



OLD MERCERS' CLUB

July, 1959

As the first Old Mercers' Magazine goes to press it would be pleasant to give members some definite information about the future ; in fact this is not possible. There are hopes that we may shortly have a postal address, and the A.A. feel that they may have somewhere to play cricket and football next season. Other sections of the Club are more definite in their plans ; the Lodge and Chapter and Civic Guild have places of meeting, the Dramatic Club plan a production of "Charley's Aunt" in November and the usual Club functions are being arranged for 1959-60. Members are asked particularly to note the list of dates below since the Magazine will only appear annually though the usual notices of functions will be sent nearer the appropriate date.

Meanwhile, this is the first Old Mercers' Magazine. The Editor thanks all those members who replied to his circular letter ; perhaps even more may do so next year. He offers particular thanks to Mr. Allen for his work in producing the copy from the School, and for his willing co-operation and advice in helping to steer his erstwhile subordinate through the mysteries of full editorship. Every member of the Club will join in wishing him health and happiness in his retirement. It is some comfort to feel that, though the school is soon to be no more, we can maintain the friendships with the staff which have grown up over many years and we look forward to seeing many of them at our functions for many years to come.

On May 21st the President had the honour and privilege of being a guest of the Mercers' Company at the first Livery Dinner to be held in the new Hall. Mr. Haden was also present and among the many distinguished guests were Field-Marshal the Rt. Hon. The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Marshal of the Royal Air Force The Rt. Hon. Lord Tedder and the Rt. Hon. Lord Nathan, the President of the Old Pauline Club.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 16th, 1959. Commemoration Service at St. Sepulchre's Church, 6 p.m. followed by Club Supper at the School, 7.30 p.m.

September 18th, 1959. Cricket Club Supper, "Westminster Arms," Page Street, S.W.1, 7 for 7.30 p.m.

October 23rd, 1959. Annual General Meeting. Venue to be announced.

November 13th, 1959. Dinner and Dance, Rembrandt Hotel, South Kensington.

November, 1959. "Charley's Aunt," Guildhall School of Music.

December 14th, 1959. Christmas Dance, Victoria Halls. (This function is intended to replace the Christmas Party in character and price).

May, 1960. Annual Dinner.

"JENKS"

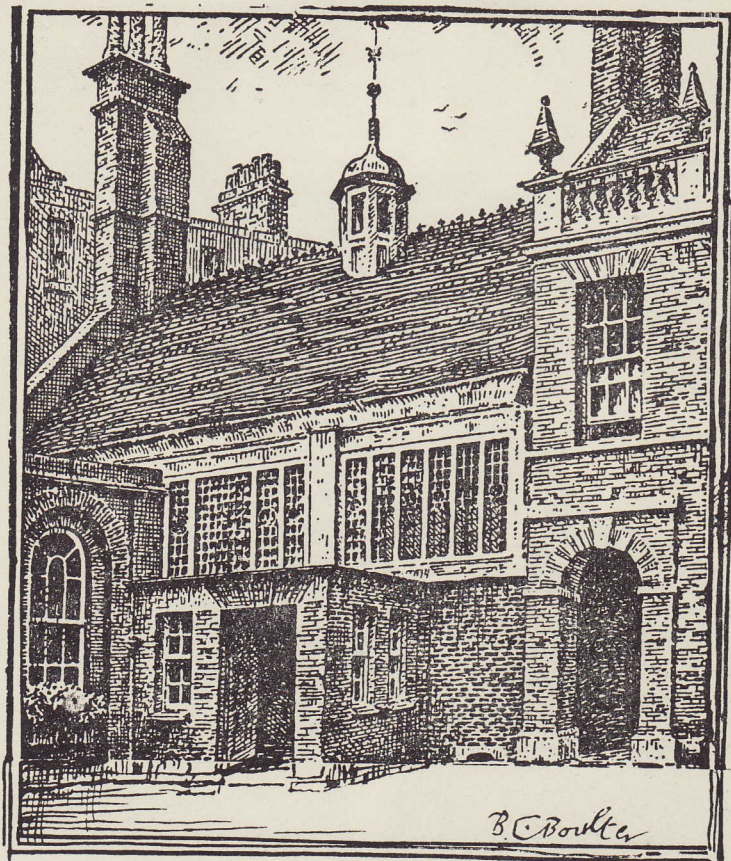
IT is difficult to imagine our Old Mercer General Committee Meetings without that illustrious gentleman known variously as the "Kingmaker," the "Sub-Committee Specialist" or merely D. C. R. Jenkin (1911-18), "Jenks" to his countless friends and colleagues of forty Old Mercer General Committees. Yet that is now the situation and those of us who have served with him over the years are already feeling that something is lacking on Committee, and in Henekey's after Committee. For, at the A.G.M. in October, "Jenks" was not re-elected as an Ordinary Member for the first time in forty years. Typically, he felt at this stage in the life of the Club, it was time that the "youngsters had a go"; let us hope that those youngsters may be inspired by his example of faithful service to something which he holds so dear, and that the Club which owes an immeasurable debt to him may continue to thrive under a youthful leadership keen to emulate "Jenks'" enthusiasm and devotion.

The President has received a document entitled, "The Last Word and Testament of D. C. R. Jenkin." This diverting history of the Old Mercers' Club Committee contains a wealth of anecdote; accordingly the Editor proposes to publish part at least of this work in the next issue of the Magazine.



L. A. N. KYLE (1923-32)

PRESIDENT 1958-59



BARNARD'S INN

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

AS your President in this fateful year I am happy to commend to you this first issue of the Old Mercers' Magazine and to thank Dickie Dawson for all his hard work and enthusiasm in producing it. We hope it will be a regular feature but that depends on all Old Mercers. It is more than ever important that we should take the trouble to keep our Editor primed with news and views, articles and correspondence.

My coming into the President's Chair coincided unhappily with the disappearance from the Committee of "Jenks" (D. C. R. Jenkin). We certainly miss his long memory, his sane advice, his encouragement and his cross-talk with H. M. Eade. Jenks had served on the Committee in one capacity or another for 40 years. I would like to express our deep gratitude to him for his selfless service over this very long period.

May I thank you all for your support during this year. It has been encouraging not only to me, but also to your Officers and Committee who work so well and so hard. We now have the honour, and responsibility, to see that the memory and traditions of Mercers' School are kept alive as long as possible. It will require vigilance, unity and enthusiasm from all ages and I am confident that these will be forthcoming.

I should also like to put on record our thanks to the Mercers' Company for their interest and practical help towards solving the Clubs' problems since the closure of the School was announced.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I WOULD like to be one of the first to welcome the Magazine and to wish it the widest possible circulation among Old Mercers wherever they may be. Many of them very kindly wrote to me at the time of the public announcement that the School was to be closed. May I offer an apology to any Old Mercer whose letter was not acknowledged adequately?

I think Old Mercers would wish to know what arrangements have been made for maintaining School records, and making them available for reference. All the records will be kept at Mercers' Hall. Any Old Mercer who simply seeks information, or wishes to have information from the records reproduced, in the ordinary way, should write to the Secretary, Mercers' School, Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.2. I hope that every Old Mercer who wishes me personally to act on his behalf, will write to me, c/o Mercers' Hall.

There will be gatherings of the Club in groups, large or small, which will provide opportunities to meet. I shall look forward to them, and I know that other members of the Masters' Common Room will always welcome a reunion. Meanwhile, I send good wishes to all Old Mercers, at home and abroad.

W. D. Haden.

May 8th, 1959.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1958

THE A.G.M. was held in Barnard's Inn on October 17th, 1958 at 6 p.m. This rather ordinary sentence has begun the report of the A.G.M. for many years past. But this year there was a difference ; instead of the usual forty odd Old Mercers huddling together for warmth, well over a hundred members crowded the Hall for what was to be the last A.G.M. to be held in the lifetime of the School. Two topics were uppermost in most of their minds : information regarding the closing of the School and the future of the Club.

Members rejoiced to see their President, J. C. Fenton-Jones in the Chair at the beginning of the meeting, which began on a sad note as we stood silent in memory of two great Old Mercers, Harry Merret and Edward Hill, whose passing had saddened all those who knew and had worked with them. The President's health was still not good and, at his request, item seven on the agenda was dealt with first. He therefore proposed that Laurence Kyle, whose many activities in the Club over many years were well known, be elected President for the year 1958-59. This was carried with acclamation and Kyle took the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

The Treasurer, G. H. Parker, reported a loss of £22 on the year's working, due mainly to the outsize Leavers' Tea held at the School in July, when two hundred and more boys had been introduced to members of the Club. He was unwilling to make any forecast about 1958-59 since there were so many unknown factors at this stage ; the future of the Magazine and Booklet were an example. There being no comment from the House, the meeting passed to the report of the Secretary, R. H. Ramsden who said, not for the first time, that there had been the usual functions supported by the usual stalwarts. Total membership was 978 but there had been a large number of the younger leavers wishing to join the Club and the Committee had framed a new rule to introduce associate membership for boys under seventeen years of age on payment of an annual subscription of five shillings.

The Secretary proceeded to give some account of the negotiations which had taken place with the Company regarding the future of the School, on the lines of the report of the Special Committee which had been circulated to members in July. We owed this Committee a great debt of gratitude. Many problems now faced the Committee, not least of which was a new Headquarters for the Club. The Mercers' Company had offered the use of Mercers' Hall for the Annual Dinner and of Gresham College library for meetings. Of one thing the Secretary was confident : the death of the School did not mean the immediate death of the Club.

J. H. J. Dewey, who had been a member of the Special Committee, stressed the liaison which had taken place with the Parents' Committee which had also done its utmost to save the School. The balance of a collection taken at a meeting of Parents to finance their

campaign had been generously donated to the Old Mercers' Benevolent Fund.

There now followed a long and, sometimes, disorganised discussion of the decision to close the School, and the Club's abortive attempts to prevent this. P. Nailor was of opinion that the general body of the Club had had to wait far too long for information as to what was being done. He would have liked to see some use made of the national press in order to disseminate news. Kenneth Scott was in sympathy with Nailor but said that there had been no real news till the end of April. The situation was changing constantly, and the Special Committee could gather no concrete information before the letter which was sent to members in July. Nailor expressed the view that the press might have been used to voice the Club's opposition to the Company's decision at the end of the negotiations; as it was, it appeared that we acquiesced in that decision. He supported Dewey's idea that a full and accurate record of the circumstances attending the closure of the School must be preserved. D. Oliver wanted to know whether any further action had been contemplated; the secretary of the Special Committee, A. H. Appleyard, pointed out that the School was the property of the Mercers' Company and, had the Old Boys pursued the idea of building a new school on the outskirts of London, the name "Mercers'" could not have been used without permission of the Company. The Company had found themselves unable to support such a scheme—there was little point in founding a school just for the sake of it.

Several speakers supported Nailor in his original protest that information had been too long delayed; there was no doubt that the Committee had done their utmost but members would have liked to hear more—and sooner. Kenneth Scott felt that most of the queries so far had been answered in the Committee's report, which could not have been produced earlier than it was.

Nevertheless it was obvious that some members still believed that further action might be contemplated; a debate followed which, in the main, merely covered ground which had already been traversed earlier in the evening. Nailor, rising, as he said amid cheers, for positively the last time, enquired about the future of the War Memorial Fund; Scott informed him that a decision about this was in the balance; it was by no means an easy decision for the Committee. Harold Eade brought the somewhat involved discussion to a close by thanking the Club Secretary, R. H. Ramsden, for the large amount of extra work he had undertaken during the negotiations with the Company.

T. W. Parker and B. D. Percy reported briefly on behalf of the Athletic Association and Dramatic Club respectively; both were confident that the sections would continue to function.

Item 6 involved amendments to rules one and two of the Club, which the Committee felt were desirable to meet the new situation following the closure of the School. Accordingly the President proposed that Rule One should read:

"That the club be called 'The Old Mercers' Club' and membership shall be restricted to old boys of and gentlemen connected with or formerly connected with the Mercers' School. Honorary membership shall be conferred upon the Master, Wardens and Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Mercers and Masters of the Mercers' School for the time being, and, after a recommendation of the General Committee has been approved by the Club in General Meeting, may be conferred on former Masters of the Mercers' School and, in special circumstances, on those otherwise eligible for membership."

Letters had been received on the subject of this amendment from Old Mercers Walter Heilbuth and Will Larey, Q.C., who had suggested that the word "may" be substituted for "shall" in "shall be conferred upon Masters, Wardens and Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Mercers and Masters of the Mercers' School for the time being." Nailor, breaking his promise, also wished to add the word "also" in "may also be conferred on former Masters of the Mercers' School."

Much discussion followed; some members, including L. Clifton Crick believed we were wasting time over phraseology when there were more important things to consider. However an amendment, including the two alterations outlined above, was put and carried.

The Committee proposed that rule two should now read:

"That the annual subscription to the club be one half-guinea, due on the 1st October, except that in the case of a boy under the age of 17 years a single payment of 5/- will entitle to Associate Membership until the end of the Club year in which he attains that age. An Associate Member shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except that he will not be eligible for election as an officer of the Club or to the General Committee and will have no vote. A payment of seven and a half guineas (£7 17s. 6d.) in lieu of annual subscriptions shall entitle to life membership. An Associate Member, on payment of the appropriate subscription, shall be entitled to transfer to ordinary or life membership at any time."

This was carried, G. C. Ives merely wondering whether the Life subscription of seven and a half guineas might not be too much in present circumstances.

The election of officers followed and a list of gentlemen elected appears at the beginning of the Magazine. The President offered thanks to Fenton Jones and sympathy on the illness which had dogged his year of office and prevented his taking part in the active life of the Club. We were grateful to Harold Eade, who had nobly stood in as chairman of Committee on a number of occasions.

One might have supposed that "Other Business" had surely been covered; however a number of members emphasised here the urgent need for a Club room in the new situation. It was felt that a final Club Supper at School might be held on a date which would not clash

with University Terms. There might also be a Thanksgiving Service at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, before the School finally closed in July, 1959. Another query, which could not be answered, concerned the future of Barnard's Inn. It was agreed that much remained to be considered by the new Committee but, at 9.5 p.m. the meeting seemed to decide that it had exhausted its supply of criticism, suggestion, exhortation and entreaty ; we retired for refreshment.

NEW MEMBERS

SOME two hundred boys attended the Leavers' Tea last July. As reported in the notes on the Annual General Meeting, associate membership has been introduced for those younger boys leaving the School prematurely. That so many have already joined the Club is due, in no small measure, to the efforts of the General Secretary, J. Murrell, who has been very active in his quest for Old Mercers.

