

THE

NORTONIAN

February
1955



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THE NORTONIAN

The Magazine of
CHIPPING NORTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Editress: M. Shayler.

Committee : J. Abbey, M. Baldwin, K. Oates, P. Ashmore,
D. Clarke.

February, 1955.

EDITORIAL.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to the Head Master, Mr. Martin, on his appointment to the dual Headship of the Grammar School and the Hailey Secondary Modern School.

Having said this, we feel that this issue should, first and foremost, mention the

advent of the new Library. Scholars of the past year have greatly appreciated the comfort and convenience of this latest addition to the School. Those who work within its walls are conscious that they are indeed privileged, and we extend our thanks to the Governors and others responsible for this long-awaited development.

We are indebted to those who have contributed to this publication of the "Nortonian," and we wish all readers plenty of sunshine during 1955.

BENE FECISTIS.

BRINDLE, B. P. Entered School 1946. '0' level G.C.E., 1951. Advanced level, 1953. State Scholarship to Nottingham University, 1954. 1st XI Football team, 1951-4. Represented Oxfordshire in All-England Sports, 1952-1954. Banquo in "Macbeth," 1950. Giant in "Jack and the Beanstalk," 1951. Sergius in "Arms and the Man," 1952. Everyman in "Everyman," 1953. Prefect 1951-4. Head Boy 1953-4. Invited by Oxford University to F.A. Schools' Week, April, 1954. Colours for Football, Athletics and Drama.

CLARIDGE, B. A. Entered School, 1946. '0' level G.C.E., 1951. Advanced level, 1953. Major County Scholarship to the University of Wales, 1954. Chess team, 1949-54. Chess captain, 1952-4. Chess colours, 1st XI Cricket team, 1953-4. Prefect, 1951-4. Deputy Head Boy, 1953-4.

POWELL, S. P. H. Entered School 1947. 1st XI Football team, 1953-54. '0' level G.C.E., 1952. 'A' level, 1954. Prefect, 1953-4.

EDGINTON, H. Entered School 1947. Chess team, 1950-54. '0' level G.C.E., 1952. 'A' level, 1954. Prefect, 1953-4-

CLARKE, D. Entered School, September, 1949. 1st XI Football team, 1951. Captain, 1st Football XI, 1953. 1st Cricket XI, 1952. Captain, 1st Cricket XI, 1953. Football Colours, 1953. House Football Captain, 1953-54. House Captain, 1954. Cricket Colours, 1954. Four Certificates for Woodwork and Athletics, 1952. Hastings in "She Stoops to Conquer," 1954. Prefect, 1954. G.C.E. Ordinary level, 1954.

JEAN GOFFE. Entered School 1946. '0' level G.C.E., 1951. 'A' level, 1953. 1st XI Hockey team, 1950-54. Played hockey for Oxfordshire, 1952-4. Tennis team, 1951-54. Dame in "Jack and the Beanstalk," 1951. Catherine in "Arms and the Man," 1952. Prefect, 1951-4. Head Girl, 1953-54. Colours for Hockey, Tennis, Drama. County Major Scholarship to Bristol University, 1954.

PAT FROST. Entered School 1947. '0' level G.C.E., 1952. 'A' level, 1954. Boy in "Macbeth," 1950. Fairy in "Jack and the Beanstalk," 1952. Good Deeds in "Everyman," 1953. Marged Shon in "The Poacher," 1953. 1st XI Hockey team, 1952-4. Tennis team, 1953-4. Prefect, 1952-4. Deputy Head Girl, 1953-4. Colours for Hockey and Drama.

JENNIFER MEERENDONK. Entered School 1952. 'A' level G.C.E., 1954. Prefect, 1953-4.

EILEEN TOWNSEND. Entered School 1947. '0' level G.C.E., 1952. 1st XI Hockey team, 1953-4. Prefect, 1953-4.

MAUREEN BENCH. Entered School 1948. '0' level G.C.E., 1953. Butcher in "Jack and the Beanstalk," 1951. 1st XI Hockey team, 1953-4. Prefect, 1953-4.

MARY HUNT. Entered School 1948. '0' level G.C.E., 1953. Prefect, 1953-4.

VERA ROOKE. Entered School 1948. '0' level G.C.E., 1953. Chorus girl in "Jack and the Beanstalk," 1951. Drama colours for costumes in "Everyman," 1953. Prefect, 1953-4.

JENNIFER HUNT. Entered School, September, 1949. Ordinary level, G.C.E., 1954. Prefect, 1954.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editress acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following school magazines, and apologises for any inadvertent omissions :—The Archway, The Bedan, The Bicestrian, The Campdonian. The Leamingtonian, The Periam.

1955.

The Nortonian is very largely a chronicle and looks to a school year which is past. It is always interesting to look forward to some of the possibilities of next year, but as I am no prophet they had better be "off the record."

It is pleasant to day dream about new possessions. We have been fortunate recently and have had a new library, new stage and hall curtains and other similar joys. We have now saved almost enough to buy an electric tape recorder and I fancy that Dr. Grundig will be joining the Staff next term and will be heard at work in many a corner of the School. We shall all have the shock, or pleasure, of listening to ourselves. The next piece of equipment we hope to buy from our private funds is a high fidelity record player which will enable us to play music from our considerable library of records without the distortion to which the present gramophone subjects us.

There is talk of additional buildings and it may be that the Government's new policy for school building in rural areas will turn some of that talk into blueprints. The work of the second stream in the School has recently been given a much more practical bias, from the beginning of Form Three. Boys have added metal work, technical drawing and agricultural science to their list of subjects in Form 3A, and in the 4A and 5A of the future. The girls of these forms will study additional domestic science and anatomy and hygiene. These subjects need specialist rooms, and we hope to see some of these on the ground in the near future.

Next year, like this year, will bring important discussions about the future of the School. The Oxfordshire Education Committee's plan for secondary education in Chipping Norton is that the Grammar School and the Hailey School shall eventually become one school. How far shall we go along that road in 1955? The present arrangement whereby the Head Master of this School is also acting as Head Master of the Hailey School has already proved to have many advantages in practice.

Finally, my peep into the future shows me that, God willing, I shall have the same cause to thank many people in twelve months' time that I have now. This issue of the Nortonian is one of great interest and shows the active contribution which is constantly being made to our corporate life by the Governors, the Staff and the boys and girls. To all of you I say quite simply,
"Thank you."

P.W.M.

SCHOOL NOTES, 1954.

Spring Term, 1954.

This term we welcomed Mrs. Strong, who replaces Miss Hicks as Secretary. We also welcomed Mrs. Wilson, who takes Mrs. Pantaney's place as Cook.

During this term, too, we had with us Miss Lyle and Mr. Omolayole, from the Oxford University Department of Education. Miss Lyle assisted with History and Mr. Omolayole with Mathematics. Mr. Omolayole's gifts as a teacher, his friendliness and his colourful garb, will long be remembered. On his last morning at school we gave him a token of our affection, and sent him forth as an ambassador to Mr. Steward, Headmaster, 1933-44, whom he had known on the Gold Coast. Incidentally, Mr. Steward is now back in London, still working for the British Council.

Another Inter-House Drama Competition was organised. A producer from each House was chosen and Mr. Kitching was the adjudicator. This year St. George's were awarded the palm.

During the Xmas Term, 1953, the School collected a considerable sum for the Greek Flood and Tempest Distress Fund. One interesting result was that Mr. John Barclay, who is the Secretary of the International Help for Children Fund, and has a particular interest in relief work in Greece, asked if he might come in the New Year to talk to us about that

country. He spoke with deep conviction and from personal experience and showed a film strip of certain aspects of his work which brought home to us in vivid form the distress suffered by the Greek people in recent years.

The 1st XI Hockey team drew with Headington in the final of the County Tournament, which was held at Headington. We were rewarded with the sight of the Hockey Shield adorning the wall of the School Hall for six months.

Six members of the 1st XI were chosen to represent the School in the County Hockey Trials. For the second year running, Jean Goffe was chosen to play on the right wing in the county side. Jennifer Abbey was selected as reserve centre-half.

The Hockey 1st XI and some supporters were invited to Hemel Hempstead Grammar School by Mr. Robinson, our former Head Master. We were challenged by Hemel Hempstead 1st XI to a hockey match. After a very close and exciting match we were rewarded with a win by two goals to nil.

A display of gymnastics and dancing was organised at the end of the term by Mrs. Sole and Mr. Gibbs. We thank them for their hard work, which made this display such an enjoyable entertainment for everyone.

This term the School, especially the Sixth Form, indulged in the luxuries of the new Library. The many new books which the library has obtained will enable both present and future pupils to extend their knowledge.

Mock Examinations in both Ordinary and Advanced levels came as usual at the end of the term.

The Charity Committee decided to collect for the Alms House Appeal, and the sum of £10-0-0 was raised.

Summer Term, 1954.

As usual, there was much work done, both academically and on the sports field.

At the North Oxfordshire Athletic Sports held at Banbury, the School once again came second. The senior boys came first in their section, and were presented with a Cup. Later, the County Athletics meeting was held at Iffley Road and six girls and ten boys from the School competed. Three boys, Brian Brindle, John Bunting and Keith Vickers, won the hurdles, the mile and the half-mile respectively. They represented Oxfordshire in these events in the All-England Athletics contest which was held at Ashington, Northumberland. Keith Vickers must be given credit for coming seventh in the final of the half-mile.

