	*Drawn*	*Lost*	*Goals*	
				For	*Against*
8	6	1	1	30	6

Of the forwards, two have been outstanding. Cadman has now left. Fast, a clever dribbler and a strong shot, he had learnt a great deal about his position by the time he had left. Clymo is still with us and it is to be hoped that his health will permit him to take up his position at inside-left again before long, for his absence was a devastating blow to the 1st XI, and may well have cost them their unbeaten record. Frizzell and Dutton (R.) worked hard and manfully to fill the breach, not without some success; but the experience and generalship of a first-class inside forward, such as Clymo, are necessary to effective forward play in any class of football. His absence virtually cut the team into two. On the wings, both Zeigler and Bennett—particularly the latter—are much improved players. In the second half of the season much will depend on them if punch and goal-scoring power are to be maintained in the forward line.

Under 15 XI

Of six matches played, the Under 15 XI has won four. The other two, both against the strong Bishops Stortford Secondary School XI, were lost.

Much greater determination has been evident this season. The defence, which has remained unchanged except for injuries, has been sound. C. Wood and Chalk have been outstanding, and R. Dunstan and Sillitoe have played pluckily in their first season in the side. Nash's constructive play has been valuable at wing half-back, while Harvey and Marriage have given good service in this position. The forward line has been changed frequently in an attempt to find an effective combination. Skelton and Morgan have played well on the wings, but there has been lack of thrust in the centre. Harvey shows promise at centre-forward and may supply the required thrust. Higgs (A.), Newton and Osborn have considerable skill at inside forward. If they can develop more speed and vigour, the side should score many goals in the second half of the season.

Under 13 XI

The team has shown very great improvement this year, thanks to a hard-working defence. Bell is developing into a useful centre-half, and he has been well supported by the two wing halves, Harvey and Clarke, whose quick tackling has broken up many attacks. Miller has been sound in goal and has gained some valuable experience, while Atkinson, who captained the side, and Main have proved reliable backs. Dunstan (E.), Pike and Newton have been the most successful forwards, while various players have been tried at centre-forward and inside-right.

The team has shown that they can fight back when losing, but once or twice they have eased off when they had a two-goal lead, thus nearly losing the match.

CRICKET

1st XI :—Clymo, R.; Dutton, J.; Cadman, J.; Gerstl, U.; Seekings, M.; Webb, R.; Dutton, R.; Comber, M.; Abrey, G.; Frizzell, M.; How, M.

1st XI Colours were awarded to :—
Clymo, R.; Dutton, J.; Cadman, J.; Seekings, M.

1st XI Record :—
Played 12. Won 3. Drawn 5. Lost 4.

Details :—
Friends School : 39. (Cadman 15).
Newport Grammar School : 135. (Cadman 5 for 35).
Newport Grammar School : 92 for 3.
Friends School : 42.
Friends School : 92 for 8 dec. (Dutton, J., 28 ; Seekings 21).
Old Scholars 2nd XI : 77 for 6.
St. Christopher : 49. (Cadman 5 for 19 ; Clymo 5 for 25).
Friends School : 25 for 5.
Braintree County High School : 46. (Clymo 5 for 11 ; Cadman 4 for 11).
Friends School : 108 for 6. (Dutton, J., 55 not out ; Comber 20 not out).
Soham Grammar School : 92 for 7 dec. (Dutton, J., 4 for 34).
Friends School : 40 for 5.
Parents XI : 78 (Cadman 7 for 46).
Friends School : 177 for 2. (Cadman 105 not out ; Seekings 43 not out ; Gerstl 17).
Cam. Co. High Sch. 2nd XI : 36 (Cadman 6 for 12).
Friends School : 44.
Soham Grammar School : 88 for 7 dec. (Cadman 4 for 34).
Friends School : 34 for 7.
Friends School : 48.
King's School, Ely : 51 (Cadman 4 for 14 ; Dutton, J., 4 for 36).
Blythe and Pawsey C.C. : 91 (Dutton, J., 4 for 12).
Friends School : 67 (Cadman 27).
Harlow College : 100 (Clymo 5 for 46).
Friends School : 97 for 8 (Cadman 41 ; Clymo 19 ; Seekings 17).