LIFE MEMBERS

M. Q. Lewis	(57-58)	822	C. J. Arnold	(53-58)	828
K. J. D. Rush	(57-58)	823	R. J. C. Davey	(52-58)	829
C. L. R. Sacks	(56-58)	824	J. F. Knust	(53-58)	830
D. S. B. Clarke	(56-58)	825	J. E. Swift	(51-58)	831
M. J. Houghton	(55-58)	826	P. R. Cornick	(55-58)	832
P. D. O. Ward	(50-58)	827	C. G. Thomas	(53-58)	833

ANNUAL MEMBERS

E. R. Doubleday	(52-58)	G. J. Parsons	(52-58)
K. Tayler	(52-58)	I. S. Wright	(52-58)
H. G. J. Worth	(53-58)	J. A. Duncan	(50-54)
J. F. Fenton-Jones	(51-58)	D. B. Duncan	(50-54)
H. H. Gordon	(51-58)	M. C. Howard	(55-58)
C. D. Robinson	(52-58)	B. Ash	(52-58)
J. E. Agnew	(52-58)	P. M. Catto	(53-59)
S. K. Bennett	(53-58)	E. M. Schaverien	(26-30)
J. A. Foster	(54-58)	T. F. Bell	(53-58)
I. D. Matheson	(53-57)	M. D. Chamberlain	(54-58)
A. M. McMurtrie	(50-58)	J. D. Foreman	(56-58)
D. J. Walton	(54-58)	D. R. Solomons	(57-58)
R. J. Osborn	(52-58)	S. M. Pocklington	(53-58)
P. G. Stutz	(51-58)	I. S. T. Archer	(54-58)
D. V. Complin	(56-58)	H. D. Whitham	(53-58)
I. M. H. Williamson	(52-58)	M. Richards	(54-58)
M. J. White	(53-58)	J. C. Ridgley	(55-58)
B. A. Wichmann	(52-58)	P. R. Likeman	(52-58)
D. J. Harvey	(53-58)	E. J. Ffitch	(53-58)
R. Barton	(52-58)	S. Grant	(52-58)
D. W. Mitchell	(15-19)	P. Berks	(51-58)
A. J. H. D. Greeley	(53-58)	A. J. Williams	(50-58)
R. G. Linger	(52-58)	D. O. Isard	(55-58)
P. L. Whittaker	(50-58)	R. C. Pighthing	(54-58)
D. Craske	(53-58)	P. J. W. Tabert	(51-58)
M. H. Woods	(51-58)	M. J. Cooper	(51-58)
A. C. Hepburn	(54-57)	E. B. Hanrott	(52-58)
J. Murrell	(52-58)	R. J. Chippeck	(57-58)
G. J. Martyn	(32-36)		

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

K. N. Schreiber	(56-58)	J. R. W. Siller	(57-58)
G. Stebbing-Allen	(52-58)	T. R. Desborough	(56-58)
B. C. Bareham	(57-58)	R. M. Simmons	(55-58)
M. E. D. Turner	(53-58)	M. G. Holliday	(54-58)
R. W. G. Duke	(55-58)	A. V. Levantine	(53-58)
P. J. Toll	(57-58)	R. J. E. Marks	(57-58)
D. N. Adams	(57-58)	P. I. Bradford	(54-58)
D. A. J. Dyer	(55-58)	J. M. Bradford	(56-58)
R. A. Clark	(57-58)	B. A. Young	(53-58)
M. J. M. Philipp	(57-58)	C. L. Nunn	(54-58)
R. C. Flynn	(55-58)	I. Landsdell	(57-58)
R. M. S. Silverman	(56-58)	P. E. Bennett	(57-58)
R. F. Howard	(57-58)	W. J. Tait	(56-58)
W. A. H. Watson	(56-58)	I. D. MacIntyre	(56-58)
J. B. Storey	(55-58)	R. W. Davies	(53-58)
D. Phipp	(57-58)	P. R. Adamson	(57-58)
M. J. Wayman	(56-58)	C. H. Richards	(57-58)
N. Wilding	(56-58)	K. Moller	(53-58)
W. Mabey	(56-58)	R. J. F. Wildman	(55-58)
S. P. Chambers	(54-58)	A. F. Beggs	(55-58)
P. G. Booth	(57-58)	J. G. Sumner	(57-58)
C. E. J. Dolamore	(55-58)	M. J. Crowder	(54-58)
B. Lemar	(55-58)	R. L. Kittle	(55-58)
S. M. Cornish	(55-58)	W. X. Wilson	(54-58)
P. A. Whittaker	(53-58)	A. D. Gibson	(57-58)
P. A. Hill	(53-58)	G. A. Pannell	(57-58)
R. N. Gillibrand	(55-58)	G. F. Foat	(55-58)
P. R. Morgan	(57-58)	A. Howson	(54-58)
R. T. Rees	(55-58)	G. Alexander	(57-58)
T. Chalmers	(57-58)	G. H. Morgan	(53-59)
B. Chalmers	(54-58)	W. J. Ward	(57-58)
T. G. Harris	(56-58)	G. A. Frosh	(53-58)
J. A. Topliss	(54-58)	C. A. Evans	(57-58)
G. C. Anderson	(57-58)	R. Cooper	(56-58)
S. H. Morris	(56-58)	M. J. Herman	(54-58)
S. J. Booth	(56-58)	A. N. Atkins	(56-58)
E. B. Roberts	(57-58)	J. R. Salt	(55-58)
R. F. Skinner	(56-58)	R. Potter	(56-58)
D. M. Williamson	(56-58)	B. M. Harris	(56-58)
E. Davey	(56-58)	P. M. Geary	(57-58)
A. D. Thomas	(57-58)	J. C. Robertson	(56-58)

DEATHS

We regret to report the death of the following Old Mercers.

H. H. Hanhart (1895-99). Life Member 236

Edward Hill (1910-16). Life Member 230

H. C. Merrett (1892-1900). Life Member 8

T. L. Rowland (1912-17). Life Member 282

Sir Frederick Tidbury-Beer (1902-03). Life Member 326

Sir H. E. Watts (1898-1906). Life Member 117

Total Membership now stands at 1097 with Effective Life Membership 596.

EDWARD HILL, F.C.A. (1910-16)

THE sudden death of Edward Hill on August 26th last, to which brief reference was made in the last issue of the School Magazine, came as a crushing blow to his many friends. He had been a leading spirit amongst Old Mercers, intimately connected with all Mercer activities, for nearly fifty years. An abiding love for the School had been a dominating interest in his life, so that, despite a busy and successful business career, he was always eager to devote himself to the interests of School or Club.

In his time, he had held the highest office in each and every Old Mercer activity :—President of the Club, of the Athletic Association and of the Dramatic Club ; Master of Honor Deo Lodge, First Principal of Honor Deo Chapter ; Master of the Civic Guild. He had held many other offices from time to time and was particularly in demand as a Treasurer, a capacity in which he established a reputation for achieving not only lucidity but solvency. At his death, he was Treasurer of both Honor Deo Lodge and Honor Deo Chapter.

Edward had extensive and important business connections and inevitably bore heavy responsibilities, but these never showed in his social life and he always appeared fresh and care-free. He clearly enjoyed life and possessed the art of sharing his enjoyment and conveying his zest to others.

His was a generous and affectionate nature. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to give advice and assistance to those in need. One of his major interests was the Benevolent Fund, in the foundation of which he took a principal part. He saw active service in France in the first world war and, although at a very young age, it has been said that he showed that cool courage and devotion to duty, which Old Mercers came to know so well.

That Edward was a man of considerable ability was evident, nevertheless he was modest, unpretentious and inclined to reticence. Whenever called upon, however, he was always ready to express his views fearlessly and assume responsibility. His friendly and engaging disposition endeared him to everyone, while his intelligence and integrity won him respect and admiration.

He was an ideal companion, avoiding all contention, but quietly holding firm to his own principles and, with a dry humour, sometimes wry, but which always gave delight, showing obvious enjoyment in the society of those around him.

In the last year, he had been greatly concerned about the fate of the School and, when appointed to the Committee set up by the Club to try to avert the closing, spared neither time nor effort to make its work succeed. No one was sadder than he at the final outcome.

Edward will indeed be missed by Old Mercers, but his life and example will long remain a happy memory.

He left a widow, two sons and a daughter and to them and to his brother and sister we extend heartfelt condolences.

D. E. Oliver (1905-12).

HENRY C. MERRETT (1892-1900)

THE passing of that great pioneer among Old Mercers in October last was not only a very sad personal loss to his large circle of friends but also to those of us who worked with him in many of the activities of our Old Boys' Club. It is due to his unfailing interest and determination since the year 1902 that our Club (then, I think, called an "Association") has gone from strength to strength. A member of the Committee in 1904, elected a Trustee in 1909 and Treasurer for many years, he became President in 1920 and, if my memory does not fail me, it was largely due to his foresight and organising powers during his years as Secretary that the membership and our finances increased.

As a founder of Honor Deo Lodge "Harry" was actively interested from the moment the idea took practical form, and his generous gifts will, I hope, be a lasting monument to his memory.

His last idea was the formation of what is now called "The Civic Guild of Old Mercers," with the object of cultivating, amongst those who join, the duties of Citizenship and what the Livery Companies of the City of London mean to the various industries they represent.

The records of our School show the names of many who have achieved greatness and, for devotion and loyalty, the name of Harry Merrett can without doubt be added—we shall miss him.

Walter Heilbuth (1885-1890)

SIR FREDERICK TIDBURY-BEER (1902-03)

SIR FREDERICK TIDBURY-BEER—Tidbury to his friends—died at his home at Busbridge, Godalming, on February 5th, 1959. Though he had not enjoyed good health for some years, his death was nevertheless sudden and unexpected. Sir Frederick was, in the words of "The Times" Obituary, "a faithful and distinguished citizen of London who for more than 40 years had given unsparingly to the square mile."

Born on January 16th, 1892, the third son of G. J. Beer, he was educated at Temple Grove, Mercers' School (1902-03), and Kings College School. But he was only 13 when he started work as an office boy to a stockbroking firm. Within 6 years he entered the Stock Exchange as a clerk, and in 1922 at the age of 30 was elected a member, so remaining until his retirement. During the first World War he was attached to the French Army Medical Service as radiologist and pharmacist, and for his services received the Medaille d'Honneur. For a while he was a technical officer in the Royal Air Force.

Already a Liveryman of the City, in 1940 he was elected to the Court of Common Council. In 1945 he was Sheriff and in 1946 Alderman for the Ward of Cheap. In 1947 the honour of Knighthood was conferred on him. In 1954, however, shortly before he would have been put in nomination for Lord Mayor, he was forced to retire on medical grounds.

As a member of the Court he was keenly interested in the reconstruction of the City and became the Chairman of the Improvements and Town Planning Committee. But his civic work by no means exhausted his interests. One of these was the archæology of the City, and he was a vice-president both of the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council and the London and Middlesex Archæological Society.

He had been Master of the Company of Gold and Silver Wire Drawers, was an honorary Freeman of the Company of Fanmakers, a member of the Court of Assistants of the Company of Parish Clerks, and a Liveryman of the Innholders. He had served as Master of the Guild of Freeman and in 1944-45 as President of the City Livery Club. In 1947 he was a founder member of the Civic Guild of Old Mercers—then the Old Mercers' City Liverymen—its Chairman in 1948, and served on its Court to the time of his death. No account of his life however short would be complete without reference to his services to the Church in the City as churchwarden for a number of years of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

The life of Sir Frederick Tidbury-Beer exemplifies the legend of the poor boy who entered the City to make his way in life, a legend which centuries ago crystallised around the life of Richard Whittington and which has acted as a magnet to countless generations of men. To Tidbury, however, the City was not merely a place where fortunes are made. He never worshipped at the shrine of the bitch-goddess Success. It would be far truer to say that his first thought was for what he could put into life, and not what he could get out of it. To serve God in his Church, to serve the City in its institutions and government, was of far greater importance to him than to achieve fame and fortune. His life was shot through with modesty, with humility, with courtesy, with kindness, and he commanded from all who knew him respect and affection. Even when he was denied through illness the opportunity of achieving what to many men is the most glittering of prizes, the succession to the office of Chief Magistrate of the greatest City in the world, he was never heard to complain or to repine. The disappointment did not embitter or sour him. He bore it as he bore his ill-health, with a cheerful, and Christian resignation and fortitude.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter and particularly to his widow, Lady Tidbury-Beer, who was his devoted companion and helper through many happy years.

Raymond Smith (1901-07)

PERSONAL

J. G. H. Edkins and L. Boucher (1934-43), are now colleagues at Chester Training College. With memories of those who taught us coming so readily to mind, we may reasonably hope that something of the traditions of one of the oldest schools in the country will be passed on to the students of one of the oldest training colleges. Are there any other Old Mercer partnerships in schools or colleges?

P. G. Stutz (1951-58) has been elected representative for Commerce in the Students Union of Regent Street Polytechnic. He has also taken part in a B.B.C. Production "A Gentleman's Gentleman"—Dramatic Club please note !

L. C. Huddleston (1935-41) becomes Senior English Master of Sir Thomas Riche's School, Gloucester, in September.

H. D. N. Kyle (1921-27) is now Assistant Publicity Manager to the Prudential Assurance Company.

J. H. J. Dewey, F.C.I.B. (1910-16) recently had the honour of delivering a paper to the Chartered Insurance Institute entitled "An Insurance Broker looks at the Companies."

ENGAGEMENTS

N. P. B. Marshall (1942-47) and Jill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Harrison of Northallerton.

R. H. Ramsden (1944-51) and Beryl Frances, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Page of Taplow, Bucks.

MARRIAGES

C. P. Garrett (1944-52) and G. Hargrave-Smith (1949-53) have left the bachelor state—details are not available. The vice-captain of cricket, B. C. Hillard (1946-54) will marry in June.

Fowler-Brown—On January 17th, 1959, D. Fowler (1943-47) to Sheila Brown at Sudbury, Middlesex.

BIRTHS

To Betty, wife of R. G. Dawson (1935-42), a daughter, Madeleine Dorothy, on December 11th, 1958, a sister for Richard.

To Lallah, wife of L. Boucher (1934-43), a daughter, Ingrid Louise on March 11th, 1959, a sister for Karin.

ANNUAL DINNER, 1959

THE Annual Dinner this year was held at Mercers' Hall on May 7th. One hundred and forty-eight Old Mercers and their guests sat down to dine in the magnificent surroundings of the Livery Hall. We were pleased to entertain the Master, Wardens and Clerk of the Mercers' Company, the Headmaster and remaining members of the Masters Common Room, the President of the Old Collyerians and two boys from the School, Goodenough and Cato. After an extremely enjoyable dinner we listened to the speeches which were remarkable this year for their quality.

The President, proposing the toast of the Company, thanked them for allowing us to use their Hall and for the help they had rendered the Club in the past and at present. The Master, Mr. J. L. Watney, in reply, said the Mercers' Company were pleased we had come to dine in their Hall. He stated that the Company had agreed with pleasure to house the two School War Memorials in their ambulatory. He could promise us, subject to the present negotiations, that Grove Park would be available for our continued use for seven years. The Company did not yet know what would happen to the School site but were very conscious of our great interest in the future of Barnard's Inn.

