

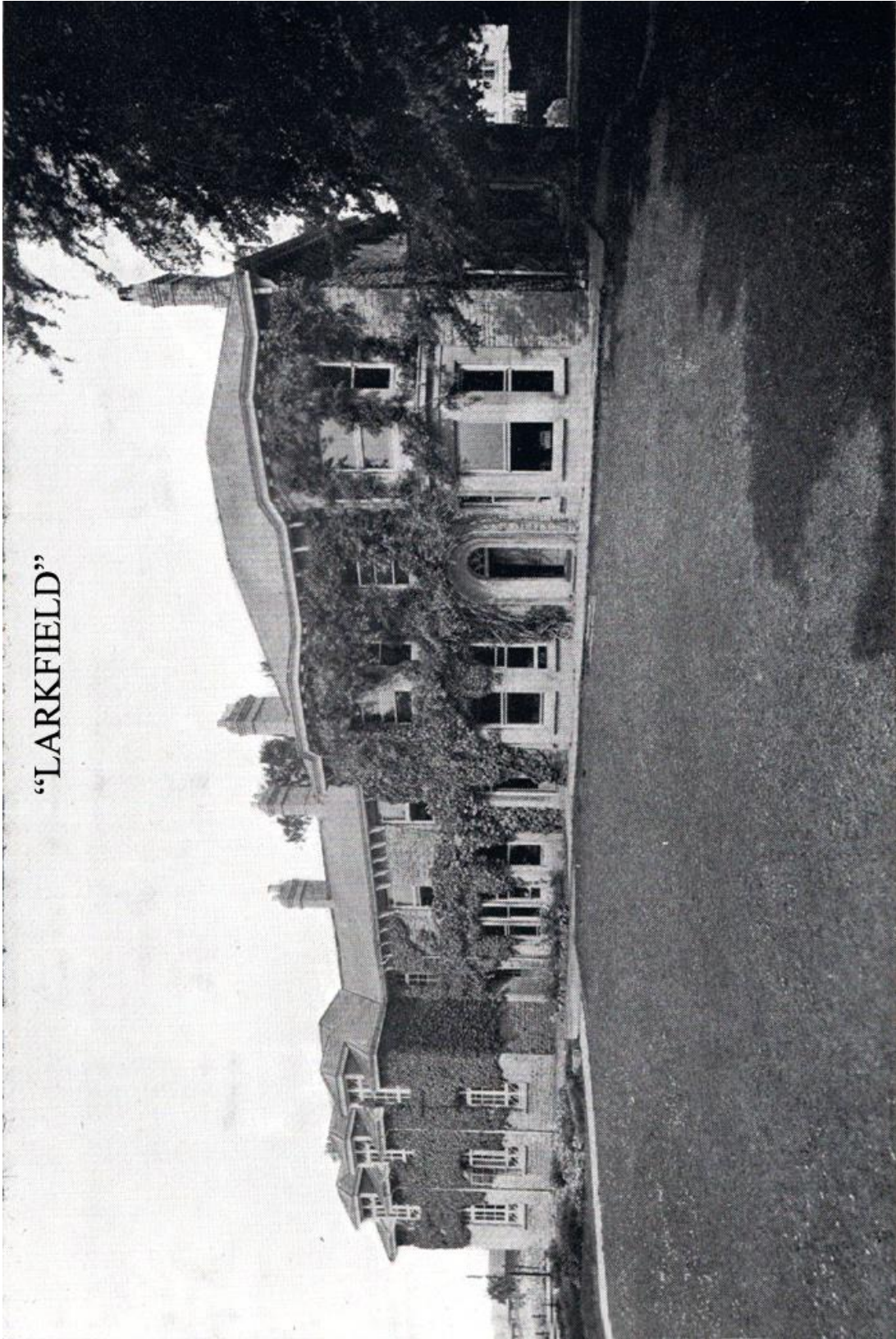
# “Larkfield Times”



1938-9

No. 5

“LARKFIELD”



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Dear Readers,

We have much Pleasure in presenting the fifth number of the School Magazine. For the past four years the Larkfield Times has been a great success and we hope it will be so once more. It is being published too early to include all the summer matches, but the other results will appear in next year's issue.

Articles are much more numerous this year, every member of the school having sent in a contribution. We regret that every one cannot be included through lack of space, but hope that those who have not been successful will not be discouraged and will try again next year. We are very pleased to receive more contributions from the Staff and Old Pupils. May we take this opportunity of congratulating the Old Students on the opening of a branch of the Association in London.

It is with great pleasure this year that we have to welcome our new headmaster. Major J. H. E. Webb. He has already introduced into the school several new ideas which have met with great success and have been widely appreciated. He has indeed proved himself a worthy successor of our late headmaster and we are sure he is very happy in his new surroundings. Let us hope that he will remain at Larkfield for many years to come.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who have helped in any way to make this magazine a success.

Yours truly,

**J. VICARAGE, G. WILLIAMS Co-editors,**

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### **HEADMASTER'S NOTES.**

It was a great pleasure to me to rejoin the staff of Larkfield in September last. Our country, at the time, was concerned in an international crisis of unparalleled magnitude. Although part of my time was occupied with matters other than those of the school, I quickly settled down to new associations at Larkfield. My thanks are due to my predecessor for having handed over to me the organisation and administration of the school in such good working order, and to the Staff for their friendliness and loyalty. Miss James resigned her post as French Mistress at the end of the Christmas Term and is now happily married and living in Cardiff. In her place. Miss Rees has joined the Staff and I am sure that she is very happy to be here.

Many have left the school since the last publication, and we hope they are now well started in suitable careers. We would like to direct the attention of both parents and pupils to the appointment of a Careers' Mistress and Master in the school and we welcome any inquiries. We offer to you all any help that we might be able to give you in choosing suitable employment.

Among the "Leavers" was John Moore who for almost eight years served the school faithfully and well. We wish him good luck and all prosperity.

Some "Leavers" have made a presentation of a book to the school library as a token of appreciation. We take this opportunity of expressing to them our sincere thanks for their generous gifts, and assure them that the volume will receive a place of honour in the school library.

Mention of the Prize Day, Sports Day, and other school functions appears elsewhere in this Magazine.



To the Chairman and Governors of the school we tender our warmest thanks for their untiring efforts to secure better working conditions in the school, and to the Monmouthshire Education Committee, the Director of Education and his Staff for granting these amenities.

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### **CHOOSING A CAREER.**

During the last term at school, each pupil has to make the important decision as to what work he or she will do on leaving.

Most pupils think of leaving school with delight, for now they are to throw off the restraints and discipline which they have had to suffer for so long. A new freedom is in view and each pupil thinks that he will be able to mould his own life a glorious prospect. But this new freedom is not the simple thing it appears to be in anticipation. The choice of a career has to be made involving new restraints and often sterner discipline. Many factors have to be considered, e.g., the pupil's own tastes and natural abilities, the depth of his parents' purse and the demand for labour in the career of his choice.

Deciding upon a career, then, is a question of great importance. All parents would wish to place their children in positions where the work would be congenial to them; but they are not always able to do this. Some careers require more capital than others. It is usually easy at the age of fifteen to start as an office boy with a view to entering business, but not so easy to enter one of the professions entailing heavy fees and the prospect of many years' hard work with no salary at all.

Are you going to enter a safe career in which progress, though slow, is automatic, or are you going to enter on a chancy career, wherein you are just as likely to fail as to rise to the top at great speed? The answer depends upon the character of the individual. A person who likes routine and orderliness had better choose the safe job, whereas a person who is highly ambitious, intolerant of discipline and loathes a job bound by hard and fast rules would be far happier in work of a speculative nature.

The work chosen may entail either handwork or headwork. Manual work is quite as dignified and honourable as mental work. Do not enter a profession because you think it stands high in the scale of social values. A wrong decision now and you may spend the rest of your days sitting on an office stool longing for the green fields and the open air. You are more likely to succeed in work which is congenial than in a profession in which you have no interest. If possible, choose a career which fulfils your dreams and ambitions.

#### **L. MORGAN, Careers' Master.**

The Headmaster would welcome inquiries from parents for an appointment to discuss their child's future career with him. Pupils, too, should make more use of the careers library and should not hesitate to seek advice "from the Careers Mistress or Master.

The following are brief notes dealing with a few careers:-

*Accountancy (Boys and Girls).*

1. School Certificate (with credit in Mathematics).
2. Five years as an articled clerk.
3. Premium varies from £100 to £300. This is usually returned in the form of a small salary during apprenticeship.
4. Fairly good prospects of employment after completing articles. Salary at least £250 per annum.

*Civil Service (Boys and Girls).*

Open competitive examinations to the different grades. Good prospects for a person who is lucky enough to enter the Civil Service. Inadvisable to concentrate wholly on Civil Service; a second choice should be available in case of failure to qualify.

*Medicine (Boys and Girls).*

1. Matriculation.
2. Five to six years in a medical school.
3. Average cost about £250 per annum.
4. Science subjects, which should if possible be taken in School, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.
5. Good prospects when qualified.

*Pharmacy (Boys and Girls).*

1. Good Senior, including Mathematics.
2. Three years' apprenticeship under qualified chemist.
3. Two years' full time tuition at a recognised training school after completing apprenticeship.
4. Cost. Some chemists require a premium of about £50. Fees at a recognised training school (e.g. Cardiff Technical College) about £16 per annum.
5. Good prospects when qualified.

*Surveying (Boys).*

1. School Certificate. (Credit in Mathematics).
2. Practical work as an articled surveyor.
3. Qualifying examination taken during apprenticeship.
4. When qualified should earn at least £250 per annum.

*Nursing (Girls).*

1. Good general education.
2. Minimum age to enter recognised training hospital (e.g., Newport, Bath, Cardiff) 18 years; L.C.C. hospitals, 17 years.
3. 3 to 4 years approved training.
4. Examinations taken during training period.
5. Very good prospects for suitable girls.

*Agriculture.*

Dairying, forestry, horticulture, market gardening, and poultry farming.

*Agricultural Degree Course.*

1. Matriculation.
2. 3 to 4 years' training at a University.
3. Cost, Board, Tuition Fees, and Books, about £150 per annum. It is possible to obtain generous grants. Government and Local.
4. Good prospects, e.g., under the Ministry of Agriculture, County Organisers, Lectureships and Government Posts abroad.

*Agricultural Diploma Course.*

1. Usually a Candidate must have one year's practical work.
2. Two to three years' training at an Agricultural College, e.g., Aberystwyth, Reading, Cambridge.
3. Cost about £100 per annum.
4. Diploma useful for specialists in practical work.

*Agricultural One Year Course.*

1. Previous experience not essential.
2. Cost about £60 per annum. It is possible to obtain free a one year course at Usk. Entrance examinations held in.

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## TIME.