The following averages qualify for mention :—

Batting.	*Innings.*	*Times not out.*	*Highest Score.*	*Aggregate.*	*Average.*
Cadman, J.	10	1	105*	222	24.3
Seekings, M.	11	2	43*	144	16.0
Dutton, J.	10	1	55*	121	13.4

Bowling.	*Overs.*	*Maidens.*	*Runs.*	*Wickets.*	*Average.*
Cadman, J.	108	26	242	40	5.5
Clymo, R.	160	58	288	34	8.5
Dutton, J...	85	19	198	22	9.0

Under 14 XI

Played 9. Won 2. Lost 3. Drawn 4.

Colours awarded to J. Skelton and A. Chalk.

As all home matches this year have been played on the Square the standard of batting has improved. The most successful batsmen have been J. Skelton and A. Chalk with averages of 13.7 and 10.7 respectively. A. Chalk, A. Osborn, E. Dunstan and C. Wood were all successful in one match or another as bowlers. The fielding has improved during the season, and every member of the team made at least one catch. Details :—

v. Harlow : 75 for 2—56 (Marriage 35 ; C. Wood 4 for 11 ; E. Dunstan 3 for 3).

v. King's College Choir School : 21—51 for 7 (C. Wood 2 for 3).

v. Newport G. S. : 53 for 3—113 for 6 dec. (Chalk 20).

v. Kings College C. S. : 53—67 (Tregear 3 for 12).

v. Langham Oaks : 50 for 3—85 (Chalk 7 for 37).

v. Cambridge C. H. S. 75 for 9—144 for 8 dec. (E. Dunstan, 22 not out).

v. Harlow : 62 for 5—48 (E. Dunstan 6 for 19, J. Skelton 27).

v. Newport G. S. : 48—51 for 7 (E. Dunstan 3 for 13).

v. St. Faith's : 37—23 for 8 (A. Chalk 3 for 6 ; A. Osborn 4 for 3).

ATHLETICS

1950 proved to be an excellent year of progress in Athletics as, in addition to the establishment of five new records in Senior and Under 14 events, two School matches were held—both School victories—and the general standard of enthusiasm and ability showed a definite advance. Senior Boys' Colours were awarded to Honigmann ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile), Fieldgate ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile and Long Jump), Cadman (100 yards and 220 yards) and Edwards (Cross-country and mile). Chetsingh and Bennett also ran well in the sprints. Bidwell, who cleared 4 ft. 6 in. and established a new record in the High Jump for Under 14's, received Junior Colours, as also did Sillitoe for his powerful sprinting, including a new Under 14 record of 27$\frac{3}{5}$ secs. in the 220 yards. M. Pilgrim equalled

the Girls Under 14 100 yards record of 13 secs.; while J. Mabbott jumped 14 ft. 9 in. in the Girls Under 14 Long Jump. Girls' Athletics, indeed, continue to make marked progress, not least in the Hurdles events, where a long course of training in all age groups met with a very gratifying response and resulted in some excellent performances. Other outstanding athletes during the summer term were Skelton (Under 14), Harvey and Dunstan (R.) (Under 13); and Dunstan, E. (Under 12).

The Mixed Boys and Girls match against Castle Street School was won very easily by 90 points to 18. Harlow College put up a much harder fight, finally losing to our boys by 95 points to 63.

GAMES REPORT—GIRLS

AT the end of the Summer term the Mistresses and Boys beat the Masters and Girls in one part of the term's tournament, and the Staff beat the School in the other part. The Staff accepted the challenge to the Rounders match and were beaten after putting in a very good first innings. The School were well in the lead and still batting when the match was abandoned owing to rain.

During the Autumn term the 1st XI Hockey either won or drew all their matches. The very important match against Herts and Essex resulted in no score in either half of the game. With no score the team felt that they had improved on the score of the last occasion, when it was 2—1 against them, and are now hoping that the Celebration Tea will really be needed after the next match.

1st XI	Goal	Jane Newman.
	Left back	Gwyneth Jackson.
	Right	Jean Strachan.
	Left half	Naomi Sargant.
	Centre half	Lindy Rumsay.
	Right half	Judy Baker.
	Left wing	Olga Sheeran.
	Left inner	Margaret Pilgrim.
	Centre forward.. ..	Benita Barker.
	Right inner	Clare Moon.
	Right wing	Elizabeth Rice.

As well as the 1st XI we have been playing an Under 15 XI and have found that in playing Under 15 teams of other schools we have had some encouraging results, as when we drew with the Perse School.