T. W. Parker welcomed the guests and the President of the Old Collyerians replied. Finally the Headmaster proposed the toast of the Old Mercers' Club and Constituent Clubs and the President replied. Thereafter members enjoyed a chat and a glass of ale until eleven o'clock when all departed having thoroughly enjoyed a pleasurable and memorable evening.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE Christmas Party held at the School on Friday, December 19th was remarkable in two ways. It was the last party we shall hold at the School, and more Old Mercers than ever before were present, in fact the supply of tickets ran out two days prior to the date of the Party. The organisers had done splendid work on the Hall which was gaily festooned with streamers and enhanced by the two large Christmas trees on the stage. Perhaps it was rather unfortunate that, due to numbers, many had to spend their evening in the rather dowdy dining-hall but, no doubt, their spirit was undaunted. An enjoyable band, entertaining dances and a first-class M.C. combined to make an evening which was enjoyed by young and old alike.

THE CLUB EVENING

A CLUB evening was held at Barnard's Inn on Friday, April 10th as an experiment to see whether such a function appealed to Old Mercers. The results seem to show an overwhelming desire for such evenings in the future, provided they are not too frequent, and it is hoped that further such evenings will be organised when Old Mercers can simply come along and have a chat with old friends.

OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Secretary, T. W. PARKER,

14, Sandilands, Chipstead, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent.

AT this moment the future of the A.A. is uncertain only to the extent that we are still not sure where we may be playing after September; that we shall be playing somewhere is assured, judging by the determination and enthusiasm of members of both sections.

The Cricket Section have just begun a new season in brilliant sunshine, perhaps an augury for the future. The 1st XI have tied with Bart's, the 2nd XI have won two games; their ex-Captain, ex-Vice-Captain, F. J. Robinson, has been warned about his bowling action, taken fright and turned to leg spin; his colleagues have been sure he's "thrown" for twenty years!

A body of Henry Cottons and Dai Reeses have taken over Addington Golf Course, among them some of the cricketing fraternity. Anyone interested should come to Grove Park on any Saturday where he can see (i) how not to bat with a golf swing, and (ii) how long it takes to get to the nineteenth. It is understood that Mr. Andrew has been tempted, but thus far has resisted temptation, to assist at these gatherings.

For those younger members eager to join either the Cricket or Football Sections the Officers of these clubs are listed below :—

Football—Hon. Secretary, C. D. Archibald, 41, Lynwood Grove, Orpington, Kent. Tel.: ORPington 30249.

Cricket—Hon Secretary, R. G. Dawson, 15, Brookmead Avenue, Bickley, Kent. Tel.: IMPerial 3108.

A last word from both these gentlemen—referees and umpires are needed as well as players. Any volunteers?

FOOTBALL SECTION

THE overall results of the section for the season 1958-59 were not particularly impressive, but it nevertheless seemed to be enjoyed by all concerned.

The First Eleven started in fine style by winning their first two matches, against Ibis at Chiswick, and H.A.C. at Armoury House. However, they had to wait until the beginning of December for their next win, which was a close, high-scoring game against London Hospital at Grove Park. Only one further match was won between then and March, during which month the Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) were beaten at home, and the last win of the season was recorded against the Old Foresters at Loughton. The team was without its Captain, M. J. Manning, for the latter part of the season as the result of a shoulder injury, but our newest recruit, Grant, took over in goal and put up a far better performance than perhaps the results would seem to indicate. One of the best games was against Dulwich Hamlet Juniors, which was lost by the odd goal in seven. In the return match, when a much heavier defeat was suffered, there was little to choose between the two teams in mid-field, but in other departments our eleven was given a thorough lesson in speed and cohesion.

After the Second Eleven's excellent results during 1957-58, the past season was only an average one, with twelve wins, four draws and nine matches lost. Apart from one or two weaker opponents over whom victory is expected as a matter of course, wins were also achieved against the Old Boys of Brentwood, Westminster, Forest,

Owens and Chigwell. The main reason for the results not being as good as in the previous season stems from the fact that the side was knocked out of the Old Boys' Junior Cup in the first round, after a replay, by the Old Thorntonians, as against reaching the semi-final last year. The Old Thorntonians themselves reached the semi-final this year, only to be beaten by the Old Parkonians, the eventual Cup-winners.

The Third Eleven, despite the advantage of playing on their home ground on all but five occasions, were only able to win ten of their twenty-nine matches. This latter figure was the highest number of games played by any of the four elevens, but any connection between that fact, and the fact that the Third Eleven Captain is also Match Secretary, is, of course, purely coincidental! The season was undoubtedly a success from the social point of view, particularly as three of the fixtures were with the Norsemen Nomads.

In contrast with the three higher elevens, the Fourth Eleven enjoyed their best season since being restarted after the war. They won ten, drew three and lost eight games, scoring 65 goals and conceding 67, and in fact only lost two matches after Christmas.

This year, for the first time, the Royal Exchange Assurance, and London Hospital six-a-side tournaments were not held on the same day, with the result that First Eleven players were available for both. Two teams were entered for the London Hospital competition but both met very strong opposition in the first round and were eliminated. A similar fate befell the one team representing us at Molesey, where the Royal Exchange Assurance competition was won for the second successive year by the Ibis F.C.

The season was brought to an end with the annual Team Supper at "The Victoria," on April 17th, attended by sixty Old Mercers and their guests. It gave us much pleasure that the latter included Mr. Allen, representing The School, "Bobs" Roberts of Ibis F.C., Roy Innocent of Norsemen Nomads, Jim Farmer of Old Colfeians, and Mr. Nicholson, the groundsman at Grove Park. The toast of "The Spirit of Mercers' School," proposed admirably by Len Gardner, was wholeheartedly supported by all present. In a moving reply, Mr. Allen expressed his appreciation of the newly-styled toast and his hope that it would continue to be offered for many years to come at Old Mercer functions.

The name of "Bobs" Roberts means much to several generations of Old Mercers, and, as he is retiring from business this year, members of the Football Section, past and present, felt that they would like to mark the occasion by giving him a small token of their esteem. "Bobs'" marathon service on the committee of the Ibis Club, which has been unbroken since he joined it during the first World War, meant that he was Match Secretary at the time our own Club was formed. This fact undoubtedly led to the close relationship which has always existed between the two clubs and resulted in our always having several fixtures with Ibis each season despite the pressure of their league commitments. The presentation to "Bobs," of a table cigarette lighter, was very ably made by A. H. Appleyard, one of our

senior past playing members, during the course of proposing the toast of "Our Guests," and we all hope that, together with its suitably engraved plinth, it will serve as a reminder of many happy hours both on and off the football field. The last toast of the evening, that of "The Club," was proposed at very short notice by the Secretary of the Cricket Section, Dick Dawson, and replied to by the President of the Old Mercers' Athletic Association, Arthur Downes, who had kindly consented to take the chair in the unavoidable absence of the First-Eleven Captain.

So ended yet another enjoyable season, and whilst our future is still rather uncertain, we all look forward to a successful season starting next September. Our grateful thanks to The School, and all those connected with it, must once again be recorded, for the use of Grove Park, and also to those who have turned out to referee the season's many home games.

C. D. Archibald (Hon. Sec.).

THE CRICKET SECTION THROUGH THE YEARS

THE Cricket Section commenced action in the summer of 1921.

The Magazine records a playing strength of 24. There was no home pitch and few matches but the players spent some hours practising in the playground net at the School. V. M. Hammer was an enthusiastic Skipper/Secretary and George Thomas was described as an "optimistic beggar," counting the subscriptions and persuading the Presidents and Vice-Presidents to succour the new-born Club.

In 1922, a pitch at Chingford was hired and H. M. Eade took over the duties of Hon. Secretary. Jim Willis that year took 50 wickets at an average of 6.6 runs each and Harold Eade collected 36 for 7.7 each. Runs were rather more difficult to come by, but progress was nevertheless rapid, for by 1923, in only the third season, two teams were operating, the 2nd XI having won all four games played and the 1st XI recording 13 wins out of 19 games.

In 1924, the weather was bad and support fell away and in the following season the running of even one team became erratic. In one of the games, however, the O.M.'s dismissed the School for 35 and 98.

There was no further activity until the summer of 1933, one year after the opening of the new School Playing Fields. C. A. Tout was the first Skipper and no one could doubt his claim to the leadership, since he headed both bowling and batting averages and scored a century against the Old Colfeians. T. F. Holman held the administrative reins and "Cuts" Parker was Team Secretary. Enthusiasm ran high and disappointment was recorded that only one and not two teams could be fielded each week. In the next season, the numbers had not increased sufficiently to run a second team, but the playing strength enabled the side to win 10 and draw 4 of the 21 games played. This was a good performance indeed, since C. A. Tout had gone abroad to join the Palestine Police and although A. L. Lucock did a very good job as Captain for the remainder of

the season, Tout was a great loss. When he returned to England he went to live in the Midlands and was lost to our Cricket. In 1935, the results improved to the extent of 12 wins and 2 draws out of 21 games. T. F. Holman secured fixtures against no fewer than seven Old Boys' sides, including one on August Bank Holiday against the Old Ardinians at Ardingly College. That year, Harold Searls scored four 50's, Marchant, P. E. Dawson and G. Milne, two each and Maurice Lucock in four matches collected an aggregate of twenty wickets for 60 runs. At the end of the season, G. J. P. Webb and T. W. Parker were elected Secretary and Team Secretary respectively to carry on the splendid work of Holman and "Cuts" Parker.

In 1936, the results were disappointing, since membership increased to about twenty-three and in order to give everyone a game, the team never really settled down. There were only two occasions on which a second XI could be turned out. That year, G. J. P. Webb got among the wickets; the School beat us 27-159; and, despite a hat trick by J. D. Riley, finishing with 6 for 62, we were beaten at Ardingly College on August Bank Holiday, 70-153. This was a good game of cricket, played in a magnificent setting and the Ardinians treated us well in giving us the premier fixture of their cricket week. The spring fed open-air swimming pool cooled our extremities after these matches!

At the Annual General Meeting that year, the lack of numbers appeared to be overcome when Webb announced that satisfactory arrangements having been made with G.G.A., the 2nd XI was to become a reality and eleven matches had already been arranged.

In 1937, the 2nd XI duly re-appeared and the prophecy that, when regular teams could be chosen, results would improve, was perfectly correct. The 1st XI—P. 18, W. 10, D. 5, 2nd XI—P. 15, W. 4, Tied 1. Bill Boyton was the first 2nd XI Skipper and a skilful and enthusiastic leader he was.

In 1938, the Fixture List went through some contortions through scratchings, and the Emergency Fixture Bureau provided some very tough opposition. This season was noteworthy for the battery of speed bowlers in A. L. and M. J. Lucock, G. J. P. Webb and A. A. Scott, who came quickly off the pitch in those days. We played the first game at Leigh and won 163-128. A. A. Scott was the best all-rounder; G. Finch a regular scorer. The End-of-Season Supper was held at the Mitre, Chancery Lane, tickets 4/-!!

In 1939, H. V. Searls stood down in favour of Maurice Lucock and George Milne became Vice-Captain. Harold Searls had served the Cricket Section very well indeed, and he was entitled to a rest from the worries of Captaincy as he had served currently as Vice-Captain and Captain for the 1st XI at soccer. "Cuts" Parker became Boyton's deputy. George Milne and A. A. Scott were outstanding and the former scored two not out centuries against Honor Oak and Orpington. We lost at Leigh by two runs. John Squirrell, a newcomer, was a wicket taker in the 2nd XI.

Alan Johns organised 2 games against the School in 1943 and in 1944 M. A. Spry arranged another.

Following the war, a meeting was held in March, 1946, when T. W. Parker was able to announce that G.G.A., had afforded every possible assistance in the reformation of the Cricket Section and, at that meeting, three officers, namely the Secretary, Team Secretary and one Captain were elected. The section got under way with the 1st XI playing 16 games and the 2nd XI 13 games in that season. The weather was poor and the results indifferent but a satisfactory start had nevertheless been made.

In 1947, George Milne became Vice-Captain to M. J. Lucock and R. H. Cousens became the 2nd XI Skipper. D. A. Jackson became the Team Secretary and John Squirrell took over from T. W. Parker as Secretary. The results improved slightly but difficulty was encountered in running two teams and O.M's were grateful to Messrs. Tabert, Wearing and Buckland for their assistance whenever school duties permitted. T. W. Parker had a century against Lloyds that year.

In 1948, under the Captaincy of George Milne, the results were not good as far as the 1st XI was concerned, due mainly to some very indifferent batting, and the 2nd XI struggled for success. J. K. Tabert scored a century against Old Roan and J. Squirrell and M. J. Lucock bore the brunt of the bowling. We won the "beer" match at Burnham in a most determined manner! In 1949 the 1st XI could only win 6 of the 23 games played. The 2nd XI, by contrast, enjoyed a very good season and won 10 of 16 games played, G. Meredith and R. H. Cousens each having an average of over 20, whilst Manning and Meredith recorded 50's and M. Spry collected over 40 wickets. Dick Dawson became Secretary that year, and his efficiency has not diminished in 1959.

In 1950 the results improved slightly as far as the 1st XI were concerned and eight wins were recorded, whilst the 2nd XI were only slightly less successful than in the previous year. T. W. Parker became the Captain of the 1st XI for that season and noteworthy batting performances were by G. Meredith playing for the 1st XI in scoring 83 against North Middlesex and R. G. Dawson with a good innings of 62 against the Old Bancroftians. This was one season in which we had the advantage of having Mapleson playing for us and he was a consistently good bat. C. D. Archibald was also in runs. We suffered a severe beating from the School 191-1 dec. against 45! For the 2nd XI F. J. Robinson took over 40 wickets that year and Walford had a hat trick v. Athlon II.

In 1951 we had a very bad season so far as weather was concerned and there were no fewer than eight games cancelled. The results, like the weather, were uninspiring but one record was created when T. W. Parker and Alan Johns put on 156 for the first wicket v. Old Bancroftians. The 2nd XI batting depended, to a large extent, on G. Meredith and G. Ives.

In 1952 the 2nd XI again had a very good season and won 10 of 15 matches. Everybody played their part and Nailor and Rolt recorded 50's, whilst P. Herd bowled well in company with Rolt,

Robinson and Spry. Alan Johns was the 1st XI's most successful batsman and towards the end of the season scored a very fast and well played century against Epsom Old Grammarians. That year we managed to give the School a close game—O.M's 114-School 112-8 at the close.

1953 was a poor season generally, the 1st XI managing only 4 wins and 7 draws out of 20 games, whilst the 2nd XI W. 6 and D. 6 out of 16. At the end of that season Alan Johns took over the Captaincy of the 1st XI and in 1954 the results improved greatly so far as the 1st XI was concerned, who recorded 11 wins and 5 draws out of 21 games played. We beat Leigh for the first time since 1939. Green 64 and Archibald 50 put on 110 for the 4th wicket v. Centymca and G. Milne bowled "tweakers" in earnest.