Time to the child is something vague, indefinite, puzzling. When he is very small he is hardly conscious of it at all; certainly he is far from attaching to it that inordinate importance which will probably come in later years. At first he accepts the order of the universe with unquestioning good faith, spending his first years occupied mainly with eating and sleeping and bursts of unquenchable activity perfectly contented, for not yet have the alternate leaden feet and fleet wings of time begun to trouble his consciousness. But not for contentment's sake was the human animal given curiosity and the reasoning power which gave him superiority over the beasts of the field for whom no time, as we know it, exists. The little scholar has his first taste of life's sorrows as he sits at his narrow desk, watching with envious look the sunbeams streaming in through the window of the dingy school room. He realises that he is no longer free to enjoy the delights of butterfly chases or bird-nesting expeditions as his heart listeth; now he is tied to time whose inexorable force for the first time he begins to comprehend. The seeds are being sown of that realisation of the shortness of life which prompted the soliloquy of the old Persian Philosopher "One thing is certain that Life flies, one thing is certain and the Rest is Lies." Naturally this realisation is fragmentary, imperfect, unsure, but the careless, carefree child who lived in a golden world where time was not, is no more. From the moment of dawning comprehension the man's attitude to time will depend upon his individual character, surroundings and occupations.

In the modern world we may distinguish three different attitudes towards time, the employer's, the employed, and that strange class which for want of a better name we designate the idle rich. The first class represent a kind of superb egoism taking as its motto the phrase "Time is money". Of course what they mean to say, each one of them, is: "I am such an extremely important man that every moment of my life must be carefully utilised and on no account must my precious, time be made use of where not absolutely necessary". This type we owe mainly to the scientific inventions of recent years. The employee, too, is awaking to a somewhat similar attitude. He is also alive to the importance of time. Therefore he campaigns for shorter working hours in order that he may spend as much time as possible in enjoyment (Marlene Dietrich from the ninepennies). This attitude is hardly to be summed up as "a short life and a merry one," but he does maintain, and probably quite rightly, that if by joining a Trade Union he can work fewer hours with more pay, that is what he is going to do. The third class suffers from that most pernicious of all maladies, ennui. Its members have one purpose, "passer le temps," though sometimes they go so far as to make feeble efforts to kill time, but are possibly hampered by the fact that no one is quite certain as to what time actually is.

Theories concerning time occupy many writers to-day; foremost among these is Mr. J. B. Priestley, "I have been here before" deals, as its title suggests, with reincarnation and the relationship of past, present, and future. We speak of time "marching on" but as Mr. Priestley remarks, if time does the marching, what is it that remains stationary as a background against which the marching can be measured? Again we refer to the "flowing stream of time," now we know a stream is flowing because we see it moving between stationary banks; if time is the stream, what are the banks? We cannot measure time as we measure space, since we are dealing with two dissimilar factors. As an example of what he means Mr. Priestley gives the following hypothesis: 'Try to imagine yourself living in a world of two dimensions, you can recognise length and breadth but not height. Suppose into this world were plunged a sphere; as it passes through your two dimensional universe you cannot recognize it as a sphere at all. To you it is nothing but a line which changes its position as the sphere passes through. Similarly we who live in a three dimensional world may not be able to recognise the existence of a fourth dimension, which may exist but be beyond our powers of perception and measurement. This fourth dimension may be time". The subject is a very wide one and is puzzling many thinkers and scientists to-day.

At the opposite pole from the scientist stands the poet, for whom the subject of time in all ages has, because of its universality, been of great interest. From Chaucer onwards they have been voicing the sad fact that "time y-lost may not recovered be," that beauty fades but with the consolation that black ink may still preserve the memory of "Those women who were summer in men's hearts. Before the smile on the Sphinx was cold," and those men, hardly more than boys, some of them, who from 1914 to 1918 "poured out the red sweet wine of youth" in the service of their country. In this age of cold science and pessimism as to the future of mankind, we may be grateful to our poets who can describe the twenty-four hours which make up our day as, "from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings." They alone, of all mankind, possess the philosopher's stone which turns base metals into fine gold and an everyday incident into a thing of breathtaking beauty. And in these days when the horrors of scientific warfare are increasing daily we have need of poets to help us fight unreasoning panic.

Unquestionably, I think, the child and those uncivilised peoples who make no account of time are the happiest. As soon as we begin to become slaves to the clock and to punctuality we have forfeited true happiness. The Chinese, the wisest of peoples, have realised this and so have those monks of whom Hazlitt writes and who carved upon their sundial this motto : "Horas non numero nisi serenas," "I number only the serene hours". This is surely how it should be? But the modern world says rather "You know how little time we have to stay, and once departed may return no more". Where this attitude will lead us no-one can tell, or whether the discovery of a fourth dimension may not change all our existing ideas about time. It might perhaps be asked if, with all our devices to save time and our frantic desire to make the most of our little span, we are any wiser than the -philosopher poet who signifies his acceptance of life as it is in a metaphor which will not, perhaps, offend Mr. Priestley :

"The Bird of Time has but a little way  
To fly and Lo ' the Bird is on the Wing."

**B. BARTLETT, Form VI.**

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### **THE LARKFIELD GRAND PRIX.**

It was a fine sunny day when the Staff who had entered for the race or the year lined up in their samples of cars. The course was very hazardous, ten laps of a hundred yards each had to be covered and there were some nasty corners to be taken.

The only women competitors were Miss Davies and Miss Rees both driving Baby Austins". It was the first -race Miss Davies had taken part in, having only passed her driving test a few months before. Mr. Edwards was driving a dilapidated looking car which was called Hercules probably after the name of his new bicycle on which he had been training. This man was the dark horse of the race because he had never been seen driving before. Mr. Wilding was driving his ancient looking Morris, which he declared was the best car on the road. His only supporter was Tamplin, because it was Tamplin's father who had sold the car to our master. The remaining competitors were Mr. Morgan and Mr. Westcott.

The cars started off with a roar leaving a cloud of smoke behind, also Mr. Wilding who was feverishly examining the interior of his car. Mr. Tamplin rushed out to him, said something to him, and Mr. Wilding was seen to switch on the ignition. The car then started off with a banging and spluttering. Miss Davies had taken the lead and with it the wing of Mr. Edwards' beloved "Hercules." The leader had a grim determined look in her eyes as she took the first bend. Suddenly a loud explosion was heard and Mr. Edwards flashed past the other cars at twenty miles an hour, taking a corner on two wheels, at the sight of which Miss Rees fainted and ran into the safety fence. Upon recovering, she muttered something in Latin which even her brainiest pupil, Edwards, could not understand. '



Mr. Edwards had taken the lead, to the disgust of Miss Davies who was lying second Mr. Morgan was third Mr. Westcott fourth, and Mr. Wilding last. The school was cheering the leader on but the strain must have been too great, because he stopped, ate three packets of "Smarties" and started off again. "Smarties," declared Mr. Edwards later on, were very good for nervousness. Mr. Westcott had stopped with a puncture, and Mr. Wilding passed him at a steady 10 m.p.h., the most he could get out of his car.

With three laps to go Miss Davies was in the lead, Mr. Morgan second, Mr. Wilding third, and owing to his stoppage, Mr. Edward last but with another bang the latter's car jumped forward, nearly shaking itself to pieces, then rushed forward at a terrific speed with Mr. Edwards muttering French to himself (a sparkle in his eyes) He soon covered a lap making record time, and took second place behind the "Baby", Austin which was going along steadily with cloud of steam over the radiator, owing to her steady pace and evaporation of water. Hercules" then took the lead, Mr Edwards giving a sweet smile to the driver of the Austin whose reply was a real sour look. By now the boys in the grandstand were in a frenzy and Mr. Robinson was telling them to leave all their comment until after the race or else he would have some criticisms to make in the morning. With a roar Mr. Edwards passed the winning post with Miss Davies second, Mr. Morgan third and Mr. Wilding last, while Mr. Westcott was still mending his puncture. After the race I managed to get an interview with some of the drivers.

Mr. Edwards said : "I put my win down to my serious training and to the "Smarties". Now I must be off because I have a form in detention."

Miss Davies said : "I was thinking hard what questions I would give 5a to-morrow for a test. That is why I was not first, but I will get my revenge on 5a."

Mr. Wilding stated: "If Tamplin had been quicker I might have stood a chance."

So ended the exciting race day of 1939 and now all the pupils are looking forward to the event next-year.

With apologies to all concerned.

**A. W. COOMBS.**

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### **ALL ABOUT TENNIS.**

Tennis is, of course, the fine old original game of "you pat it to me, and I pat it to you." A net was then introduced to make it more difficult. Then the Wimbledon mind was introduced to make it more difficult still, and then finally we have Mr. Donald Budge to make it practically impossible.

If my history is not at fault, tennis entered into England during the reign of King Henry V. The somewhat vulgar Dauphin of the period sent the young king a chest of tennis balls, adding: "I hope these will turn to gallstones."

Henry replied : "You tell him that we will come over and we will quench his light so well that it will never be lit again."

The match was fought out on the Agincourt, and England won set to nil. Missing, believed dead, the Dauphin.

The ruling force of tennis at this time, the Wimbledon Mind, was •worn above a two-inch stiff collar and a regimental tie. A newspaper man once had many gay little passages with the Mind. They go like this: "Can you tell me a promising young woman player for the Davis Cup?"

"No."

"Can you tell me about amateurism in tennis?"

"No."

"Can you tell me the time?"

"No."

"Well, can I have a knock upon that empty court over there?"

"No."

The only way to crash into the devoted circle is to become a tennis player. The first thing to do is to cultivate a court personality. "Bunny" Austin does it by using a racquet which was once the left snowshoe of a small Eskimo. Mr. Fred Perry used to leap over the net. Others continually announce that they are turning professional, or have just ceased not getting married. It is all a matter of technique.

Then a day will come when somebody will draw your name from a silver ewer and will say with some reverence "Jimmy Snodgrass."

And then the thrill ! The knowledge that the world of radio is listening to the gripping account: 'Snodgrass to Coote, Coote to Snodgrass, Snodgrass to Coote, Coote into the net. Snodgrass serves. Coote to Snodgrass, Snodgrass to Coote, Coote to Snodgrass, Snodgrass into the net, Coote into the net. New set. Coote to Snodgrass, Snodgrass to Coote, Coote to Snodgrass -----.' I determined to learn this tennis racket. All over the country there are fine tennis schools and clubs with special coaches. I visited a well known tennis school. I bought the cleanest pair of short panties I ever saw. I also bought an eye shade, a ball and a polo sweater. I have a racquet. When the club secretary saw it he said, "Going shrimping?" Most of the other young men and women had five or six racquets each. I asked the secretary if they were trying to sell them. He said they were not.

"Matter of gut strain," he said shortly.

I was handed over to a jolly, gingery haired young fellow who plays for his county.

"Mornin'," he said cheerily.

"Mornin'," I smiled.

"Feeling fit?"

"N," I agreed. (You soon pick up the dialect).

