



# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

*1960*



T. W. PARKER  
PRESIDENT, OLD MERCERS' CLUB 1959-60.



## OLD MERCERS' MAGAZINE

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### *CLUB OFFICERS, 1959-60.*

*President:* T. W. PARKER

*Vice-Presidents:*

G. MILNE,      K. A. WILLIAMS,      S. W. MOYS, J.P.,  
E. H. DAY,      J. E. SEEAR.

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*Records' Secretary:* W. L. FORD.

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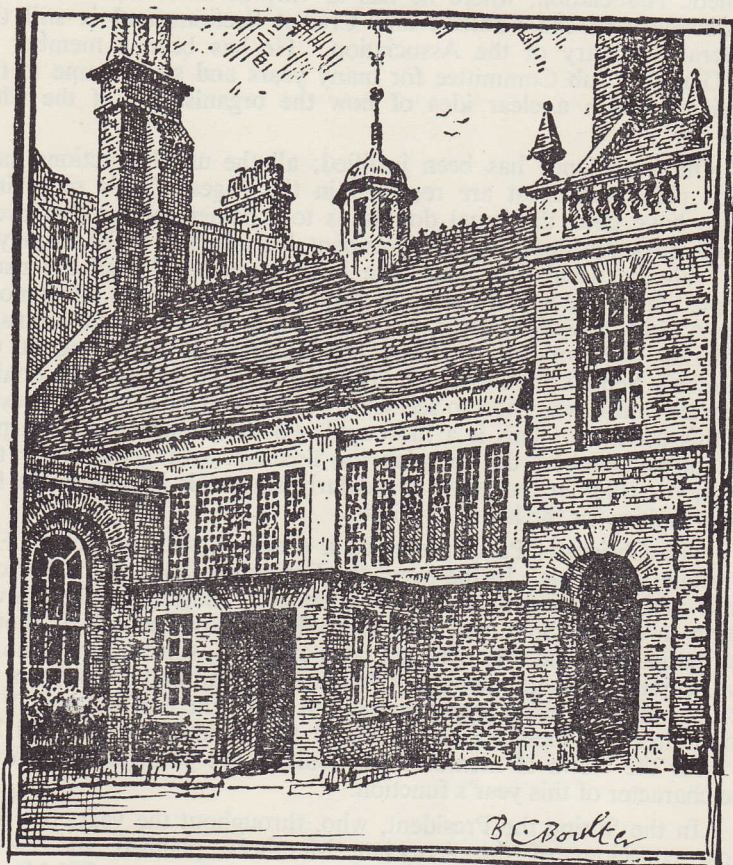
*Hon. Auditor:* W. H. WRIGHT.

*General Committee:*

L. T. ALLEN,      C. D. ARCHIBALD,      B. C. HILLARD,      G. C. IVES,  
R. H. RAMSDEN,      P. G. WAINWRIGHT (ordinary members).  
A. H. APPLEYARD, O.B.E.,      H. M. EADE,      L. A. N. KYLE,  
D. G. SEARLS,      G. THOMAS (past presidents).

*Club address:* c/o Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C.

*Magazine Editor:* R. G. DAWSON,  
15, Brookmead Avenue, Bickley, Kent. IMPerial 3108.



BARNARD'S INN



health had seemed likely to prevent his coming, all combined to make this an evening to remember. As we go to press, the President is planning Old Boys' Day at Grove Park on July 2nd. It has been a year of hard work and the Club owes Bill Parker, the President 1959-60, a great debt of gratitude.

The Constituent Clubs have continued to flourish: the Football Section has fielded three sides and the Cricket two; both are delighted that their future at Grove Park is secure. The Dramatic Club has presented two plays, neither supported as they deserved to be.

The Editor would like to pay tribute to Mr. Allen for all his work in making this magazine possible; we strive to keep the name of Mercers' alive and it is most stimulating to find Mr. Allen and so many of his former colleagues at our side as we go forward to 1960-61. There will be much hard work for the Committee in planning functions; they would welcome criticism (constructive and otherwise, though preferably the former), suggestions and information.

Finally, the usual appeals (1) from the Treasurer—subs. are due; (2) from the Records' Secretary—please notify changes of address; and (3) the Editor—please send copy early for next year's magazine.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**L**IKE almost every O.M., I took a keen interest in the affairs of the School and the people who year by year made it what it was. Therein was bred, in classroom and common-room alike, a valuable spirit. If any pupil felt momentarily at odds with the demands the School made on him, a large and ever-present O.M. Club was adequate testimony of his predecessors' pride in Mercers'.

Now that the School is, unhappily, no more, the Club remains to preserve that pride and that spirit. I have derived a tremendous amount of pleasure from my membership of the O.M. Club which has always been for me an organisation which has fostered both; a group which has reflected rather than absorbed the light of the School. To make these assignable assets has meant doing a job of work, realising the frequent need of encouragement and thereafter supporting others in their divers activities and difficulties. In this way have I come to know the elders and the youngsters alike, made many friendships which I value greatly, and worked to the end that the School might benefit from the stature of its own Old Boys' Club. The weekly and monthly events of the Constituent Clubs, Honor Deo Lodge and Chapter and Civic Guild exemplify the enthusiasm of our elders who have taken pride in keeping alive the spirit of Mercers'. They would, I am sure, agree with me that they found reward in being in the Club rather than "of" it.

Long may the Old Mercers' Club flourish and long may it have your special affection.

T. W. P.

**O**N Friday, 16th June, the President and his wife were included in over four hundred guests entertained at a Supper Ball given by the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Mercers at Mercers' Hall.

It was a magnificent occasion which maintained the Company's tradition for generous hospitality, and the beautifully proportioned rooms and the floral decor provided a wonderful setting for the happy assembly. Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Haden travelled from Newcastle to be present, and joined the President and his wife at supper.

### **COMMEMORATION SERVICE, 1959**

**O**N July 16th, at the Church of St. Sepulchre, High Holborn, a Commemoration Service for Mercers' School took place. These stark words fail utterly to convey the significance of the occasion; the church was filled to overflowing with men and women whose hearts were full. All had memories of the School so soon to be no more—Governors, Staff, Parents and Old Mercers, all came to pay tribute to something which would always be dear to them. For those Old Mercers who were unable to be present on this historic occasion we print below the Order of Service of what was the last School Service in the history of Mercers' School.

*Organist:*

Dr. W. S. LLOYD WEBBER, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M.  
(Old Mercer)

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

*All stand for the Bidding and the Lord's Prayer.*

Brethren, we are met together at this time to give thanks for our School, and to offer praise to Almighty God for all those who by their piety and generosity in former days promoted the cause of religion and sound learning; for the labours of those who brought wisdom to its management and scholarship to its service, for the devotion of all who by their life and work brought honour to its name; and for all His other blessings to our School throughout its long history to this present day.

We ought also to praise God for all our brethren who are departed out of this life in the faith of Christ, praying that we may receive grace to direct our lives after their good examples; so that we too, in God's good time, may be made partakers with them of the glorious resurrection to everlasting life.

Let us, therefore, humbly make our prayers and thanksgivings unto God, avowing our allegiance to him at this present, and pledging our trust in him for the days that are to come, in the words which our Lord himself taught us: —



Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
Gladly for aye we adore him.”

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Joshua, Chapter 1, verses 1-9.

*Read by the Headmaster*

#### PSALM 121

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: From whence  
cometh my help.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen.”

#### THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians, Chapter 13.

*Read by the President,*

*Old Mercers' Club*

#### HYMN

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise.”

#### ADDRESS

CANON W. M. ATKINS, M.A.

#### HYMN

“City of God, how broad and far.”

*Let us pray*

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales and all the Royal Family; Endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Let us remember before God all those from this School who have given their lives in the service of their country and their fellow-men in days of peace or time of war.

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O God, the Creator and Father both of our mortal and immortal life; Remember in thy kingdom those who counted not their lives dear unto themselves, but laid them down for their friends: Shed

forth upon them the light of thy countenance, and grant that they may be numbered among the hosts of thy redeemed, going forth conquering and to conquer with thee, their everlasting Lord; who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

Let us join together in heartfelt thanksgiving for God's uncountable blessings, and especially for this School, for its service through more than four centuries to the cause of religion and sound learning and for its abiding influence for good through many generations.