In 1955 the 2nd XI, under the leadership of F. J. Robinson and H. Rolt, again took the honours and won 14 out of 20 matches played. Robinson took 25 wickets for 84 runs in 5 matches and T. H. Hollings had a fine forceful innings of 61 against the School. The 1st XI results were not nearly so good as in the previous year but G. Milne created a record by making occasional appearances for the 1st XI and making some useful scores, with the result that he scored 207 runs for once out—average 207! Besides Milne, 50's were recorded by G. Ives, D. Jackson and M. Green.

1956 was another wet summer and in that year Peter Tabert whilst still at school, turned out for the O.M's on Whit Monday and scored a century, which reminded us of his father's success on the same day in 1948. B. Walford assisted him by scoring 69 to raise the score to 227-5 wickets which enabled us to beat the Old Bancroftians by 84 runs. G. Ives and Meredith were prominent with the bat for the 2nd XI and the latter twice reached 80.

In 1957 the 2nd XI again had much better results than the 1st XI and won 11 out of 21 games. This season Meredith, Walford and J. Locke were prominent batsmen. The Robinson/Rolt leadership certainly raised a great deal of enthusiasm. At the A.G.M. that year, Archibald took over the Captaincy from Alan Johns, who had moved to Tonbridge, and at the supper afterwards G. Milne presented to M. J. Lucock an engraved tankard to honour the occasion of the completion of 25 years faithful and whole-hearted service to the Cricket Section.

In 1958 we nearly beat the School for a change and M. Green scored a century in his first match of the season. He followed this with a score of 62 against the School and Walford proved himself a useful all-rounder in the 1st XI. In the 2nd XI Shapero, Balding, Manning and Moxey scored their 50's.

In the post-war years the period of conscription has left its mark on the Cricket Section and deprived us of many useful players. That apart however, the pattern of the Nation's life has changed and young people now have to devote more time to their work and tend to support the casual and occasional, rather than the organised pastime. So often people begrudge 5 hours on a Saturday for cricket!

The ground at Grove Park has provided many, many happy hours for O.M's and we hope we can continue to play there for a year or two yet. All who have already taken part will have memories, some sharp, some confused, of moments of triumph and longer periods when they have humbly admitted a tragic inefficiency at the game. It has all been good fun and the man who has played cricket is more philosophical about the ups and downs which befall him between Saturdays. It would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Allen and Mr. Tabert, the willingness of Mr. Jepson and Mr. Haden and the forbearance of Messrs. Hill and Rayment and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson and Ted.

T. W. P.

HONOR DEO LODGE No. 3562

THE Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Aubrey C. Winn, presided over the last Meeting of the Lodge, to be held at the School, on Thursday, March 5th, a sad occasion after so many years of close association with the School buildings, made even sadder by the news, received that day, that owing to the requirements of the Grand Lodge it would not be possible for Lodge Meetings to be held at Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, so kindly offered by the Court.

The Lodge has enjoyed a successful year—the W.M., representing the Lodge, was enabled to offer a good Stewardship to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and grants were made from the funds of the Lodge to the R.M. Institution for Boys, the R.M. Institution for Girls and the R.M. Hospital.

All Meetings were well attended and at the last Meeting of the season Bro. John E. Seear was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.

Arrangements have now been made to hold our Regular Meetings at Mecca Colonial House, Mincing Lane, E.C.3.

HONOR DEO CHAPTER No. 3562

HONOR DEO CHAPTER has enjoyed an exceptional year under the rule of the three Principals E. Companions Horace L. Titford, W. G. Bailey and A. H. Appleyard, O.B.E., and is now looking forward to the new season.

At the last Convocation in April, Companion S. W. Moys, J.P., was elected as the new Third Principal to be installed in October.

As Barnard's Inn will no longer be available for Meetings, arrangements have now been made to meet at 2, Whitehall Court, S.W.1, on the following days: the third Tuesday in October, the second Thursday in January and the first Tuesday in April.

George Thomas, 10, South Molton Street, W.1, is the Secretary of both Honor Deo Lodge and Chapter and will be pleased to supply any information requested.

CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS

LIKE all other sections of the Club, the Civic Guild fully intends to continue its activities and is hopeful that it will gain the support of many of the younger Old Mercers in its endeavours to maintain a link between the School and the City.

There are now 58 members of the Civic Guild, and the Court for 1959-60 is constituted as follows:—

Guild Master—F. W. G. Greener.

Guild Renter Warden—E. C. Collins.

Guild Junior Warden—H. E. Titford.

Past Guild Master Assistants—Major S. W. Wells, W. Latey, W. Heilbuth, J. H. J. Dewey, J. E. Lucraft.

Guild Assistants—E. Pow, F. B. Angier, D. B. Spencer.

Hon. Clerk—Raymond Smith.

Assistant Clerk—A. H. Hall.

The Installation Dinner will take place at the Tallow Chandlers' Hall on June 12th, 1959.

OLD MERCERS' DRAMATIC CLUB

THE DRAMATIC CLUB is very much alive but, as ever, needs recruits, acting and otherwise. The Secretary will be glad to hear from anyone interested. Meanwhile, plans are going ahead for "Charley's Aunt" in November.

The Secretary is M. S. Knott, 17, Slades Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex.

OLD MERCERS' BENEVOLENT FUND

DURING the year 1958 we have had grievous losses in the death of H. C. Merrett, the President of the Fund, and Edward Hill, the Vice-President, both founder members who had served continuously since the inauguration of the Fund in November, 1933.

In consequence K. H. Scott and G. H. Parker have accepted places on the Committee, the former having been elected President.

It will be seen from the financial statement below that the Fund has been able to afford relief in two cases of distress and, therefore, there has been a fall in the balance at the bank; donations will be welcome and should be addressed to George Thomas, 10, South Molton Street, London, W.1.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1958

RECEIPTS			£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS			£	s.	d.
By Balance, Jan. 1st, 1958			118	5	5	To Grants	....	....	45	0	0
„ Donation	....	....	1	1	0	„ Balance at Bank	....	....	74	6	5
			<hr/>						<hr/>		
			£119						£119		
			<hr/>						<hr/>		

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Deposit, January 1st, 1958	539	18	7
Interest to December 31st, 1958	13	9	6
	<hr/>		
	£553	8	1
	<hr/>		

W. G. BAILEY, *Hon Secretary.*

G. THOMAS, *Hon. Treasurer.*



WAR MEMORIAL FUND

THE application of the War Memorial Fund is under careful and constant consideration. It is hoped that a solution acceptable to all the donors may be reached before long. The primary object in all our minds is to honour the memory of those Old Mercers who died, but it may be thought appropriate at the same time to perpetuate the name of Mercers' School which produced their character and fortitude.

Meanwhile the Balance Sheet of the Fund is appended.

W. G. Bailey, Hon. Treasurer.

Balance Sheet as

1958			ACCUMULATED FUND						
£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.	
3,618	12	8	As at March 31st, 1958	....	....	3,848	6	5
229	13	9	Add : Cash Surplus for year as per						
			Receipts and Payments Account	....	....	222	5	0
3,848	6	5				4,070	11	5	
			Less : Amounts supplied on Objects of						
			Fund :—						
			Memorial Plaque and						
108	16	5	Unveiling Expenses	108	16	5			
36	3	7	Lighting of Plaque	....	36	3	7	
			Memorial (1939-45)						
180	0	0	Scholarships	....	300	0	0	
3,523	6	5				445	0	0	
£3,523	6	5					3,625	11	5
							£3,625	11	5

Receipts and Payments Account

£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
8	17	6	To Donations (3 donors)	....	....	2	17	6
50	12	6	„ Covenanted Subscriptions (11 donors)	....	....	47	1	6
45	15	8	„ Income Tax Repayment 1957-58	....	....	37	8	4
125	5	11	„ Interest on Defence Bonds	....	....	138	1	11
£230	11	7				£225	9	3

Estimated T

Accumulated Fund as per Balance Sheet
 Future Payments under Covenanted Subscriptions
 Future Income Tax recoverable (based on
 in the £ for future subscriptions)

Less : Already applied on the Objects of

WM. GEO. BAILEY,
 Hon. Treasurer.

MEMORIAL FUND

March 31st, 1959

1958

INVESTMENTS

£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
2,046	12	6	£2,050 4% Defence Bonds	....	....	1,046	12	6			
1,050	8	6	£1,050 3½% Defence Bonds	....	....	1,050	8	6			
300	0	0	£300 4½% Defence Bonds	....	....	300	0	0			
—	—	—	£200 5% Defence Bonds	....	....	200	0	0			
<hr/>						<hr/>			3,597	1	0
3,397	1	0									
126	5	5	Balance at Bank	....	....				28	10	5

£3,523 6 5

£3,625 11 5

the year ended March 31st, 1959

£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
17	10		By Postages and Sundries	....	....	....	3	4	3
229	13	9	„ Balance for the year transferred to Accumulated Fund	....	....	....	222	5	0
<hr/>							<hr/>		
£230	11	7					£225	9	3
<hr/>							<hr/>		

Fund to Date

	£	s.	d.
ove	4,070	11	5
ptions	63	17	0
in average rate of 6/8d.			
	66	3	11
<hr/>			
	4,200	12	4
f the Fund to date	445	0	0
<hr/>			
	£3,755	12	4
<hr/>			

W. H. WRIGHT,
Hon. Auditor.

"SWEENEY TODD"

"Victuals and Ale available from 7 p.m."

A WELCOME statement at any time surpassed only on this occasion by the fact that they were indeed available. The romantics amongst us were no doubt still further intrigued to learn that our carriages would be "at" 10.30.

The reason for this somewhat unusual propaganda? An evening in the Victorian manner to be spent in the company of the Old Mercers' Dramatic Society, the highlight of which was to be a performance of that well known, but so rarely seen classic "Sweeney Todd—The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Antimacassars fortunately were not to be worn!

Eton may boast of its song, Harrow its hill and St. Trinians its terrors, but how few the schools that can claim that among its closing ceremonies were included several rousing choruses of my favourite anthem "Nellie Dean" and one or two lesser known arias. But this indeed was to be the case.

It is difficult enough for any amateur producer to present a period play cheaply and successfully; to attempt to simulate within the audience as well as on the stage the atmosphere of the period, adds innumerable difficulties. In order to judge the success of any attempt to do so it is more convenient to separate the play from the rest of the evening; and so, first of all, to the play.

Of the gentlemen players, Eric Wilkins managed a convincing Demon Barber, not an easy part to play, and Brian Percy was a very inquisitive Jarvis Williams. The ladies, I thought, were very well represented. The pretty face was provided to good effect by Miss Patricia Moore, but the honours must surely go to Mrs. Gardner for her delectable Mrs. Lovatt. A word of encouragement would not go amiss to Derek Complin (Tobias Ragg) who quailed realistically before the wrath of Sweeney Todd. I understand this young man now ranks as an Old Mercer and I sincerely hope that his confidence on the stage has not gone unnoticed. Despite the lack of scenery and the poor quality of what there was, the play was an undoubted success. It held together well and was performed with enthusiasm, each character being brought out very well in every case.

This was important, because it is to the "characters" in the play that the audience will eventually react; and so to the other side of this evening's entertainment. The audience were there to enjoy themselves, if not as Victorians, by participation in the Victorian manner. The stimulation to this end was provided by the Ale which was available throughout the whole of the evening and by the presence of a Chairman. We were encouraged by the Chairman (R. Parrott, Esq.) to sing during every natural break (my throat still aches), and to respond as we thought best to the characters portrayed on the stage. On the whole the audience responded very well to the Chairman and this added enormously to the success of the evening.

The only criticism that could be made is that it was apparent that not enough time had been spent on detail and I should have liked the Chairman, the producer of the play, to have had more to say during the few scene changes that there were.

This was an evening well spent and there is little doubt that when the gavel had been struck for the last time and the final chords of "Ald Lang Syne" were drifting towards the ceiling of the Mercers' School Hall, there were many who with me would have been not at all surprised to find our carriages waiting.

V. J. Vincent.

"ANTIGONE"

I have sat through too many "choosing a play" conferences not to be sure that there were plenty of misgivings about doing "Antigone." The list of previous O.M. productions contains nothing uncompromisingly tragic; it is the usual selection of comedies and thrillers, with an occasional straight drama. Many an O.M. must have read the programme synopsis and muttered "not my meat," but I doubt if anyone in the audience on April 28th sat through the duologue between Creon and Antigone without feeling first, its dramatic truth and power, and second, its contemporary relevance. If that could have been true of the complete production the playwright's intentions would have been fulfilled, the producer's dream of perfection would have become reality, and the critic would be left with nothing to say but "Three Cheers!"

And for most of the evening this critic was cheering—inaudibly, of course—not only for the boldness of the choice, but for the excellent pace of a play which is nearly all talk (the actions, the events of the story take place in the Greek tradition, off stage), and for a number of outstandingly good performances.

Certainly, everyone must have cheered for Miss Jacqueline Marygold. If, to an impartial eye, she seemed anything but plain, she made us believe she thought she was. Taut, despairing, pugnacious, youthfully self-dramatising yet completely sincere, this actress gave the impression of having great reserves of power, so that we never doubted that she could rise to any demands the play might make. Patrick Connell, as Creon, lacked at the beginning just that essential impression of solid, worldly power, but he matched Antigone finely in their long argument. Both players seemed to have thought their way fully into the characters they were portraying, and expressed themselves with great fluency and an excellent variety of pace and tension.

None of the other parts offers such opportunities. Much must be made of little, a character created from the bare bones of the few lines in the script. It was here that I felt that the slightly unconvincing air which weakened several of the smaller parts was, at least

in part, due to the director's ideas on the staging and costuming of the play. Anonilh keeps strictly to the Greek plot, yet we hear that his dissolute young men go to night clubs in fast cars; he wants, presumably, an approach as "timeless," as free from association within any particular period, as possible. This producer's solution was to present us with as eccentric a mixture of costume as I have ever seen. Creon was an elegant Edwardian, the soldiers wore Germanic steel helmets, the nurse was any medieval peasant, Antigone wore full length scarlet with jewelled girdle and Ismene appeared at one time in a housecoat, and at another, if memory serves me correctly, in floating purple chiffon. To my mind this diversity, though I can see the theory behind it, was merely distracting. It offered a multitude of associations and social overtones, whereas Anouilh, in asking for "un décor neutre," wanted as few as possible. More important, I think, that this deliberate disassociation from any particular time or place led to a rather stilted and over formal approach. We found it difficult to believe in Ismene's lipstick, in the nurse's coffee, in Haemon and Antigone's last waltz, in the soldier's wife and kids. I feel that "unobtrusive modern" would have served the cast better. No sensible girl, hoping to avoid the guard's eye, goes out to scratch earth over her brother's body in a scarlet gown. Jeans and mud-coloured mohair would be far more practical—and very much in key with this young "rebel without a cause."