Under 15 XI

Goal	Heather Wright.
Left back	Ruth Hatch.
Right back	Alison Dawe.
Left half	Sallie Donaldson.
Centre half	Patricia Cadman.
Right half	Ann McGowan.
Left wing	Jeanetta Mabbott.
Left inner	Diana Clayton.
Centre forward.. ..	Janet Rice.
Right inner	Jane Goodrich.
Right wing	Regina Gosling.

Unfortunately all but two Netball matches were cancelled owing to unsuitable weather conditions and although the results of those played were not in our favour, the standard of play of the School teams has improved quite considerably.

On November 11th the 1st Hockey XI took part in a tournament in Cambridge. There were two sections and the 1st XI came second in their section, equalising in points with the Perse School and beating them 7—4 in goals. When playing against the eventual winner of the section they had an equal goal score, though losing on total points. The result was very creditable, and the sequel to this has been that we have been asked to send one member to the Trials for deciding the team to represent the Eastern Counties team to meet the visiting Netherlands team on Easter Monday at Bishops Stortford.

At the end of the Autumn term the usual Staff versus School Hockey match had to be cancelled owing to the snow, but in its place we organised a Table Tennis tournament, when Masters and Girls played Mistresses and Boys. The Masters and Girls won by nine matches to four. This we followed by a short Staff versus School singles tournament, when the result was four matches to two in the Staff's favour.

There are matches every Saturday, and most Wednesdays, during the Spring term, so that we are hoping we shall have favourable weather conditions and some pleasing results to report in the next issue.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

The following letter was received from Mr. Frank Kendon :—

DEAR MR. MUMMERY,

I greatly enjoyed " A Midsummer Night's Dream " at Saffron Walden. Perhaps a measure of this might be allowed when I say that in spite of the headmaster's warning, I missed the last train and had to walk home.

I can't, I'm afraid, write an orderly or very useful criticism; time has gone by and I made no notes. The first thing I wanted to do was to congratulate Shakespeare for writing a play so exactly suited for young performance. There is always something hard to overcome when the fairy people of M. N. D. are acted by large, mature people whose forms (so to say) have been corrupted by mortal meat and drink, and it might be suggested that Shakespeare, by his tailor-dummy versions of full grown mortals in this play (Theseus and Egeus in particular) purposely made a mock of his men, to give full vitality to his fairies. But the four lovers in the wood, especially in the Saffron Walden performance, are not tailor-dummies. Perhaps Shakespeare knew that there is some subjugation to fairyland in young lovers. But in particular of your performance of these mortal interludes I would say that they showed how much the play is improved when they are played well and seriously. I thought Helena one of the best played parts here, charming in her abandonment to her ridiculous passion (not ridiculous to her) and with an excellent voice and simper, though a shade less chewing of the drapery might have improved it! Her sudden flying at Hermia in the quarrel scene was one of the moments of the play. Demetrius, too, especially in his clear and beautiful speaking of his lines, won high praise from me. These four lovers, in fact, in their nicely balanced sincerities and absurdities, showed a power of gaining sympathy, without calling for tears, that could teach professional actors a thing or two.

To my liking Puck was too visible, by which I mean too conscious of "his" attitudes. With Helena we did not entirely remember she *was* an actress; with Puck, however, though all "his" doings were rationally right, and showed an understanding of the sprite, they looked a trifle too produced and practised. Am I wrong in supposing that there is a childishness about Puck as Shakespeare meant him which the Saffron Walden Puck's performance did not bring out?

I liked all the homespuns. These, of course, belong to a fancy world just as much as the fairies do, and not at all to the tailor-dummy grown-up world. But Bottom—as indeed he should—overtopped them. The rest were allowed to be rather too much of a rabble; I think they played their early scenes too fast, or were too clustered together, or were not given silence enough between their speeches, or in speaking were not quite so deliberate as they could be. Bottom's performance was of course a finished performance, he knew his own simple character so well that he could safely let himself go, and he did. Whether Shakespeare meant him to be quite so unsubtle a caricature is a question of interpretation. This Bottom was a real Bottom, and got and deserved his applause.