He went to one end of the indoor court. I picked up a ball, threw it up and swung my racquet. Then I threw it up again. Then I hit it. When the nice chap who plays for his county had picked himself up and could see out of his left eye, he said, rather ominously: "Now I'll serve to you."

It was what we tennis fellows call a cannon ball. There are various methods of meeting it. Personally, I found that if you leap high in the air and throw your legs wide apart, you have a fair chance of safety. More advanced players would try to send the ball back, but I was hardly going to let him have it back. He might have done it again, mightn't he ?

Then I had a pleasant little knock up with a pretty young thing with a face of an angel and the biceps of an ironworker.

"A little loosenin' up?" she smiled.

"Just a little, thank you very much."

We played. I enjoyed it thoroughly. I was not, however, assisted in my lesson, by ribald youths who stood near and sang: "Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man."

Then one said, "Charles, he hit it that time !"

Then the other said, "No, Arthur, it was the time before last!"

I then changed and collected my eye shade, my pants, my racquet, and my ball. I shook hands all round, and with a gay laugh ran lightly off the court, leaping the net on the way. At least that was my intention. I came to very soon and they said the bump was not very serious.

#### **D. MARGRETTTS, Form Vb.**

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AIRCRAFT APPRENTICE.**

"Here, what's this; get out of those beds, it's twenty to seven !" The stentorian voice of the Duty Senior N.C.O. breaks in on our after reveille doze and with a start we leap out of bed and dash off to wash. After doubling to the dining hall for our tea and biscuits we dress for P.T. in vests, shorts, and gym shoes. Thus practically every morning someone has to shake us since, like every healthy human being, we dislike being disturbed during a rest.

At this camp situated eight miles from Wolverhampton, we have a total personnel of about three thousand. These are divided into wings and sub-divided into squadrons. Therefore each squadron has a different routine every day. As I myself am attached to "C" squadron, No. 1 wing, I will deal with the routine of that unit and as space will not allow me to write the routine of seven days, I will describe that of a Thursday, which in this unit is the hardest day of the week.

Reveille is blown at 6.30 a.m. and after washing and dressing for P.T. we partake of our "Gunfire," or tea and biscuits, and parade at 6.55. P.T. lasts but a quarter of an hour, and from 7.15 to 7.40 we dress leisurely, since boots and buttons are usually cleaned the previous night, and proceed to breakfast.

At 8.20 we proceed for colour hoisting, followed by half an hour's rifle drill for those of us who are of the senior entries. At 9.20 we parade for school. Here we learn the Theory of Engines, Engineering Drawing, Engineering Science, and general studies which comprise Modern History and the History of the famous events of the world.

We finish at 12.20 and have dinner. We receive pay at 13.30 hours and proceed directly to the workshops. Those of us who are Fitter Engineers go to the Engines workshop and those who are armourers go to the Armament Depot. Here we learn the mechanism, theory, repairs, and general maintenance of all machine guns, rifles, pistols, bombsights, and bombs.

We finish at 17.25 hours and after tea the evening is free. We have plenty of entertainments. Attached to the school is a society which has thirty hobby sections, including Philately, Chess, Model Engineering, Dramatics, Cycling, even Dancing lessons. We also have a large cinema where we have the latest films and news. We have seen such previous releases as "Gunga Din" and "The Crowd Roars," and have seen all the tour of Their Majesties the King and Queen, so far.

Around 21.00 hours we wash and shave for the morrow and clean boots and buttons. Last post is blown at 21.05 hours and "lights out" at 21.30. This call is welcomed by all and the chap who makes a noise after "lights out" will find himself in general disfavour. This ends what is termed a "hard day" in the life of an aircraft apprentice at Cosford.

**Leading Aircraft Apprentice F. W. FYFIELD**

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### **A DREAM.**

All yesterday I was spinning,  
Sitting alone in the sun;  
And the dream that I spun was so lengthy,  
It lasted till day was done.

I heeded not cloud or shadow,  
That flitted over the hill,  
Or the humming bees, or the swallows,  
Or the trickling of the rill.

I took the threads for my spinning  
All of the blue summer air,

And a flickering ray of sunlight  
Was woven in here and there.

The shadows grew longer and longer,  
The evening wind passed by,  
And the purple splendour of sunset  
Was flooding the western sky.  
But I could not leave my spinning,  
For so fair my dream had grown,  
I heeded not, hour by hour,  
How the silent day had flown.

At last the grey shadows fell around me,  
And the night came dark and chill,  
And I rose and ran down the valley,  
And left it all on the hill.

I went up the hill this morning,  
To the place where my spinning lay—  
But nothing save glistening dewdrops,  
Remained of my dream today.

**L. Parr, Form 11a.**

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### **AN ENJOYABLE AND INSTRUCTIVE AFTERNOON.'**

On May 15th the boys of the fourth form visited the works of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. Officials of the company conducted us through the works in three parties.

The present company acquired the works in 1924. It continued and amplified the constructional work which had been initiated by the building of Brunei's famous tubular bridge over the Wye in 1852. From 1852 until 1914 the works were carried on by Messrs. Ed. Finch and Co., Ltd. In 1914 the Government acquired the concern. The equipment was altered and enlarged and the whole then became a national shipyard.

The Chepstow Branch of the company makes all kinds of constructional work requiring iron and steel girders and plate. Examples of such work include bridges, gasometers, pylons, hangars, buoys, steel railway wagons, pontoons, dock gates. The company has to its credit the construction of work unique from the point of view of magnitude, workmanship and fundamental reliability. At Barking the company has built the highest pylon in the country; the Mount Stuart Dock gates at Cardiff are another example of the high standard of its products. At present it is making and erecting the constructional work for Wandsworth Bridge across the Thames. Chepstow Town should be proud of a company which is engaged in so firmly rivetting the links which enter into our national superstructure. As we were conducted from one department to another we were able to see the result of accumulated experience which makes for perfect adaptation of a means to a particular end. In the pattern shop we saw blue prints based on calculation of stresses and strains which determined the design and dimensions of the essential parts. Templates were made from these prints. The keynote here was absolute accuracy because on these were laid the foundations of the future work. From here we passed to see a bevelling machine planing off strips of metal. We were then shown the rivetting department where hot rivets were hammered or pressed by automatic riveters. We saw the cranes whose lifting power at extreme radius was equal to five tons. Afterwards we saw the workshops, blacksmiths, fitting

shops with lathes, arc welding, moulding of castings from molten iron brought from the furnaces. Air Compressors, Rotary Converters and Transformers for producing voltages and current for particular requirements. In all these we saw the combination of scientific knowledge, the skill and precision of execution.

In the large sheds were two gantries used for carrying massive pieces of iron from one machine to another. Here we saw the heavy rollers, hydraulic presses, punching machines and batteries for drills. In all these departments we were impressed by the way in which iron sheets, angle irons, girders, etc., up to half an inch thick, were made to conform to requirements by the undeniable pressure of ponderous machinery. We also noticed that even here the personal element was an important factor in the way in which machinery fashioned metal into the required shape.

Although on leaving the works at the end of the afternoon we were all rather tired, having walked so much, we felt that we had spent a most profitable afternoon in seeing so many interesting machines. The visit awakened a desire to understand more of the background in which such mechanical perfection is based. Perhaps we may be pardoned if later the inertia of human nature and the attractions of the outside world have led us away from the paths of engineering science.

We very much appreciated the kindness of the company and its officials in giving us unsparingly of their time, also their inexhaustible patience in explaining the details of machinery and combating our occasional obtuseness when failing to appreciate essential processes.

**W. Robinson.**

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### **THE WYE VALLEY.**

One of the most beautiful districts in the whole of England is the Wye Valley. The beauty of the Wye Valley does not lie only in its scenery, for on its banks stand cathedrals, castles and churches, all of which possess beauty in one form or another.

The River Wye rises in Plynlimmon and meanders peacefully along its ever winding bed. After flowing past Hereford, Ross, Monmouth, Tintern, and Chepstow and other towns and villages, it at last reaches its sister river, the Severn. The Wye and the Severn then go hand in hand to the Bristol Channel.

If we were to take a boat trip down the Wye, the first famous place we would come to would be Hereford. Hereford existed in the Anglo-Saxon times. Here stands the great Hereford Cathedral. The architecture of the Cathedral is varied in its styles, amongst them being Gothic, Norman and Early English. After going down the river and rounding one of the horse-shoe bends, which are familiar features on the Wye, we would at last arrive at Ross. Ross is known as the gateway of the Wye. At Ross we see the old Parish Church which dates back to the thirteenth Century. The Architecture is Gothic. Its spire is 208 feet high, and in 1852 this spire was struck by lightning and 60 feet had to be rebuilt. A curious fact about the church at Ross is that there is an elm tree growing inside the building. In the neighbourhood of Ross are the ruins of Goodrich Castle. Ross also possesses other castles such as Wilton, Penyard and Skenfrith. Before reaching Monmouth we come upon the famous Symonds Yat. From here we have a lovely view of the surrounding district.

We now come to the quaint old town of Monmouth, which is the birthplace of Henry V. Monmouth has its Parish Church of St. Mary standing close to the castle and St. Thomas' Church by the side of the Monnow Bridge. About eight miles from Monmouth is the historic Raglan Castle,

Passing Monmouth we come to the lovely village of Tintern, with its ancient Abbey. The Abbey was deserted when Henry VIII destroyed a great number of monasteries. Leaving Tintern we pass the Wynd Cliff and then the land on the right bank becomes wooded. In the woods are some beautiful walks, but these are not very well known today. Rounding another horse-shoe bend we see before us the ruins of the old Norman castle at Chepstow. In Chepstow there is also an old Norman

church. In the centre of the town is a Norman archway and part of the old Norman Port Wall. A few hundred years ago Chepstow was a very famous port. Chepstow is the last town on the Wye. Three miles past Chepstow, at Beachley, a very beautiful spot, the Wye joins the Severn.

**S. Greene. Form IVb.**

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**IN SEARCH OF A CAREER.**

When I was a small child I took a dislike to anyone who asked me what I intended to do when I grew up. I had no idea! That does not mean to say I had no ambitions, but I always felt that the question of my career depended largely upon my parents' income. On leaving school I went to London and with the help of the Headmistress's Association started to work as a clerical assistant in a Government office. The hours were good, pay more than I thought I was worth; work interesting at first but becoming very monotonous in time. I was always absolutely terrible at Maths so you will agree that I could hardly feel comfortable doing calculations all day. Anyway, I survived, and it did me the world of good because it gave me confidence and self-reliance.