On an evening in June the Balliol College Players presented Aristophanes' "The Birds," at very short notice, to a small and very select audience. The production took place on the School field, and it was NOT raining. The translator, who had allowed himself plenty of freedom, hit continually at the 'refinements' of the modern scene. The oft-recurring not-so-subtleties were greatly appreciated.

We are grateful to the Mayor of Chipping Norton, Col. John Chamberlayne, for arranging a lecture during the Summer Term which was of particular interest to bird watchers. The talk, given by the Rev. Lowe, of Coin St. Aldwyn, was about the peregrine falcon. We were told how these birds are trained for hunting, we heard many interesting stories about the training of one particular bird, and we saw a number of slides showing this falcon in action.

Following the success of the holiday in the Lake District, a party of pupils were taken for a week's holiday to North Wales, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Watts and Mr. and Mrs. Ransome. Various activities and excursions made this another enjoyable holiday.

There were several visits to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon. Outings were arranged to see "Romeo and Juliet," "Troilus and Cressida," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." There was also an excursion to see "The Inspector General" at the Oxford Playhouse.

There was the usual enthusiasm at the Inter-House Athletics. Many records were broken, and for the first time in six years the Cup changed hands. This year St. David's

wrested it from St. George's.

The customary Staff v. School Cricket and Tennis matches took place. These provided great entertainment to the spectators, and for the second year in succession the Staff won both matches.

This term we were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Sole and Mr. Gardner. Mrs. Sole has been with us for seven years, and we thank her for the great contribution she has made to the life of the School, and especially for her hard work in connection with the girls' games. Mr. Gardner has been with us for four years and we thank him particularly for his productions of "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Arms and the Man," "Everyman," and "The Poacher." We wish them both every success for the future.

This term £10.0.0. was collected for the National Spastics Appeal Fund.

Autumn Term, 1954.

We welcomed Miss Greenhaigh and Mr. Scott, who came to take the places of Mrs. Sole and Mr. Gardner. We hope their stay will be happy and enjoyable.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs on the arrival of their second daughter, Judith.

When the results of external examinations were known, we were delighted to hear that Brian Brindle had gained a State Scholarship, and that Jean Goffe and Brian Claridge had been awarded County Major Scholarships.

On Friday, September 17th, we were very fortunate in having Martin Jones, an extremely talented pianist, from Magdalen College School, Oxford, to give us a recital. He presented a varied programme, playing the music of Handel, Chopin, Schumann and Mendelssohn. Handel's Fantasia in C came first, and Martin played this with great feeling. Two waltzes by Chopin, the first in C sharp minor, the second in D flat, followed. The second waltz, often called the Minute Waltz, was played very competently, showing a mastery of fast passages as well as slow. Next came Schumann's "Romance," "Why?" and "Caprice," all extremely well handled. The finale was Mendelssohn's "Andante and Rondo Capriccioso," which was brilliantly played, providing a great finish to a memorable recital.

In the School Hall at 7 p.m. on 7th October, 1954, John Le Masurier, A.A.A. National Coach for the South, gave a talk on Champion Athletes in action. He used film loops to illustrate various points. A small but appreciative audience enjoyed his very interesting lecture and asked a number of questions. Mr. Masurier had just returned from the British Empire Games in Vancouver, where he was chief coach, and so was able to give an exciting firsthand account of the famous Mile race in which Bannister beat Landy.

Speech Day was held on October 28th, and we were honoured with the presence of the Bishop of Dorchester as our speaker. Brian Brindle was presented with the Sir Cyril Ashford Memorial Prize for obtaining the best results in Mathematics and Physics in the county.

Mr. Watts organised a photographic competition for those who had been to Wales. For the best six photographs he awarded first prize to Joyce Stobart. Jennifer Hunt was runner-up.

Soon after half-term we were all very sorry to hear that Mr. Beard had been taken suddenly ill with pleurisy and was a patient in the Chipping Norton Hospital. Three weeks later we were relieved at the news that he was back at home, with the accent on convalescence. Miss Clyne came to take his work.

On December 9th, 10th and 11th, the School presented "She Stoops to Conquer," by Oliver Goldsmith. We thank Mr. Scott for producing the play, and wish him many more successful productions.

Shortly before the end of the term the news circulated that Mr. Harry had been appointed Senior Mathematics Master at Burford Grammar School, and would be leaving us at the close of the Easter Term, 1955. Those who saw the VIth Form's impression of a Chemistry lesson were left with the conviction that the outcome of Mr. Harry's experiments is a good deal more 'dicey' than the regard in which he is held. We shall say goodbye to

him with great reluctance, and while thanking him for his work here—not forgetting his tender care of the cricket pitch—we wish him every success and happiness in his new post.

The customary Christmas Festivities took place at the end of this term. Additional activities were arranged in order to collect for Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies. The sum of £19.7.0. was collected.

THE LIBRARY.

Since the publication of the last issue of the Magazine the School Library has undergone considerable re-organisation. Visitors have been impressed by the transformation of the old Domestic Science Room into a very attractive and comfortable Reference Library. One long side and one short side have been fitted with shelves, and two projecting stacks form alcoves within reach of the books. Three long tables and three circular ones, with about a score of chairs and two long wall-side seats, provide suitable accommodation for private study or small VI Form classes. The whole scheme is carried out in light oak and mushroom and peach coloured walls and doors, and there are radiators and tiled fireplace to harmonize. The whole ensemble is very pleasing and a selection of pictures chosen by Miss Bellwood enhances the general effect. A number of old pupils have been inspired to make gifts of books, which are greatly appreciated. There is space for many more! Recent acquisitions include many books on Art, English, and books of general interest. The accession list has now passed the 3,000 mark. The process of re-cataloguing is not yet complete.

The Old Library now houses the Fiction Section, including a hundred County Library books available for the use of Lower Forms.

Our best thanks are due to Mr. Eccleshall, who has given so freely of his time in arranging and cataloguing many volumes.

HOUSE NOTES, 1953-54.

ST. ANDREW'S.

House Mistress: Miss W. K. Dixon.

House Masters : Mr. F. L. Eccleshall, Mr. J. Jefferies,
Mr. T. B. Harry, Mr. R. A. Ransome.

House Captains : Margaret Shayler, D. Clarke.

Prefects—Mary Richardson, Jennifer Hunt, Margaret Shayler,
Rosemary Hall, Kathleen Oates, D. Clarke.

GIRLS.

The girls of St. Andrew's House, after losing many of the stalwarts in the Senior School, found themselves lacking in ability to maintain the high standards set by our teams in previous years. In the winter months we played our House Hockey matches, but with little success, although I am sure we all enjoyed playing them. During the summer, owing to bad weather, our Rounders and Tennis matches were badly disorganised, but again We had little success. Maybe next year some of our 'up and coming' juniors will fill in the blank spaces in our teams, and then we will again rise to the great heights we have reached in the past.

M.R. (VI.A.2).

BOYS.

From the point of view of results to be chronicled the task of compiling these notes is more congenial than of late, but we wish that somebody who shall be nameless had left us some vivid details of encounters with our opponents, so that the record might be more interesting for former members of the House to read.

Spring Term, 1954- The pious hope with which we closed our last notes was realised—the best combined Football team did win, and it was ours. Under the captaincy of Clarke we defeated St. George's by two goals to one and St. David's by one goal to nil. We must not crow too much, but we have considerable pleasure in recording that we secured the Chess Trophy which St. David's had held for some years.

Summer Term, 1954. We did not anticipate being able to do great things on the cricket field, but owing largely to Clarke's scores of 52 and 30 we shared the total points equally with the other Houses. Our Seniors defeated St. George's by 7 wickets, but lost to St. David's by 6 wickets. Our Junior team beat St. George's by 6 wickets, and lost to St. David's by 30 runs.

When shall we recover the Athletics Trophy, which for several years bore the blue ribbon? Not until a more determined effort is made to register every possible point in 'standards' before Sports Day. This year under Edginton as Captain, we again took third place. Oliver's success in breaking three School records may be a good omen for the future.

Our last year's House Captain, Claridge, deserves our congratulations on his examination result and has our best wishes for future success at Aberystwith.

Autumn Term, 1954. At our first and rather belated meeting we welcomed new members. At Speech Day we saw the Academic Cup and the Shield garlanded with green. While congratulating St. David's we hope our own members resolved to do their utmost to secure a change next time.

Before leaving, I should like as Captain to urge all members of the House to uphold the best traditions of what, for us, is the best House in the School—St. Andrew's !

D.C. (VI).

ST. DAVID'S.

House Mistress : Miss A. S. Davies.

House Masters : Mr. J. W. Partridge, Mr. C. F. Beard,
Mr. C. E. N. Watts.

Captains.: Jennifer Abbey, J. Bunting.

Prefects : Jennifer Abbey, Mary Baldwin, Elizabeth Greene,
Pamela Hawtin, J. Bunting, B. Elliot.

The past year has been a very successful one for St. David's. Everyone has contributed admirably to all our success. We have managed to wrest the much-coveted Sports Cup from St. George's for the first time in six years, and all members of St. David's may be proud of an outstanding achievement. We have retained the Academic Cup, and as a result of winning these trophies we have again won the Shield.

GIRLS.

Spring Term, 1954. Hockey—This year we were successful in regaining the Hockey Cup from St. Andrew's.