This brings me to the Pyramus and Thisbe performance before Theseus and the court. Whenever I have watched this scene before it has been spoilt by a lack of balance between interest in the homespuns and interest in the spectators. This time I felt that the scene was a unity, the spectators really appeared to be excited and interested, and there was interchange sufficient to make it possible to look at and enjoy, not merely Bottom's players, but the court's enjoyment of them. I congratulate the company in general on this, it is not unimportant, and it is, I suspect, achieved by the affectionate determination of everyone—even Bottom—not selfishly to do his or her own part better than anyone else, but eagerly to make the whole show good alike.

Lighting was good, suggesting romance and then brightening to *practical* intensity when the action or diction became more important than electric atmosphere. The sets were good in that they were simple. From the right hand side of the audience Titania's bower was a success, but I'm not sure if those on the left could have seen her, or at least in a prominent enough place.

One grumble (as the critic is sworn to perfection) : M. N. D. ought to be rich in snatches and surges of thready music whenever the chance comes. The sound of a real violin, or flute, or silver trumpet, would have been delicious. Here I know I am only asking for what everyone would have wanted, but that in the limited numbers and resources of any school it is impossible. The gramophone it *had* to be. But when you think of it, how unfairylike a machine the gramophone is, how unfailingly not quite punctual, how spurious at the vital moment, how unsociable a creature!

I came away fantastically believing that M. N. D. should always be played by children, who have no reputations to make competitively. As I said, I missed the train and set out to walk home. At Duxford some fairy sent a fairy motor-car to transport me, and I was home by twelve. The next morning it was snowing.

Yours gratefully,

FRANK KENDON.

From an American Teacher

As one of a hundred and four American teachers occupying positions in English schools for the present year, I felt privileged to have the opportunity to visit your school last term.

During my short stay I had the pleasure of inspecting your friendly school buildings, to watch two of your games teams compete successfully on your very fine playing fields, and finally to see a dramatic production in your assembly hall.

Seeing the presentation of Shakespeare's " Midsummer Night's Dream " early last December was a most enjoyable experience. Much of the acting was excellent, although at times I had the feeling that portions of the dialogue were rather mature for some of the actors to handle—actions and reactions at times did not coincide with the content or attitude expressed in the lines spoken. Despite the limited space, very effective use of the stage was made, whilst the costuming was well chosen. The lighting, too, was most effective. In spite of being rather slow-moving in parts, the final act reached a delightful climax, and the cast can be congratulated in creating an excellent evening's entertainment.

American schools place strong emphasis on dramatics, either as a section in a literary course, or as a separate subject. One does not see many Shakespearean plays produced in the State schools for public presentation because of the opinion held by many teachers that much of Shakespeare's work is too mature for students under sixteen or seventeen. Also, since schools do raise funds by the plays they present, they attempt to choose those which they feel a majority of the public would like to see, and plays which they feel the young people can understand and thus produce more successfully.

This opinion regarding the suitability of Shakespeare at the teen-age level is constantly under discussion in American educational circles.

However, it can be truly said that Saffron Walden School gave an American teacher a very pleasant and entertaining evening.

Jason Lee Junior High School, LEONARD W. HOLDEN.

Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A.

From a Younger Member of the Cast

Tea a bit early. Over to Croydon House. First your dressing-up clothes. Then you splash on your face-cream; number five grease-paint, number nine grease-paint. Rub it in well. Go over to Mr. Whitlow, who will touch you up with a bit of rouge lipstick and eyebrow blacking. Next, leg make-up. This is where you first start to shiver, not because it's cold—although it is—but because something inside you tells you that in about twenty minutes you will be on the stage, being stared at—that makes your knees knock. Then, after a short wait, a procession goes over to the Green Room.

After about two minutes you hear a lot of " Hush " and " Sh!—Sh ! " and a sudden hush in the audience, together with the swish

of the curtains being drawn back. You can also hear the very familiar words you have listened to so many times in rehearsals:

" Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour
Draws on apace; four happy days bring in
Another moon."

You may try to play cards or read a book, but you don't make head or tail of what you're reading, or of the cards you hold in your hand. Then, when you have just managed to settle down to your book or cards and forget everything else, a sudden clapping comes from the audience and the players who have just been " on " come in. You realise that you yourself are on next. It all comes back; sometimes the words don't. A call-boy comes in to tell you to wait in the " wings." After the scene has been changed, he gives the word for you to get on to the stage.

All is quiet behind stage. The curtains go back. When you see the audience you forget all that has passed. Your words come back to you from long practice. It all goes off all right, thank goodness!