Applications were being invited for women for 32 appointments of Almoners' Clerks in the Public Assistance Department of the London County Council. The successful candidates were to be given facilities for obtaining the certificate of the Institute of Hospital Almoners. This scheme interested me and I applied. After a series of interviews I was appointed and started work in an East End hospital. The training will take four to five years. For three years the clerks will work in an Almoner's office to gain practical experience. At the same time they will attend the University of London (Extension Committee) evening classes to get a diploma in Social Science and Economics. There will be a grant of study leave for a period of six months. After this they will do three months study of case work and home visiting in the Recovery of Expenses Branch of the Local Public Assistance Office, and then three months study of Almoner's work at a Council Hospital under the tuition of the Certificated Almoners. The final stage is to pass the Institute of Hospital Almoners Examination to become a Certificated Almoner.

The duties of an Almoner vary to some extent with the prosperity or poverty of the borough in which she is working. The people of a lower social status naturally need more help and advice. The Almoner has to obtain such reports of the environments of the patient as the Superintendent may require for the purposes of medical treatment; and to report to the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough or appropriate voluntary agencies such information as the patient is willing to be given about his or her home affairs or circumstances, in order that action can be taken to avoid anxiety detrimental to the patient's recovery or unduly early discharge on this account. Patients, who require treatment after discharge other than that provided at the hospital, must be recommended to special agencies such as the district nursing service, school medical service, local tuberculosis dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centre, and many more organisations. Every person admitted to hospital must be interviewed and a separate report made out on each one. Every out-patient has to see the Almoner, who decides what he or she is able to pay towards the cost of their treatment. The patients in the East End are very interesting in spite of their difficult names such as Rabinovitch or Schneiderman. Since this area is mainly dockland, the patients are of every nationality, Maltese, German, Italian and French are well represented. This of course, accounts for the extraordinary mixture of names. When interviewing these patients, a knowledge of other languages is very useful. In general, the patients are very pleasant to deal with, and they are so grateful for a few kind words and for someone to be interested in their troubles.

I have written this, not because I think I have made some great achievement, but because this may help many others who must be about to leave school with no idea as to what they want to do. Immediately after leaving school is the time for doing specialised training which can be obtained at an



evening school for a very small fee. The whole social service system of this country has grown up very rapidly and is likely to continue to do so, which makes me more confident that this is a field of employment which has good prospects.

**V. M. Bevan.**

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**THE KILL.**

At the bottom of the little valley stood a group of people talking and looking upwards at a steep wooded slope that ran down almost to the narrow winding lane.

"They reckon he's in the quarry behind the limekiln," said one of the men.

"D'ye think they'll ketch 'un?" asked a woman.

"Ay, they'll ketch 'un all right," he answered.

"Poor thing," said the woman.

The man grunted and spat. "Thee wasn't so fond of foxes when thee missed that pullet on Thursday night," he remarked.

"There's a huntsman now", exclaimed another man. "See him? In the copse, look, just above the quarry." And bobbing among the slim trees that encircled the little disused quarry was the red coat of a huntsman. Behind him, only the rhythmic movement of the red coat to show that he was on horseback, rode another. They rode along the top of the quarry and suddenly burst from the copse into the green meadow that bordered it. Effortlessly over the low black hedge the hunters sailed, first one, then the second, magnificent tawny creatures, their riders' coats brilliant in the sunlight against the vivid green of the field. A single hound followed, then a couple, then the whole creamy river of the pack poured over the hedge, flowing noiselessly into the green meadow, flooding it with a white pool that constantly writhed and changed, ebbed and rippled. Separated, gathered and dispersed again as the hounds followed the intricate pattern of the scent.

A man carrying a pitch-fork on his shoulder, and panting from the great haste with which he walked, strode past the group at the root of the lane without speaking, his head thrust forward and his eyes fixed greedily on the copse. Away in the distant field, a square old farmer, drunk-with cider, was hurrying towards the scene at a great pace, stumbling over furrows, scrambling through hedges, and hollering mightily the whole time. The hounds meanwhile had been led by the scent and an occasional encouraging yap from one or other of their number, back to the edge of the copse, and some had already plunged into the undergrowth by the time the words of the old farmer, now in a highly agitated condition, and not more than a quarter of a mile off, could be properly distinguished.

"You won't find no fox in there," he bellowed, "th'old varmint be under yon bush," indicating a diminutive holly bush in a corner of the meadow that would barely have afforded retreat for a rabbit. The people standing together laughed, but one of the huntsmen wheeled his horse sharply and glared across the fields at the old idiot.

"Shut up," he called, and his voice sounded in the valley like the crack of a whip, "you're lifting their heads. "For some of the hounds, attracted by the prolonged and vociferous shouts, had abandoned the scent and stood watching the old man, whose cries subsided at this command, which in no way reduced his anxiety to get there before anything happened, but caused him to growl morosely to himself for the remainder of the distance. He had succeeded in crossing the last fence when an indescribable din broke out in the quarry, so that he commenced a wierd and cumbersome gallop across the last field, accompanied now by louder yells than ever, for the valley rang with the melodious baying of the whole pack of hounds mingled with the excited shouts of men, and the crashing of the undergrowth as heavy boots trampled the young shoots. The knot of people at the bottom turned towards the disturbance.

"They've found him," announced one of them. "Coming up?" And the group moved off up the lane. They walked leisurely, strung across the road, half a dozen of them in all, and as they turned a bend in the lane they came upon a big black Rolls standing a few yards away at the top of the hill. The two women stopped at once, the men faltered for a moment, and stopped as well.

"It's 'er from the 'All," whispered one of the women, awestruck at their supposed temerity in thus presenting themselves within the range of that noble lady's vision. "I'm not coming. I'm going back."

"Come on," her husband growled, "who are they, anyway? We can get over this stile; haven't got to pass 'em."

Reassured by this ingenious compromise, the women took heart, and after self-consciously negotiating the stile, stood safely in the field and heaved a sigh of relief. The four men clambered up after them and they climbed along the side of the copse to a spot overlooking the quarry. The bottom of the quarry was a mass of yelping dogs and shouting men, all staring upwards at the opposite wall of the quarry. And there, on a narrow ledge, stretched the lean red body of a fox. For ten minutes he hung there motionless with his head on his paws. He was so still he might have been dead.

"He looks about all in, don't he?" said one of the men at last. The clamour continued unabated the whole time in the quarry until one of the huntsmen climbed out of the hollow and went to the saddle-bag on his horse. He descended again with a pistol in his Hand.

"They are not going to shoot him?" asked a woman's voice, shrill in the sudden silence that had fallen. A man answered quietly. "No they want to shift -un." A shot rang out. Every eye was glued to that ledge, three-quarters of the way up the sheer earth wall, watching for the fox to move, but he didn't twitch a muscle. The hounds started again, whimpering, scuffling, yelping. Men moved about once more, snapping twigs under their feet, rustling branches, trying to cut a pole long enough to reach the fox. Startingly the pistol cracked again. This time the silence followed the shot. Those who had been watching the ledge had seen a spurt of red earth leap from the quarry face a foot above the beast. And still the fox hadn't moved. Then, with what seemed a gesture of superb scorn, he slowly lifted his head, turned it to gaze insolently upon his adversaries below, and, having regarded them steadily for some time, dropped his muzzle back on his paws.

But the hounds had seen him move now, and there was no holding them they grew wild with excitement. A man with a long pole had struggled through the bushes to the foot of the wall, and was clumsily trying to touch the fox. The flickering tip was scraping back and fore in slow arcs about a foot below the ledge. The man found a new footing, and the tip reached the ledge. Then he jumped. Nobody saw him leave the ledge. He had been there and in a split second he was gone. Then they saw him again. He had jumped upwards perpendicularly, and they saw the red streak of his body literally hanging in space within an ace of the top. There were two hounds waiting patiently for him there, but two were better than a pack. But he missed. He had reached the end of his jump when they saw him. He slipped backwards, scrambling ineffectually for a foothold on the very ledge where he had lain, turned in midair, and dived like an arrow into the centre of the seething mass beneath.

The group looking down from the edge of the copse waited for a moment, as if not knowing what to do. One of them raised his eyes and looked at his companions. "All over," he said, and strode away.

**E. A. Stephens.**

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## A "JOB LOT" ON THE HISTORY OF AUCTIONEERING.

If one likes to dignify the system of Barter with the title of Auction (and the underlying principle is the same), there is no doubt that the profession has been practised in some form or another since the earliest times. One can easily imagine a Palaeolithic auctioneer obtained bids of three stone axes, five spear heads or such like offers, for the Very Fine Mammoth Tusk which he then offered, and to which he drew the special attention of the public.

The preliminaries to marriage, among many uncivilised peoples, consist of the male bringing gifts to the parents of the girl. If the parents consider that the gift is not of sufficient value, they refuse their consent. The suitor can take this as final, or bring a more valuable present. One presumes that when two prospective husbands arrive at the same time, they increase their offers like bidders at a sale room.

When Herodotus was writing to the Babylonians in his History (I have been given this from excellent authority), he described one of their customs the "Wife. Auction." By means of this, they managed to find husbands for all their young women. The greatest beauty was first put up and knocked down to the highest bidder; then the next in loveliness was likewise sold, and so on. The girl who was neither beautiful nor ugly was given away gratis. Then the least plain was put up, and "sold" to whoever would marry her for the least consideration; then the next slightly plainer was sold, and so forth, until the ugliest was disposed of, whose "buyer" evidently preferred money to good looks.

The last "wife auction," if one can call it such, that took place in this country was the one forming the subject of an incident in Hardy's "Mayor of Casterbridge."

At Rome there were two types of auctions; *auctio heredaria*, and *auctio sub hasta*. By the former was meant a public sale of a deceased person's goods. Such a sale was conducted, by a *Magister Auctionis*, elected by the *Argentarii*, the great bankers and merchants. The place, time and conditions of sale were announced by crier or by public notice. I am given to understand that in "Menaechmei," a play by Plautus (who wrote most of his plays between 194 and 184 B.C.), the following passage occurs:

'My brother, as you will, I will hold an auction here and sell whatever there is. Now in the meanwhile brother, let us go indoors.

"Very well."

"Do you know what I ask you?"

"What?"

"To make me your Auctioneer." (Lit. To give me the Crier's wages.)

"It shall be done." (Lit. They shall be given.)

"Do you, wish me therefore to announce than Auction will take place? On what day. The Seventh."

"Menaechmus will hold an Auction without fail on the seventh day. Slaves, household goods, the house and land, will be sold. Everything will be sold, for what they will fetch, cash down. The wife also will be sold if any buyer comes."

The *auctio sub hasta* was originally for the sale of military spoils only, and a spear set in the ground denoted this. In time, these two classes of auction came largely to mean the same thing, the spear being used as a sign of the right to hold the sale.

There are big gaps in the history of auctioneering. One cannot believe that it perished with the Roman Empire, and suddenly appeared in this country about the time of the Tudors. It is more feasible to assume that some form of auction-candle, candlestick Dutch or Dumb was practiced under the auspices of the Parish clerk or some other local notability during these periods, and was sufficiently customary to pass uncommented.