Summer Term, 1954. Our determination last year to go one better and win the Hockey, Tennis and Rounders Cups has at last been rewarded, and resulted in the winning of these respective trophies for St. David's House.

J.A. (VI.A.2).

BOYS.

Spring Term, 1954. We failed to gain the Football Cup in a keen competition, Andrew's succeeding in a series of extra matches after a triple tie, each House having won one match. We also lost the Chess Cup, our best players having left- These results may sound unexciting, but were really the opposite and we did very well.

Football Results. David's v. Andrew's 1—0. David's v. George's 1—2. George's v. Andrew's 0—1.

Summer Term, 1954. The cricket also ended in a triple tie. David's won a resounding victory over Andrew's, who were the favourites, and then lost to George's, who were considered to be the weakest of the three Houses.

Results-

Andrew's v. David's—David's won by 6 wickets.

George's v. David's—George's won by 2 wickets.

Andrew's v. George's—Andrew's won by 7 wickets.

On Sports Day all members of the House ran, jumped and threw extremely well, so well in fact, that we won the Sports by a considerable margin, reversing the position of the previous year.

Autumn Term, 1954. As usual the Academic Cup and the House Shield were presented to the House on Speech Day, making a crowning success to a most memorable year.

I would like to welcome all new members to the House, and hope that they will do their best to maintain the high standard which has been set during the past year and years previous.

J.B. (V).

ST. GEORGE'S.

House Mistresses : Miss Harrop, Miss Bellwood.

House Masters—Mr. Miles, Mr. Scott.

Captain : Christine Harwood.

Prefects : P. Ashmore, R. Baughan.

GIRLS.

St. George's have once more maintained the high standard set up in previous years. Although lacking in senior girls we were able to obtain second place in the struggle for the Hockey Cup.

As we had only one girl playing in the first Tennis six, we did not expect to win the Cup, but everyone put her best effort into her play and we obtained second place. With the junior girls' we also obtained second place in the Rounders Cup Competition.

In the last six years we have held the Athletics Trophy, but this year St. David's managed to defeat us by a small margin.

K.S. (V.M).

BOYS.

Spring Term. The boys also maintained the high standard of previous years, but unfortunately they did not keep the Football Cup that they had won the year before. The games ended in a triple tie which resulted in replays, and St. George's gained second place.

Results :—George's v. David's 2—1. Andrew's v. George's 1—0. David's v. Andrew's 1—0,

Summer Term.—The matches for the Cricket Cup also ended in a triple tie. Although we were considered the weakest team everyone played very well. Results :—

George's v. David's—George's won by two wickets.

George's v. Andrew's—Andrew's won by seven wickets.

Andrew's v. David's—David's won by six wickets.

Again owing to the lack of seniors we were at last defeated in the Athletic Cup Competition, but everyone put up a good fight and we hope to regain the Cup next year.

The Chess team consisted mainly of junior boys, so we did not expect to win the Cup ; but in later years we shall have a fine team.

Once again the Academic Cup and Shield went to St. David's, but we gained second place. We must congratulate Brian Brindle, who obtained a State Scholarship to Nottingham University, and we send him our best wishes for the future.

P.A. (VI.S1).

SPEECH DAY, 1954.

On Speech Day, October 28th, the Lord Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Kenneth Riches, M.A., was the principal speaker. We considered ourselves fortunate to have so busy a man at a time when his duties and responsibilities were the greater because there was no Bishop of Oxford. We considered ourselves more fortunate as we watched him present the prizes and heard him speak.

The Chairman of Governors, the Rev. K. St. C. Thomas, M.A., welcomed a large gathering of parents and visitors to the crowded School Hall. He spoke particularly of the present arrangement whereby the Head Master was also acting as Head Master of the Hailey Secondary Modern School. This was no ad hoc measure, but had been done purposefully so that both Secondary Schools should come under one control. The Education Committee's plan to make the two schools one could then be examined in practice.

The Head Master gave a written report of the School's activities during the year 1953-4, and the main points he made are discussed elsewhere in the magazine. He spoke of the importance to the individual and the community of remaining at school for as long as the school had something to teach. Too many able boys and girls left at the end of the Fifth Form year, when another two or three years in the Sixth Form would have given them qualifications and training to fit them for the highest positions in modern Britain. The country could not afford to lose these best brains, or it would not survive as a Great Power in a competitive age.

The Bishop of Dorchester presented what he called 'a very well-chosen set of prizes.' He then spoke entertainingly, but with serious purpose, of the great need for a sense of responsibility. We could not all leave everything to the other fellow. Unless the grammar schools encouraged the acceptance of responsibility, a Christian philosophy of "love thy neighbour—", the future for British society would be full of difficulties.

Mr. J. Innes Miller, a Governor of the School, moved a well-considered vote of thanks to the Bishop. He was wittily seconded by the Head Boy Prefect, P. A. Ashmore, for brevity is indeed the soul of wit at the end of Speech Day.

During the afternoon the Choir sang Geoffrey Shaw's "O Brother Man," and the Senior Choir rendered "Zion's Children," arranged as a four-part chorus. Mr. McKinnell conducted.

Prizes were awarded to :—

Form I.—R. C. Edgington, P. J. Hunt, Anne Dewar, Christine Didcock, D. J. Beacham.

Form II.—Mary Holmes, Jasmine Steele, R. S. Hoare, D. F.

Townsend, Janet Ackerman.

Form III.—J. W. Oliver, Barbara Timms, R. L. Daniells, Pauline Kyte.

Form IV.—Angela Sale, Rita Duff, Susannah Short, Maureen Cox.

Form V.—Pamela Hawtin (English, Latin, French, History, Biology), R. H. Baughan (Geography), Daphne King (Art), D. J. Holford (Mathematics and Physics), N. J. Kinch (Mathematics), Patricia Crutch (Biology), P. A. Ashmore (Woodwork), Anne Sharpe (Needlework), Patricia Leech (General Result).

Form VI.—B. P. Brindle (Mathematics, Physics), Jean Goffe (French), B. A. Claridge (Mathematics), Kathleen Oates (English, French), Jennifer Abbey (Art).

Headmaster's Prize for General Knowledge—Jill Thorne. Orme Prize—B. P. Brindle, Jean Goffe. Sir Cyril Ashford Prize—B. P. Brindle.

University Scholarships.

B. P. Brindle—State Scholarship, Nottingham University. Jean A. Goffe—Oxfordshire Major Award, Bristol University. B. A. Claridge—Oxfordshire Major Award, University of Wales.

Certificates for passes in the General Certificate of Education were presented.

The Academic Trophy and the House Shield were again presented to St. David's House.

CHESS CLUB NOTES.

The School had another good season in 1953-54, finishing third in the Oxford and District Junior Chess League. The team played 7 matches, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 3.

Results :—

School v. City of Oxford High School. Home. Lost 1½—4½.

School v. City of Oxford High School. Away. Won 4—2.

School v. Bicester Grammar School. Home. Drew 3—3.

School v. Bicester Grammar School. Away. Drew 3—3.

School v. Magdalen College School. Home. Lost 2—4.

School v. Magdalen College School. Away. Won 4—2.

School v. Salesian College. Away. Lost 2—4.

Individual Records.—Baughan 4½ (7), Claridge 4½ (7), Edgington 4 (7), Allen 2½ (7), Powell 2 (3), Hoare, A. 1 (1), Grantham 1 (7), Payne 0 (3).

In the Junior County Correspondence Chess Championship, Claridge, on board 1, won his game, and Grantham, on board 11, drew.

Claridge and Allen represented the School in the County Junior Championship at Oxford.. Claridge came third, scoring 4 out of a possible 6.

St. Andrew's House won the Chess Cup by defeating St. David's by 3½—1½ and St. George's by 4—1.

A pleasing feature of the season's activities was the keenness of the juniors, several of whom promise to develop into strong players. Grantham organised a Swiss Tournament for them during the Summer Term. There was only time for each competitor to play six games, and the results were as follows :—Hunt 6, Brown, McCormick, Worth, 4 ; Franklin, Johnson, Osborne, 3 , Baker, Smith, Townsend, 2½ ; Edgington, Tarrant, 2 ; Cooper 1½

Baughan has been elected Chess Captain for the 1954-55 season, and Allen is the new Secretary.

The Club began the season with 30 members, including four girls, and a team has been entered in the Junior Division of the Oxford and District Chess League.

League results to date are as follows :—

School v. City of Oxford High School. Away. Lost ½|—5½

School v. Magdalen College School. Away. Drew 3—3.

Four leagues have been run during the Club Periods, and at the time of going to press the leading positions are as follows :—

League A.—1, Harding; 2, Hall ; 3, Hunt.

League B.—1, Franklin ; 2, Townsend ; 3, Green.

League C.—1, Brown ; 2, Worth ; 3, Edgington.

League D.—1, Cooper ; 2, Tarrant ; 3, Harris.

Hall and Hunt went to Leamington on October 9th and played for the Rest of England against the Midlands. Hunt won after a strenuous game, but Hall was not as fortunate.

Baughan and Harding played for Oxfordshire against Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe on November 13th. Both lost after hard games.

The Chess Library has been well used and "The Game of Chess," by H. Golombek, has proved a best seller; no fewer than a dozen copies having been bought by Club members.

T.D.A. (V.M).

"SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER."