The producer, Eric Wilkins, also took the part of Chorus—very ably, I thought. Only on one occasion did his impartiality verge on the callous, and his introduction to Act 2 was impressive. Brian Percy, faced with the thankless task of coming on "cold" to deliver a long description of incredibly appalling events, made an excellent job of it. I was less happy about the First Guard. A sort of animal insensitivity seems to be called for, but such broad playing for laughs seemed to me to make the task of Creon in Act 1 and Antigone in Act 2, who had a deal with him on a serious level, unnecessarily difficult. Janet Young as Ismene, and Teresa Wentworth-White as the nurse, both formed effective enough foils for Antigone. Haemon, I felt, lost the battle. Everyone, on this first and only night, seemed word-perfect, and Peter Burrell should be congratulated on a dawn more discreet than most amateurs achieve.

It was heartening to hear the enthusiasm with which the audience applauded. Any society which follows "Angels in Love" by "Sweeney Todd" by "Antigone," and then prints, "Next production 'Charley's Aunt,'" on the programme, deserves more numerous support than it is getting at the moment.

B. M. D.

OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE OLD MERCERS' CLUB

President : R. A. Sinfield.

Vice-President : J. Cappin.

Secretary : A. C. Werner.

THE Annual Dinner of the Club was held in the Massey Room, Balliol College, Oxford, on Saturday, November 15th, 1958. As the literary powers of the present writer are not of a sufficient quality to introduce the names of all those attending naturally during the course of this account, at the outset it had perhaps best be stated simply that the company comprised: Messrs. Haden, Andrew, Fairbairn, Fyson, Elliot, Moss, White, and Scott—Messrs. Nach, Evans, Cappin, and Clements from Cambridge—Messrs. Nailor and Ramsden, wise men from the East (end ?), and Messrs. Sinfield, Werner, Sumner, Kerr, McMurtrie, Selley, Harman, and Ives from Oxford.

The pre-prandial sherry gathering in the Lindsay Room, Balliol, was marked by the valiant efforts of M. F. Sumner to record the occasion with some photographs, and some remarkably unhelpful suggestions as to what he could do with his camera when, in fact, it failed to function. Undaunted, if not positively heartened, we moved into dinner. With the company's powers of resistance effectively increased by a good meal, and the loyal toast having been drunk, the President rose to propose "The School." He expressed the regrets of the Club at the absence through ill-health of Mr. Allen, but warmly welcomed all those who had been able to come. As was appropriate to our first gathering since the announcement of March, he expressed the Club's personal regret at the news of the decision to close the School. In reply, Mr. Haden explained some of the factors which had led to the Company's decision, thanked masters, particularly Mr. Andrew, for their support through such difficult times, and went on to reassure the Club about the destinations of the various members of the Staff.

After a brief pause for reasons which will be obvious to those who attend such occasions, Mr. Andrew rose and proposed "The Club." He paid tribute to the work of Mr. Haden in the vast job of replacing in other schools those boys for whom the closing of the School meant a break in their education, and went on to wish the Club many years' life. In replying and closing the formal proceedings of the evening, D. Ives affirmed, to settle doubts on the matter, that all members of the School Staff as at July, 1958, were *ipso facto* life members of the Club. He refused to attempt an estimation of the life of the Club, but felt sure that, while there were any Mercers in Oxford or Cambridge, the Club would live on. He concluded by commending full and active support to the Old Mercers' Club, and asking those present to support wherever and whenever they could the kind of tradition and quality in education for which Mercers' School had so long stood. The port and madeira expiring about 11.45 p.m., the company made their way to bed, the visitors for the

most part availing themselves of the improbable arrangements made for them by the Oxford organisers.

The following morning sherry was offered, and generally accepted, in D. Ives' room in Holywell Manor. The party duly dispersed at lunch time, Mr. Haden being last seen facing aft astride C. Kerr's motorcycle; others went less spectacularly about their various ways, and a historic occasion, one which will surely long be remembered by those who attended, had ended.

D. Ives.

REMINISCENCE

An Old Friend Remembers

IT is almost 60 years now since I first came to Barnard's Inn, that odd little relic of an older London, tucked away in a little courtyard off Holborn, where Mr. and Mrs. Cousens, that admirable couple, had their little creeper-clad cottage beyond the great gate.

I liked the look of it all, and when I met the little old Doctor Scott with his chin-whiskers, I thought he seemed to match all the rest. So I duly presented myself at the Mercers' Hall in Cheapside, where the Company was assembled in state, most portentously, looking like the House of Lords. There was one other candidate, but I was elected to the vacancy at £120 a year. Thirty-six years I stayed on and taught Mercers, under Scott, Bicknell and Jepson; happy all the time, especially as the salary went on growing in size!

My first and final activity outside the class-room was the **School Magazine**, of which I produced 100 numbers. When I look through old numbers to-day, I am still interested and amused. We had some capital artists on the staff of the School Mag, and I still read those old issues after 60 years, and laugh heartily at ancient jibes!

B. C. B.

A GREAT HEADMASTER

IT seems fitting that the first number of the "Old Mercer Magazine" should contain a memoir of one who presided over the fortunes of the Mercers' School from 1879 to 1914, a period of 35 years. Dr. Scott was in harness up to the end, as he was, we are told, only 10 days absent from school before his death on October 29th, 1914. Although this is 45 years ago, there must be many old Mercers surviving who, like myself, carry a vivid memory of his kindly and forceful personality, and are thankful for his influence upon our young lives.

Due to his headship of a great and ancient school, the prime of Scott's life, unlike that of most clergy, was not occupied with parochial work. So far as I know he was never an incumbent of a parish, but it was his custom for many years to give able assistance to the clergy of the district in which he resided. But this did not mean that his ministry was not pastoral. He was a clear and forceful preacher, and in his sermons in various churches at Dulwich and Sydenham, where he lived for many years, there was always something memorable, and they often contained references to the boys who were

under his fatherly and helpful care. It was through my parents becoming acquainted with him as members of the congregation of St. Peter's, Dulwich, that I was eventually sent as a pupil to the Mercers' School in 1894, after being coached in Latin for the entrance examination. For the grounding in Latin that I received at the Mercers' School I have always been grateful, as well as for the influence and example of Dr. Scott as a scholar, a preacher, and a priest. I remember when I called on him in his familiar study at Barnard's Inn shortly after my ordination he gave me much good and helpful advice. One thing especially remains in memory. I have alluded to his forcefulness as a preacher, and he revealed to me one of the secrets of this by saying of himself: "I always feel my sermons." This is a lesson which we clergy need to bear constantly in mind; for, if we do not feel our sermons, we shall neither make our hearers feel them, nor act upon them.

And so the memory of Douglas Lee Scott is still green after nearly half a century.

"Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis."

Yes, times may indeed change and we with them; but the moral grandeur and affectionate remembrance of such personalities as Dr. Scott never can pass away.

"Only a pure and gracious soul

Like seasoned timber, never gives,

And though the whole world turn to coal

Then chiefly lives."

Rev. A. T. Coldman (1894-99).

RANDOM REMINISCENCES

1897-1903

IN the late summer of 1897 I was one of a party of some dozen boys taking a brief "entrance" examination primarily designed to discover at what level we might enter the School. There was a written paper of ten questions or so covering the basic general subjects, while Dr. Scott gave each candidate a short oral examination. I was given a good grilling in the Latin verbs, with which I battled with fair success. The Doctor was interested in my "waney, weedy, weeky" pronunciation, acquired at a previous elementary school (at which, incidentally, all written work was done on slates). He said, "We will soon cure you of that." I understand that the School has reverted to the more musical pronunciation.

I was duly placed in Form 3A in the care of Aubrey Walsh, a most able and kindly teacher. In my first geography lesson, my textbook not having arrived, I shared a book, and a seat, with A. R. McCallum, thereby initiating a friendship which was maintained throughout our School career, to the Sixth Form and beyond. McCallum had a distinguished career after leaving School, and his tragic end was a great shock to all of us.

I recall the lunches of those early days, taken in Barnard's Inn; a meat course, two vegetables and a pudding—we had not learned to call this a "sweet" at this period—all for 9d. Some of us occasionally

grumbled at this fare, as schoolboys will, but the meal compared very favourably with the synthetic, highly adulterated rubbish that passes as food in many restaurants to-day.

Our physical training was supplied by an irate Sergeant-Major, who drilled us in the indoor playground, now the Dining Hall, and by weekly visits to the gymnasium in St. Bride's Institute.

A vivid recollection of this period is of being allowed out into Holborn one morning to see Queen Victoria drive by in an open carriage with an escort of Life Guards. Seated beside her was a small boy in an Eton suit, later to become Alfonso XIII, King of Spain.

And so to Messrs Trevor Walsh and Grant, excellent teachers both. Mr. Grant was a stickler for punctuality, beginning and ending each lesson on the stroke of the hour appointed, not a minute before or after. With him we had a good grounding in "Script" shorthand, much of which the writer remembers and uses to-day. It was about this time, I believe, that in an external examination a number of answer-papers were lost and some subjects had to be taken anew. A practical examination in General Science was taken at Archbishop Tenison's School, in Leicester Square.

Some time in 1898 the Scientific Society was formed, T. T. Baker and L. V. Turner being among the members. I was pleased to renew acquaintance with the latter at a recent July cricket lunch. Early in the career of the Society a small boy demonstrated wireless apparatus, in which signals were sent from one end of the lecture table to the other. The boy's name, I fancy, was, appropriately enough, "Sparkes."

Perspective Drawing we took with Mr. Ballard—my drawing instruments of those days are still in occasional use.

Dear Mr. Barlet took us in French and German. To guide us in vowel pronunciation he frequently admonished us to use our "forks." He was a master of sarcasm. On one occasion we were translating French "unseen." A boy—later to become a noteworthy O.M.—translated "Au feu" as "let us go and warm ourselves." Mr. Barlet then gave us a vivid word-picture of Mr. —, arriving home to find his house in flames, saying "let us go and warm ourselves."

Messrs. Paterson and Wheeler specialised in Maths. and Classics respectively. Mr. Paterson made us demonstrate Euclid's propositions on the blackboard with diagrams drawn upside down and reversed from left to right, so that anyone having committed the work to memory with conventional diagrams was often a victim of frustration. I entered Mr. Paterson's Form with a bewildered dread of Trigonometry, but he succeeded in making it one of my favourite subjects. It was pleasing to know that while fully occupied in teaching us he somehow found time to acquire a Science Degree.

Mr. Wheeler is remembered as a master of sarcasm, with an addiction for punning. When a boy remarked, in reference to some blunder, "I didn't notice," C.B.W. would ask, "How old is a baby when it begins to notice?" Once, while translating Latin unseen, an unhappy youth rendered "saxum circumspicit" as "the stone

looked round." Mr. Wheeler's comment was, "If it were round, I suppose it **would** look round." The class groaned as one man, and as one man we were deservedly kept in.

It was in the Fifth Form that the "Quintonian" saw the light. This was a Form Magazine in manuscript, somewhat rebellious in nature, with an ambitious Latin motto, the underlying theme being the suggestion that the Form could, and would, take on anybody at anything. It had but a brief existence. I noted recently that W. Welsh, a colleague of mine in VA, had sent a copy of the "Quintonian" to the Editor of the School Magazine. Mr. Welsh's address somehow got mislaid; if this note ever catches his eye perhaps he would get in touch with me.

The Rev. C. H. Jones, recently returned to this country, was also a 5th Former with me.

After passing London Matric, McCallum and I spent practically all our time with Mr. Dariell, who had fostered our enthusiasm for Science all through the School, and with Mr. Paterson.

It is hoped that these odd notes may interest somebody. If they are regarded as childish, it must be remembered that they deal with minor incidents which stuck in a schoolboy's memory.

B. Drinkwater (1897-1903).

1918-24

IT was a wartime, September 1918, when my father, home on leave from the front, escorted me to my first term at the school which I fondly hoped would approximate to the Rookwood School of Jimmy Silver and Co. of "The Boys Friend." I was not disappointed in the school which, with all its varying activities, gave plenty of scope. Although it was not considered quite the thing among my contemporaries to take an active part in organised sports, I do remember being encouraged by an energetic, if not exhausted, Deeks to take part in soccer at Herne Hill, a step which once taken was never regretted and kept up for the rest of my school career and even into Old Mercer days, with encouragement from among others, G. Thomas and Jack and Jim Willis. The greatest alarm came in the early days, hearing the maroons sounded in the City on November 11th; this fortunately proved to be the armistice, so that we were never able to put the sandbagged lower playground to practical use.

However it was an opportune moment to join the school cadet corps under the able leadership of Mr. C. A. Williams assisted by Mr. Wilmot.

The school gymnasium was revived about 1921 under P. T. instructor Mr. Williams and proved very popular, with boxing as an extra after 4.00 p.m.

Among the masters of the time, under the able leadership of Mr. C. H. Bicknell, were Mr. Wisbey, Mr. Boon, Mr. Wilmot, Messrs. Boulter, Grant, Crampton, Green, Patterson, Carey, Williams, Mr. Heath, Science Master and Mr. Swan, Arts Master.

Another great blessing to a war weary world was the restoration of swimming facilities at the public baths. Thus about 1921 Mercers

were once again wending their way in the summer to Holborn Baths. Sports and Football matches were by this time being held on the Shepherds Bush ground of St. Paul's School. However I do remember the excellent sports meetings which used to be held at the L.C.C. ground at Herne Hill. The highlight of these meetings at Herne Hill was, in my opinion, the cycle races in which various members participated, without much success, using changing gears and high banking, etc. Defrates I think was the expert on this. Whether at Shepherds Bush or Herne Hill Mr. Boon was usually the chief time-keeper. Scholastically we wended our way through the Oxford Junior, Cambridge Senior, culminating with the London Matriculation, only to hear that some individuals were already tackling further examinations of the inter-degree variety.

It is the later examinations that are more useful in after life as one of my Old Mercer friends George Viney found out. On the strength of a pass in Chemistry in the Matriculation he applied for transfer to the laboratories of the great "Shell" combine for which we were both working at the time. Alas, after a few months in the laboratories, poor George was glad to return to general office duties. The only task he was allowed to perform with a bunsen burner in the land of B.Sc. degrees and Inter B.Sc. was to prepare the office tea, morning and afternoon. Subsequently George did well in Venezuela.

Hats off to George Osborne of the 1924 matriculation class who successfully persuaded the entire class that they would be more successful in the Matriculation and after office life generally if they took the opportunity to spend at least one night a week playing cricket on the delightful ground at Shepherds Bush. Strangely enough we needed a lot of convincing at the time, but never regretted the evenings spent in enjoying this lovely game.

G. A. Burtwell (1918-24).

MERCERS' 1934-43

I CANNOT recall my first visit to the School, but I know it was sometime after Maurice entered in 1931; I can recall watching him run in the sports at Grove Park, and I'm sure that the 100 yards track then ran downhill towards the Quagy.