Brian Hosking, Form II

LIBRARY REPORT

SINCE the last issue of *The Avenue*, 106 books have been added to the Library. Most of these were bought with a special grant from the School Committee to enable the Library more adequately to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Sixth Form. Fuller and wider use is being made of the Library; this term 568 books have been borrowed—an increase of 139 on the corresponding term last year. The History section has accounted for 15% of the borrowings, the Natural Science section has doubled its percentage of books borrowed, while the percentage of borrowings from the Modern Fiction section has dropped to a reasonable figure.

Once again the Library has benefited from the generosity of scholars and friends of the School. Books have been received from Barry Barber, Rajan Chetsingh, Irene Edwards, Charles Reed, Alexander Robinson and Margaret Yapp. The Librarian is especially grateful to Alexander Robinson, who must have gone through the London bookshops with a fine comb to secure a copy of J. A. Spender's " Fifty Years of Europe," a book for which the Librarian has been searching for nearly two years.

Some intending donors have had difficulty in deciding which books to give the Library. For their guidance a list has now been placed in the Library of those books subject teachers require. The

Librarian would point out, however, that book-tokens (especially if accompanied by a suggestion for their use) are always welcome, ornamental, permanent, and foolproof. C. A. M.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

OUR membership increased somewhat during the Autumn term and we finished with nearly twenty (paying) members. The increase was in the main due to the step we took of equipping the Boys' darkroom in full, installing another enlarger there so that the boys and girls are now on equal footing.

We are indebted to Leonard Copeland Watts, the President of the Old Scholars' Association, for the kind gift of a 3 in. Zeiss Tessar lens for the enlarger in the girls' dark room. As this lens passes much more light than the lens at present fitted, the output from the girls should show a marked rise. The latter could scarcely be achieved by working longer hours, for the room seems to be occupied continuously during the hours at which lessons do not interfere with darkroom work.

The display board in the centre corridor has borne but few examples of members' work during the term, but those shown, although not the actual prints made by members, were some excellent pictures taken during the August holidays. In particular Jennifer Rose, Joan Rickards, and Jill and Jan Erith acknowledge the authorship of some excellent pictures. But why do we see so few good portraits ?

The Society is indebted to the good services of the Curators, Derek Hosking and Judith Baker, without whose help it would have been quite impossible to run the show at all. I hope that they will be able to carry on their good work next term—but what about some more members ?

We hope that the value of Photography as a weapon to be used in overcoming all kinds of problems, was duly impressed on visitors to General Meeting this year. Apart from the " Visual Aids " lectures given in the Assembly Hall (and without the aid of the camera these would have been impossible), there was ample evidence in the exhibition in the Biology Lab. of the value of photography in teaching and in experimental Science.

Mr. Osborn's pictures taken on his holiday in France during the Easter vacation must have brought to life the people at the French school with which many of our boys and girls are corresponding ; the views taken locally which formed the subject matter of much of Mr. Small's " comprehension tests,"—not to mention the pupils of the school similarly featured,—gave added interest to what is primarily mere work ; Richard Green's Archaeological

notebook gained enormously from the photographic illustrations included, and Mr. Wright's mundane collection of lantern slides of mathematical tables was a fine example of photography applied to reduce the irksomeness of essential learning. Readers may like to know that Mr. Rogers " gainfully employed " the writer to make records of the handicraft exhibition the following morning, as did also Miss Cotterell and Mrs. Rogers on their side, and also to produce an instructional filmstrip and set of pictures of the new lathe. The last operation proved so interesting that the pictorial side of the work ran away with the instructional and the co-authors are at present too busy admiring their first set of pictures to set about completing the job.

On the Science side we had panels showing how shutter-speeds could be measured by rather obscure methods (contributed by Barry Barber and Richard Clymo) and a most praiseworthy couple of panels by Mary Sargeant showing an analysis of the technique of print making and some characteristic curves of negative materials. The latter display received special commendation from a visitor, who is one of Messrs. Ilford's research chemists. I have no room to elaborate on what he said, and in any case modesty forbids. We have no occasion to blow our own trumpet; we remain content to know our work is good.

Well, anyway, sometimes. In any case our central corridor display board is a most effective corrective for any tendency to swelled head. Long may it remain so. M. L. H.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ON July 1st members of " Natch " went for the annual outing. We went to Hatfield Forest, where we took different quadrates and sectors and plotted the plants that we found on graphs. At the end of the day we went on the lake, but no one managed to fall in, although several members had got rather wet during the day, owing to the marshy character of some of the ground.