In December, 1954, the School Dramatic Society presented the eighteenth century play, "She Stoops to Conquer," by Oliver Goldsmith; and Mr. Scott, the producer, was successful in overcoming the difficulty of never having met any of the cast until the beginning of the term.

Margaret Shayler excelled herself as the self-opinionated Mrs. Hardcastle. She was well supported by John Bunting as her husband.

Peter Clacy admirably portrayed the part of Tony Lumpkin, the jovial son of Mrs. Hardcastle. The "Conquerer," Kate Hardcastle, was played extremely well by Pauline Kyte.

Her change of character was very effective. Paul Ashmore, as her suitor, Marlow, fitted his part to perfection, as he was natural, especially in his scenes of bashfulness and modesty.

David Clarke appeared as Hastings, the friend of Marlow. He played opposite Mary Baldwin, who took the part of Constance Neville. Both spoke their lines well. The part of Marlow's father was played by Victor Hunt. He was handicapped by the fact that he was younger than Marlow. Minor parts were played by J. Hainsworth, G. Read, R. Hoare, J. Tillotson, M. Goves and W. Money.

The scenery, painted and assembled by Jennifer Abbey and her helpers, under the guidance of Miss Bellwood, was very effective.

The small details were emphasised by the good lighting effects, and the costumes were well in keeping with the period.

Although the house was not full on every evening, the play was thoroughly appreciated by most people.

R.J.H., VI.

Awards were made to Jennifer Abbey, Pauline Kyte, David Clarke and John Bunting.

HOUSE PLAYS, EASTER, 1954.

The Inter-House Drama Competition was repeated again this year, the casts throwing themselves heart and soul into the performances; while the producers stood at the back of the hall, their hands clenched in anguish as they heard their cast perform.

All the plays were well done and credit must be given to the Senior producing each play for the amount of work put into it. As usual the casts consisted of members of the junior school.

This year's competition was adjudicated by Mr. Kitching, who was until recently Drama Organiser for our County of Oxfordshire.

Mr. Pitching judged our plays against the standard of those he sees so often in Oxford. He was severe and told the actors of their many faults, but he was not slow to praise what he considered the actors' good points, too.

He placed St. George's House first, for their performance of "Five Birds in a Cage," by Gertrude Jennings. It consisted of a scene in a lift, and was lively and amusing. The acting was good, but the prompter could be heard much too often. Still, congratulations, George's. You put on a good show.

In second place came St. Andrew's, who performed an extract from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—"Pyramus and Thisbe." It was immensely funny and credit must be given to the producer for the fine array of costumes. They were extremely colourful and effective. Although Mr. Kitching made little or no remark on the costumes, they do deserve mention. Well done, Andrew's. You ran a very close second.

Last, but by no means least, came St. David's. Their production of "The Bishop's Candlesticks" was good, but the play was rather too hard for them. As Mr. Kitching said, it is a very difficult play to act owing to the age of the characters. It is terribly difficult to make young people act the part of old people effectively; their voices, for instance, let them down considerably.

Praise must again go to the producer. The arrangement of the set was the best. The setting looked very effective from the floor of the hall. Well done, David's. You tried hard.

Better luck next time.

On the whole they were extremely praiseworthy productions, and comments made by Mr. Kitching will surely lead to even better productions in the future.

M.R., VI.A.2.

SCHOOL GAMES (BOYS).

Football.

The captain for this season is David Clarke, and with only half the season gone the first eleven has developed into a well-knit team. Already this season we have accounted for teams that in the past have had a real field day against us. Three of our members, K. Vickers, J. Goodway and G. Huckin, have won their places in the District XI. K. Vickers is the leading goalscorer so far, but J. Bunting is not so far behind him.

For the first time since the Old Nortonians match became an annual event, the School XI won. It was a very close match in which the issue was decided only in the last few minutes.

A special word of congratulation must be given to those stalwarts who are always ready to turn out if regular players are selected for representative teams.

In the Spring Term, 1954, the Colts' XI finished top of the Banbury and District League. They then drew in the final of the Gold Cup and on the toss of a coin held the trophy for the first six months. They have been very successful so far this season, having won their three matches and being top of the table.

Colours last season were awarded to D. Clarke.

Results—Spring Term, 1954.

1st XI.

Jan. 23. Salesian College. Home. Won 4-2
Mar. 10. Northleach. Away. Lost 0—10.
Mar. 13. Easington. Away. Won 2—1.
Mar. 27. Chipping Campden. Home. Lost 1-2

Colts XI

Feb. 26. Steeple Aston. Away. Drew 0-0
Mar. 5. Charlbury. Home. Won 3-2
Mar. 12. Hook Norton. Home. Won 7-1
Mar. 27. St. John's, Banbury. Away. Won 3-0

Colts 2nd. XI.

Feb. 26. Steeple Aston. Away. Won 9-0
Mar. 5. Charlbury. Home. Lost 2-3
Mar. 12. Hook Norton. Home. Won 4-1.
Mar. 13. Easington. Away. Won 3-0

Autumn Term—1st XI.

v. Easington Sec. Mod. Home. Won 11—1
v. Witney. Away. Lost 1—4
v. Salesian College. Home. Drew 1—1.
v. Chipping Campden. Home. Won 4—3.

- v. Witney. Home. Lost 3—8.
- v. District XI". Home. Won 5—2.
- vi. v. District XI. Home. Lost 3—12.
- vii. v. Old Nortonians' XI. Home. Won 4—3.
- viii. v. Sibford. Home. Won 9—0.
- ix. v. Northleach. Home. Lost 2—4.
- v. Witney Sec. Mod. Away. Won 4-1

2nd XI.

- v. Easington Sec. Mod. Home. Won 1-0
- v. Witney Sec. Mod. Away. Won 5—1.

Colts XI.

- v. Steeple Aston. Home. Won 9—0.
- v. Charlbury. Away. Won 2—1.
- v. Hook Norton. Away. Won 4—1.

Colts 2nd XI.

- v. Steeple Aston. Home. Won 8—1.
- v. Charlbury. Away. Won 2—1.
- v. Hook Norton. Away. Won 2—1.

CRICKET.

Under the captaincy of D. Clarke the School 1st XI Cricket team had a fairly successful season, although the team did not win many matches. The good work was done by blooding the young cricket enthusiasts for the forthcoming seasons. Two newcomers to the 1st team finished top of the bowling and batting averages. J. Grantham finished top of the bowling averages with an average cost of 3.5 runs per wicket, and M. Mason headed the batting averages with an average of 15. The School also fielded an under 15 team under the captaincy of K. Vickers, and they won most of their matches with comparative ease.

Results.

- v. Sherborne. Lost 28—50.
- v. Northleach. Lost 16—23 for 1.
- v. Witney G.S. Won 90—44.
- v. Mr. Martin's XI. Won 85—44.
- v. Old Nortonians. Abandoned.
- v. Sibford. Lost 37—33.
- v. Bicester. Lost 38—39 for 8.
- v. Banbury G.S. Lost 78—81 for 5.
- v. Bicester. Lost 80—56.
- v. Staff. Lost 89—9i for 7.

D. Clarke was awarded his Cricket Colours.

D.C. (VI).

SCHOOL GAMES (GIRLS).

Spring Term, 1954.

- Jan. 23. Milham Ford School (1st and 2nd XI). Home. 1st Won 4—1, 2nd Won 6—2.
- Feb. 10. Sibford School (16 and under). Away. Won 3—0.
- Feb. 13. Chipping Campden Grammar. Away. Cancelled.
- Feb. 27. Sibford School (16 and under). Home. Cancelled.

Mar. 6- Banbury Grammar (1st and 2nd XI). Home. 1st Won 4—0, 2nd Won 3—1.
Mar. 10. Westwoods Grammar. Away. Lost 2—5.
Headington School, (1st XI) Away.
Mar. 20. Bicester Grammar (2nd XI). Home. Cancelled.
Mar. 27. Chipping Campden Grammar. Home. 1st Won 5—4 2nd Lost 0—5.
Mar. 24. Hemel Hempstead Grammar. Away. Won 2—1.
April 3. Old Nortonians. Home. Won 5-2.

TENNIS AND ROUNDERS.

Summer Term, 1954.

May 8. Prince Henry Grammar, Evesham. Home. Cancelled.
May 15. Sibford School (Tennis and Rounders). Home. Cancelled.
May 22. Westwoods Grammar School. Away. Rained off.
June 2. Chipping Campden (Tennis and Rounders). Away. Tennis 55—44, Rounders 2—14.
June 12. Sibford School (Tennis and Rounders). Away. Cancelled.
June 19. Bicester Grammar. Home. Tennis 60—39, Rounders 2—9. June 26. Banbury Grammar. Home. Won 63—36.
July 3. Milham Ford (Tennis and Rounders). Away. Cancelled.
July 7. Bicester Grammar. Away. Lost 52—47.
July 10. Witney Grammar. Away. Won 55—44.
July 17. Westwoods Grammar. Home. Cancelled.

Autumn Term, 1954.

Owing to the long spell of inclement weather the fixture list was greatly curtailed. Of five matches played, two were won and three lost. Many youngsters were tried, and it was obvious that in a season or two the Girls' Hockey XI will be a team to be reckoned with.

THE SCHOOL ATHLETIC SPORTS.

July 9th dawned bright and clear, and developed into a glorious day with plenty of sun and little wind. It was just the day for an Athletics meeting, and certainly it was an eventful one.