I do remember being taken to see the Head before entering the School, first sitting in the Lodge with Hamilton, then in the study, being asked questions in mental arithmetic by R.W.J. And I remember many classrooms: Form 1, 1934-35, under Tabert—the list of words on the little blackboard, to be learnt over the week-end; the polishing of the desks at the end of term; History with G.G., with the monitor holding the door open, the rest of us waiting to see if he would get a jovial tap on the head, or whether a more formal period awaited us (the same in other classes later, with Rudolf: was the lesson to start with a bright remark, or with a stern "One," which meant a test was coming?); French, the lesson starting with "Bon jour mes élèves," "Bon jour, monsieur"; Divinity with the benign face of Mr. Boon peering over the desk. Form II stands out in my mind as the place where there were railway maps hung on the corridor side

of the room, the year when we plagued the life out of travel agencies to collect pictures for geography scrap-books. Then Form IIIA; plays with Roy Moore, with all the desks pushed back to make room for a stage; Latin "round the desk" with Williams—or being interrupted for a short bout of physical jerks to wake us and warm us up; occasional lessons in the room below, where there was such a collection of fish tanks, an overflow from the biology lab. next door, I suppose. Having parallel classes above and below each other had other advantages: I recall arranging with Ginger Hall, then in IVA Science, and in the room directly below my IVA Arts, that we should both sit in the corner and tap messages to each other on the water-pipe running up the corner of the wall: a pipe tapped with a ruler makes quite a noise in the other room, as we discovered to our cost.

But enough of classes: what of those forbidding-looking prefects to whom I looked up from my very diminutive position in Form I, with their bowler hats and rolled umbrellas? And does anybody recall playing in the lockers between Form I and IIIA—the double one in the corner, large enough to hold a small boy? (Maurice spent one whole lesson hidden in the library chimney, I believe!) Or baiting "Ole' man Bishop" in that dark little cubby hole beside the present chemistry lab? Or that end of the present chemistry lab. which once housed the tuck shop, where those who were foolish enough to sit near the dustbin in the corner were liable to intercept the remains of some sandwiches which somebody did not want to eat? Or "clubbing up," to the cry of "penny," for after-school playground soccer, somebody being deputed to nip round to Woolworth's for a new ball to replace the one which had disappeared over the netting into one of the surrounding buildings? Or watching Pledger plod round at Grove Park in the mile, to the cry of "Up the mission!"

Then the war: down to Horsham; back again; and then Horsham once again. Primroses on our desks in the 5th Form; vapour trails above us; fire watching; the horrible shock to learn of the death of somebody whose name and face was so readily recalled. Those memories are too close to reduce to cold print. Better to go back again—is it really a quarter of a century ago?—out into the fog after a Christmas concert to see OXO flashing red, white and green on the corner of Grays Inn Road; or into the sun to see Tab. hit a century in the staff match.

L. Boucher (1934-43).

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

ONE day down in the docks, a crate of a raw synthetic fibre was being loaded onto one of Her Majesty's ships. The hoisting chair broke and a docker was injured. Eventually the incident became the subject of litigation and we are now present in court at the hearing.

As with all court rooms general order is maintained by the presence of a uniformed constable. In one corner of the court the plaintiff's solicitor and counsel are in deep conversation. Gradually the court is filling up, a journalist and a photographer come in looking for a story. Also looking for a story are a free-lance

television script writer and a librarian with loftier literary aspirations. A school teacher and his flock of embryo citizens almost fill the court, but there is still room for a shipper and a soldier, both, for different reasons interested in the case. A scientist who helped to develop the new fibre had decided to witness the proceedings, and unaccountably, a priest is present.

Elsewhere in the building, the many witnesses called to the hearing are waiting to be called. The two expert witnesses, an engineer and a metallurgist are busy checking that their jargon will be intelligible to the lawyers'. The doctor who attended the injured man is reviewing his case notes, and an insurance broker is smoking just a little heavily, the outcome of the case could prove expensive to his company.

Now what on earth has all this to do with our club? Just this, with the possible exceptions of the docker and the children, all the people in this little homily could be Old Mercers who were at school at the same time. We all know each other well but we know little of each other's jobs. Many occasions have arisen where a number of us would like to know a little more of what goes on in certain professions. For example, how do insurance men determine their premiums, what really happens when an aircraft such the Comet I falls apart because of metal fatigue, or why is there such a large apparent difference between the two television networks? Now that the club is on its own, would it not be a good plan to get to know more about the varied ways in which we go after leaving our common meeting place? Not only could we get to know each other more fully, but we would all benefit in being able to apply new knowledge gained.

F. A. Green (1943-49)

FROM ABROAD

Hong Kong

WHEN I arrived at Mercers' to take my place in form 1b Queen Victoria was on the throne, Kipling was in the ascendant and a week later Mafeking was relieved. In those days there was no need to apologize for the British Empire on which the sun never set. It was in one of the Empire's far flung colonies that I eventually found myself and there I spent most of the next forty years. That colony was Hong Kong, a barren rock when it was ceded to Britain in 1841 and to-day the abiding place of probably three million people of whom 99% are Chinese.

Nature provided Hong Kong with a magnificent harbour of some ten square miles and man provided the enterprise and energy which converted the barren rock into an international market place. Until 1949 Hong Kong, except for the Japanese occupation of 1941/45, lived on its vast entrepot trade with China, supplemented by a limited number of industries such as ship-building and repairing, sugar refining, rope making and cement manufacture. There was also a primitive but growing cottage industry in cotton shirts and underwear and a few factories making rubber footwear. When the

control of China passed into the hands of the Communists in 1949 the course of the Colony's trade began to change direction. The economy of the People's Republic of China switched to dependence upon countries behind the iron curtain and Hong Kong's exports to China shrank to comparatively insignificant figures. China, however, still continued to sell to Hong Kong, chiefly pigs, poultry, eggs and other edibles, the proceeds of which helped to maintain China's sterling funds for the purchase of such capital goods as were unobtainable from communist countries.

As the victorious communist army approached Shanghai, a city of six million people and the hub of China's foreign trade, the Nationalists under Chiang Kai Shek took refuge in Formosa while most of the leading industrialists fled to Hong Kong. Many of them were in process of re-equipping their textile mills and there was much new machinery en route from Britain and America. This was diverted to Hong Kong and landed there. It soon became obvious that the Reds were in Shanghai for good so the refugee industrialists decided to buy land in Hong Kong and set up factories equipped with the diverted machinery. By 1952 seventeen spinning and/or weaving mills were in production, some of them air conditioned and all laid out and equipped on modern lines. I myself had never seen anything in Lancashire to compare with these mills. In the early stages the principle outlets for the cloth were the adjacent markets of Malaya, Indo China and Indonesia. Then Lancashire converters became interested and found that importing from Hong Kong cloth in the grey their skilled and highly paid labour could be profitably employed on the finishing processes. Hence the wailing and gnashing of teeth by those sections of the home industry which found themselves in direct competition with Hong Kong. All sorts of unfair charges have been levelled at Hong Kong and no one has ever stopped to consider that not one yard of cloth has been shipped from Hong Kong which was not ordered by Lancashire. There was no case here of dumping. Naturally oriental labour costs are on a lower level than that of this country because of the difference in the standards of living. But there is a similar gap between British and American standards hence the outcry when British engineering firms are successful tenderers in the States. What Lancashire does not seem to realise is that many of the countries which were looked upon as Lancashire's traditional markets are now turning to industry and the most profitable industry is that which can rely upon a ready market for clothing. Much as one may regret the decline of cotton textiles in Lancashire surely the remedy is to face facts and concentrate on high grade cloth.

On the other side of the Pennines it is a different story. There the Yorkshire woollen and worsted mills have seen a gratifying expansion in their exports to Hong Kong, due to the enterprise of Hong Kong tailors. Since the Korean War, units of the U.S. Fleet pay periodic visits to Hong Kong and as each big ship moors in the harbour a torrent of sailors and marines pours into the Colony's shopping centres with their pockets stuffed with dollars. The

Chinese tailor has a reputation for high class workmanship at reasonable prices and there has grown up an important mail order business in suits to measure. Each American service man is allowed to take into the country one or two suits free of duty and on his return to his home-town male relatives have been impressed with his Hong Kong made civvies. This had led to wide-spread enquiries and the Hong Kong tailor has now built up a substantial good-will not only in America but also in this country, although the British service man has probably not so impressive a ward-robe as his American opposite number. But at any rate tailoring is booming in Hong Kong to-day and Yorkshire is reaping the benefit.

So much for trade. At a time when practically every part of the Colonial Empire is clamouring for constitutional reform, if not for independence, it is remarkable that there is one unit which firmly refuses to take any share in the responsibility of governing its territory. From 1946 offers have been made by Her Majesty's Government to broaden the basis of the constitution but the people who are sufficiently educated to realise what democracy means are fully satisfied with the way the Colony is administered and the masses of refugees from Communist China are only too anxious to be left alone.

The problems which the Hong Kong Government has had to grapple with since the war are colossal. From 1946 to 1949 Chinese who fled from the Japanese returned to swell the population from about 600,000 to 1½ million. Then came the torrent of refugees from Red China and the population went up by leaps and bounds until the present estimate of close on 3 million. Most of these refugees squatted on the hillsides in shacks of old petrol tins or scraps of wood and cardboard. The Government then started a vast rehousing campaign which has provided seven storeyed tenements in various parts of the Colony, as far as possible within reach of the industrial areas. Level land is at a premium and in most cases sites have had to be formed by tearing down hills and dumping them into the sea. So far about 300,000 have been resettled in the past five years but that is less than half the number for whom some alternative to the hill-side shacks must be found.

The strain on the public services—police, public works, health authorities, social welfare, education and other branches of Government—has been immense but the people of all races have responded to the efforts which are being made and it has all been done without any financial help either from the Home Government or any of the international agencies. The social conscience of the educated classes, British, Foreign and Chinese has been stirred in a remarkable way and there are over a hundred organisations concerned in social welfare assisting the Government in solving the problem. The natural increase in population is now running at 80,000 a year. Think what that means in terms of administration.

P. S. Cassidy (1900-04).

AFRICA TO-DAY

THE eyes of the whole world are certainly on Africa at this time: I have just returned from a comprehensive tour of practically every territory in Africa—a trip of some 16,000 miles.

What a change has come over the Commonwealth in recent years: in my own Mercers days of the first-world-war vintage and before, it used, of course, to be called the Empire. How proud we were of the pre-eminent part that Britain played in the world.

For the past ten years I have lived in Africa; so it is perhaps natural that what I write circles round the “unknown” continent. I have not lived here long enough to talk with authority on the political side of things. Those who have lived here all their lives confess that they simply cannot understand the mind of the African. Nevertheless, I have surveyed sufficient of its vast and incomprehensible resources to give it as my view—and these days I am no longer alone—that by the end of this century Africa will certainly lead the world.

One of the tragic things is the failure to realise the immense gulf between black and white—and this, goaded by sensational press agitation, is doing far more harm than good to the gradual evolution of this fantastic continent.

There are, of course, intelligent Africans: but their numbers are painfully and pitifully few. Immense numbers of them are being educated—but it will all take time. It may be generations before a reasonable proportion of them can be expected to think and act as folk of what we loosely term Western civilisation.

Oddly enough, this very second—for like so many impatient people I find myself dictating letters and doing something else at the same time—I have opened a letter from an urban African. He works—I can see from his address—for a railway stationmaster near Salisbury. He has replied to an advertisement inserted in the daily paper by a mail-order concern in which I have an interest.

His writing is good, his phraseology impeccable. He writes, “Will you please send me a gent’s calendar watch for which I enclose £4 or 10/- deposit and the balance C.O.D.” There is no money in the letter and he has copied the last line religiously from the advertisement without the faintest idea of what it means! What an awfully difficult thing it is to define civilisation.

Now what is there we can do to bring home to people back in the Old Country that the run of African people is nothing like even the most unsophisticated inhabitants to whom in Britain we have seen fit to entrust the vote? I cannot pour scorn upon the African: that would be uncalled-for and unjust. He is just on the threshold of enlightenment and scorn for him is the one thing which goads him to resentment. The recent riots in Leopoldville stemmed from this very factor.

On the other hand I have here yet to see—except in very rare circumstances—intelligence and faithfulness such as one gets, and expects, from the average horse back in Britain. It will come: it **must** come. And those of us on the spot, whose lives are strangely dedicated to the fulfilment of visions once captured like people of the

ilk of Rhodes, are straining every nerve and energy to develop both people and material potentiality.

Africa has every element known to man—she is a continent some six thousand miles from east to west and the same distance between north and south. 250,000,000 people live there, and their very lowliness is the yardstick by which their tremendous future can be measured.

Many of the world's greatest rivers flow through Africa—the Congo, Nile, the Niger and, of course, the great Zambesi, which has been brought to the light of day as a result of our Kariba hydro-electric scheme, the largest in the world. And just for a fleeting second think of the economic angle, the £125 millions cost is poised perilously on the shoulders of between thirty and forty thousand tax-payers!

It is a continent of opportunities. And in these days when there are so many people looking for things to do and seeking outlets for their creative and constructive ingenuities coupled with a vast untapped market, Africa provides the last prospect on earth, before we launch out into the unknown, of doing things in a very big way.

I had intended chatting specifically about some of the countries in this awakening continent. Very fresh in my mind is Ghana. Here is a country with three or four hundred years behind it, so different from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyāsaland, where I live, which has some sixty years or so.

I went to Ghana the other day, as a peaceful citizen and to show them something of what Rhodesian industry was doing. The policies of both countries are miles apart.

In Rhodesia there is a certainty of a permanent white civilisation: In Ghana the white man has no place, once he has been divested of his capital and his skill.

At the same time as I paid my visit, there was in progress a ten-day Trade Mission from Britain, seeking prospects of investments for British capital and skill. These delegates were received with open arms and feted, for they brought with them prospects of funds and Western craftsmanship. Accra, by the way, has no port: things are rowed ashore from offshore vessels in hollowed-out Native dugouts.

I, on the other hand, came from an African country in which we dare to believe that the white man has some reasonable future and my display of Rhodesian-made products was rudely broken up by a fanatical mob—in and outside the hall they numbered some hundreds—led, be it noted, by the self-same party which that very morning had so royally entertained the people from the land of my birth.

The purpose of my visit was to promote the varied products of Rhodesian clothing industries—on the face of it a very civilian and ordinary objective. Yet in Ghana I was violently threatened and even hit: and in their press I was prominently referred to as a “crest-fallen, contemptuous and miscalculated imperialist stickleback”, whatever that may mean.

I freely confess that when I was pushed against the wall by the angry and frantic mob that stormed my trade-show in Accra's largest hotel, I suffered every elemental fear that rarely falls within the

experience of the average man in peace time. In the distorted black faces behind the sea of waving fists was the whole fury and frustration of black Africa.

It is perhaps remarkable that during the recent disturbances in Nyasaland, we Europeans have reserved our greatest anger for the Stonehouses and the Castles who so persistently have added their ill-conceived contributions to human grief in Africa. The African himself we have regarded, sometimes perhaps contemptuously, as the ill-used tool rather than the hand that wields it. I wonder.

Now what can be the objective of these lines?

On all my frequent post-war visits to Europe I have learned to be so proud of Honor Deo. What a vast number of prominent citizens entered upon their education through the same portals in Holborn.