*Then all shall say together:*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Almighty God, the Father of all, who guidest in the way of life them that put their trust in thee, let thy protecting hand be over us all; keep us ever in thy Holy Faith; in all temptations and adversity may thy Holy Spirit uphold us; that so each in his calling may live and work as a true member of thy Kingdom; to the fulness of which do thou vouchsafe to bring us all; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

#### HYMN

"O God, our help in ages past."

*Whilst the Congregation remain seated the Organist will play*  
Fugue in D minor (The Giant) ... .. *Bach*

#### THE BLESSING

#### THE ADDRESS

Canon W. M. ATKINS, M.A.

"Ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord, look unto the rock whence ye are hewn." (Isaiah 51, 1.)

One might consider in contrast to these words of Isaiah some which were spoken by Christ—"No man, having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God." At first sight these words of our Lord might seem to be in clear contradiction to those of Isaiah. Indeed, they were intended to remind us that we are concerned with what is going on here and now, and that we must not allow the past to hold us back from a full service of God in the present.



But this does not mean that we should not look back into history from time to time. Our Lord in His teaching was constantly reminding His hearers of great men and great happenings in the long story of the Jewish people; but it was never done that they might sit and cry "Ichabod", bemoaning the glory that was departed. It was rather that they might be inspired by the happenings of the past to make the best possible use of the present. One outcome of this view is that not only triumphs and victories, heroes and saints, but also the defeats and failures and the sinners, are held up to us as an inspiration. The Scriptures show us over and over again that out of apparently complete annihilation a nation can be re-born and out of death springs new life.

On the cover of our Service Paper there are a series of dates which, apart from the last one, have long been familiar to generations of Mercers' boys. They link us with great happenings in the history of London and of England; with Thomas à Beckett and his murder by Henry II; with Agnes, Thomas's sister, and her husband, Thomas Fitztheobald, who founded the Hospital of St. Thomas of Acon in order to keep fresh in men's hearts the memory of the martyred Archbishop by ministering in his name to the needs of the poor, the sick, the aged and the young. Soon after its founding, the Fraternity of Mercers were constituted its patrons, and so continued until the Reformation. There is unfortunately little surviving information about the activities of the Hospitals until 1447, when John Neele, Master of the Hospital, was one of the signatories to a petition for the increase of schools in the City. The position was then, as now, that there were too few teachers for the number of scholars. The result was, as in our own day, an overcrowding of class-rooms. The teachers were doing very well out of it, since they were paid so much a head, but, as you might expect, educational standards suffered. One result of the petition was the refounding of the Hospital school.

When Henry VIII suppressed the Religious Houses, the Hospital of St. Thomas was one of the casualties. The Mercers' Company, who had been patrons for over three centuries, were enabled to take it over—at a price, of course. Amongst other things a grant of property was made and the Company agreed in 1542 to establish a school "for ever". Alas for that "for ever"! Historians soon learn how short a season men can make of eternity. Twenty-five boys were to be taught, but the Master might augment his income of Ten Pounds a year by taking in fifteen extra boys at Ten Pounds apiece.

From that time onwards the history of the School has been a continuous one. Of course, the Great Fire was an interruption, but once the City began to rise again from the ashes, the Mercers' Company's first concern was the rebuilding of the Royal Exchange, St. Paul's School and Mercers' School. Since that time we have had our ups and downs, moving from one place to another—Old Jewry, Budge Row, Red Lion Court, College Hill and, finally, Holborn, have all been familiar in their time with the comings and goings of Mercers' boys. And through these years the School has grown to play an in-

creasingly important part in the educational life first of the city and then also of the ever-spreading suburbs, and the value of its contribution to the Church, the professions, the arts, in fact, every activity of the State, would be hard to over-estimate.

And then, when numbers were greater than at any time in the School's history, came the shattering news of its closure. It was a bitter blow to every boy in the School, to every Old Mercer, to all of us who are connected with the School. But we are not here in the House of God to deplore, to lament the passing of something which has meant so much. We must rather thank God for a school which has been a blessing to boys throughout the centuries, thank God for the generous contribution which the Mercers' Company has since 1542 made to education—and is still making, thank God above all for the values—Christian values—which a school of venerable and excellent traditions can, and does, instil into its boys, values which, be it remembered, spring from the example and devotion of great schoolmasters. There is great need of these values today. They are the abiding things which go on living when school is behind us. We carry them into our homes and our work, they are a part of us and we pass them on to our children, so that our school lives on in us.

Today for us another chapter in history is ended. But always remember that there are no *last* chapters in history, the one leads on to yet another in the unfolding of human lives. And while we look back with gratitude to the rock whence we were hewn, to the good thing that is gone, let it be our inspiration for the good of today and of the future.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1959

**A**FTER last year's bumper attendance, this year the A.G.M. returned to normal with about sixty members, including a number of Associates anxious, no doubt, to learn something of the working of the Club. The President began by thanking O.M. Eric Day on behalf of the Club for his co-operation in securing the hall for the meeting; he also gave some details of the arrangements which had been made to allow the Club to continue to function. We now had our Headquarters at Gresham College rent free, but with an obligation of £60 per annum rates; negotiations were in progress over the use of Grove Park. The Company were insisting on a proviso in the terms of the agreement for the sale of the ground, that the Athletic Association should continue to use the ground at the existing rent, this rent to decrease as, inevitably, we used the ground less. The idea of a Club Room was uppermost in the minds of the Committee and various channels were being explored.

The Treasurer, G. H. Parker, reported briefly. There was a balance of £109 on the year's working, but we must bear in mind the liability of £60 rates at Gresham College. The Annual Old Mercers' Magazine would however cost less than three School Magazines each year.

There being no questions, the meeting passed to the report of



the General Secretary, J. Murrell. In a comprehensive review, Murrell said that it had been an exceptional year; social functions had been well attended and we owed a great debt of gratitude to L. A. N. Kyle, the Treasurer and the Entertainments' Secretary for the success of these functions. He paid tribute to the Headmaster, Mr. Allen, Mrs. Eldred, the School Secretary, and "Nick" at Grove Park. Total membership was now 1,118; 73% of boys who left School in 1958 had joined the Club; some of the School archives were now stored in our room at Gresham College. The first Old Mercers' Magazine had appeared despite a printing strike, and a comprehensive "once-for-all" booklet was planned for the New Year when it was felt that optimum numbers had been reached. Meanwhile, all the usual social functions had been arranged and it was imperative that members should support these if the Club was to thrive. In conclusion the Secretary paid a personal tribute to the President, which L. A. N. Kyle reciprocated, by saying how much we owed to Murrell for taking on the Secretaryship at very short notice.

O.M. F. J. Robinson suggested that a rate of £60 for one room seemed high. Some discussion followed but nobody seemed able to put his mind at rest. A letter from Mr. Andrew was read thanking the Club for the gift of the Staff Room coffee service which had been made when the School closed.

T. W. Parker reported that the A.A. continued to enjoy playing at Grove Park and that we had been given to understand that we could look forward to its use for some years to come. The Dramatic Club report appears elsewhere in the magazine, but the meeting was glad to hear of the production of "Charley's Aunt", due on December 18th. There followed a lengthy discussion of the Dramatic Club's proposed amendment to Rule 18.

"But nothing in this rule shall prevent the election to the membership of the Old Mercers' Dramatic Club as temporary members only of persons other than members of the Old Mercers' Club."

Many members were doubtful of the effect such an amendment might have on eligibility for membership of the Club but, after a rambling discussion fully comprehensible only to legal minds, O.M. Jackie Sear proposed that the word "Dramatic" be omitted from the amendment so that the Dramatic Club might legally include people in their productions who were not *bona fide* members of the Club; and this was accepted.

The meeting now passed to the election of the following Honorary Members:—

Canon W. M. Atkins, Messrs. W. D. Haden, G. G. Allen, E. J. P. Devereux, H. G. Andrew, W. L. Scott, F. J. Elliott, J. K. Tabert, H. S. Moss, H. Fyson, J. C. Bullen, W. J. Fairbairn, V. Rosetti, A. D. Firth, A. J. Buckland, G. H. Cowan, H. Whate, A. A. Hood, A. Cridland.