Candle auctions".are known to us all by name, and, in Pepys Diary there are some interesting accounts of them. On November 6<sup>th</sup> 1606 we read: "In grate haste----to our office where we met all for the sale of two ships by an inch of candle (the first time that I ever saw any of this kind, where I observe how they do invite one another and at last they all do cry and we have much to do to tell who did cry last". On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1662, he mentions another, and adds that it is pleasant to see how backward men are at first to bid; and yet when the candle is going out they bawl and dispute afterwards who bid the most first. And here I observe one man cunninger than the rest, that was sure to bid the last man and carry it; and enquiring the reason he told me that just as the flames goes out, the smoke descends, which is a thing I never observed before and by that he do know the instant when to bid last, which is very pretty

Auctioneers are as liable to satire as are other professional men; a Christie (of that world-famous London firm) was the subject of both the following quotations : "Let me entreat Ladies Gentlemen, permit me to put this inestimable piece of elegance under your protection only observe,----- The inexhaustible Munificence of your superlative candid Generosity must HARMONISE with the refulgent Brilliancy of this little Jewel !. "(From a colour-print, "Eloquence, or the King of Epithets, by H. Humphrey).

The second is called "The hanging Wood, or a Pall Mall Puff " and is from a colour-print by John Woodward. It represents the wrath of a member of the public, a most bestial looking fellow incidentally, who cries:

"Curse your high-flown advertisements! A pretty jaunt I have had. I saw the house to be sure, and that was as much as I could do. But where the Devil is the HANGING WOOD you so much talk about? To which Christie replies: "My Dear Sir, be calm. it is entirely your own fault. You must have overlooked that inestimable little jewel, the Gallows on the north side of the paddock, and if that is not a HANGING WOOD, I don t know what is."

Punch," in a more gentle fashion, poked fun at an auctioneer on the sale of the animals of the Surrey Zoological Gardens, Kensington. We do not quite understand how the sale is to be managed or how Mr. Stevens of King Street, Covent Garden, proposes to knock down the elephant. We should not be surprised if, while the Auctioneer is soliciting an advance upon the tiger the tiger were to make a sudden and unexpected advance upon the audience, and there are some lots that will hardly be under sufficient restraint to enable the porters to display them ---- it is possible that while the Auctioneer describes a lot of monkeys as "Going, going," one or more of the mischievous brutes may be gone before he is aware of it."

On the other hand, one auctioneer at least J. Millington was graced with an elegy when he died, his admirer reminding the world that:-

"No more will he now at your service stand,  
    Behind the desk, with mallett in his hand.  
No more the value of your books set forth,  
    And sell 'em by his Art for twice their worth.

Come, gentlemen, come, bid what you please,  
    Upon my word it is a curious piece;  
Done by a learned hand and neatly bound,  
    What say you? Come, I'll put it up one pound,  
One pound, once, twice ? Fifteen who bids a Crown ?  
    Then shakes his head, with an affected frown;  
'Good lack-a-day, 'tis strange,' then strikes a blob.  
    Then in a feigned passion lets it go.

Then in his hand another; piece he takes,  
And in its praise a long harangue he makes."

**Herbert J. Madley. 1928—1934.**

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### **LLANMARTIN.**

From the road Llanmartin appears to be a very dull, lifeless place. This is chiefly because it is so scattered, but it is not without its places of interest. The first is Pen-Coed Castle.

Pen-Coed Castle is the remains of one of six small feudal castles which once encircled Wentwood, hence its name, meaning "end of the wood." During the time of the Tudors it was a country residence of great size and magnificence, erected by the first Sir Thomas Morgan in the reign of Henry VIII. The materials of the original castle were used in the foundations. It later became the seat of one of the branches of the Morgan family at Tredegar, and just before the Great War it was used as a farm house. Soon after this the late Viscount Rhondda began to rebuild it; but this did not progress very far and it remains today showing the gate house, south-western tower, walls and moat, parts of the original castle.

The Church of St. Martin of Toves also is quite interesting. On the site of the present vestry once stood the chapel erected in accordance with the will of Sir Thomas Morgan, 1541, who wished to be buried there, £20 or more being spent on the building of it. The roof later fell in, and the tombs (with one exception) were destroyed. The remaining tomb is that of Sir Thomas Morgan, the first

Knight of Pen-Coed, who died in 1510. The church as it is now, except the towers, was rebuilt on the site of the old one in 1858.

Llanmartin appears in the Domesday Book as having to find two hogs, a hundred loaves of bread, and beer in royal alms for the good of the King's soul.

Well ! so much for Llanmartin. It doesn't change much in ten years and its population remains as small as ever.

**C. H. Reese. Form IVa.**

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### **CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT.**

For the last six years I have lived in Devon, in the little village of Plympton, just on the outskirts of Plymouth. Plymouth is a fairly large town and port with a pier and fine promenade on the sea front, known as the Hoe.

Here stands the citadel and at a short distance is a granite structure known as Smeaton Tower, but which was formerly the Eddystone Lighthouse, the third to be erected. It was built in 1759, but was taken down in 1880 and re-erected on the Hoe. Nearby stands Drake's Statue and the Armada Memorial.

Many historic events have taken place at Plymouth and many songs have been written in its honour, such as "Drake's Drum" and "Drake Goes West." During Queen Elizabeth's reign Drake sailed from Plymouth on several voyages to America and other parts and was the first man to sail around the world. This voyage occupied about three years and of the five ships that set out only the "Golden Hind" returned. On his various voyages he had made several attacks on Spanish settlements and ships and in his ship the "Revenge," he took part in the defeat of the Armada. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1581, and as member "of Parliament for Plymouth, provided the town with a water supply from Dartmoor.

In 1620 the Pilgrim Fathers embarked from the Barbicon in their ship, the Mayflower, on their voyage to America. The Mayflower stone can still be seen and several Elizabethan houses in the neighbourhood are still preserved.

Nearby is the seaplane base, further west on the coast, the dockyards, while at Crown Hill, about two miles out of the town the barracks are situated. Still further west, spanning the Tamar and linking Devon and Cornwall, is the Royal Albert Bridge, which was designed by Brunel, the famous engineer.

Plympton is noted as the birthplace of Sir Joshua Reynolds, the famous painter who was born in 1723. He became the first president of the Royal Academy in 1768, being knighted; in the following year. His father was master, and Sir Joshua a pupil of Plympton Grammar School, which was built in 1658 and still stands, a beautiful structure with its lattice windows and cloisters. Incidentally, I am proud to say I attended this school until the opening of a magnificent new grammar school in 1937.

Plymouth has many fine shops and buildings including the Guildhall and the Museum and several examples in the classic style of the work of Gouldsdon, the famous architect. Such are the associations of Plymouth.

Recently I came to Monmouthshire to live and I am struck by the contrast between the historic connections of this locality and those of Plymouth. Here are Norman castles, built about the eleventh century, which have a great attraction for me. Walking through its beautiful grounds I have viewed Caldicot Castle from the outside, and I look forward with great pleasure to visiting Chepstow Castle and inspecting its interior. It is beautifully situated on the banks of the River Wye, and almost at its foot is the bridge, also the work of Brunel, thus forming a link with Plymouth. Further, I am greatly interested in the remains of a Roman city, formerly known as Venta Silurum, at Caerwent.

One wonders how these magnificent castles with their wonderful workmanship and thick walls composed of huge stone blocks, were constructed with such primitive tools as were then available. Especially was I puzzled about the composition of the mortar which has held these massive walls together for nearly a thousand years. The straightness of these walls after such a lapse of time particularly impressed me.

The interested can derive much pleasure and profit from, exploring these and other remains which appear to abound in the district.

### **B. Carrivick. Form IIIa.**

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#### **SCHOOL JOTTINGS.**

##### **The Year in Retrospect.**

The events of 1938 and 1939 may be described as forming the opening chapter of the second volume of the history of Larkfield. Under our newly appointed Headmaster we saw many alterations made and new ideas put into operation.

For the first time we heard the Prefects, with voices not always too melodious, reading the Lessons in Prayers. There were to be no more Weekly Marks, no more homework in Form II. and no more wearing of "daps." What a relief for the boys. But alas! no longer could they stroll into class halfway through the lesson with the feeble excuse, "Been looking for my 'daps,' Sir."

October saw the introduction of the Milk Scheme, of which most of the pupils, and some of the staff, took advantage. The scheme is now well established and in the capable hands of Mr. Ball.

Towards the end of November, our Headmaster had his first opportunity to address the parents and public at the very successful Speech Day and Prize Distribution, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

After weeks of hammering by workmen and consequent disorganisation of classes, the central heating system was completed. We were all very thankful.

The term ended with the usual very enjoyable Christmas Parties, and School was dismissed on the last morning by Miss Griffiths after the singing of carols.



We welcomed Miss Rees at the beginning of the new term. She had succeeded Miss James, who had left and was shortly to be married. More good news. In future no form was to have homework on Wednesday nights.

On January 23rd a fierce gale raged off the Cornish coast, causing a shipwreck and loss of life. Among the wreckage washed ashore at St. Ives was a fragment of library cabinet bearing the inscription: presented by Larkfield Secondary School, Chepstow, August 1st, 1934. Two days later the headmaster received a telegram from Lloyds asking for help in identifying the wrecked ship. Efforts were made by Mr. Webb to recover the fragment. He received a letter from the Chief Constable of Cornwall to the effect that the fragment would be returned later, provided it was not required for official purposes.

At the end of January, Miss James and her fiancé, Dr. Thomas were presented with a tapestry fireside chair, a wedding gift from the Headmaster, staff and pupils.

In February the Headmaster discovered that the general knowledge of the pupils was deplorable. He decided that a series of talks should be given occasionally on Friday afternoons, and opened the series with "An Explanation of the different forms of Government. This was followed some weeks later by "Hobbies," given by Mr. Robinson. Time was too short to complete these very interesting lectures. May we have more in the near future.

The Annual School Eisteddfod, most successfully organised by Mr. Morgan, brought us to the end of term.

The IVth Form boys visited the Fairfield Engineering works on May 15th and relief from school work was also provided by film shows presented by Ford Motors and Dunlop. These shows proved very interesting, but the packed Gym. with curtained windows could hardly be described as an ideal cinema.

The important summer event School Sports took place on Empire Day, and a full report appears elsewhere. Congratulations to Usk House on winning the Shield.

Congratulations, also, to all who helped to make the Flag Day in aid of the British Sailors' Society such a wonderful success, and enabled the School to send a magnificent sum of over £16 to the Society.

In conclusion, let us all hope that Forms V. and VI. will crown this most eventful and highly successful year with a brilliant set of results in the all too near C.W.B. Examinations.

### **B. WESTCOTT.**

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### **SPEECH DAY.**

Speech Day for the year 1938 was held on November 30th. Lord Raglan, the speaker, delivered an extremely interesting address. Our Headmaster, Major J. H. E. Webb, gave his first report on the progress of the School during the previous year, and Lady Raglan presented the prizes and certificates.