During the Autumn Term we had one meeting devoted to short films, on the " Obelia," and the " Development of the Rabbit." In the next meeting papers were read by Heather Wright, Adam Kendon and Mr. Beeson. They were all very interesting. Miss Chanter came from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to give us a lecture on Rodent Control. Her lecture was illustrated by a film. Then last, but certainly not least, Mr. Darlington came to speak to us. He told us about his recent trip in the weather ship at Station Item, in the North Atlantic. He told us about the weather ship system in general, and then of his introduction

to the weather recorder. He gave us an impression of the crew, and the voyage out to the station, with special mention of Rockall. Then he described the things he saw whilst actually at Item, with emphasis on birds. His talk was very interesting indeed, and it was noted that attendance was very full, and there were several visitors.

The main activity of the term was the redwing watching, which was held, as last year, on two different week-ends towards the middle of the term. On the last occasion it rained all the time and hardly anything could be heard, owing to the wind, so the watching was stopped early.

COUPLES

THIS is a most engaging subject. Most of us of course find our friends on our own side of the house, but a small minority are actively interested from time to time in someone on the opposite side. Juniors begin after this fashion: 'A' writes a note to 'B,' (delivered by 'C'), inviting 'B' to be his or her couple. Reasons why the invitation should be accepted may or may not be adduced, depending on the greenness of the writer. The game continues with a written reply; if the answer is 'Yes,' the boy and girl are then an accepted couple. Next comes some banter from the onlookers—though there is a good deal less of this than there used to be. A problem then looms large, which is wholly absent when one's best friend is on the same side of the house, and that is, how to find time and opportunity for the daily bread of friendship—just chatting together. A couple can walk and talk on the Avenue or the Field, and at certain times there is a mixed common-room; but obviously that is not enough in the winter terms, and equally obviously the School authorities cannot allow us complete freedom to meet where and when we like; so a satisfactory solution to this problem—although it only affects perhaps a couple of dozen people at any one time—is still to be found.

Lower down the School, such a friendship continues for a few weeks, perhaps months, until it fades out, or is ended either by a rude remark when on one's way to the shutter during tea, or by a dramatic note from one party 'chucking' the other. Towards the top of the School, friendships begin and end less formally, last longer, and are no doubt more to the enrichment of both parties.

Amongst the Staff there is generally an attitude of benevolent neutrality towards couples. They would say that they have enough to do without butting into the friendships of the young (except when the centre corridor is full of obstacles to navigation).

For them, a remarkably reliable guide to the value of any friendship whether ' mixed ' or not—is its effect on the work of the two people concerned. A good friend is a wonderful stimulus for the mind as well as the heart. Incidentally, some of us who have come from other grammar schools are struck by the fact that the men and women on our Staff here seem to get on perfectly well with each other, even near the end of term !

As boys and girls are together for breakfast, dinner, nearly all lessons, and some school societies, most of them, especially the junior and middle school, see quite enough of each other. For they do live in differing ways : the boys are often rowdy, think at the tops of their voices, play whatever game is in fashion, or else enjoy being gloomily unsociable with their noses in books or comics. The atmosphere in a girls' classroom is different ; there they perch on desks and screech, or talk (often cattily) and knit, chatting about boys, girls, and people in general. On the boys' side, when they do talk and not merely shout table-tennis scores, it is about football, stamps, model-making, things in general (and girls).

In the VIth Form they are rather more grown up. They are no longer self-conscious about boys sitting next to girls ; the problem is to find a desk big encough to get one's legs under, not who sits beside whom ! They seem to mix much more freely and naturally than the rest of us. If it is true that they have learnt to understand and appreciate each other in a steady way, to live and work together sensibly and happily, then one of the most important lessons in life is being learned here without most of us being aware that it is happening.

JUST A THOUGHT

IT is an interesting comparison between the two rival powers in the world to-day—America and Russia. In both there is a likeness and a contrast in each apsect of the way of life and doctrine that these claim to uphold.

For a start let us look at their ideas on economics : here they are similar in that each upholds an extreme idea, and are different in that they are opposite extremes. In Russia every industry or financial project is controlled down to the last penny ; while in America the motto seems to be " Everyone for himself and the Devil take the hindermost."