This was carried with acclamation, and the President now rose to propose from the Chair that T. W. Parker be elected President for the year 1959-60. He outlined Bill's quiet efficiency and attention to detail; he was in every sense a "working" President and ideally suited

to hold office at this time when the future of the Club was in the balance. Under the guidance of such men as Parker there was no reason why the Club should not flourish for years to come. This proposal was acclaimed and T. W. Parker took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. O.M. Jackie Seear was elected to fill the vacancy on the list of Vice-Presidents. The names of other officers elected can be found at the beginning of the magazine.

"Other Business" is the moment when members may have their say: this year there was silence and so, with a hearty vote of thanks to L. A. N. Kyle for his efforts in a difficult year, the meeting closed much earlier than might have been expected.

### ANNUAL DINNER, 1960

THOSE of us who attended the Annual Dinner at Mercers' Hall on May 5th will have many happy memories of the occasion. Firstly, we were able to view the splendour of the new Mercers' Hall and wine and dine sumptuously. Secondly, it was a pleasure to do honour to Bill Parker, the President, and to see so many of his old friends of the Athletic Association there; many of us who knew him well were delighted to see Mr. Roy Moore, one-time Senior English Master at Mercers' and now Headmaster of Mill Hill School, replying to the toast of "Our Guests". We were honoured by the presence of the Master and Wardens of the Mercers' Company, "guests in their own house," as the President so aptly put it. It was a joy to welcome several members of the Staff of Mercers' School, attending now as members of the Club. But, above all, every member of the Club present was overjoyed to see Mr. Allen with us on this occasion. There had been grave doubts as to whether his health would permit his attendance so that everyone was delighted to see him appear shortly before 7.30 p.m.

The meal (and what an excellent meal it was) being over about nine o'clock, we settled back to hear the speeches. The President welcomed the Master and Wardens and gave some account of their generosity in many fields, particularly in the cause of World Refugees. In replying, the Master, A. S. Clayton, Esq., spoke of the Company's gratitude to Mr. Haden and Mr. Allen. The Headmaster had worked untiringly to see that every member of Staff and School found a suitable position when the School closed. Mr. Allen would be particularly remembered for his work in guiding the School through the period immediately following the Education Act of 1944. Foundation Scholarships had been carried on in other schools and the Company were following the careers of members of the Staff who had gone to others schools with keen interest. The buildings in Holborn were to be let over a period of twenty-eight years.

In welcoming the Guests, George Milne, the senior Vice-President, could not resist one of those stories which are his own speciality. He thanked the Company for their help at Grove Park and their generosity in helping the A.A. to meet the increased costs

there. He welcomed the Masters of the School and spoke kindly of our associations with Collyer's School in greeting the President of the Old Collyerians. He would leave Mr. Allen to the President but, as a former Captain of Colet, nothing would give him greater pleasure than to couple with the toast the name of Roy Moore, former House-master of Colet. In reply, Mr. Moore said what a great moment this was for him to be present at an Old Mercers' Dinner, since he had always regarded Mercers' School as his first home. He was now in contact with three Old Boys' Societies and was firmly convinced of their value in promoting good fellowship among men.

Now came the highlight of the evening. The President rose to welcome Mr. Allen and gave some account of the many services he had rendered to the School and the Old Mercers' Club. Games, School Journeys, the Orchestra, the Magazine, History, in all these activities Mr. Allen had played a prominent part while at the same time, doing much for the Old Mercers at Grove Park and encouraging boys to join the Club on leaving School. Parker paid tribute to Miss Mary Allen, Mr. Allen's sister, who had been at his side throughout his years at Mercers', and invited them both out to lunch some day so that together they might choose some gift with the cheque provided by a large number of Old Mercers, which he now proposed to present to Mr. Allen as a token of the esteem and affection which we felt for him.

Mr. Allen, rising to a tremendous ovation, spoke of his time at Mercers' under three Headmasters. He was particularly glad to see Michael Jepson, son of one of them, with us to-night. The Staff at Mercers' School had been well chosen and he numbered many of his best friends among those colleagues of the Staff Room. He paid tribute to Bill Parker, saying that there could be no more appropriate President of the Club at this time. In conclusion he felt that the best tribute to Mercers' School had been paid by a mother who said to him, "It was a good School and my boy was happy there."

The final toast of the evening was made by the immediate Past President, L. A. N. Kyle, who proposed the toast of the President and Old Mercers' Club and Constituent Clubs. He spoke of the President's service to the Club over the years and particularly during his year of office. In reply, the President, rising at 10.45 p.m. for the third time, voiced his optimism about the future of the Club and his conviction that it would flourish for many years to come.

And so the formal part of the evening came to an end, but many members stayed behind to renew old acquaintances after an occasion which must rank among the most memorable Dinners ever.

## MEMBERSHIP

**S**INCE a booklet is shortly to be published which will contain a list of all Old Mercers it is not proposed to publish a list of new members in this issue of the Magazine. Henceforth a section of each year's Magazine will be devoted to keeping the booklet up to date.



In order that this may be done, it is of vital importance that members should notify the Records' Secretary of any permanent change of address.

Total membership in April was 1,142, Effective Life 619, Associates 93.

## PERSONAL

M. Boucher (1931-39) wrote in January announcing that he is now Headmaster of a Primary School in Mufulira, N. Rhodesia. During the first two years his duties include those of Assistant Master, Secretary and groundsman. We trust that his Special Allowance is a good one.

Rev. J. A. Burley (1929-30) wrote to tell us of his preferment to St. James's, Clacton-on-Sea, in March, 1959, and the Editor apologises for the omission of this information in last year's Magazine. Burley sent news also of the sudden death of "Algy" Lewis in July, 1959.

W. J. Bold (1915-17) wrote requesting a simple explanation of "how one receives and passes on the Loving Cup". Numerous O.M.'s have been approached but nothing has come to the Editor; are there any offers?

J. B. Goodwin became a Life Member in February before starting back to the Cameroons, West Africa, where he is employed by the Cameroons' Development Corporation in the Banana Division. He hopes to play some Soccer in 1961 when he is again on leave.

G. D. Howard (1948-55) is now at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manaton.

S. Hext wrote to the President. He is now a qualified Ladies' Hairdresser practising in Beckenham and holds three International Diplomas awarded in Paris in 1957/8/9, is a member of the "Organisation Technique et Artistique de la Coiffure Francaise" and of the "Comité Nationale Artistique de la Coiffure Francaise". He proposes joining the Institute of Trichologists.

In March, Gordon Harper (1910-16) was in London keeping an eye on the Rhodesian Stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition. He was Founding Secretary of the Federation of Rhodesian Industries and has spent much time in settling English Firms in Central Africa, either "in toto" or branches of parent concerns.

B. L. Jacobs (1929-34) was on leave from Uganda in September last. He reaches retiring age in three years' time and is wondering about his future plans. "Jake," needless to say, did not return to Uganda empty-handed; this time it was a new Mercedes-Benz!

N. C. H. James (1950-57), has passed out from Britannia R.N.C. Dartmouth and is joining H.M.S. *Bulwark*, based on Singapore.

D. L. Lyle (1949-54) left England on April 22nd to "work his way" round Canada, New Zealand and Australia, taking note of their farming methods on the way.

M. J. H. Smith (1951-55) is in the Fleet Air Arm on a Short Service Commission.

W. E. F. Ward (1912-17) reported that his book, "Educating Young Nations", had been published in the Autumn of 1959. He has now written a book on the history of South Africa and hopes that he may not fall foul of the Commonwealth Relations Office on the one hand and the natives of Ghana and Nyasaland on the other!

The Editor would like to take this opportunity of thanking Jack Dewey (1910-16), who never fails to pass on any news he may receive of Old Mercers; would that others might do the same.

F. W. G. Greener (1916-21) visited Mr. C. A. Williams on Good Friday of this year and found him well and happy. Mr. Williams sent good wishes to all O.M.'s who remember him — a very large number.