Then followed a programme rendered by the pupils. Rollings contributed a solo: "Where'er you Walk" (Handel), Miss James supervised a French Action song, and the senior boys gave a splendid gym. display. The School Choir concluded with three delightful songs.

### **PRIZE WINNERS.**

#### **FORM PRIZES.**

VI .Betty Bartlett.

Va. Eileen Warner.

Vb. Edwin A. Brown.

IVa. Arthur Turner.

IVb. Vera Hurle.

IIIa Jean Henderson

IIIb Frances Higgins

IIa Grace Managn

IIb Trevor Evans

#### **SPECIAL PRIZES.**

English: H. Herbert (Presented by Miss O. W. Smith).

French: B. Bartlett (Presented by Dr. A. H. Birch).

Latin: E. Warner (Presented by Dr. A. H. Birch).

Science: T. Griffiths.

Progress: J. Brown.

Service : E. Edmunds and J. Moore.

Headmaster's Prize for School Activities: Lilian Rees, Margaret Edwards, Barbara Burns.

#### MATRICULATION PRIZES.

B F. Groves, B. G. Lewis, C. G. P. Lewis, J. B. Lewis, F. R. J. Price, K. E. Price,  
J. Vicarage, G. P. Williams.

SCHOOL COLOURS, 1937-38.

Hockey: L. Rees, I. Williams, D. Maxfield, R. Anthony.

Netball: K. E. Price, P. Parry.

Tennis : O. Sheppard.

Rugby : T. Griffiths, E. A. Brown, R. Reece, T. Hunt, R. Price, J. Moore.

Cricket: C. G. P. Lewis.

#### HIGHER CERTIFICATE.

B. Bartlett. (Principal): English, French. (Subsidiary): Latin, German.

#### SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

M. Blackaby, E. A. Brown, B. Burns, E. Culshaw, B. Curtis, C. Davies, E. M. Edwards,  
T. Forster, T. Griffiths, B. Groves, V. Hicks, D. Hunt, C. P. G. Lewis, J. B. Lewis, B. G. Lewis,  
K Pask, F. Price, K .Price, R. Reece, L. Rees, O. Sheppard, J Vicarage, E. Warner,  
D. E. Williams, G. P. Williams, A. Wills.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATE.

D. E. Carter.—Shorthand,

### **D, A, DAVIES.**

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#### **EISTEDDFOD.**

The annual Eisteddfod took place on April 4th and 5th, Miss Griffiths, the Chairman of the Governors, acting as President, and the Head as Chairman. At the close Mr. H. Wright, one of the Governors, expressed his appreciation for the two enjoyable afternoons and stated that he felt sure the pupils were appreciating what the Head was doing for them. Major Webb, then voiced the thanks of the pupils to the staff for their efforts to make the Eisteddfod the success it had been.

#### EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

##### Music Section.

Junior Solo Boys : 1, D. Rollings (W) and D.Holloway .(U); 3, O. Robinson (W);

Senior Solo Boys : I, W. Ballinger (U) and R. Townsend (S);

Junior Solo Girls : I, R. Vigers (U); 2, N. Leach (U); 3, H. Shock (W);

Senior Solo Girls: 1, E. Mason (S); 2, J. Vicarage (U); 3, P. Adams (U);

Piano Solo (under 13): 1, M. Sims (S); 2, H. Wright (S); 3, J. Hutchings (U);

Piano Solo (under 15): 1, E. Thomas (W); 2, V. Howell (U); 3, M. Baker (U);

Piano Solo(over 15): 1, J. Vicarage (U); 2, M. Edwards (S) and M. Lightfoot(W);

Vocal Duet : I.E. Mason and M. Burns (S); 2, P. Adams and R.Davies (U);

3, P. Dilworth and R. Vigers (U):

Hymn Tune (Playing): 1, D. Williams (S); 2, H..Wright (S); 3, V. Howell (U).

##### Literary Section:

Junior Essay : I, M. Sims (S); 2, B. Whitcombe, (W); 3, J. Herd (U);

Senior Essay: 1, B. Bartlett (U); 2, T. Forster (U); 3, J. Brown (S) and P. Wood (U);  
 Poem (Own Composition): 1, L. Parr (W); 2, M. Edwards (S); 3, D. Davies (W);  
 English Recitation Junior : I, M. Sims (S); 2, P. Dilworth (U), 3, J. Edwards (U);  
 English Recitation Senior : Divided between E. Mason (S), B. Bartlett (U) and L. Rees (U);  
 French Recitation : 1. B. Bartlett (U); 2, E. Culshaw (W); 3, B. Burns (U);  
 Unpunctuated Prose : 1, B. Bartlett (U); 2, B. Wray (W); 3, R. Davies (U);  
 Impromptu Speech: 1, L. Rees (U); 2, O. Robinson (W); 3, M. Sims (S);  
 History Junior: 1, E. Lang (U); 2, I. Murphy (S) and D. Wilding (U);  
 History Senior : 1, J. Brown (S); D. Williams (S); 3, J. Vicarage (U) and B. Lewis (W);  
 Geography Junior : 1, M. Jones (W); 2, H. Shock (W); 3, E. Lang (U);  
 Geography Senior: 1, J. Lewis (U); 2, B. Lewis (W); 3, M. Jones (U);  
 Botany Junior: 1, P. Bevan (W); 2, D. Holloway (U); 3, N. Bevan (W).  
 Botany Senior : I, L. Rees (U); 2, M. Manson (S); 3, D. Holloway (U) and G. Spear (U).  
 Arts and Crafts, Woodwork Junior: divided between K. Jarvis (S), K. Howells (U), L. Stafford (S) and R. Rowlands (U).  
 Woodwork Senior : 1, V. Whitcombe (S); 2, T. Hunt (W); 3, J. Lewis (U) and G. Williams (S).  
 Art Senior: 1, M. Edwards (S); 2, D. Davies (W); 3, B. Lewis (W) and B. Bartlett (U).  
 Art Junior: I, S. Brookes (W); 2, G. Mangan (W); 3, D. Lewis (S).  
 Knitted Garment Junior: 1, C. Jones (S); 2, B. Kent (U); 3, M. Curtis (U).  
 Knitted Garment Senior: 1, J. Duncan (S); 2, O. Goss (W); 3, B. Bartlett (U).  
 Plain Needlework Senior : 1, L. Rees (U); 2, K. Price (S); 3, No award.  
 Plain Needlework Junior : 1, T. Jones (W); 2, G. Mangan (W); 3, N. Leach (U).  
 Cookery: I, M. Edwards (S); 2, I. Pinfold (W); 3, P. Richards (W).  
 Embroidery Junior : I, N. Kirton (S) and M. Court (W); 2, B. Kent (U);  
 3, N. Leach (U) and M. Spooner (S).  
 Embroidery Senior :1, B. Bartlett (U); 2, P. Bevan (W).

#### House Competitions.

House Play : 1, Usk; 2, Wye; 3, Severn.  
 House Choirs: 1, Severn; 2, Usk; 3, Wye.  
 House Spelling Bee: 1, Severn; 2, Usk; 3, Wye.  
 Country Dancing (Junior): 1, Wye; 2, Severn; 3, Usk.  
 Country Dancing (Senior): 1, Severn; 2, Wye; 3, Usk.

Final Result: Usk, 90 points; Severn, 76½ points; Wye, 65½ points.

**J. B. LEWIS.**

#### **SPORTS DAY.**

The fourteenth Annual Sports took place on Empire Day, May 24th. A brilliant sun shone throughout the day and the flag-bedecked field and marquee helped to make the whole affair a great success. Our grateful thanks are due to Lady Curre for kindly lending us the marquee. A record number of entries was received and competition was again keen and much appreciated by a large crowd of visitors. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Claude Edmunds. The Usk House won the Shield despite the fact that both Victor and Victrix Ludorum, P. Parry and T. Griffiths, belonged to the Severn.

#### **RESULTS.**

80 yds. Junior Girls: 1, K. lies (U); 2, J. Robinson (W); 3, C. Jones (S).  
 100 yds. Junior Boys: 1, J. Lewis (U); 2, D. West (U); 3, E. Lang (U).  
 Egg and Spoon: 1, P. Adams (U); 2, M. Moore (U). 100 yds.  
 Senior Boys: 1, T. Griffiths (S); 2, L. Tamplin (U); 3, J. Lewis (W).

100 yds. Girls Open: 1, P. Parry (S); 2, W. Price (W); 3, M. Burns (S).  
 Three-legged, Girls : 1, M. Davies and I. Baker (W); 2, P. Parry and M. Edwards (S);  
 3, M. Lightfoot and W. Price (W).  
 220 yds. Junior Boys: 1, J. Lewis (U); 2, G. Carnon (W); 3, H. Price (U).  
 220 yds. Senior Boys : 1, T. Griffiths (S); 2, J. Shaddick (U); 3, L. Tamplin (U).  
 Hurdles Girls Open: 1, J. Brown (S); 2, P. Parry (S); 3, W. Price (W).  
 Long Jump Junior Boys: 1, D. West (U). 16ft.; 2, J. Lewis (U); 3, G. Carnon (W).  
 Long Jump Senior Boys: 1, T. Griffiths (S), 18ft. 10ins.; 2, L. Tamplin (U), P. Wood (U)  
 Skipping, Girls: 1, P. Parry (S); 2, M. Burns (S); 3, J. Brown (S).  
 100 yds. Senior Girls : 1, P. Parry (S); 2, M. Davies (W); 3, M. Burns (S).  
 Hurdles Junior Boys: 1, D. West (U); 2, J. Lewis (U); 3, P. Cavill (W).  
 Obstacle Girls: 1, P. Jones (S); 2, J. Reese (W); 3, I. Murphy (S).  
 Hurdles Senior Boys: 1, T. Griffiths (S); 2, L. Trampin (U); 3, T. Forster (U).  
 Late For School Girls: 1, M. Bums (S); 2, M. Edwards (S); 3, I. Murphy (S).  
 440 yds. Boys Open: 1, T. Griffiths (S); 2, V. Whitcombe (S); 3, J. Lewis (W).  
 High Jump Junior Boys: 1, D. West (U); 2, J. Heard (U); 3, P. Cavill (W).  
 Senior Boys High Jump: 1, J. Lewis (U); 2, T. Forster (U); 3, T. Hunt (W).  
 High Jump Junior Girls: 1, C. Jones (S); 2, M. Moore (U); 3, J. Brace (W).  
 Senior Girls High Jump: 1, M. Edwards; 2, W. Price; 3, P. Parry (S).  
 880 yds. Boys Open : 1, R. Saunders (S); 2, W. Woodgate (U); 3, R. Price (U).  
 House Relay Girls : 1, Severn; 2, Wye; 3, Usk.  
 House Relay Boys: 1, Severn; 2, Usk; 3, Wye.  
 Consolation Race Girls: 1, H. Vincent (S); 2, E. Thomas (W); 3, L. Rees (U).  
 Old Girls Race : I, K. Price; 2, Mrs. G. Brown; 3, A. Shock.  
 Old Boys Race: I, H. Rowlands; 2, R. Vincent; 3, J. Price.  
 Final Positions: I, Severn, 68 points; 2, Usk, 57 points; 3, Wye, 30 points.