The result was a win for St. David's House, who took the Cup from St. George's, the holders for the last seven years. But praise must go not only to those in St. David's ; everyone who took part gave a very creditable performance.

As the weather was almost perfect many new records were expected, and no one was disappointed. Altogether nineteen new records were set up, and most of them improved by several points of a second on the old, leaving a very high standard to be attained next year.

Oliver, an Intermediate boy in St. Andrew's, ran the 100 yards in 11.5 secs., and the 220 yards in 25.2 sees.

Goodway, an Intermediate boy in St. David's, won the High Jump by clearing 4ft. 9 ½ ins., won the Hurdles in 11.05 sees., and the Long Jump by jumping 16ft.3ins. Brindle, as usual, gave a very fine performance and can claim three very good records. He is, of course, a member of St. George's. He won the Senior Boys' Hurdles in 14.4 secs., the 220 yards in 24.3 secs., and the 440 yards in 55.4 sees. Bunting, a newcomer to St. David's, gave an excellent performance and has the records for the 880 yards, 2 mins. 10 secs., and for the mile, 4 mins. 54 sees. Bunting is, incidentally, Athletics Captain of St. David's.

Vickers, an Intermediate boy of St. George's, won the 880 yards, in the record time of 2 mins. 10.2 secs., which is only .2 of a second behind the time of the Senior Boys, a very creditable performance.

Hainsworth, of St. David's, an Intermediate boy, won the Javelin with a throw of 93 feet.

Dix, of St. Andrew's, won the Discus with a throw of 89ft. 4Ins.

The boys also claim two Relay records, both of which go to St. George's House. The Junior Boys won with a time of 58.4 secs., and the Intermediate Boys with a time of 52.1 secs. Congratulations to all the boys on an excellent performance by all.

There are not so many girls' records but they are well worth mentioning. Christine Short, an Intermediate of St. George's, won the 150 yards with a time of 20 secs. dead. The Javelin was won by Gillian Forth of St. David's, with a throw of 65ft.4ins. Janet Ackerman of St. David's won the High Jump with a leap of 4ft. 4ins. Irene Oliver, a Junior girl in St. Andrew's, won the 80 yards with a time of 10.6 secs.

The girls did not achieve any Relay standards, but they did very well on the whole.

The Sports ended about 3.45 p.m. and the result was announced. Mrs. Martin, our Headmaster's wife, honoured us by presenting the Sports Cup to the Athletics Captains of St. David's, Pamela Hawtin and John Bunting. After her interesting speech, there was a very good tea for all the visitors in the Gymnasium and the Art Room. For this we must thank Miss Davies and some of her girls. Thanks must also go to Mrs. Sole and Mr. Gibbs, who put a great deal of hard work into the preparation of the Sports. Mr. Stares, our groundsman, also deserves a word of thanks, for our field was in perfect condition, which goes a long way in improving the standard of athletics of a school.

On the whole we had one of the best Sports Days for many years.

M.R. (VI.A.2).

INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

Members of the Junior and Intermediate School took part in the North Oxfordshire Athletic Association Sports Meeting at Banbury on 1st June, 1954.

The School team came second with 96 points, Steeple Aston School coming first with 103 points. Steeple Aston had a 35 point lead over the School at the beginning of the meeting and the School did exceptionally well to finish 7 points behind at the end.

This result was primarily due to the Senior Boys, who won the Senior Boys' Coronation Challenge Cup.

The boys and girls who came first and second in the finals were invited to represent the North Oxfordshire Schools' Athletics team at the County Championships at the Iffley Road Running Track on June 26th.

Age Groups—Intermediate : 11-12 years, April 1st. Seniors:13-14 years, April 1st.

Boys.

S. Discus—Dix (2).

S. Shot—Dix (3).

S. Hurdles—Goodway (1), Goves (2).

S. Long Jump—Goodway (1).

- S. 100 Yards—Vickers, K. (1).
- S. 220 Yards—Oliver (1), Huckin (2).
- S. 440 Yards—Smith, M. (2).
- S. 880 Yards—Vickers, K. (1), Pontin (3).
- S. Relay-1st. (Oliver, Huckin, Goodway, Vickers, K.).
- I. Hurdles—Vickers, B. (1).
- I. High Jump—Vickers, B. (1), Danbury (2).
- I. 80 Yards—Danbury (2), Morgan (3).
- I. 150 Yards—Morgan (4).
- I. Relay—2nd. (Morgan, Frazer, Danbury, Vickers, B.).

Girls.

- S. Discus—M. Absalom (2).
- S. Hurdles—E. Ashmore (3), V. Peachey (4).
- S. High Jump—J. Ackerman (2).
- S. 100 Yards—C. Short (1).
- S. 150 Yards—C. Short (2), J. Ackerman (4).
- S. Relay—2nd. (J. Ackerman, K. Knibbs, E. Ashmore, C. Short).
- I. 75 Yards—V. Taylor (4).
- I. 120 Yards—1. Oliver (2), J. Gilbert (3).
- I. Relay—1st. (S. Buckingham, V. Taylor, P. Gilbert, I. Oliver).

During the summer term the boys met Banbury Grammar School and Burford School in a triangular athletics meeting. After a very exciting competition the School were successful, winning by one point with Banbury second.

This was the first such meeting for a number of years, but it is hoped to make it an annual event and perhaps enlarge it by inviting two other schools to take part.

It is pleasing to note that Mr. Marshall, Chief Inspector of P.E. at the Ministry of Education, was an interested spectator.

J.O. (III).

GYMNASTICS DISPLAY.

A very fine display of gymnastics was given by members of the School on April 1st and 2nd. The performance ranged from rudimentary exercises to the high standards of the seniors.

The display started with the First Form girls demonstrating the type of work that is first taught to the younger members of the School. The First Form boys followed, doing the same kind of primary gymnastics. Amusement was provided when these boys, with much gusto, showed us how to wrestle—the modified way. They then went on to spectacular formations of pyramids. It seemed incredible that small boys could perform such professional stunts.

Third Form girls were next on the list with a fine performance of National dancing. They also entertained us later in the programme with a display of country dancing.

Second Form girls and Senior girls' agility followed. This proved to be equally spectacular, especially when the smaller members of the team hurtled over apparatus twice

as high as themselves.

Next was a performance of the exercises and elementary work in boxing, football and athletics. It was very interesting, and gave an insight into all the practice needed before an athlete is made.

After this we saw some amazing vaulting by the Senior boys. The audience held their breath as fantastic hand-springs, thief vaults, and many other evolutions were performed over the apparatus.

We owe many thanks to Mrs. Sole and Mr. Gibbs for going to so much trouble to give us two very enjoyable evenings.

J.M., VI(A2).

VISIT TO NORTH WALES, 1954.

When the party reached Lledr Hall, after struggling a little way with the suitcases, it was greeted by Miss Fishpool, the manageress. The hot dinner which followed was very welcome, and gave us enough energy to disperse into many parties and start exploring the district. There were only one or two unfortunate incidents that evening, such as when someone jumped into a stream.

The following day a short service was held in the lounge after breakfast. We were then allowed to have the morning to ourselves. Some of us walked two miles to the nearest village, Dolwyddelan, and went to church. The vicar later informed Miss Fishpool that he was very pleased to see us there. Some of the more energetic members spent the morning climbing. In the afternoon the whole party was taken for a practice walk, apparently to limber up our muscles. By the time we had finished, and we had walked about twelve miles, nearly everyone was worn out. We set out over the hills to Betws-y-coed, intending to find an old Roman road which led to this place, but unfortunately we did not find it until most of us had gone up to our knees in a large bog. Somehow Mr. Watts kept his feet dry, but even those who followed him managed to get soaking wet. At the end of the old road was a house which sold lemonade, and it was a very welcome sight to our thirsty party. After this we had to walk about four miles along the highway to reach home, where everyone rushed to have a shower.

After we had struggled out of bed on Monday morning, and had our breakfast, we set off in the bus for Snowdon. Some of the party decided to go to the top by train. The first part, which we had to walk over, was rather wet and boggy, and most of us managed to get our feet wet again, but by now we were becoming accustomed to this. We had only one accident the whole way up, and that was when Mr. Watts fell backwards off a wall. Fortunately he was able to continue climbing. We found the saddle track, which was our objective, and from then on the going was fairly easy. The scenery was magnificent whichever way we looked. Unfortunately the summit of Snowdon was covered with clouds and the wind whistled around us. The cafe at the summit was very much appreciated, especially by one member of the party who, having eaten nearly all the food when he was about half-way up, suddenly discovered that what he thought was only elevenses, was really his lunch and tea combined. That cafe must have done quite a lot of trade with us by the time we departed. We descended by the Pyg track, but not before everyone had sung "Happy Birthday" to Hoverd, and we hope that he will always remember this birthday as one of the best he has ever had. It took us only 1¾ hours to get down and 2½ hours to climb up. At the foot, waiting to greet us, was a large, woolly sheepdog and an ice-cream van, which meant that the purses had to come out again.

On Tuesday it was decided to take it easy after our previous strenuous day. We all

scrambled into the bus and headed for the Menai Straits. Before we arrived there we went to see a large lake at the foot of the Devil's Kitchen. Then we saw the wrecked training ship, the "Conway," as we walked over the large suspension bridge which Telford built. When we reached Carnarvon most of us went over the magnificently preserved castle there, before going elsewhere to amuse ourselves. It was raining, which meant that most of us made our way towards the shops to buy presents.