E. G. Bloor (1903-07) has been awarded the M.B.E.

P. J. Moys (1947-52) was defeated in the first round of the Men's Singles at Wimbledon by Michael Davies, Britain's number one player, but not before winning one set.

B. N. Clements gained a Second Class in the Classical Tripos, Part One, at Cambridge.

The Editor has heard recently, with great regret, that O.M. Gordon Harper in Southern Rhodesia has met with an accident which has resulted in his thigh being broken and his elbow damaged. All O.M.'s extend their sympathy to him and trust that his recovery will be speedy and complete.

O.M. Jack Dewey was at the recent Reception at Lloyd's to mark the sixth Centenary of the establishment of the Admiralty Court. The guests numbered two thousand, and when the names of a Belgian and his wife were announced, J. H. J. stepped forward to assist in any language difficulties. He was intrigued to find that the visitor, Marcel F. Caethoven, spoke very good English. M. Caethoven stated that his English should indeed be good since he had been educated at a London School recently closed. "You do not mean Mercers' School?" "I do indeed. I was there from 1915 to 1919!!" A letter from Caethoven appears in the correspondence column.

## MARRIAGES

Clegg—Keene. On August 29th, 1959, H. Clegg (1942-50) to Shirley Mary Keene at Earlsdon Methodist Church, Coventry.

Ramsden—Page. On August 22nd, 1959, R. H. Ramsden (1944-51) to Beryl Frances, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Page of Taplow, Bucks., at St. Nicholas' Church, Taplow.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Williams—Dalziel. The engagement is announced of B. G. Williams (1943-48) to Belinda Dalziel.

Walter—Harris. The engagement is announced of R. W. Walter (1943-48) to Margaret Cecil, only daughter of the late Dr. W. Cecil Harris and Mrs. Harris, of 55, Kenton Road, Harrow.

## BIRTH

To Christine, the wife of M. Boucher (1931-39), a daughter, Kirstie Jane Ruth, on August 16th, 1958.

## DOCTOR R. H. WHITEHOUSE

**D**OCTOR WHITEHOUSE succumbed, indignantly and defiantly without doubt, to a final heart attack on returning from his usual Easter pilgrimage. He was seventy-four.

"Doc" retired from the Indian Civil Service in 1932 and came to Mercers' to start our biology. He built up a department of notable success and a tradition which continued long after his retirement to Shaftesbury in 1948.

Above the board in his biology lab., immaculately printed in large letters, was one word—THOROUGHNESS. No word could better describe his outlook and his methods. He was a graduate of Birmingham and of Naples, and studied in Germany. His own early life had been hard and his achievements were a triumph of persistence and determination. He expected the same fibre in his each and every pupil.

While at Mercers', Dr. Whitehouse was happier than at any other time of his life and he acquired a deep affection for the School. The Whitehouse Trust, which he founded to further science at Mercers', and his Morphett Memorial prize, were to him preliminaries: he had planned a much more substantial endowment.

R. H. W. was a man of great personal courage and entirely without subterfuge. He had but one word for a spade. During the war he was a source of great strength to all of us at Holborn, although he resented air-raids because "they shake my damned microscope". He will be remembered as a vivid personality, an outstanding teacher and, behind a rather forbidding exterior, a generous and sympathetic friend to many.

H. G. A.

## PERCY J. PROUD, L.D.S.

**T**HE sudden death of Percy Proud (1895-1902) in April was a shock to all his friends. For many years he lived and practised in Russell Square and was a great lover of the City of London, often reminiscing on his week-end walks in the City and his discovery of hidden beauties of architecture.

He was probably best known as a very keen Freemason who gave splendid service to both Honor Deo Lodge and Chapter.

Joining Honor Deo Lodge in 1919, he was appointed Secretary in 1924, following that stalwart, W. Bro. Walter Heilbuth, who had been Secretary since the Consecration of the Lodge in 1911.

With the exception of 1926-27, when he served as Worshipful Master, he remained Secretary until his retirement in 1951—27 years of dedicated service during which the Lodge went from strength to strength.

In 1950 the Lodge presented him with a silver-gilt Loving Cup as a "token of esteem and regard and to thank him for 25 years' devoted service as Secretary".

Outside Honor Deo his Masonic interests were numerous; he was a P.M. of Cecil Lodge No. 449, of Hertfordshire Masters Lodge No. 4090 and his many Masonic honours included London Grand Rank conferred in 1932, Past Provincial Grand Warden (Herts.) in 1934 and Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1939.

In 1935 it was suggested that a Royal Arch Chapter attached to Honor Deo Lodge should be formed and Percy Proud was appointed to prepare a Petition and make the necessary arrangements for the promotion—this he did with energy, resulting in the Consecration of Honor Deo Chapter No. 3562 in October, 1935.

Percy was one of the Founders and the Chapter's first Third Principal; he was installed as First Principal in 1937.

In 1938 he was appointed Scribe 'E' and retained that office until he left London in 1951.

He always regarded the Chapter as his 'baby' and was delighted at the progress made, due in no small degree to his continuous work on its behalf.

His Chapter Honours included Provincial Grand Treasurer (Herts.) 1935-36 and Past Grand Standard Bearer conferred in 1939.

He retired to Tarrant Launceston, near Blandford in Dorset, and many Old Mercers called there, when in the district, to be shown round his charming cottage and garden in which he did much work.

He leaves a widow, one son and one daughter, to whom we extend heartfelt condolences.

G. T.

## OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

*Secretary, T. W. PARKER,*

20, Sandilands, Chipstead, nr. Sevenoaks, Kent.

AS will be seen from the following notes the A.A. is flourishing. At the A.G.M. in December, Mr. H. G. Andrew became President of the Association for 1959-60; we could wish for no other at this time. Golf flourishes (the Andrew influence?) and the Cricket Secretary has returned from Rhodesia ready to take on anyone (at golf). Now that they are assured of the use of Grove Park the members of the Football and Cricket Sections can look forward to some years of good comradeship on Saturday afternoons. New members are always welcome and the men to contact are: —

Football: C. D. Archibald, 41, Lynwood Grove, Orpington, Kent. Tel.: Orpington 30249.

Cricket: F. J. Robinson, 97, Vinson Close, Orpington, Kent. Tel. (office): AVENue 7261.

## CRICKET SECTION

THE Summer of 1959 was surely the finest, from the weather point of view at least, most of us remember. The Cricket Club made the most of it and played at every opportunity, for the first (and probably the last) time holding a cricket week at the beginning of July. With Grove Park more or less exclusively ours, with Mr. Nicholson regularly available to give his bowling support and with the sun on our backs, the runs came with great freedom. Captain Graham Ives made over 500 runs, Alan Johns and Derek Archibald made well over 300 each and there were good innings from Locke, Beggs and Maurice Lucock who, in his twenty-seventh year of O.M. Cricket, came top of the batting averages. He would, however, be the first to recognise the value of "not out" innings if one is interested in the cold statistics of cricket, which he most certainly is not. He and John Squirrelle continued to bowl with the steadiness we have come to expect and Mr. Nicholson slaved away on the perfect wickets of his own making, but it was not a bowler's year and a larger proportion of games than usual were left drawn, albeit, on occasion, excitingly so. Four games were played in cricket week of which two were won, one lost and one drawn. The Old Bancroftians scored two decisive wins over us, we committed near suicide at Leigh and had the customary tussle with Barts.

The Second Eleven also had an enjoyable season and Messrs. Wainwright, Vanhegan, Meredith and Rolt made a lot of runs, Peter Wainwright in particular thumping the ball violently in front of the wicket. The total against Orpington (244—5, dec.) was the highest in the history of the Second Eleven, the one against the Old Cholmeleians (33) one of the lowest. In this thin period for bowlers Graham Hargrave-Smith, with his Wardle-like mixture, was the most successful, taking thirty wickets at a cost of eight runs each. Both sides had those days in the field when most things seemed to go wrong—and others when every catch stuck. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson made us as welcome at ever at Grove Park and we wish them both every happiness in their new home "down the road".