**T. FORSTER.**

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**THE WRECK.**

On the morning of Wednesday, January 25th, the Headmaster announced in Prayers that he had had a telephone call the night before from London asking him whether he could give any information about a "box" washed up with some wreckage on the Cornish coast, bearing the inscription "Presented by Larkfield Secondary School, Chepstow. August 1st, 1934." Mr. Webb consulted a member of the staff and found that it was, most probably, the box containing a library of books presented by the school to the British Sailors' Society. The editor of a London paper, who had rung up the school, was glad of the information. The same information was given to Lloyds in answer to their telegram. The Headmaster also asked us on that same morning if we would buy another library to replace the one that was washed up. He hoped to procure that one as a souvenir.

Later we found that amongst about fifty tons of wreckage of S.S. Wilston found on the Cornish coast at St. Ives there was a fragment of wood bearing the inscription of our School.

As our presentation plate was so important in identifying the wrecked boat, it is doubtful whether we will ever get it back again. The Headmaster, however, has been promised by the Chief Constable of Cornwall that he will probably get it back if it is not used as permanent evidence. On June 10th, the School organised a Flag Day for the Sailors' Society. As a result of the efforts of the senior girls, a sum of £16 3s. 7d, a record for Chepstow was obtained and now we hope to be in the party to go to Cardiff to present another school library to the Sailors' Society, May calm seas and prosperous voyages await it.

**W. L. WOODGATE.**

## **HISTORIC FILM AT LARKFIELD.**

When the Headmaster announced in Prayers one morning that we were going to have a visit from the Sound Service, the whole School rejoiced. The Gym. was darkened and chairs placed in. The apparatus came, and all the School went to the "pictures."

"Jubilee," a film produced to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the invention of pneumatic tyres, was shown, and started promptly at 10.30.

The film reviews the transition from the age of coaches running on steel rims, carts on wooden wheels, hobby horses, bone shakers and "ordinaries" to the present era of motor car, motor cycles, bicycles and the many other vehicles running on pneumatic tyres, from scooters and perambulators to aeroplanes and huge motor lorries.

George Street plays the part of John Byd Dunlop, the Veterinary Surgeon who, born in the Ayrshire village of Dreghorn in 1840, conducted his tyre experiments while practising as a Vet. in Belfast. Johnny Dunlop, the inventor's son, is played by Teddy Jones; his daughter, Jean, by Anne Readhaed, and Mr. William Hume, who won the first cycle race on pneumatic tyres, by Mr. Sam Lee.

The film shows in graphic detail how the Dunlop pneumatic tyre came to be invented. Taking a wooden disc about 16 inches in diameter, Dunlop fastens it to a tube of sheet rubber inflated by a football pump and secured to the rim by a covering strip of linen. And here his son, Johnny, comes into the picture.

Dunlop detaches the front wheel of Johnny's tricycle (with its tyre of solid rubber) and takes it into the yard adjoining his workshop. (The premises are still used as a veterinary establishment.) He sends the tricycle wheel rolling down the yard. It fails to go the whole distance, wobbles, and falls over. He repeats the experiment with the home-made pneumatic disc, which runs the whole distance and rebounds from the gate.

The actual tyre patent was taken out on July 23rd, 1888, after experiments during the preceding year, and the film goes on to depict the Belfast Queen's College Sports race meeting in May, 1889 when Mr. Wm. Hume, of the Belfast Cruisers' Cycling Club rode a pneumatic tyred bicycle to victory, thus demonstrating the unchallengeable advantages of the pneumatic principle.

A factory is set up in Dublin. It soon proves inadequate to the demand and a move is made to Coventry, the hub of the cycle industry. Later on a factory is established at Aston Cross, Birmingham, and in 1916, so great is the pressure of business, that 400 acres of land are bought at Erdington, Birmingham, and the "tyre town" of Fort Dunlop comes into existence.

The film goes on to show how the original invention has been developed as a result of the faster speeds allowed by the Motor Car Act: of 1896 which permitted motor cars to appear on the highways without being preceded by a man with a red flag.

In rapid sequence we see races at Brooklands Track in 1907 where the many records were made on Dunlop tyres. Then we are taken to Malaya where the Dunlop Company acquired its own rubber plantations two years later, to the cotton mills at Rochdale and the wheel works at Coventry.

We are shown the first aeroplane flight by the Wright Brothers and in 1911 flying demonstrations at Hendon with Dunlop bicycle tyres on the wheels of aeroplanes.

After this follow the multifarious Dunlop developments; Dunlopillo cushioning material, shoes, tennis balls and rackets .squash racket, golf balls, bowls, rainwear, rubber gloves, hot water bottles, hose for the garden, boots for sheep and cows.

**T. GRIFFITHS.**

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## SPORTS SECTION AND HOUSE NOTES.

### HOCKEY NOTES, 1938-39.

Captain: L. REES. Vice-Captain: J. BROWN.

Unfortunately owing to bad weather six of our matches were cancelled. During the Christmas Term our Juniors won the Junior County Tournament, but the Seniors were not so successful.

We were unfortunate in losing the much valued help of Miss James, but we wish to thank Miss Davies and Mr. Westcott for coaching us since.

At the end of the Spring Term our team made history for Larkfield by reaching the final of the County Tournament at Bassaleg. We were, however, beaten by Bassaleg Secondary School, three goals to nil.

Colours were presented to R. Anthony, D. Maxfield, L. Rees and I. Williams.

Results.	Coleford (H)	won	9-0
	Chepstow Ladies (A)	won	3-1
	Abergavenny (H)	lost	2-3
	Lydney (A)	lost	2-4
	Lydney O. S.	drew	5-5
	Coleford (A)	won	6-3
	Old Students (A)	lost	5-0
	Bassaleg (A)	lost	3-6
	Lydney (H)	lost	2-4
	Staff	lost	2-4
	Old Students (H)		

Scorers: L. Rees, 15; J. Brown, 11; I. W. Price, 8;  
M. Bums 4; A. Shock, 3; N. Bevan, 3;  
J. Vicarage, 1.

**L. REES.**

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### NETBALL NOTES, 1938-39.

Captain: B. BURNS. Vice-Captain: P. PARRY.

This year the senior team was fortunate enough to win four matches out of five. The junior team only played two matches, which they lost, against Bassaleg and Lydney.

Senior Team: B. Burns, P. Parry, K. Price, V. Hurle, Mary Edwards, Margaret Edwards, D. Davies and M. Jones.

Junior Team: H. Vincent, C. Jones, H. Shock, D. Barnfield, M. Leonard, A. Powell and V. Green.

Results.	Newport High School (A)	lost	4-23
	Bassaleg (H)	won	14—2
	Lydney (H)	won	20—19
	Old Students	won	24_9

**P. PARRY.**

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### RUGBY NOTES, 1938-39.

Captain : T. GRIFFITHS. Vice-Captain : L TAMPLIN. Secretary: J. B. LEWIS.

This season has been our most successful season since Rugby was started at Larkfield. We won four matches and drew two. As we did not have so many matches the results are all the more pleasing. The standard of play has greatly improved, and we were also lucky in having eleven of last year's team available.



We had several really good games, including one against Cathays, which we lost by a rather large margin, owing to their internationals being on best form.

School Colours were presented to T. Griffiths, R. Price, E. Brown, R. Reece, T. Hunt, J. Moore.

Team 1938-39. T. Griffiths, L. Tamplin, E. Brown, T. Hunt, A. Coombes, R. Reece, J. B. Lewis, J. Moore, J. Lewis, H. Attewell, W. Woodgate, B. Edwards, R. Price, D. Margretts, J. Banfield, T. Forster, C. Reeves.

### **T. GRIFFITHS.**

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### **TENNIS NOTES, 1939.**

Captain: B. BARTLETT. Vice-Captain: J. VICARAGE.

We have been very unfortunate this year in having four of our matches cancelled. Nevertheless, out of four matches, we have won one. Considering there are only two of last year's team the standard of tennis is fairly high.

Colours were awarded last year to A. Wills and O. Sheppard.

Members of the Team: B. Bartlett, J. Vicarage, M. Edwards, P. Parry, J. Brown, M. Manson.

Results.	Coleford (H)	won	69-30
	Lydney (H)	lost	33-66
	Lydney(A)	lost	49-68
	Abergavenny (A)	lost	54-63

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### **BASEBALL NOTES, 1939.**

Captain: J. SAINSBURY. Vice-Captain: J. REESE.

Out of six matches this year we have only played three. The team has played very well, winning two matches and losing one. Form II. girls are very promising players, one having played in the team.

Results.	Coleford (H)	lost	1½-4½	Lydney (H)	won	8-5
	Lydney (A)	won	8½-5½			

Team: D. Thomas, M. Sainsbury, I. Smith, I. Herbert, P. Jones, D. Tonathy, J. Reese, P. Adams, M. Leonard, N. Bevan.

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### **CRICKET REPORT.**

Captain: J. B. LEWIS. Vice-Captain ; R. P. REECE. Secretary : A. TURNER.

In spite of the fact that there are only four members of last years cricket team at School this year, we have had up to now won 1, drawn 1 and lost 2. Our first match at Bassaleg was a far better game than the score indicates. In the return match we easily had the best of a drawn game, mainly owing to the batting of Edwards and Williams and the bowling of Reece. who took six wickets for 15 runs. We have played our friends, the Ministry of Pensions twice, winning the first match but losing the second by the small margin of one run. As we have only been able to play our regular team twice, we can look forward to the remainder of the season with more optimism.

Team; J B Lewis, R P- Reece, T Griffiths, L. B Tamplin B.O.Edwards, A. Coombes, R.E Hardwick, A Turner, D.C. Powell,..F. Williams, C.G. Hill.

Reserves: T. R. Forster and D. Margretts.

Results.	Bassaleg(A)	Chepstow 34	Bassaleg 35 for 5 (declared).
	Ministry of Pensions	Chepstow 85	Pensions 69.
	Ministry of Pensions	Pensions 58.	Chepstow 57.
	Bassaleg (H)	Chepstow 74 for 7 (declared)	Bassaleg 63 for 9.

### **SEVERN HOUSE NOTES.**

Girls' Captain: MARGARET EDWARDS. Boys' Captain: T. GRIFFITHS.

We are afraid that our luck did not hold this year as we failed to win the shield by a few points. However, we easily won the Sports and came second in the Eisteddfod.

Again the Victrix and Victor Ludorum, P. Parry and T Griffiths were in the Severn House, Phyllis having kept this position for two seasons and Griffiths for three.