The weather was fine for us the next day, when we set out to climb Mount Cnicht. This time we had Mr. Ransome's daughter, Elizabeth, with us, who did not quite reach the top although she had a good try. Elizabeth and Stephen did much to make our stay at Lledr very amusing, especially with Stephen's gun.

Of course, we all arrived home with wet feet once more, this time Mr. Watts too. Instead of our usual sing-song in the evening we held a dance, and although the gramophone was a little tinny we all enjoyed ourselves immensely.

On Thursday it was raining again, but nobody minded much because most of us were going down the slate mines, and the rest would be going round the surface mills where the slate is split up evenly. The party which went down were given lamps beforehand. It was very interesting to see the many different stages in which slate is mined, and we enjoyed watching some of our boys being nearly shaken to pieces when trying out the drills. It was very cold and muddy down the mine. In the evening we went out again in the bus to see the Swallow Falls. These were really magnificent because rain had increased the rate and the water rushed down faster than ever.

It was a pleasant surprise to us the next day to find that we were not going climbing, but to Llandudno. On the way we stopped in Conway, a famous walled town. One of the novelties to be seen there was the smallest house in Great Britain. It consisted of only two rooms, and normal people found that their heads touched the ceiling. A six foot fisherman used to live there, and his huge bed made his tiny dressing table look even smaller. When we left Conway most of the people had to get out and walk, because the suspension bridge is not strong enough to take a loaded bus. We reached Llandudno about half-past one, and everyone was thankful that they had not been taken there before, as they would have been tempted to spend all their money. Some went down to the beach and paddled, but we did this very carefully because there was a great number of crabs lying around. Before we returned we made sure that we were stocked with ample food for our midnight feasts, which were to be held that night. After midnight, everybody was eating a rather queer mixture of food until nearly three o'clock, and then we stopped only because one of the masters caught us. Perhaps it was just as well, because we had to rise early on Saturday morning in order to make an early start.

There are of course, many things which cannot be described in detail in this article: apple-pie beds, pillow fights which led to boys being locked out in the rain, sing-songs in the evening, and fishing. Seeing the salmon leaping up over the rocks is a wonderful sight and one that should not be missed. With a river running right alongside the house it was too great a temptation to keep away from it, as some of us found to our great discomfort, and the drying of clothes was continually necessary.

Welsh people are very friendly and kind, and we found many examples of this; when we discovered that no tea could be bought after climbing Cnicht, two families immediately made us some and would accept no payment for it. The children of Dolwyddelan, too, invited us to play rounders with them. It was through going down to the village that the boys suddenly developed the craze for water-pistols, and eventually, because everything and everybody were becoming so wet, these pistols were confiscated by a very brave person (who, incidentally, made sure that he was armed before attempting to collect them). It was the friendliness that we found everywhere, and also the hard work that certain

people did, that made our holiday such an enjoyable one; and the entire party would like to express their sincere thanks to all concerned.

D.K., P.L. (V.M).

BIRDS.

The blackbird sings and the skylark flies
Up from his nest on the ground.
The woodpecker pecks at an old oak tree,
And buntings are flying around.

The finches are twittering in the trees
And the hawk is up on high.
He's looking for a little mouse—
When he sees one he darts from the sky.

Now I'm going to tell of a bird
Which is lazy. I reckon you've guessed
What it is. Yes, the cuckoo. You know what she does?
She lays eggs in another bird's nest !

B.G.W. (I.B).

JOURNEY INTO SPACE.

The journey to Mars seemed very long
To Harry and me and tiny John.
We shot past the trees and out into space,
Speeding along at a terrible pace.

We had dashed through big clouds, over strange foreign lands.
We recognised stars, but did not shake hands.
Travelling by day and also by night,
Oh, how we enjoyed our marvellous flight !

I.H. (I.B).

CHRISTMAS TIME.

Oh, how I love the time of year
When Christmas comes around !
Then all the shops are bright and gay,
And snow is on the ground.

It's then the Robin comes to sing
His song of Christmas cheer.
Children, too, their carols sing
With voices loud and clear,

But best of all is Christmas Eve,
With all the joy it brings,
When at long last I fall asleep
To dream of lovely things—

Of all the gifts I shall receive,
And those I have to give.
Oh, yes, I love this time of year
When Jesus came to live.

I.C. (I.B).

THE SACK OF TOYS.

Father Christmas comes at night,
When the stars are shining bright,
In his sack are lots of toys,
Especially made for girls and boys.

A boat for Peter, a ball for Kay,
A drum for Jack, and a pipe that will play,
A pack of cards, and a hen that lays,
To put in the cupboard for rainy days.

A.R. (I.B).

CORAL ISLAND.

It was quite by accident that I came across Coral Isle.

I was boating in the sea one day when suddenly a great fog came down. I thought it would be best if I went on until I sighted land and got on to the shore. All at once a dark shape loomed up ahead. It was apparently an island of some sort. I tried to land, but it was pretty rough going, because the sea was a raging torrent against the rocks and shore.

I managed to land at last, and, looking round, I saw a deserted isle with a fairly large mountain in the middle of it.

After a long drawn-out search I came to some caves, where I stayed for the night.

In the morning when I woke up I saw quite a different place from that of the night before. It was glorious in the sun of the morning, and the seagulls called around the bay.

I thought I would go for a walk in the sun, when I saw a lighthouse on a little hillock. I went to look at it more closely. There was a little old man there who took me round.

The next things I did there are quite a different story for another time, so I shall have to close now.

E.M. (I.B).

"I AM TIED TO THE STAKE AND I MUST STAND THE COURSE."

There I was, on top of the large bonfire, bound hand and foot to a large wooden stake. In about half an hour's time I should be a blazing mass of hot flames.

It was eight o'clock and the night was dark and sinister. Many eyes were peering at me from all angles, and large flaming torches nearly blinded me. There was a slight movement by my feet. A boy of about twelve was standing there. He put a Roman Candle in my hand, and in my weather-beaten hat he put a little demon. The time had come, for now at this very place I should be burnt to ashes.

It was getting warm now, for the boys and girls had already started to light the straw

round the bottom of the bonfire. Soon it was blazing up all around me. Bang ! crack, crack, crack ! The fireworks were exploding all around me and the glow of the bonfire could have been seen for miles. There came a deafening bang from in my hat, my poor old head rocked, and I slumped forward. The hand of death was upon me.

B.V. (II.A).

A SHIPWRECK.

It was on the morning of the 7th August, 1953, when this ship was caught in a storm round the Cape of Good Hope. The ship struck a submerged rock, and it sank about two hours after we had left it.

All day long the rain had been beating down on the decks, and the high wind roared through every crook and cranny. The large Cape rollers were beating up against the ship's sides, sometimes even swirling over the top, and sweeping across the decks.

The sky looked very grey and sinister, and the sea very cold and cruel. Most of the passengers were in the lounge, away from all the horrible cold weather. I and my companion Jeanette were sitting on deck chairs, in one corner of the lower deck, which was not exposed to the weather. The ship was rolling very heavily and the waves were breaking over the bow. Suddenly there was an ear-splitting, grinding, deafening noise, and the ship seemed to come to a standstill. We were jolted from our seats and our books disappeared under a wooden box. We did not realise what had happened until we heard bells ringing and whistles blowing.

Everybody hurriedly went to their cabins and fetched their life-belts. In the muddle we could see everybody trying to put their life-belts on. Babies and small children were crying, and their mothers were trying to comfort them, Gradually the ship listed to the starboard side. The stewards shut and bolted all the port holes, and the water-tight doors. Everybody was at boat stations for all the lifeboats to be lowered to the embarkation decks. Then we all filed two by two into the boats, and afterwards they were lowered into the sea.

A few men on the boats paddled as fast as they could to get away from the sinking ship. The ship was now leaning quite far over. The Captain was the last of the crew to get off. We could just see him in the distance, and we hoped he would make a good escape. As we drew away we felt very thankful to be safe from all danger. In the distance we could just see the ship being swallowed up by the horrible, cruel sea. There was a large cloud of smoke and flames mixed up together, and then all was quiet. We felt very sorry that the ship had ended its life so very soon.

S.K. (II.A).

PREPARING A SCHOOL PLAY.

The task of preparing a school play is a very considerable one. There are many things to be done besides the obvious learning of lines and perfecting stage movements. These tasks depend on each other. The electrician relies to a great extent upon the stage manager, the stage manager relies on the scenery makers, and the actors rely on all of them.

The task of the electrician is certainly not to be sneered at. There are lighting effects to be discovered, the situation of shadows to be calculated, and the whole of the complex lighting equipment maintained in good working order. The operations to be carried out by the electrician are perhaps not so numerous as those of others involved in the production, but he has to wait patiently for permission to go onto the stage, sometimes having to fit his work in between rehearsals.

The wardrobe mistress is a person who is constantly being called backwards and

forwards to do this and that. She (it is usually a girl) must always be armed with a needle and thread, ready to mend a tear here, or take a tuck in there.

The stage manager is generally a very flustered person on the first night. It is his or her task to stop everyone from talking, to make sure that the scenery is properly moved and erected between scenes, and generally to look after everything on the stage. During the performance he must make sure that everyone is ready for his or her cue, and during the weeks of preparation he must superintend the building of the sets and the painting of the scenes. The actors have their parts to learn, and their movements to perfect; this is all they have to do. It seems strange that the poor, overworked, behind-the-scenes people do most of the work, and yet are hardly seen by the public.