Then let us look at the two views on personal freedom or freedom of ideas. Again they are similar in that they are extremes. In Russia you may hold any view you like as long as you keep ideas contrary to the State's opinions to yourself, while in America

you are able to express yourself freely—at least, you used to be able to—but by passing the Anti-Communist Bill they have destroyed one of their greatest assets towards calling themselves a freedom-loving nation. (Truman : " This Bill is a great mistake.")

There is yet another striking similarity that may be noticed : neither of the two creeds (Communism in Russia and ' Democracy ' in America) is able to maintain itself or spread by its own attractiveness, but has to be spread by force and defended by more force. In the case of Christianity, of which America possesses a feeble brand, its defence by force destroys one of its elementary principles and admits weakness in the doctrine.

To sum up, we have at the moment two opposite and opposed brands of Materialism, with not a lot to choose between them.

D. T. Corry, Form V

CHRISTMAS

Silently and softly the snow began to fall
Coating all the buildings and the trees,
Changing all the landmarks, covering up the paths,
And winter then the countryside did seize.

The children watched it gladly, thinking of the time
When they would be outside, all with their sledges,
Thinking of the snowballs, and the snow-men they would build,
Away there in the corner by the hedges.

Christmas isn't Christmas without a fall of snow,
And with the snow the shopping's much more fun ;
Pushing through the busy streets with Christmas in the air,
Of all the seasons, Christmas is the one.

Isobel Burden, Form III

TRANSLATION FROM THE GERMAN OF GOETHE

" Nähe der Geliebten "

NEARNESS OF THE BELOVED

I think of you when golden sunlight shimmers
Upon the sea.
I think of you when the pale moonlight glimmers
Enchantingly.

I see you when a cloud of dust dissembles
The highway wide ;
When the benighted traveller starts and trembles,
The bridge beside.

I hear you when afar with smaller thunder
The ocean roars ;
In quiet woods when, listening in wonder,
My spirit soars.

I am with you ; however far you wander,
To me you're near.
The sun sinks, soon the silver stars will light me.
Were you but here !

THE LARK

The wind blows cold and chill
Down the lonely lane ;
And yet the lark sings shrill
Above the red ploughed land,
So sweet, so shrill
His long, exultant trill
That I must pause and stand,
And listen in an ecstasy of pain,
Until I quite forget the wind is chill.

EXTRACT FROM THE BIOGRAPHY OF A BUSINESS MAN

MR. FATSWELLER dabbled a dubious toe in the water. At the same time the bath-mat slipped neatly from under his other foot and he was launched with undignified haste into water which seemed so eager to be introduced that it rose to meet him. The suspicions which he had had concerning the cause of the clouds of steam which filled the small room were immediately and effectively settled, and, emitting a mild oath, Mr. Fatsweller climbed out of the bath almost as quickly as he had entered it.

He turned on the cold tap and sadly regarded the large pool of water on the floor, but was jerked from his absent-minded wanderings by the realisation that the bath was nearly full. He bent forward to feel the water—this time with his fingers—only succeeding in burning that part of his pink body which stuck out furthest on the heated towel-rail.

Mr. Fatsweller sighed resignedly and lowered himself, as if by an invisible crane, into the white enamel bath. He reached for the scrubbing brush, but released it again as he leaned back and allowed the liquid heat to cover completely his gleaming torso.

There was silence for a full five minutes. At the end of that time Mr. Fatsweller slowly opened his eyes—and hurriedly shut them again. " Good heavens," he said aloud, " I'm going blind." He put a trembling hand up to his eyes—and relaxed visibly as his fingers unexpectedly met the horn-rimmed frames of his spectacles. He took them off carefully, wiped the steamed lenses on a towel, and replaced them in their rightful position on the bridge of his nose . . . .

Ruth C. Costain, Form VI

THOUGHTS IN MEETING

IT was with more than a slight reluctance that I sat down to meeting, for I knew that I was in for another session with my guardian angel and devil—or maybe I should say devil and angel.

Sure enough, no sooner had I settled than the discussion was opened.

" You haven't done very well this week," said my guardian angel. It has always been his privilege to open any conversation.

" She's certainly done enough work," butted in the devil.