I sat beside some of them the other night in Honor Deo Lodge. One is deeply conscious, wherever Old Mercers are gathered together, of an atmosphere of sane and just enlightenment.

In this turmoil that is Africa, badgered and battered by publicity-seeking politicians who otherwise would die unknown, or frenzied missionaries who in preaching the gospel of equality fail to realise that Christ's doctrine is one of brotherhood and not equality, is it too much to wish that these Old Boys who have thus far struggled through these spontaneous and yet heartfelt lines, may pause a moment before they, too, launch out in condemnation of policies about which they probably know so little?

It would be so grand, if those parts of Africa painted red—even those of pinkish tinge—could be developed to their right and fullest brilliance as a result of action from Britain and not in spite of it.

And just as Old Mercers have played their part right down through the centuries in the City of London; so in these more travelled days is it possible for them to exercise their sobering influence in the upbringing of Britain's children overseas, even the lowliest of them all.

The motto of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is a rather stimulating one, translated it runs "Let us Deserve to be Great." Nobody here doubts for one second our future greatness: Rhodesia is destined to lead in Africa.

But the whole crux of this motto lies in the fact that we have to deserve that greatness. That is why some of us, in even our declining years, are tireless so that in our own time we may be permitted to see for ourselves some of the greatness that lies ahead.

Gordon Harper (1910-16).

FROM THE VERY REVEREND THE DEAN OF PERTH

AFTER spending nine years as Chaplain of St. Peter's College, Adelaide, I came here as Dean of St. George's Cathedral late in January of this year.

Last week I met again, for the second time, one of the only two Old Mercers I have ever encountered in Australia. He is "Don" Darke. I don't think "Don" is really his name, but that is what we always called him. He was at the school from 1923 onwards, and after graduating at the London University went out to Malaya,

where he is still with the Education Department, I think at Singapore. Darke was on his way to New Zealand, where he has a boy at school and a daughter just beginning a career. We had lunch together and chatted about mutual friends of Mercers' days, including Mr. Little and Mr. Allen and, inevitably, B. C. B. ; together with a lot of people who were boys with us.

Although quite unable to take part in club activities, for obvious reasons. I am very glad to hear that you have made plans to carry on for as long as possible, and I wish the club every success in all its undertakings.

T. B. Macdonald (1923-26).

THE SCHOOL

Autumn Term, 1958, and Spring Term, 1959

THE Headmaster, nine masters and forty boys presented themselves in September, and it became clear at once that without losing due respect for quality the old pattern of school life could be maintained. S. Grant set a good pace as Head Boy. Assembly was held in Barnard's Inn Hall. Any musical setting was impracticable, but the lessons were read on Mondays by masters, and on other days of the week by boys. The time table, in which it was possible to detect the subtilities of Mr. Fyson, wove a web of almost private tuition round a framework of three Fifth Forms.

There was longer hesitation over other activities. But Mr. Fairbairn tells elsewhere of the resurgence of football, some of our unoccupied areas seemed suitable for table tennis, the Library was put in the charge of P. H. I. Catto and then of C. J. Wroughton, and Mr. Moss and B. M. Reynolds between them saw that all tastes in music were given a hearing.

Form VB satisfied the Examiners and themselves at the December G.C.E., and were still able to find time for a gallant effort to provide just one more "House Tea" entertainment. For the end of term, the Headmaster conspired with the Chaplain, Bach and a gramophone to provide a Service of Lessons and Chorales.

Forms VX and VC returned for the Spring Term. R. C. Goodenough succeeded Grant as Head Boy. 'Flu was impartial in its approach to masters and boys, and there was a pleasantly clear atmosphere in Barnard's Inn if only one could get there from the fog of the suburbs. An "At Home" was held on February 10th: discussions between parents and masters were as helpful as ever. In the afternoon of March 17th the School visited the Planetarium, and the term came to an entirely respectable end with a full morning's work on March 25th.

SCHOOL CONFIRMATION. These boys were confirmed on March 12th in St. Sepulchre's Church by the Right Reverend F. E. Lunt, M.A., Bishop of Stepney: J. R. Phillips, S. J. Taylor, J. C. Wade and K. B. Williams.

CONGRATULATIONS to H. H. Gordon, now at the City of London School, on being awarded an Open Exhibition in Classics at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; and to K. J. Tayler, now at Haberdashers' School, on being offered a place to read English both at Wadham College, Oxford, and at Queen's College, Cambridge.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS are to be continued by the Governors for holders who have gone to other schools. Provision is similarly made by the War Memorial Fund for War Memorial Exhibitioners, and by the Governors for L.C.C. scholars.

THE LECTERN is, with the approval of J. A. Merrett (O.M. 1891-99) to be presented in the near future to Haberdashers' School. It was a gift to the School from the two brothers, J. A. Merrett and the late H. C. Merrett (O.M. 1892-1900). The Baker Memorial Cup will also be presented to Haberdashers'.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR from the Memorial for the First World War and the Memorial Plaque for the Second World War will be moved to Mercers' Hall, as will the Championship Cups and the School Archives.

THE HIGGINSON MEMORIAL FUND is to be added to the School War Memorial Fund.

CONGRATULATIONS to "Mecca" on the celebration of their Jubilee. And a sad note of mourning for the death of "Beattie," a valiant friend and servant of the School in the Dining Hall.

Revision Outlines of Chemistry by H. G. Andrew, Esq. has recently been published by Hulton Educational Publications. It has been described by an expert as a miracle of ingenuity and expression.

THE MASTERS

WE hope, if the Old Mercers will allow us, to publish in the next issue a complete list of the destinations of all masters. Meanwhile, the latest appointments are:

Mr. H. G. Andrew to the Lower School of John Lyon.
(September, 1959).

Mr. F. J. Elliott to the Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

Mr. H. S. Moss to the Royal Masonic School, Bushey.
(September, 1959).

Mr. R. Stannard to Westminster School.

Mr. P. F. Wookey to Hendon Technical College.

MR. F. J. ELLIOTT

HERE is a worthy citizen, if ever there was one. For thirty years, by practice and precept, in House and in Form, he has given his quiet steady lead to the boys in his charge. He has shared almost every activity with them.

He has also been the Common Room's leading consultant on gardening, motoring, and house decoration, and its leading practitioner in dancing and lawn tennis. In his time he was a stalwart footballer and cricketer, and, after many years in charge of the School Swimming, he has in the last two terms taken over the P.T.

He has had his problems, but, however tough they were he has never forsaken his principle that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. We offer our best wishes for health and happiness to him, to his son John, also of Whittington, and to Mrs. Elliott, a dear friend of us all.

MR. P. F. WOOKEY

PETER WOOKEY took off for Hendon in the middle of the Autumn Term, and if he had done anything so unlikely in ordinary times, he would have left some serious gaps. The C.C.F. would have lost an officer who was always so much more than the Grey Eminence behind the Captain, the Ashburton VIII would have been as the Oxford crew without its Group Captain Edwards, the linguists would have lost one more reminder that French is a living language, and the Arts VI might well have missed altogether those corroborative details which add up to make French History.

The Common Room missed him greatly. He was a friendly and agreeable colleague, always ready to help in an emergency. We wish him every possible success in his coming ventures.

MISS S. O. MANLEY

TO be sure, there must have been pitfalls as Headmaster's Secretary for a lively lass still in her teens, and it is quite a few years since Miss Manley was appointed. We have more than ballet dancing in mind when we say that in those years she has not put a foot wrong. She has done an enormous amount of work, much of it highly confidential, and at no time has there been the slightest hint of any betrayal of trust. Moreover, she has always contrived to add a touch of gaiety and colour to what can seem on the surface to be a somewhat sombre assembly. We can only pray that we shall always be grateful to Sally for coming to our alley.

MR. R. STANNARD

WE have said goodbye with great regret to R.S.M. Stannard. Nobody who has seen the C.C.F. on parade can have any doubts of his standards as Staff Instructor. It was sometimes possible to detect a certain edge in some of his remarks to the warriors under his instruction, but the Headmaster was accurate enough when he described him as an impressive and kindly person.

The Common Room willingly accepted his prejudices in favour of the Coldstream Guards, but was at no time quite equal to challenging his quantitative analysis of bitter ale. Our best wishes to him in his new appointment at Westminster School.

THE BOYS : FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

WE are glad to record this evidence that Mercers have settled down in their new schools, and have been able to make some contribution to their communities.

Haberdashers' School

G. Stebbing-Allen. Privileged Sixth Former : corporal C.C.F. (Army), *Androcles and the Lion*, December, German tour, April.

I. M. Ainsworth-Smith. Second year VI : corporal C.C.F. (Army), bass drummer C.C.F. band, Haydn's *Creation* (March), rowing club.

T. W. L. Andrewes. Second year VI : corporal C.C.F. (Army), *Androcles and the Lion*, December, German tour, April.

E. R. Doubleday. Second year VI : corporal C.C.F. (Army), School Shooting VIII : Haydn's *Creation* (March). Assistant Librarian.

G. Hunt. Second year VI : sergeant C.C.F. (Army), School Shooting VIII. Rugby Football.

K. J. Tayler. Second year VI : lance-corporal C.C.F. (Army).

W. G. Lewis. First year VI : Rugby Football.

P. I. Propper. V : C.C.F. (R.A.F.)

A. J. Marcel. Lr.V : *Androcles and the Lion*, December.

The City of London School.

B. M. Ash. Sub-prefect : Athletics.

H. H. Gordon. Sub-prefect : Cross Country (1st VIII) : 3rd XV (colours).

C. D. Robinson. Sub-prefect : School Shooting VIII.

P. Berks. Chess Team : 3rd XV (colours).

M. J. Crowder. School Swimming Team (diving).

J. A. Fuster. Chess Team.

A. J. H. D. Greely. Mistress Quickly in *Henry V* : 3rd XV (colours).

P. A. Hill. Secretary, Modern Languages Society : 3rd XV.

G. J. Parsons. School Shooting VIII.

J. M. Slater. Cross Country (1st VIII). School Swimming Team.

Highgate School.

I. S. T. Archer. Winner, open Javelin : house football colours.

M. J. Houghton. School Football (under 15) : house junior football.

J. R. Jackson. Senior boxing (final) : house junior football.

C. L. Nunn. Gregory Prize for Fifth form science : house fives.

I. M. H. Williamson. Bodkin Essay Prize for physics : house monitor : house senior cross country.

B. A. Young. House football XI : house senior cross country.

St. Dunstan's College.

C. E. J. Dolamore. L.VI Sub-prefect: school candidate for "Camp Rising Sun"; First in senior high jump. School XV (under 16) House XV.

G. P. Ells. L.VI: School colours (Cross Country). House colours. House XV.

J. L. Goodwin L.VI: School XV (Under 16). House XV (colours).

A. F. Beggs. IV: School Fives (Under 15). House XV (junior) and Fives.

T. R. P. Moore. V: House junior XV (colours).

J. E. Tiffin. III: House junior XV.

P. J. Toll. III: House junior XV.

C. B. K. Travers. IV: House XV (junior) and Fives.

M. R. Warring. IV: School XV (Under 15). House XV (junior).

Lower School of John Lyon.

R. A. Clark. Football, 2nd XI.

A. R. Dawson. Played Toer in *The Blue Monster*: Football Under 15 XI.

J. D. Hayes. Football Under 15 and Under 14 XI's (half colours).

D. R. H. Jones. Football Under 14 XI (half colours).

J. C. Robertson. School Shooting VIII.

J. A. Topliss. School Cross Country Team. Football Under 16 XI.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL

ON the opening day of the Autumn Term there was the usual fore-gathering of the boys in the playground. A new year was about to begin, but for the time there was strangeness and bewilderment instead of the usual excitement and vivacity. In regard to games, gone was the old organisation and gone the enthusiasm. With only forty boys any activity between houses was impossible. For those few boys whose football had always been in school teams there seemed to be no object: no competition for places, no imperative reason for improvement and practice. On the other hand, the remainder, who had never risen to the dizzy heights of Game 3, were prepared to play provided that two complete sides could be mustered. However, after taking stock, it seemed just possible that a few fixtures could be arranged without interfering with the weekly game for the remainder of the boys.

Here let me say how much we are indebted to Chigwell, Forest, Allyn's, St. Joseph's and John Lyon schools: they arranged fixtures with us at short notice and also fielded a side of about our standard.

In the autumn term there was a nucleus around which to build. Grant was appointed captain and played at inside-forward as we had another excellent goalkeeper in Goodenough. On the field it quickly became obvious that the Mercers' spirit was by no means dead. After a heavy defeat in the opening match the side played good, determined

football. The games were always close and often followed the same pattern, an early goal, a partial collapse followed by a fighting finish. The team was handicapped by having no opposition to practice against; furthermore, any reserve brought in had had no match practice at all.

To cater for the non-match players, and to create a lighter touch, a league made up of four seven-a-side teams was started. It was never finished, though Morgan's side was leading easily at the end. Actually it outgrew its usefulness as the spirit of school football revived.

The league games were played on Fridays but on match days a full game for the remainder became more and more difficult to achieve. K. J. Davies and Cross then set an example and encouraged cross-country running.

After Christmas when four of the team left and with only twenty-four boys to choose from, it became impossible to have any activity, except running, if a match was being played: and, after the fixture list was completed, the interest in football by the majority quickly waned. Enthusiasm was transferred to table-tennis played in the School hall.

Actually the standard of football reached in the spring term was higher than in the autumn term. There were no dominant personalities and once Gowans, the new captain, went to inside forward there was more cohesion and constructive skill shown. M. J. Davies was quick and skilful at centre-half and the new backs, Russell and Mueller, supported him effectively. At half, Stephens laid on accurate passes, whilst E. Edwards developed into a strong, defensive player. We had a good centre-forward in Griffin and a hard-working inside in Pilgrim. N. M. Williams on the left wing was individualistic but a determined runner, and Griffiths from the right could centre accurately. Altogether a season on which the players can look back with pride and satisfaction.

W. J. F.

Team—Grant (capt.), Morgan, Moore, Goodenough, M. J. Davies, E. Edwards, Gowans, N. Williams, Griffin, Pilgrim, Stephens, Moller, Cook. (Spring Term) Russell, Mueller, Griffiths.

Results—

Oct.	1	Chigwell U. 16	Away	lost	1—10
	11	Atheyn's U. 15½	Home	lost	1—3
	29	St. Joseph's U. 16	Home	lost	3—4
Nov.	5	John Lyon	Away	cancelled	
	19	Chigwell U. 16	Home	drawn	5—5
	26	Forest U. 16	Home	lost	1—4
	29	O.M.'s 3rd XI	Home	lost	3—7
Dec.	10	St. Dunstan's	Home	lost	4—8
	17	C.L.S. O.M.'s	Home	lost	2—3
Jan.	24	Alleyn's	Home	lost	1—3
	28	Chigwell U. 15	Away	drawn	5—5
Feb.	4	St. Joseph's	Away	cancelled	
	11	John Lyon	Away	lost	1—2
	18	Chigwell U. 15	Home	won	6—0
	25	St. Joseph's	Home	won	6—1

Played 13, Won 2, Lost 9, Drawn 2, Goals for 39, Goals against 55.