There are other things to be done. Make-up is to be practised, arrangements for buses to and from the performances have to be made, and last, but not least, the business of house managing has to be seen to. The house manager has many duties, but the most important is to sell tickets, and generally see to it that a profit is made. Refreshments have to be prepared, and served, and programmes have to be sold.

The final product of all this work does not last long, but the effort made to prepare it has been justly spent. It is my belief that there is more reward in preparing the play than in performing it on the night.

P.M.C. (V.M).

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Friend,

Assuming that you are going to take up Athletics seriously, I will give you what help I can.

The most important thing is to decide in which event or events you are going to specialise. As you state that you are not doing field events I will give you what help I can on the track. If your training facilities are limited it is far better to adopt middle-distance running. Track events are divided into three main classes, Sprinting, Middle Distance, and Long Distance. The Sprints are the 100 yards and the 230 yards. The Middle Distances are the 440 yards, the 880 yards and the Mile. The latter is commonly called the Blue Riband of the track and is most popular with spectators, owing to the fact that it is neither too long nor too short. Finally come the Long Distances. These are the distances above the mile, the Two Miles, the Three Miles and the Six Miles, and the Marathon, which is not a track event but more in the class of cross-country running.

Having decided on your own special event, and it is not wise to do so at too young an age, the next step is training. It might be said that training and racing are more or less the same thing, as they both involve running; but let it be clearly understood that this is not so. Training is the building up of reserves of strength on which you will be able to call when necessary. It takes nothing out of you : on the contrary, it puts something in—from which it follows that, during training, you must always work comfortably within your capacity. Racing, on the other hand, is an attempt on your part to overcome your fellow men; and to do this you will probably have to call on the reserves of strength which you possess. You will be at the limit of your capacity and no matter how tired or exhausted you may feel, you must keep going. Athletics itself is too big a subject to hope to cover, so I will confine myself to Middle Distance running.

Training should start in October, and in the form of crosscountry running, ideally every other night if possible. Some racing over the country is to be welcomed, but remember you

are not a cross-country specialist and so resist the temptation to fight out a hard finish after five miles of heavy country. Track work should start in February. Stamina and speed are essential for a middle distance runner. The winter will have taken care of stamina, so speed should be developed. A good way to do this is by short, all-out bursts 'of speed. Always remember to be thoroughly warmed up before a competition, as this reduces the risk of pulled muscles. Before a race, decide on your tactics. You can alternate the speed of the field by taking the lead and slowing down gradually or vice-versa. Whether you slow the field down or quicken it up depends on your finishing spurt. If you have a good finish you will want the race run slowly, and if you can't sprint at the end you will want a fast pace throughout. But above all remember it is the sport that counts, so win and lose with an equally good spirit.

Yours,

J.B. (IV).

Dear Sally,

I am so glad that you are thinking of taking up my favourite hobby—horse-riding. I hope that the little pony which you bought last week is settling down well. I hope, too, that these instructions as to how to make a start will prove useful.

First you must catch your pony, reward him with a piece of apple, or carrot, and bring him up from the field. By the way, I hope you have bought a suitable pony to learn on. As you are eleven years old, I feel that twelve hands is a good height. He must be very quiet, and have perfect manners, both in and out of the stable.

Your clothes are, maybe, more important than you think. The most essential article is a hard hat, either a jockey cap, which is more usual for a child, or a bowler. This is, of course, for protection. The only other real essential, to begin with, is a pair of jodhpurs. If you wear anything but jodhpurs or very thick slacks, you will find that the stirrup leathers pinch your legs. Now for the pony ! As the pony is at grass, you can only pick out the feet with a hoof-pick, and brush him with a dandy brush. A stabled horse requires, in addition, a body brush and curry comb, a water brush (for laying the mane), a stable rubber, a sponge and various articles of clothing.

Now you are ready to mount. Stand at the nearside facing the tail, take the reins in your left hand, hold the stirrup towards you with your right hand, place in the stirrup your left foot, put your right hand on the cantle (back) of the saddle, and swing yourself up, being careful not to hit the horse with your foot when swinging the leg over to the offside.

To dismount, take the reins in your left hand, take both feet out of the stirrups, pass the right leg over behind the saddle, and jump down. Practise mounting and dismounting several times.

The position of the body is very important. The seat should be in the lowest part of the saddle with the knees gripping the saddle. The lower leg should be straight down, and the weight on the inside of the foot. Always remember to keep your heels lower than your toes. If your toes are down, the knee muscles slacken, and you do not have such a firm position. The body must be straight, but not stiff, the head up and your eyes looking straight between the horse's ears. If you look down on the ground, you will eventually get there. Keep your hands just above and in front of the saddle. The reins are not to keep your balance with.

Now, to make the horse walk, squeeze with the whole of the lower leg, not just the heels. Move your hands as the horse's head moves, so as to keep the same tension. Do not try to trot before you can walk.

I will come over sometime and tell you some more.

I hope you will one day join the Pony Club. This is a great help to young riders, and there are rallies, parties, gymkhanas and dances to attend. Tests are taken, namely D, C, B and A Test. Cups are presented to the person in each test who gets the most marks. I hope you will win one one day.

Yours sincerely,
M.W. (V.H).

OLD NORTONIAN.

We must thank the Editorial Staff of the Nortonian for once again allowing us the use of these pages to send you a report, of our activities.

To conserve space we are not giving accounts this time of any matches played against the School. You will find the results of these given in the Nortonian.

Our new Treasurer, Miss M. Rivers, 1, Churchill Road, Chipping Norton, would be glad to receive subscriptions as soon as possible. Reminders to the unpaid members are enclosed.

Annual General Meeting was held on Whit Saturday, 5th June, 1954. The President, Mr. P. W. Martin, in his address said that the Association continued to flourish, and that there were now 115 members for the year 1953-1954. He was pleased to see that the meeting had better attendance this year, and hoped that this improvement would continue.

In the absence of the retiring Secretary the report was presented by the President. He stated that progress in preparing the War Memorial Garden of Remembrance was being made. The lease for the land had been granted in the form of an agreement, some shrubs, bulbs and fruit trees had already been purchased, and others had been given by friends. Much work had been done, particularly by Sidney Hawes, and he had made arrangements for the clearing and cleaning of the site to continue throughout the summer.

The Chairman presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of the retiring Treasurer, and he said that the finances were in a healthy state. The balance was £37.2.1. compared with £40.4.10 at the beginning of the year. The Badminton, Tennis and Hockey Sections were all able to show a small surplus, which is very satisfactory. The 21st Anniversary Dinner showed a deficit of £8.14.2. and the Christmas Dance a deficit of £2.5.11. The newly elected officers are as follows:—

President—Mr. P. W. Martin.

Chairman—Mr. Roy Kinch.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. T. Bunting.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss M. Rivers.

Hon. Auditors—Mr. L. Miles, Mr. H. Hovard.

Committee—Mrs. J. Craft, Miss P. Kitching (Hockey), Mrs. V. Strong (Drama), Mrs. J. Warmington (Tennis), Mrs. G. War-rick, Miss J. Watts, Mr. R. Burden, Mr. L. Miles, Mr. N. Stokes, Mr. J. Grantham (recent leaver).

Dance. The Dance was held on Saturday, 19th December, 1953, in the School Hall. Music was provided by a "live" orchestra from Witney, refreshments were arranged by Mrs. V. Strong and Mrs. G. Warrick. About sixty people attended and although this number was disappointing, a lively and happy time was enjoyed by those present. Party games and novelty dances were introduced into the programme, and these were so popular

that the Committee decided to make these a regular feature of the Christmas Dance.

Drama Club.

The Drama Club has had another successful season. After "Worm's Eye View" in October, 1953, we had our usual weekly get-togethers for play reading and tea drinking, and we were happy to welcome several new members. We finally decided that the time had come to fetch Shaw's "Pygmalion" from the shelf and get it off our chests for our Spring production. We had cast longing eyes at it many times, and now that the male members of the society were "old hands" at coping with more than one set, there were no further obstacles. The role of producer was thrust upon Leonard Miles and nobly he rose to the occasion. Joan Baldwin was the obvious choice for Eliza Doolittle. We realised just what a masterpiece her cockney gutter-snipe characterisation was when, in the contrasting later scenes, she gave us her excellent portrayal of Higgin's finished product—Eliza the lady. Norman Stokes as Higgins and Ray Burden as Col. Pickering, bullied, flattered and cajoled her as expertly as Shaw could have wished, whilst they in turn were kept beautifully in order by Madge Byford as the dour Mrs. Pearce. Ken Hill as the love-sick Freddie and Tom Bunting as that old rascal Doolittle, got many well deserved laughs. Gwyneth Warrick made a stately Mrs. Higgins and we had three very welcome new-comers to the stage in the persons of Peggy Hill and Margot Rivers as Mrs. and Miss Eyns-ford Hill and Pauline Stickley as Mrs. Higgins' maid. Patrick Martin, Tim Ashmore and Vera Strong made three very good "scruffs" as the bystanders in the opening scene. The set was another success for Peter Baldwin and his team of helpers, Ken Hill, George Warrick (also responsible for lighting), Bertie By-ford, Norman Stokes, Tim Ashmore, Donald Barnes, Ray Burden and Maureen and Barbara Ball. We also owe very real thanks to John Clacy who, luckily for us, was home on leave at the crucial moment and put in many hours work on the completion of the three sets.