Now the 1960 season has begun; two elevens are in the field but the number of players available is rather too small for the Team Secretary's comfort. Any O.M. who would like to assist the Cricket Club to keep going will be most welcome. At the moment the First Eleven have won two out of three games played and the Second Eleven three out of four. To emphasise the fickleness of fate, the First Eleven Captain has begun with a "pair" while Peter Wainwright has picked up where he left off last season. Let us hope that the weather prophets are correct and that we shall enjoy our cricket as much as we have done over the years. Those of us who have played together since the war will not easily give up the good fellowship we have found on Saturday afternoons (and evenings) during that period.

### OUTSTANDING RESULTS, 1959

O.M. 143; St. Bartholomew's Hospital "A" 143 (Nicholson 5—33)—a tie.



Senate House 170 (Nicholson 4—49); O.M. 171—3 (Johns 108 n.o.).

O.M. 172 (Ives 73); University Old Mercers 76 (Allen 4—29, Squirrell 4—9).

O.M. 203—7 (dec.) (Archibald 87 n.o.); Australia House 202—5.

## SECOND ELEVEN

City of London Coll. 83; O.M. 87—3 (Wainwright 55 n.o.).

O.M. 219—9 (dec.) (Rolt 69); Orpington III 87.

O. Beccehamians 88 (Howard 4—20); O.M. 89—2.

O. Cholmeleians 70 (Robinson 5—11); O.M. 71—3.

Many Old Mercers will be sorry to hear that Maurice Lucock has broken an arm in a collision with a colleague going for a swirling catch. We look forward to an early return to action; we cannot spare Maurice.

## FOOTBALL SECTION

AS a result of the Annual General Meeting of the Section last Summer, the First Eleven came under much younger leadership than for many years past. Robin Whiteland and Brian Harris, the newly elected Captain and Vice-Captain respectively, planned to keep their side as youthful as possible, and teams for the first two or three matches were selected accordingly. However, it was not found possible to maintain this policy for very long, and by the end of the season Vanhegan, Dean, Hollings and Downes were playing regularly for the First Eleven. Unfortunately the team's results were the most disappointing for many years, and it is to their credit that they never gave up trying. Whilst there were a few heavy defeats, a large number of games lost were very close, and often a little luck would have made all the difference to the results. One of the keenest players in the side was its young goalkeeper, Grant, and it was much to everyone's regret that he twice received head injuries in the last few weeks of the season. Although each injury necessitated a visit to hospital for repairs, we were all very pleased that he was fit again within a week or two of each accident.

The Second Eleven, despite being without their elected Captain, Reg Vanhegan, for most of the season, met with their customary measure of success under the energetic leadership of Frank Wells. As a direct result of the efforts to keep the First Eleven as youthful as possible, the Second team was very largely composed of older players, all with considerable first team experience, and this undoubtedly was responsible for the many enjoyable and successful games played.

The Third Eleven, who seem at times to think of themselves more as a drinking side rather than players of high class football, nevertheless played some very good games, one notable success being their defeat of an Old Colfeian side which had beaten the Second Eleven earlier in the season. As a sociable side they were an undoubted success, and this is due in no small measure to the example of hospitality set by the Captain, Peter Wainwright.

The final Saturday of the season was taken up by the usual six-a-side competitions of the Royal Exchange Assurance and London Hospital clubs. None of our teams met with any success on the field of play, but some twenty-five or thirty O.M.'s and their ladies had a most enjoyable evening at the dance at the London Hospital's clubhouse after their tournament. Considering the present position of our own football club, it is worthy of note that the number of our supporters at the London Hospital ground was only exceeded by that of our friends the Old Cholmeleians.

The Team Supper was held at the Victoria, Buckingham Palace Road, on Friday, 29th April, and whilst the number present was somewhat lower than last year, the function seemed as successful as usual. Our guests were the representatives of the Old Cholmeleians, Old Colfeians, Old Foresters and London Hospital, and our very good friend "Bobs" Roberts, without whom our evening would surely be incomplete. The Club Captain, in the final speech of the evening, expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the groundsman at Grove Park, Ted Rayment, and his assistant, in preparing our pitches, and also his thanks to all those who had acted as referees during the past season.

Fixtures are already well advanced for next season, which it is hoped will bring with it another series of enjoyable Saturday afternoons and evenings.

## RESULTS

Date 1959

FIRST ELEVEN			SECOND ELEVEN			THIRD ELEVEN		
Sept. 19	Ibis	0-1	Ibis	11-0	Ibis	4-1		
26	H.A.C.	1-0	O. Ardinians	12-1	O. Colfeians	2-6		
Oct. 3	O. Chigwellians	1-3	Harlesden Amat'rs II	2-2	Lancing O.B. II	0-5		
	(A.F.A. Senior Cup)		(A.F.A. Junior Cup)		Admiralty II	0-5		
10	Granby	1-5	O. Brentwoods	3-0	(A.F.A. Minor Cup)			
					Norsemen Nomads	3-5		
17	O. Westminster Cit.	0-7	Harlesden Amat'rs II	1-3	Lloyds Bank VII	3-3		
	(Old Boys' Cup)		(A.F.A. Jun. Cup. Replay)		O. Chigwellians Vets.	4-1		
24	O. Colfeians II	2-4	O. Brentwoods	2-5	O. Cholmeleians IV	4-3		
31	O. Foresters	3-4	Scottish Banks	0-5	Bank of England	0-2		
Nov. 7	O. Ardinians	2-6	H.A.C.	5-2	O. Latymarians	0-3		
14	O. Brentwoods	1-4	O. Colfeians III	1-2	(O.B. Minor Cup)			
21	Dulwich Hamlet		O. Parkonians	1-5	O. Foresters	0-2		
	Juns.	2-5	(O.B. Junior Cup)		Coutts Bank II	0-8		
28	O. Parkonians II	2-4	O. Foresters	3-2	Norsemen Nomads	1-5		
Dec. 5	Coutts Bank	2-4	London Hospital	2-1	Ibis	9-0		
12	London Hospital	0-1	Nat. Prov. Bank III	2-2				
19	Lancing O.B.	2-12	O. Chigwellians	3-3				
26								
1960								
Jan. 2	O. Cholmeleians	1-4	Temple Bar III	1-2	O. Owens Vets.	5-2		
9	Met. Police (S.B.)	Scr.	O. Ardinians	1-0	Alleyen O.B. IV	1-3		
16	London Hospital	Scr.	London Hospital	3-2	Borough Poly. VII	6-1		
23	O. Chigwellians	1-5	O. Chigwellians	6-2	Lloyds Bank VII	2-3		
30	Coutts Bank	4-6	O. Cholmeleians	2-5	Coutts Bank II	3-2		
Feb. 6	O. Colfeians II	2-3	Norsemen IV	0-1	O. Cholmeleians	2-3		
13	O. Ardinians	Scr.	O. Brentwoods	1-10	O. Foresters	3-1		
20	O. Chigwellians	3-7	H.A.C.	6-1	Centymca VI	4-2		
27	O. Actonians	2-6	Alleyen O.B. III	6-3	Bank of England	1-3		
Mar. 5	Lancing O.B.	0-4	City of Lon. Strollers	0-3	Centymca VI	4-1		
12	Met. Police (S.B.)	3-2	Catford Wand. IV	1-1	O. Brentwoods IV	6-3		
19	Dulwich Hamlet		O. Chigwellians	1-0	O. Owens Vets.	2-4		
	Juns.	0-4						
26	O. Wilsonians	1-3	No Game		O. Chigwellians Vets.	3-2		
Apr. 2	Ulysses II	0-8	O. Foresters		O. Colfeians III	3-1		
			Six-a-Side Competition					
9	Royal Exch. Assurance		London Hospital		London Hospital			
	Six-a-Side Competition		Six-a-Side Competition		Six-a-Side Competition			

## OLD MERCERS' DRAMATIC CLUB

1958/59 has been the first fully active year of the Club since its revival from "suspended animation" and may be generally accounted a very successful one.

Our first production was of "Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street", in November, 1958, which had a larger cast and a more popular appeal than any Old Mercer play for some time. The tremendous reception it received may have been due to the fact that it was the last production to be mounted at the School, and there can be no doubt that the time and energy put into the production by the Producer, Ron Parrott, his assistants and the cast, ensured the success of the play—a well-deserved success for which 375 tickets were sold.