" Nor have you tried very hard," went on the angel, taking no notice of the interruption. " The same as all this term. Isn't it about time you did some work ? "

" Why should she ? After all, she'll have to work all the rest of her life," said the devil, making excuses as usual; but, seeing that this was going to be one of the arguments of which I was so often left out, I told them to shut up.

" I really am going to try harder," I stated.

" Don't say you're going over to the other side," said the devil with a sigh, " that would be just heaven."

" I'm not on any side, as you well know."

" Not now, my dear, not now," said the angel with his kindly smile, " but when you are a little older . . . . "

" 'Twill be my side, you bet," said the devil, cocksure as ever.

" I'm going to work harder," I said, " whatever you say."

" Quite right, and so you should."

" Old-fashioned booby," said the devil. " Don't listen to him. Just you see if at the end of next week I'm not again making excuses for you." And in my heart I thought that he was probably right—but, seeing I was being converted the wrong way, I decided to change the subject.

Elizabeth Paul, Form V

ON IT BY AN ADDICT TO IT

I suppose that the majority of the people in this school, on hearing the word ' opium ' mentioned conjure up in their mind a rather hazy and fanciful picture of a comatose celestial inclined on a couch surrounded by clouds of smoke curling from a long thin pipe in which this same celestial is smoking a tobacco-like substance. In actual fact, opium is in many ways a very different thing from tobacco. It is a viscous black substance with a very distinctive odour. Unlike tobacco, it is not made from the leaves or stems of the plant, but is prepared by a complicated process of evaporation, boiling, and toasting from the juice extracted from the unripe capsules of one of the several varieties of opium poppy, preferably the White Poppy. Although the opium poppy may be grown in most places in the world, it requires good drainage and little rain if it is to produce good quality opium. For this reason it is cultivated quite extensively on the high plateaux of Persia and on the hillsides near Izmir in Turkey.

Just before ripening the poppy capsules swell enormously and possess a peculiar sheen. The optimum time for harvesting the opium is just after a slight rainfall when the capsules are in this condition. The harvesting, which takes place sometimes twice a year, in May and September, is started early in the morning. Large quantities of native labour are employed to incise the capsules and collect on a leaf the juice which flows out. Cheap and plentiful native labour is essential owing to the necessity for hand picking the large acreage required to produce a reasonable crop, and the high death rate of the workers, due to chronic opium poisoning.

Opium itself is a mixture of a large quantity of different substances. Many of them are of use in medicine. Anarcotine, for example, has been used against malaria, while morphine, the most active principle, may be used to allay pain. The action of the opium is due largely to the morphia, of which it may contain as much as 12 per cent., a very powerful narcotic drug producing, if taken in minute doses, coma often accompanied by pleasant dreams, usually of a ridiculous nature. It was from these opiated slumbers, with their fantastic vividness, that Dr. Quincey and Coleridge got their inspiration. Edgar Allen Poe captured the terror of his ghost stories and millions of Chinese escaped the grim reality of life by smoking opium.

In the smoke of opium the relatively small quantities of morphine present may cause some to doubt the potency of it. This, however, soon manifests itself when larger doses are taken, when deep coma rapidly followed by death occurs. Sometimes, however, opium is taken for the slight preliminary stipulation of the higher faculties which usually takes place, due to the also present drug,

cocaine, before narcotism sets in. An unpleasant characteristic of opium is the habit-forming action; moreover, it is sound that larger and larger doses are required to produce the narcotic effect, because an anti-toxin to morphine is produced in the blood. In spite of this, however, with larger doses, extraordinary tetanic convulsions become apparent, owing to the action of another drug, thebaine, for which no anti-toxin is formed. Also typical of the opium smoker is the well-known 'pin point' pupil.

Accounts as to the toxic qualities of opium vary. Most people now-a-days accept opium-smoking as the lowest form of moral and bodily degradation; but it is interesting to note an unbiased account published after an investigation by a Chinese firm. This firm was anxious to investigate to what extent the smoking of opium impaired their employees' capacity for work and concentration. The result of these investigations seemed to show that the amount smoked by the average worker was no more detrimental than tobacco smoking.

The correct way to smoke opium is to lie inclined on one elbow; to warm a metal spatula in the flame of a lamp; to apply this to the opium so that some melts and adheres to it, and to place a little opium gently on the rim of the bowl of the pipe over the lamp, and inhale two or three breaths of the delicious vapour. The post-mortem will show signs of death from asphyxia.

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