Our idea of summer play-readings was not very successful, though a few "old faithfuls" held the fort. We suddenly realised with a jolt that we were only six weeks away from our Autumn Production date of 11th. November, and a quick decision had to be made. We felt that we must fill our money bags as full as possible this season, so we chose "Little Lambs eat Ivy", a light comedy by Noel Langley. Norman Stokes volunteered to produce and rehearsals were once more in full swing. The play evolved around Lady Buckering, very well played by Gwyneth Warrick, who had the Herculean task of smoothing out the troubles of her crazy but lovable family, chief among them being Ray Burden as Dongall, her clot of a son-in-law. He was the perfect "expectant father", dithering about the house and driving everyone to distraction, as to the manner born. Lorna Coram, as Bicky, gave a shockingly realistic performance of a tipsy teenager, entangled with an equally dizzy beau, Roly, played by Ken Hill, complete with loud tie and beautiful red velvet jacket ! A more serious note was struck by Joan Baldwin and George Warrick as the frustrated married daughter Gerda and her "Third Programme" husband, Wilfred. Is poor George never to appear sans black-eye? This time a very realistic beard added to his charm. Margot Rivers gave a good performance as Catherine, the worldly-wise daughter, who finally succumbed to Cupid and lived "happily ever after" with Clifford Magill, the landlord's son, played by another newcomer. Tony Aries. The below stairs element in this household had a distinctly classy tone, since all domestic duties were performed by Leonard Miles as Corder, the light-fingered butler. Last, but not least, we had sanity in the form of Tom Bunting as Dr. Drew, pillar of strength of the whole family, and Pauline Stickley as the very efficient Nurse Pynegar. Acting as Stage Manager, Peter Baldwin once more nobly rallied to our cause and also assembled the set, helped by Ken Hill, George Warrick, Norman Stokes, Ray Burden and Margot Rivers. Joyce Craft, who, as always, had organised refreshments for "Pygmalion", was ill and Vera Strong "stood in", helped by the usual faithful few, Brenda Shadbolt, Pat Wiggins, Ray Harvey and Jean Townsend. We also had help in the front of the house from Jean Helmore, Jean Watts, Pat Leach, and on Saturday night, a very welcome addition, Sheila Durham. Ethel Burbidge played the interval music and Jacqueline Townley was assistant stage manager. Publicity Manager for both plays was Vera Strong.

Financially we stand in a very good position, and membership is growing, slowly but surely. We are indebted to the Governors and Head Master for giving us the freedom of the School, not only for the performances, but for play-readings and rehearsals, and we are grateful to the Staff for being so tolerant, in spite of the many inconveniences they have to endure during our productions.

Next season will be our 21st Anniversary season, and plans are already in hand for a "Super, Colossal" production by way of celebration. V.S.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Since our last edition we have heard of the marriages of the following Old Pupils. We congratulate them all :—

Jean Addicott to Cyril Warmington ; Muriel Burbidge; Madge Bunting; Hazel Charlwood; Beryl Clifton; Mary Coleman; Doreen Cox; Monica Cox; Joy Cripps; Evadne Crowe; Ann Cummings; Anne Durston; Oliver Goodman, Eileen Gurney; Rachel Haney; Joseph Hawtin; Margaret Hovard to Denis Tidmarsh; Margaret Hutt; Victor Leach; Heather Merry; Paul Moran; Jean Rogers; Sidney Pulker; Peter Sandels; Michael Sinden; Joan Smith; Joyce Smith; Rosemary Snell; Joyce Sopp; Geoffrey Souch; Kathleen Styles; Nancy Townsend; Jean Townsend; Constance Warner; Gwyneth Wathen; Kenneth Wiggins; Michael Wood.

Congratulations go too, to the following on the birth of their son or daughter :—

Mr. and Mrs. Alvis (Dora Crudge).

Mr. and Mrs. Coveney (Marjorie Pearce).

Mr. and Mrs. E. Crudge.

Mr. and Mrs. Churchill (Geraldine Stokes).

Mr. and Mrs. Doughty (Mary Downes).

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goffe.

Mr. and Mrs. Fawdry (Joyce Smith).

Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths (Barbara Mitchell).

Mr. and Mrs. Horwood (Mary Absalom).

Mr. and Mrs. H. Pratley (Bertie).

Mr. and Mrs. Starling (Heather Merry).

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson (Dorothy Collins).

We send our condolences to Mrs. L. Hobbs (Gwynneth Powell). Members will be very sorry to hear that Gwynneth's husband died last June, a few months before the birth of their second child. Our deepest sympathy goes to her.

Did you know that :—

Mr. A. W. Steward is now in London. Mr. Eric Venn has recently announced his engagement.

Old Boys recently joined up include :—Michael Short, David Watts to the Royal Navy; John Clacy, Tim Ashmore and Brian Money to the Army; and Tony Ambrose, Hugh Edginton, Julian Powell and Edward Waters to the R.A.F.

News from the serving members shows that Brian Benfield is with the Royal Artillery in Korea ; Brian Clacy, a Petty Officer in the Regular Navy, is in Malta; Nigel Clifford has been granted a commission in the R.E.M.E.; Alan Gibbs, now a Corporal, is a clerk at the War Office; Eric Goffe has been commissioned in the Royal Navy; Brian Heritage is with the R.A.F. in Cyprus; Ian Kenyon with the R.A.F. in Germany; Roger Miles, stationed at Bicester, plays Chess for the Bicester Town team. Demobs, include Tony Aries, now teaching at the Junior Boys' School, Chipping Norton, and Douglas Bates.

Roy Burden has been awarded a Ministry of Education Scholarship to the Northampton Institute of Agriculture, Moulton.

Rodney Cornell and Brian Longworth are both working at the Radcliffe Infirmary.

Beryl Cox is now a Wren, and recently distinguished herself by obtaining top marks in an examination on Telegraphy. She is now taking a course at Gibraltar.

Mr. and Mrs. John Downes (nee Mary Rawlins) paid a flying visit to the School in October. John has a post in Nigeria.

Rachel Fiitzgerald (nee Haney) has joined the Inverness Repertory Players, whose performances are given at the Empire, the most northerly "live" theatre in the United Kingdom. Appropriately enough Rachel's first appearance after her marriage was in "The Happy Marriage", in which her husband, Terence, was one of the leads.

Joyce Goffe sailed for South America on Good Friday, and is now teaching in Venezuela.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hawes (nee Noreen Smith) have left Chipping Norton for Siddington, Cirencester. As a token of appreciation for the work and assistance given to us in connection with the War Memorial Garden, the Committee have invited them to an Honorary Life-Membership.

George Home, now living in Mount Eden, Auckland, New Zealand, is working with the Tasman Airways.

News has been received that John Johnson has been seriously injured in a motor cycle accident in London, but no further details are available.

Jack Joslin is on the staff at Lloyds Bank in Faringdon. He now has two children.

Betty Lawrence is now living at Eversley, Northants.

Henry Mills is home on leave from Nigeria, and tells us that he has met Mr. Steward on several occasions.

Betty Park has taken up a post at one of Dr. Barnardo's Homes in Kent.

Joan Pascoe is home on leave from Kenya where she is nursing.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards (nee Audrey Woolliams) are in Florida.

Peggy Spencer (nee Bendle) has moved from Birkenhead to Romford, Essex.

Doreen Vernalls (nee Farmer) now lives in Upper Tooting. She has a lively 7 year-old son and a young daughter.

Lorna Wheeler is on the staff of the Worcester Grammar School for girls.

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SWEETS AND CHOCOLATES

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Careers in the Coal Industry.—Modern Coalmining is very largely a new industry. More accurately, it is an old and vital industry which is being reconstructed to serve the present and future needs of the nation. While other forms of energy will help, the main source of power in the foreseeable future will continue to be coal.

Technical Careers.—Many well-paid and absorbing jobs are available and the Coal Board are ready to train you for them, either through a University Scholarship or—if you prefer to earn and learn at the same time—by taking you into the industry straight from school and providing technical training without loss of pay.

University Scholarships.—Highly-trained mining engineers are urgently needed. The National Coal Board offer a hundred University Scholarships a year : most are in Mining Engineering, but some are available in Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineering and in Fuel Technology. They are worth about the same as State Scholarships and successful candidates receive them in full—parents' financial position makes no difference to the value of the awards.

Practical Training.—When you have qualified—either through the University or through technical college while working—you are eligible for a two or three year course under the Coal Board's management training scheme. Each trainee has a course mapped out for him personally and a senior engineer gives him individual supervision. If you come in to the industry on the mining engineering side, you have a very good chance of becoming, between the ages of 25 and 30, a colliery undermanager at a salary between £900 and £1,200 a year—or even a colliery manager with a salary in the range £950 to £1650.

Other Careers.—There are also good careers in the Board's Scientific Department and in administrative posts. Young men and women of good educational standard (who have

preferably spent some time in the sixth form or have attended a university) are also needed in such fields as marketing, finance and labour relations.

Full details can be obtained from any Divisional Headquarters of the Board or from the National Coal Board, Hobart House, London, S.W.1.



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