The Annual Dinner/Dance in January of 1959 at one time looked like receiving purely nominal support, but fortunately, after an emergency Committee Meeting a few days beforehand, the ticket applications doubled and the Paviour's Arms was well filled, a very enjoyable evening being had by all.

Brian Pearcy's resignation from the Secretaryship of the Club for personal reasons was accepted by the Committee with great regret. Brian has served the Club as Secretary since 1952 and his time and energies in a thankless task have been always at our disposal. His efforts have made a very substantial contribution to the Club. Brian has remained in the Committee, the Secretaryship being taken over by Malcolm Knott.

The Dinner/Dance was followed in April by "Antigone," a play with less popular appeal, but a production with which your Committee were well satisfied. "Antigone" was perhaps remarkable for the smoothness of the production and the amazing lack of last-minute panic. This was due very largely again to our Old Mercer Producer, E. S. Wilkins, whose businesslike production could have been mounted a week earlier.

Antigone was, however, unsatisfactory in one way. The two male lead parts were taken by students of the Guildhall School of Music. This was an unprecedented arrangement, which your committee sanctioned with reluctance.

Both "Sweeney Todd" and "Antigone" encountered the recurrent O.M. casting problem, and both, indeed, were nearly abandoned because of casting difficulties. Yet once again, against considerable odds, two full-length plays have been staged.

Our outgoing President has been fully active throughout his year in the Club's service, and indeed undertook a substantial role in one production; our thanks are due to him for his very much appreciated leadership of the Club.

With the closing of the School this has been a difficult year for the Dramatic Club, and one which has shown that the Club spirit is still very much alive. With hard work and good luck we may continue for many years, despite the prophets of doom.

Malcolm Knott.

## "CHARLEY'S AUNT"

THE lady from Brazil "where the nuts come from" made a welcome reappearance in the O.M.'s Christmas production this year. Was that the first of the catch-phrases, I wonder? If so, it was used with far more economy than its descendants usually are. However, it was the first time I had realised how much a play of the "knuts" this is. Gilbert the Filbert was never more dashing than the three blazered 'Varsity types who open the play: the light-hearted and resourceful Jack Chesney, the sentimental and supremely flappable Charley Wykeham and—but it is impossible to reduce Lord Fancourt-Babberley to a couple of adjectives.

The high-spots of the play stand or fall by "Auntie", and Ron Parrott had his audience just where he wanted them. In all his petticoats he remained obstinately masculine; every step a stride, every glance across the teacups a leer—I seem to remember he hitched up his trousers as he sat. It is impossible that the most innocent and downcast-eyed young lady should be deceived for a moment—and in this is the part's effectiveness. In the light of this impossibility all the manifold improbabilities of plot and character become acceptable. "Babs" was boisterous in Act 1, mischievous and exasperated by turns in Act 2, and even managed a sufficiently convincing sincerity in Act 3, and he displayed throughout a fine agility. I particularly treasure the memory of his high-kneed sprint when pursued by Spettigue—one felt the pursuer should have been Groucho Marx for a perfect contrast in styles of locomotion.

However, if Babs has the comic highlights, these occur in a play which, like most farces, has an awful lot of plot. Here the need seems to be for two things—pace, and a capable Jack Chesney. The Old Mercers had both. The opening scene dragged its feet a little, as did one duologue between Donna Lucia and her niece, but for most of the time it went with a fine confident rattle, and a rare lot of rehearsing that must have meant. Brian Percy as Jack Chesney was first class. He looked and sounded completely in character, spoke at tremendous speed but was always audible, and varied his style most effectively in scenes with his Father, or Amy or Charley. Len Gardner as Charley knew what the part demanded and had worked on voice and gestures, but one felt it was a character completely foreign to him, and he found it difficult to keep a straight face at moments when only the audience should have been amused.

When the number of acting members available is so small there is bound to be this forcing of long-suffering individuals into unsuitable parts, and the question of age is particularly difficult. John Newman, as Sir Francis, could not disguise a too youthful appearance, but persuaded us by his poise and a delightfully commanding voice to "suspend our disbelief". Derek Camplin as Brasset could not do as much. The ghosts of elderly character actors seemed to be rebuking him into even gloomier impassivity. On the other hand, Kenneth Holmes matched the part of Spettigue excellently, and gave a very welcome "weight" to the cast.

Of the ladies, Petals Calcutt as Ela had a drastically humourless part, but she looked, and sounded, sweetly pretty, and was joined in this by Kitty (Janet Young) who added a very delightful twinkle. Both Donna Lucia and Amy played in a style which I found rather over-emphatic, but Rosemarie Stewart as the lady from Brazil looked immensely stylish, made an impressive entrance, and held the stage with great dignity, while Mary Eley made a most intelligent job of the proposal scene, where she was given most scope.

The scenery was pleasantly adequate, though—and I know this is asking a lot of a one-night-stand—more furnishing with props. would help. I felt the tablecloths in Act 2 would never have graced Edwardian afternoon tea. And those champagne bottles in Act 1 sailed about like balloons!

However, it was a wonderfully entertaining evening. All credit to producer Eric Wilkins, who was obviously going to enjoy himself after the sorrows of "Antigone" and avoided the periodic "sag" which so often menaces farce. One can only hope that the audience's obvious appreciation was sufficient reward for all the hard-working enthusiasts who contributed towards this very festive show.

B. M. D.

### **"THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL"**

**T**HE Long and the Short and the Tall" must be the most ambitious and most difficult production the Dramatic Club has ever undertaken. To attempt, in the space of two acts, to reveal the souls of seven nondescript soldiers caught up in the horrors of the Japanese war in 1949, requires great skill on the part of author, producer and cast. There is the danger that sentimentality may obscure the real purpose of the play, that the characters may become merely the "types" one associates with the army, e.g., the brutal, unfeeling N.C.O., the private who seems less intelligent than any other human being ever. Willis Hall, the author, overcomes these dangers in his writing so that the characters of his play are real people, and the tension is maintained so that the audience are left in doubt till the dreadful climax how the play is to end.

A well written play therefore; but for amateurs it presents many major difficulties. Most of the cast are on the stage throughout the entire play, often performing the most difficult of tasks—that of listening intelligently. Secondly, the assorted characters hail from various parts of the country so that the majority of the cast, unless the producer is fortunate enough to enlist a real Taffy, a Scot, a Geordie, a Tyke and a couple of Cockneys, face the problem of holding a dialect for two hours with little time for thought. Finally, the sheer business of learning lines in a play of this type is no easy task and so one had the impression at times that some of the cast were "making it up as they went along"—generally successfully since probably the only people who knew it were the unfortunates on stage and in the wings desperately waiting for "cues".

Having said all this, let me hasten to congratulate Len Gardner, the producer, and his team on their excellent performance. The rest



of the cast will forgive me if I single out Ron Parrott, Brian Percy and Eric Wilkins as the stars of a play which is essentially a team effort. Ron's picture of the Cockney whose conversational range is limited to sex, whose morals are of the most doubtful but who, paradoxically, is possessed of the strongest sense of humanity amidst the brutality of war, was first class. The contempt for authority and the traditional humour in the face of danger were clearly portrayed and Ron's sense of timing, always a strong point in his work, was never more right. Eric Wilkins, as Sergeant Mitcham, brought a brusque, soldierly air to the character. He had the "I'm-in-charge-so-look-out" air which one associates with Senior N.C.O.'s, but, at the same time, was true to the principles and etiquette of war. As Private Evans, Brian Percy set off with a good Welsh accent, held it throughout and gave us an excellent picture of the simple Taffy clinging to his memories of home and the girl he left behind.

Of the others, each had his moments though one felt in no case was the character clearly enough drawn, possibly, I suspect, because of what was omitted from the text, by accident or design. Richard Lansdown, the serious Scot, never got on top of his accent, and the contrast between his early humane feeling and his savagery at the end did not ring true. John Newman and Ken Holmes suffered similarly in that neither character was defined clearly and Bob Ramsden's corporal was never sadistic enough so that his showing the white flag at the end was not so ironical as it ought to have been. Terry Desborough, as the silent Japanese prisoner, succeeded in evoking real sympathy for the character.