For the summer term nine cricket fixtures have been arranged and, to give extra interest to those boys who, on these days, would have no cricket game, tennis will be arranged.

W. J. F.

UNIVERSITY LETTERS

PEMBROKE COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Mr. Editor,

When first I arrived in Cambridge as a member of the University, I was entranced by the quiet inspiring atmosphere of the town. The local inhabitants lived peacefully in these surrounding but seemed out of place amongst the dwarfing antique buildings. With the incoming flood of students, the whole spectrum of University life broadened before us. Its compendium of diverse activities covered every interest imaginable, from gliding to the social services, from tea parties to tiddly-winks. Invitations from club leaders, usually for a well-timed glass of sherry, rained into the pigeon holes of us freshmen, bewildering us with their appeals. The clatter of hurried feet up the stairs, the solitary recluse, his books and his room, the passionate enthusiasm of the foreign students, sheets of posters cramming every available space, the dishevelled hair, the smart blazers, a plethora of inferior undergraduate publications with but a few of any significance, the pints of beer dispatched daily and the diurnal masses of lecture notes, the variety of books passing along the streets, the weary hero back from the match, the rapid-processions of bathrobed figures across the wide quadrangles towards the distant bathrooms, the little time for thought and relaxation, the boiling water from the taps of Pembroke College, from the midst of all this fine minds have arisen. Though I derived no inspiration from the "noble" buildings of the town, there remained that uplifting calm beneath this masking whirlwind of active youth. Many fascinating realms are waiting to be explored.

As usual, Cambridge news sleeps into the ordinary daily papers. In spite of the initial interest shown, the Jaguar appeal supporting funds for the establishment of scholarships for African students in South Africa met with a rather dead response from the University. In contrast to this failure, some fine dramatic productions gained the limelight, particularly that of *Henry IV* by the new Experimental Drama group, whose members have been selected from the front ranks of all the leading theatrical groups here, and who, we hope, will continue their success. Also of note were performances of *View from the Bridge* and *Camino Real*, both productions running for several weeks. Some talent is revealing itself in both production and acting, and we hope this will continue to develop.

The occasional fine day brought the usual influx of visitors into the town with the (doubtless) frequent result that many an undergraduate's small room was filled at tea time. My apologies to John Murrell who, up for the *Antigone*, visited my empty room in

search of sherry on one such afternoon, but Brian Clements informed me that he was adequately compensated by a satisfying round of the public houses.

Last term's Oxford and Cambridge Annual Dinner proved most enjoyable, the food and the wine adding gratifyingly to the spirit of the company. Such gatherings always evoke pleasant memories of the past, but unfortunately this occasion was clouded over by thoughts of the School's fate. May next year's meeting be at least as enjoyable.

The few Old Mercers here have been as active as ever. Michael Nash has been footballing keenly, and, I believe, will still be with us here next year as a graduate to take his teaching diploma. Brian Clements, apart from his Classical cogitations, has found sanctuary in one of the Queen's boats, and continues his folk dancing, not without some distinction, according to my sources of information. As representative of the International Club, he will be visiting the House of Commons (he didn't specify exactly why.) For myself, various societies, a little exercise, study, music and the Ballet Club committee work seem to fill the available time quite adequately.

We will be glad to welcome all Old Mercers coming up next year, Tom Brent from National Service, and all the others. It is a pity that compared with Oxford our ranks have become so depleted. I hope that many of the younger boys who have not been able to try for the University during their Mercers' career will gain entry into Cambridge.

We were glad to hear that Mr. Allen recovered sufficiently to return to School for this past term, and we wish him a rapid total recovery. Also, good luck to Mr. Haden and the remaining masters who have kept the School going during these last distressing months; and to all the other masters in their new posts.

Yours sincerely

JOHN M. CAPPIN.

ST. CUTHBERT'S SOCIETY,
DURHAM.

March 17th, 1959.

Dear Mr. Editor,

May a voice be heard from this northern outpost of learning? It is unfortunate that the word Durham conjures up for most a picture of coal-mines—for, in this instance, what is true of the country is by no means true of the city—a place of exceptional charm, dominated by a cathedral which has been described in a book on European Architecture as "one of the most magnificent sights in England." On the "peninsula," high above the river Wear, the Durham Colleges lie clustered round the Cathedral. In this setting the life of the University—the third oldest in the land—is carried on. Many of its institutions and much of its life is modelled on that of the "other two." This is not to forget the far larger Division of the University in Newcastle (some 20 miles away) where two other O.M.s, Messrs. Chandler and Worth reside—but that has quite a different story to

tell, the two divisions apparently being held together by little more than the umbrella of the name.

Here the Arts and Pure Sciences, more suited to the calm and country atmosphere of this elevated spot, flourish—producing music as a main activity and interest (you will see the connection) whether it be Light Opera in the Assembly Rooms or a Baroque Choral concert in the Cathedral. On the other hand, industrial Newcastle boasts the applied side, mechanical and electrical engineering, which seems absolutely in its element there.

Theology with its counter-part, the ecclesiastical approach to life forms a peculiar facet of Durham life. For Anglicanism presents in two neighbouring theological colleges an unhappily sharp division and opposition of its two traditional positions—the catholic and evangelical—forced into extremes, while theology, with unconcern, is “presided over” by non-conformity.

The term draws to a close and second-year students go down for the vac. looking forward to next term when, without the looming worry of June exams., the days may be spent on the river lazily punting amid the sun and flies of a northern summer.

Yours sincerely

PETER AIKMAN.

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,

LONDON, E.1.

March, 1959.

The Editor,
Old Mercers' Magazine.

Dear Sir,

The feeling during my first weeks here was of being lost in an unfamiliarly large number of students, which is only to be expected with due regard to the size of the School. Friends are soon made, however, and one begins to enjoy University life.

Queen Mary College is the smallest of the four main London colleges, the other three being King's, University and Imperial. There are approximately 1,300 undergraduates here, but this number is likely to grow in the next few years as new Engineering and Physics blocks are under construction.

An Engineer's life tends to be restricted as there are lectures all day Monday to Friday, except Wednesday afternoons which are devoted to sporting activities. This leaves very little time for playing bridge in the Common Room or propping up the College bar, both favourite pastimes of the Linguists, Classicists and Historians.

From what I have seen and heard, the history students attend the College on alternate Thursdays, which may explain why I see David Hetherington very occasionally and also why G. G. A. elected to study here in days gone by. Brian Wichmann is happy studying Maths and playing badminton when he feels so inclined.

I have played football regularly, when the state of the ground permitted, and also helped the Dramatic Society with make-up for the three plays they have produced. We are very lucky in having a

magnificent theatre in the College. A few years ago this was the People's Palace for the inhabitant of East London. Despite its name, it had no connection with red flags and vodka.

Although the London training hospitals are part of the University, they prefer to keep strictly to themselves. We did, however, play Guy's Hospital at soccer, but were surrounded with photographs of Guy's Rugby XV's, no doubt to remind us that there is only one winter sport worth playing.

The March Hares Ball at the Festival Hall was a very enjoyable occasion. It is at this yearly function that members of the various London colleges can get into close contact with each other, this being so because the dance floor is small and the Ball popular.

The Summer Term will bring cricket and, alas, the Engineering Part I Examinations and, with this sombre thought, I must return to my dams and bridges if I am to remain at Queen Mary's for more than a year.

Yours sincerely,
P. W. J. TABERT.

P. A. THARP, ESQ.

MANY Old Mercers and members of the Staff lost a good friend when Mr. Tharp died last November.

We had known him as a visiting Headmaster at Grove Park before the war, but it was during the time of our evacuation to Horsham, from 1939 to 1942, that we were able to appreciate to the full his kindness and friendliness. From the first he gave up his study for our use as a Common Room and directed the operations of his School from the much more cramped quarters of his office. The happy relations that prevailed between all parties during the next three years owed much to his quiet background influence. When the time came for us to leave Horsham and we were planning a farewell celebration he gave us a generous donation, with the explanation that he had been able to do so little for our boys during their stay in Horsham.

In the years that followed he was a welcome visitor to Speech Days in Holborn and at Old Mercers' Dinners, while he in his turn was happy to welcome Old Mercer cricket and tennis teams to Horsham on a number of occasions. His own Speech Days were occasions to which everyone looked forward with keen anticipation. He did not hesitate to criticise the shortcomings of Local Authorities who were not sufficiently generous in the matter of University Awards, or those of Examining Bodies who made it too easy for the modern generation to obtain a Certificate of Education—all this with representatives of those bodies seated beside him on the platform. He placed great emphasis on duty before rights and both set and expected from others a high standard of work and conduct. He had no patience with the sham or the insincere, but showed great sympathy with those in need of help.

In his last few years he showed great fortitude and courage in the face of bereavement and illness. We were very happy to see him at the Old Mercers' Dinner in May, 1958, and, as reported in our last Magazine, he paid a generous tribute in his speech to the "Mercers' spirit." In a letter of thanks for a Mercers' School Magazine, written a month before his death, he said, "... I do deplore the modern idea that no school can be allowed to survive which does not make everything easy for pupils. Ability to overcome handicaps seems to me more valuable than any amount of technical knowledge ..."

H. F.

BALLIOL COLLEGE,
OXFORD.
Hilary Term, 1959.

Dear Sir,

Strolling beside the dark-blue Thames—the adjective, sir, is Homer's—I reflected sadly that this victory over the team from the other side of Bletchley could be connected in no obvious way with the fact that Oxford O.M.'s now dominated Cambridge O.M.'s by eleven to four. Colin Kerr has renounced the oar for stage-props. and no other O.M. has tempted the gods of the Isis. Still the auguries had been favourable, for Torpids week passed in a blaze of sun and glory as Balliol bumped Queen's and returned to its place at the Head of the River.

After nearly two years up I find it as easy, but as pointless, as ever to be cynical about life in general and one's contemporaries in particular. Rather than pouring out another diatribe, I will note a few events which particularly interested me.

M. Mendes-France supported the motion in a Union debate "that this House is alarmed at recent events in France." It was curious that the ex-Prime Minister should have made his first attack on the new regime outside French political circles to packed benches of undergraduates. Speaking fervently and at length he succeeded, to my surprise, in convincing a majority.

A more spectacular, yet more significant, event was Vice-President Nixon's visit to the Rhodes House in Michaelmas term. In spite of the large, menacing attack of the Press reporters and photographers, Nixon was great, and probably clever, enough to show very little slickness and much warmth and sincerity; and yet we had expected to see signs of a ruthless political machine at work.

The slickness appeared this term when Mr. Butler spoke to the Conservative Association. Entertaining, reassuring, and epigrammatic—"the Socialist propaganda believes in painting the future rosy, but not too red"—he provided a change from the angry old men who visit the other political clubs, but even the staunchest Tory wondered whether we were really having it that good.

I invited Nicholas Selley to a performance of Asian classical music and dancing. I had seen him play the clarinet at the first concert of the O.U. Ensemble Club; met him on his way to sing in

the Ecclesfield Choir; and heard of his venture to record clarinet duets with one clarinet and two tape-recorders; but my attempt to broaden his musical appreciation did not seem as successful as I had hoped.

I met Brian Taylor on three occasions, the Royal Commonwealth Society's annual ball in London, the Examination Schools at Oxford and the Western Asiatic Saloon in the British Museum. Alan McMurtrie I pass in the Broad; I never know whether he will be bearded or not, but I believe this is due to his dramatic life.

Colin Kerr I lured into the King's Arms one evening to celebrate the end of my few exercises in the Schools. Apart from motor-cycling around in Canadian lumberjack's wear he has been doing work behind the scenes in at least two drama clubs. There seems to be no O.M. in the English faculty who has not turned to revue-writing and producing.

I meet David Ives often in College and occasionally in a select group of Victorian Music-Hall entertainers. He confirms Americans in their Wodehouse-formed opinions of how an English gentleman should disport himself: as President of the Holywell J.C.R. he holds sway with leather gloves and an umbrella of iron.

I saw Michael Harman in the Oxford City library one day, he seemed quite overcome: he had already been hailed—his facial disguise is too well known now—by two O.Ms. that day and was on his way to meet David Ives, who is usually the only man able to confirm Michael's existence at Oxford.

Tony Werner and David Talks have both faced the trials of Modern Languages Prelims. this term; I was surprised at their serious, almost haggard, outlook on life. David diverts himself with the O.U. Ornithological Society; Tony and I voted for opposing factions in the Mendes-France debate.

I accused Michael Sumner, wrongly, of not having paid for the Dinner in November. He now intends to write to you himself, sir, considering me, I believe, unworthy of describing his activities.

The G.O.M. of Oxford O.Ms., Teddy White, is still seen occasionally; when I last met him, he was faced with the problem of teaching his bilingual daughter to speak French and English separately.

We were glad to see the Cambridge enclave in November. From the land of the biscuit factories Roy Pearce often promised to come north; but often we have waited in vain and have begun to say with "The Times" "Who now will believe any statement that comes out of Reading?"

May I wish every success to this first of O.M. magazines and hope that it will be given support from everyone.

Finally, sir, may I tell you, on behalf of Oxford O.M's, how pleased we were to hear of your recovery from your illness.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN SINFIELD.

STOP PRESS

The Committee have now made final arrangements for the use of a room at Gresham College which may be used as a headquarters and Committee Room until further notice. Obviously it would

facilitate the work of the Club's Officers if correspondence could be sent direct to the officer concerned, but, in case of difficulty, the address, c/o Gresham College, E.C., will find the required addressee in due course.

At the conclusion of the negotiations with the Mercers' Company last year the Special Committee received a letter from the Company putting their case for closing the School in some detail. Any member who would like a copy of this letter, and the last letter of the Special Committee to the Company, may obtain one on application to the General Secretary, J. Murrell, 44, The Mead, Beckenham, Kent.

The Treasurer would be glad to receive outstanding Annual Subs. as soon as possible. His address—7, Ashbourne Road, Ealing, W.5.

PERSONAL

P. Moys (1947-52), partnered by G. D. Oakley, recently won the Men's Doubles in the Surrey Hard Court Championship at Roehampton. He is at present doing National Service as a R.A.F. Education Officer.

It is reliably reported that an extraordinary battle took place recently between those old friends A. R. Woodburn (1935-43) and J. Morgan (1937-43). The weapons—legs plastered as a result of ski-ing accidents, the venue—a Swiss Hotel bedroom, the outcome—an honourable draw. Both gentlemen are now recovered—and still on good terms.

MARRIAGES

Hillard—Clausen. On Saturday, June 6th, at the Methodist Church, Watchet, Somerset, Brian Charles Hillard (1946-54) to Ongel Pamela Clausen.

Hargrave-Smith—Greir. On Saturday, April 4th, at St. John's Church, S.E.19, G. Hargrave-Smith (1949-53) to Margaret Denise Greir.