The House has done very well in games, only losing two matches, Rugby and Tennis, both to the Usk.

We hope the House will carry on and regain the shield next year.

**M. EDWARDS. T. GRIFFITHS.**

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### **WYE HOUSE NOTES.**

Captains : E. M. CULSHAW. T. HUNT.

We have been very unfortunate this year in practically all activities. This was partly owing to the loss of several useful members. We have worked particularly hard and have co-operated well, but in spite of our one aim, to regain the Shield, our ambition was doomed to failure from the start. We gained least points in the Eisteddfod and on Sports Day; whilst we fared little better in the inter house matches, the girls beating the Usk 6-1 and drawing with the Severn in Hockey; netball results were similar, yet the boys lost all their matches. Although this year we admit a "glorious defeat," we have many very promising members in the lower school and will therefore look forward to a very successful future.

**E. CULSHAW. T. HUNT.**

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### **USK HOUSE NOTES.**

Girls' Captain: B. BARTLETT. Boys' Captain: J. B. LEWIS.

The Usk has done very well in both work and sport this year and as a result won the Shield for the third time.

Both Rugby matches were won by large margins, but the girls had bad luck and failed to win a match in both hockey and netball. The cricket team won one match against the Severn and the tennis team won both.

Last term we again won the Eisteddfod, the next House being the Severn, who were 131/2 points behind. As there are several useful members of the House in the lower forms, there is no reason why this success should not be repeated next year.

We are pleased to note that four of the school games captains are in the Usk. As the Usk has a good cricket and tennis team, there is every reason to suppose that the Usk will have a good start towards retaining the Shield next year.

**B. BARTLETT. J. B. LEWIS.**

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### **LARKFIELD OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SECTION.**

Officers, 1939-40. President Rev. Dr. A. H. Birch; Vice-Presidents: Major J. H. E. Webb, Miss D. M. Smith; Chairman: Mr. Robinson; Treasurer: Mr. C. J. Watkins;

Committee: Miss Irma Flowers, Miss F. Stockham, Miss M. Rees, Miss D. Hutchings, Mr. A. L. Hemingsley, Mr. J. G. Weekes, Mr. J. Dixon, Mr. H. E. Blackaby, Mr. H. J. Madley;

Joint Hon. Secretaries: Miss Kathleen Price and Mr. J. E. Price.

In reviewing the past year's progress of the Old Students' Association, two events of unusual importance stand out the retirement of Dr. Birch from the Headmastership of Larkfield and the coming of Major Webb to take his place, and the foundation of a branch of the Association in London.

On the departure of Dr. and Mrs. Birch they were presented with a silver tea service on behalf of the Old Students. This took place in (he summer meeting in July and was a practical token of the esteem in which Dr. and Mrs. Birch were held by the old pupils. We now welcome Mr. and Mrs. Webb and are very pleased that they have shown their intention of helping the society in every possible way, even though most of our members must as yet be unknown to them. Mr. Webb has accepted a vice-presidency of the O.S.A. and already the benefit of his practical experience is being felt by the Committee. We feel sure that the happy relationship which has always existed between the staff and past and present pupils will be more than maintained, and we wish Mr. and Mrs. Webb a long and successful tenure of office at Larkfield.

The question of starting a branch of the O.S.A. in London has been discussed for some time and the initial meeting took place on February 25th of this year. Most of the credit for this enterprise must be given to Miss Grace Searl, who made all the preliminary arrangements and who has been elected first secretary of the branch. Mr. J. Fisher was appointed treasurer and Mr. L. Maxfield committee member, and together with Miss Grace Searl, they lost no time in arranging a most attractive summer programme. Although the expenses of inaugurating a branch in London are bound to be heavy a continuance of the enthusiasm shown at the outset will ensure its success and we wish the members the best of luck in their efforts.

Locally our activities have followed much the same lines as in the previous year. The Annual Dance in the Town Hall was as successful as ever and was thoroughly enjoyed by a large crowd of old students and friends. In addition, social evenings were held regularly at Larkfield during the winter and the interest in these was also well maintained. Our sporting record has been quite creditable also. The mixed tennis team had a successful season against some of the strongest local sides, while in our encounters with the School, honours have been fairly even. In contrast to last year, the Old Girls have been more successful than the Old Boys, although this may be accounted for by the fact that so few Old Boys remain in the district that it is difficult to raise representative teams.

We should like once again to express our appreciation of the cooperation and practical help we have received from every member of the staff at Larkfield and also the Masters' wives in making arrangements for our functions and to thank Mr. Webb for placing the School and tennis courts at our disposal whenever it has been requested.

Generally speaking, progress in the Association during the year has been well maintained, and if nothing spectacular has been achieved or attempted, it should not be assumed that the O.S.A. has become dormant. Rather should it be said that we have paused to take stock and to see what changes could be made to the mutual benefit of the School and Old Students. The most important innovation decided upon is the appointment of Year Secretaries to act as a link between those leaving every year and the general secretaries. It has been felt for some time that with the Committee being composed of older members those leaving school do not feel inclined to join in the activities, of the Association as fully as we would wish, and it is hoped that the new arrangement will result in increased membership and add to the strength of our society.

One other event which occurred lately must be mentioned, namely, the retirement of Miss Irma Flowers from the Secretaryship of the Old Girls' Section of the Association, a position which she has held since the formation of the society. Miss Flowers has worked untiringly in the interests of the School and the Old Students, and only those who have been in close touch with what has been done can fully appreciate her value. Everyone heard with great regret that Miss Flowers found herself unable to continue with the constantly increasing work her position entailed, but we have at least the satisfaction of knowing that she will remain a member of the Committee.

Finally, we appeal to all Old Students once more to send us any news of interest either about themselves or other old students for publication in the magazine. Articles or short stories would be

particularly welcome.

**KATHLEEN PRICE, J. E. PRICE, Joint Secretaries.**

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### **OLD STUDENTS' NOTES.**

The Rev. R. D. M. Hughes (1924-29) is now Curate in charge of St. Luke's Church, Newport. We congratulate him on his recent marriage.

L. S. Davies (1928-34) is in the Civil Service and is now stationed at Malta.

N. R. Bowen (1928-32) is now one of the "Men from the Prudential !" He is too far away for the majority of old students, Leicester being his headquarters.

W. H. M. Baker (1927-34) had a very successful season with Newport Rugby Club and was reserve for the Welsh International team.

Donald Trivitt (1931-34) is a bandsman on H.M.S. Kent.

We deeply regret to report the death of Walter Spooner (1933-36), who died in Cardiff Royal Infirmary, January 3rd, 1939, as the result of a motor accident. Dilys Davies (1931-35), who died June 19th, 1939, and of Doris Coates (Bowen) who died on June 29th, 1939.

### **MARRIAGES.**

Hughes,-Duck. On June 6th, 1939, at St. John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl, the Rev. R. D. Hughes (1924-29) to Mary Duck.

Lewis, Davies. On September 11th, 1938, at Llandough Parish Church, Cyril J. Lewis (1929-31) to Esme Davies.

Townsend, Sellman. On September 10th, 1938, at Olveston Church, near Bristol, W. R. R. Townsend (1928-32) to Eva Sellman.

Morley, Trout. On September 3rd, 1938, at Chepstow Church, Gladys Morley (1930-34) to Stanley Trout of Caldicot.

Williams, Beresford. On September 14th, at Whitcombe Church, Glos., Una Mary Williams to Graham Beresford.

Ballinger, Taudevin. On September 24th at St. Mary's Parish Church, Chepstow, Isabel Ballinger (1924-29) to Ernest Taudevin.

Fryer, Rymer. On November 2nd at Penterry Parish Church, Sylvia Irene Fryer (1925-29) to Thomas Henry Rymer.

Pavitt, Parslow. On December 27th at Chepstow, Dorothy Pavitt to George Henry Parslow.

Goode, Norgrove. In December at Llanvaches Congregational Church, Mary Goode (1931-35) to Trevor Herbert Norgrove.

Morgan, Rowe. On March 30 at Summerhill Baptist Church, Vera Morgan (1929-33) to Daniel Charles Rowe.

Jones, Dodd. On April 10th at Caerwent Church, Vera Jones (1928-31) to Alee Dodd.

Strachan, Kilby. On April 8th at St. Mary's, Acton, B. G. Strachan to F. R. Kilby.

Flowers, Horrabin. On April 25th at Preston, S. M. Flowers (1925-29) to Stanley Horrabin.

Trivitt, Cooper. On June 5th at St. Mary's Parish Church, Chepstow, Florence W. Trivitt (1927-33) to R. G. J. Cooper.

### **LONDON BRANCH.**

It is doubtful if there is anywhere a school which is held in such deep affection by its students, past and present, as Larkfield. It has such an intense, vibrating life of its own from which few students can remain aloof, that when the time comes to leave it is almost like losing a limb, and one feels bewildered and unwilling to adjust oneself to the new state of things.

For those who stay in Chepstow it is bad enough, but they may visit the old school, almost at will, and are frequently meeting old friends known by names bestowed for obscure reasons in the 2's.

But the ones to be really pitied are those projected at a still tender age into a strange and far distant town, and since so many of these come to London it has long been felt that a London Branch of the L.O.S.A. was an absolute necessity. This was decided upon after much thought and correspondence, and the inaugural meeting was arranged for February 25th.

There was much excitement when it was learned that Doctor and Miss Smith had promised to attend, and actually Mrs. Birch, Miss Gillatt and Miss O. W. Smith came as well. We were very sorry that Major and Mrs. Webb could not manage it, since they are strangers to most of us in London, and we had hoped to remedy this state of affairs.

The meeting was very successful from every angle except the financial one. Doctor delighted us with one of his well remembered perorations, and one might have imagined oneself back at school

again, except that we were sitting in chairs rather more comfortable than the gym. floor.

Afterwards officers were elected : Mr. J. Fisher as Treasurer, Miss G. Searl, Secretary, and Mr. L. Maxfield, Committee Member, and the nature of the meetings decided upon. These were to take the form of an annual dinner in February and a mass visit to Chepstow in the summer, with rambles, theatre parties and socials, etc., from time to time.

At a Committee Meeting a few weeks later, a definite programme was arranged. The first fixture, a social, was very enjoyable, but the attendance was disappointing, despite the fact that members were allowed to bring friends. Two subsequent rambles proved much more popular, and we are concentrating on these during the summer. The visit to Larkfield takes place on June 25th, and we are-all looking forward to seeing old friends and the old school again.

In conclusion we should like to point out that there are nearly 40 old students in London, of which only 20 are active members. We urgently need the support of everyone if this London branch is to succeed, and there is no reason why it should not. If any students in London still do not receive notices of events it is probably because we have not an accurate version of their addresses, in which case they should get in touch with the Secretary, 21, Canterbury Place, London, S.E.11.

**G. L. SEARL.**

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