The backstage staff deserve credit, particularly since clearly their cues for sound effects were often confused, and Len Gardner can be proud of this latest effort of the Dramatic Club. Let us hope that these stalwarts, who put so much time and effort into their productions, regrettably nowadays "one-night-stands," may soon be rewarded with the larger audiences which their work so richly deserves.

R. G. D.

### OLD MERCERS' BENEVOLENT FUND

#### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1959

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
By Balance, Jan. 1st, 1959	74	6	5	To Grants	50	0	0
„ Donations	58	6	0	By Balance, Lloyds Bank	82	12	5
	£132	12	5		£132	12	5

#### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Deposit, January 1st, 1959	553	8	1
Interest to December 31st, 1959	13	16	6
	£567	4	7

G. THOMAS, *Hon. Treasurer.*



### WAR MEMORIAL FUND

**T**HE Account shows the state of the Fund down to the 31st March, 1960. Memorial Scholarships will be continued to be paid to boys who were at Mercers' School but are now at other schools to the end of their normal school lives. In the meantime the Committee is reviewing the permanent use of the Funds and is still open to receive suggestions. They have in mind that the establishment of Scholarships at some School comparable to Mercers for boys who would be entitled to the Mercers' School War Memorial Scholarship may prove to be the most suitable use.

K. M. Scott.

## Balance Sheet

### ACCUMULATED FUND

1959			1958		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3,848	6	5	4,070	11	5
—	—	—	185	14	3
222	5	0	195	11	9
4,070	11	5	£4,451	17	5
			505	0	0
3,625	11	5	3,946	17	5
£3,625	11	5	£3,946	17	5

### Receipts and Payments Account

£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
2	17	6	To Donations (2 Donors)	...	...	1	6	0
47	1	6	„ Covenanted Subscriptions (10 Donors)	...	...	17	1	6
37	8	4	„ Income Tax Repayment, 1958-59	...	...	34	15	11
138	1	11	„ Interest on Defence Bonds	...	...	143	12	4
<hr/>						<hr/>		
£225	9	3				£196	15	9
<hr/>						<hr/>		

### Estimated T

Accumulated Fund as per Balance Sheet  
Future Payments under Covenant  
Future Income Tax recoverable ( )  
6/8d. in the £ for future sub

**Less:** Already applied on the C

WM. GEO. BAILEY,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*

# WAR MEMORIAL FUND

31st March, 1960

## INVESTMENTS

1959												
£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
2,046	12	6	£2,050	4%	Defence Bonds	...	2,046	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	0	0	£300	5%	Defence Bonds	...	300	0	0			
<hr/>						<hr/>			3,697	1	0	
3,597	1	0										
<hr/>												
Higginson Memorial Fund:												
Investment value at date of												
Transfer £285 14s. 3d. 3½%												
War Stock										185	14	3
(Market Value £180)												

28	10	5	Balance at Bank ... ..	64	2	2
<hr/>				<hr/>		
£3,625	11	5		£3,946	17	5
<hr/>				<hr/>		

the year ended March 31st, 1960

£	s.	d.						
3	4	3	By Postages and Sundries	...	...	...	1	4 0
222	5	0	„ Balance for the year transferred to Accumulated Fund	...	...	...	195	11 9
<hr/>								
£225	9	3						
<hr/>								

### **HONOR DEO LODGE: No. 3562**

**T**HE Lodge has enjoyed a very successful year under the Master-ship of W. Bro. J. E. Seear.

Our new Meeting place at Mecca Colonial House, Mincing Lane, E.C., has proved most satisfactory.

During the year four new members have been welcomed and all meetings have been well attended.

The Worshipful Master, representing the Lodge, has made a worthy collection for the funds of the Royal Masonic Hospital, and grants from the funds of the Lodge have been made to the Masonic Institutions.

At the last meeting in March, Bro. K. E. Jones was elected Worshipful Master for the coming year.

Since the season ended, we have heard with very great regret of the death of W. Bro. Percy J. Proud to whom the Lodge owed so much. He joined the Lodge in 1919, was Worshipful Master 1926-27, Secretary for 27 years from 1924-51 and Chaplain from 1955 to his death.

His work for the Lodge was comprehensive and immeasurable and we shall indeed miss his presence.

### **HONOR DEO CHAPTER, No. 3562**

**T**HE Chapter has now made its home at Whitehall Court and is very comfortable there. All meetings were well attended and two new members were welcomed.

Unfortunately, the First Principal, E. Comp. W. G. Bailey, was prevented from presiding at two meetings owing to illness, from which one is glad to report that he has now recovered, his place being most efficiently taken by last year's First Principal, E. Comp. H. L. Titford. The Chapter now looks forward to the new season, having elected E. Comp. A. H. Appleyard, O.B.E., as First Principal; E. Comp. S. W. Moys, J.P., as Second Principal, and Comp. E. H. Day as Third Principal.

These notes cannot end without reference to the loss sustained by the Chapter by the death of E. Comp. Percy J. Proud, P.G.St.B.; he was one of the Founders of the Chapter, being its first Third Principal, and guided its path as Scribe 'E' through the first 16 years of its existence with wisdom and understanding.

He was justly proud of Honor Deo Chapter and we shall long remember him.

### **THE CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS**

**T**HE Civic Guild can, I think, justly claim a successful and encouraging year during the last twelve months. Following the circular sent by Past Guildmaster William Latey, Q.C., to all members of the O.M. Club, a number of new members have been enrolled in the Guild and membership now exceeds 70 Guildmen. An appren-



ticeship scheme has also been introduced to allow enrolment, as apprentices, of Old Mercers between the ages of 14 and 21 years, who look forward to joining the Guild after taking their Freedom of the City on reaching the age of 21 years. A magnificent response has resulted in the enrolment of over 120 apprentices. In addition to the annual dinner of the Guild, visits of Guildmen and their guests to the Bank of England in March, and to the Middle Temple in April were arranged and well supported; for the apprentices a meeting and tea party was arranged in January, and a visit to the Guildhall in April. Several enjoyable informal lunches were also arranged which a number of Guildmen were able to attend. The future seems bright.

The Guild is still anxious to increase its membership, and will welcome applications from any Old Mercer who is a Freeman of the City. Liverymen who are members of the Guild will be pleased to support applications by Old Mercers over 21 years of age for their Freedom, as the first, and necessary, step to joining the Guild, which aims at upholding the ancient traditions of the School and its links with the City. Any other old Mercers, not yet 21 years old, will also be welcome as apprentices.

Any Old Mercer who would like further information should communicate with the Clerk of the Guild, O.M. Raymond Smith, or the Deputy Clerk, O.M. Arthur Hall, in a letter addressed c/o Guildhall Library, London, E.C.2.

F. W. GREENER.

*Guildmaster.*

## **CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS' DINNER**

**10th June, 1960**

**T**HE following speech was delivered by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Mercers at the Installation Dinner of the Civic Guild of Old Mercers at Tallow Chandlers' Hall on Friday, 10th June. It was, needless to say, extremely well received.

Guild Master, Wardens and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to reply on behalf of your Guests this evening, and in so doing I am reminded of Lord Birkett's precept for such occasions when he said:

"First, always speak about the importance of the occasion.

Secondly, dwell upon the weakness of the chosen vessel and lastly, if time permits, say a word or two about the toast itself."

I can assure you, Guild Master, that we are all delighted to be the guests this evening of your Guild, which in itself is, I believe, a unique body. The quickening, of recent years, in the life of the City, in all its many aspects, is most marked and this fact alone surely bears witness to the purposes for which the Civic Guild of Old Mercers was formed.

On being admitted to the freedom of this great City, you are given a small handbook entitled "Rules for the Conduct of Life" and

although in this present-day materialist world much of its contents would appear out of date at first glance, on deeper reflection there is a wealth of sound advice to be found therein which every young man would do well to heed. It was on such foundations as this that the reputation of the City of London for fair dealing and good craftsmanship was laid.

If a country is to survive, good citizenship is essential, and with its privileges must be accepted its responsibilities. It would be refreshing if publicity were to be given a little more to duties instead of rights and so restore a proper sense of balance in our way of living. Sir Gerald Dodson once said on this subject that today murder is looked upon as an indoor blood sport and a psychiatrist as a prisoner's friend.

Over the centuries, a hall-mark has denoted sterling quality and in encouraging personal qualities of this nature, this Civic Guild of Old Mercers is to be congratulated and admired.

On behalf of your Guests, Guild Master, may I thank you most warmly for your generous hospitality which we deeply appreciate.

#### **"The last Word and Testament of D. C. R. Jenkin"**

**I**N November, 1958, the Club Secretary received this document from "Jenks". It is a diverting story of forty years of Club Committees, of memories, of humour and of hopes for the future. Certain parts of this work seem particularly appropriate, and so below are extracts from it which will remind many of days gone by and will, perhaps, stir younger members to emulate, in some measure at least, the loyalty and devotion which "Jenks" gave to the Club and Constituent Clubs over forty years, thirty-eight Presidents and five hundred Committee meetings.

He begins by thanking the Committee for their letter of thanks for his many services to the Club. "The thanks are due from me to you. Consider for a moment—where in the world, for some fifty pints a year, could anyone obtain such a wealth of experience, such wise counsel and such enduring friendships?"

He goes on to reminisce about the "thirty-eight Presidents at whose feet I have sat—the burning enthusiasm of a Merrett, the dynamic efficiency of a Dewey contrasting with the gentle charm of Edward Hill and the General (Sir Daril Watson)." He recalls the early days of the Football Club at South Harrow—"all HONOR to D.E.O. (D. E. Oliver), whose wisdom and foresight resulted in the efforts of Percy Brenton, Appleyard, and that noble band of loyal enthusiasts."

Of the closure of the School and its effect on the Club, he asks, "Is this the Renaissance? For years we have consistently endeavoured to attract young members to the Committee. From time to time we have welcomed several hotly favoured at an A.G.M., but, alas, few have stayed the course. I do not criticise the past (some little bit of it is my making) but, as to the future, let me repeat for the last time:

1. To the Chairman—no useful work is done on Committee after 8 p.m., for no man can be wise on an empty stomach.

2. To the Ordinary Member—(a) be prepared to attend every meeting, (b) be prepared to open your mouth, (c) be prepared to work. If not, you fail the Club in accepting office. The future of the Club is in your hands and it will live as long as you want it to do so."

Finally, he believes that the early pioneering spirit has flagged since the Club has had no major problems to face. "Now is the time to rekindle that spirit; if I have handed a few bricks to the builder I am well satisfied, and having now stepped back to admire the monument, I am truly grateful to you all."

## CORRESPONDENCE

### THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Dear Sir,

After a very full twenty-five years during which I have been successively tea-taster, army officer, industrial welfare officer, community centre warden, politician (Liberal of course), and area sales manager, I was fortunate nearly two years ago to be accepted for training for Holy Orders. I had tried to do so soon after leaving school, with the assistance of Mr. Devereux, but the obstacles seemed insuperable.

Now, however, I am in my last term at Ely and looking forward with considerable apprehension to ordination at Trinity.

As our Principal resigned owing to ill-health last September, the college has suffered a number of vicissitudes during the past eight months, including the resignation of the remainder of the staff. A new Principal has been appointed to take over in July, but meanwhile the Bishop of Ely asked the Society of Franciscans to provide a temporary Principal.

Thus it was that a gentleman in the brown Habit of a Franciscan Friar arrived to take command just after Easter. His official name is Father Reginald, S.S.F. A typical friar in appearance, he combines strict discipline with a friendly helpfulness towards everyone. One cannot help liking and respecting him.

I thought his face seemed vaguely familiar when he first arrived, but took little notice of this even though conversation revealed that we had a number of mutual acquaintances many years ago.

Then one Sunday afternoon he commented on my O.M. tie and revealed that he had recognised me immediately. He was about two years my junior at school. Old Mercers who were at school from 1930 onward will remember him as R. G. Box.

The Rev'd. R. G. Box, A.K.C., B.D., B.A., is well known, as Father Reginald, in Anglican Church circles throughout the country and is evidently possessed of tremendous spiritual strength. He is an Old Mercer of whom we can be justly proud.

R. NORMAN BISHOP (1929-1934).

DURBAN, NATAL,  
S. AFRICA.

13th April, 1960.

Dear O.M. Dawson,

O.M.'s of my period, 1907-11, will remember the Janitor, Springet, who used to sit in the Gate House of the School, doing his best to keep the younger scholars from running riot in all directions. Quite by chance, only yesterday, I met one of his nephews, also bearing the name Springet, when I was entering one of the hotels in Durban. I learnt that he had been in South Africa for ten years and is in the hotel business in Basutoland, at Mokhothing, near the head waters of the Orange river where diamonds have recently been discovered. In the manner of early mining days, prospectors are regularly bringing their finds into the hotel for valuation and sale. The prospects are so promising that a £2,000,000 syndicate has been formed and has obtained large prospecting rights in the district.

From time to time one hears of other O.M.'s in Africa, sometimes over the radio as, for instance, when the Venerable Arch-deacon Bailey of Bloemfontein, conducts the morning service at 6.30 a.m., as he has done on two occasions this week. I correspond with W. T. Temple (1898-99) of Johannesburg, and regret to say that recently he lost his wife. Gordon Harper, in his last letter, told me that the Consulting line was flourishing in Salisbury.

Our special problems in this part of the world appear more distressing to you in England than to us out here. You fear the worst, we hope for the best, and I am pleased to report that our emergency is well under control and that adjustments are in sight which will ease the tension.

All best regards,

Yours sincerely,

E. McCLUNAN,  
(1908-11).

RAINBOW, VICTORIA,  
AUSTRALIA.

10th May, 1960.

Dear O.M. Editor,

After many, many years, I have been stirred to activity by the receipt of the circular letter of 10th March last.

I noticed in the last magazine that T. B. Macdonald, who was not in my time, was saying that he had not met any O.M.'s in Australia. I have not met him, as there have usually been some thousands of miles between us, but I frequently heard him when he was in Adelaide in the morning "Bible Reading" on the National Radio station. I have been moved extensively in the course of my occupation.

When I returned to Australia in 1937 I was stationed for a time in Victoria, but subsequently was transferred to Brisbane in Queensland. On rejoining the Bank after the War, I was stationed in New South Wales, but was later transferred to Victoria, where I am now stationed at the above address.

This town is situated in what is known as the Mallee, an arid, sandy district suitable for wheat growing and some sheep raising. The annual average rainfall is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches, so you can guess it doesn't get very wet. Last year we had only 10 inches and it wasn't a very good season. I suppose the town is as typical as you can get of the remote Australian country town. We are about 250 miles from Melbourne and the nearest big town (3,000 population) is almost sixty miles away. The whole economy is centred in transport, and the motor car is an absolute essential of life. Quite a number of the farms have so many vehicles—cars, trucks, tractors, utilities, etc.—that they have small workshops of their own, and, needless to say, the modern farmer is invariably a motor mechanic of varying skill.

The farms are mostly about 1,000 acres, some larger, very few smaller. Cultivation is carried out by teams of tractors—at least two—and harvesting is done by bulk handling—the grain is headed, threshed and poured into a bin pulled by the tractor, the bin in turn being emptied into a bulk carrier for transfer to the silo.

The country is flat and uninteresting and gets very hot, with summer dust storms. We have the usual Australian wild life—kangaroos, emus, many beautiful parrots, etc.

As a matter of interest, I mention that when I read in the Press here about the closure of the School, which was widely reported, I wrote to the Melbourne "Age" deploring the closure and giving a short outline of the history. I did not contact any O.M.'s as I thought I might, but I did receive two letters from people who had relations at the School, and I have corresponded with both.

Once again I must apologise for this very belated news and wish the O.M. Club every success during the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

E. J. GUNNINGHAM

(1916-21).

From M. F. CAETHOVEN (1915-19).

February, 1919, saw my return to liberated Belgium. I was then 13 years old and both national languages were practically unknown

to me. Whereas most of my contemporaries forgot their English as quickly as they took up French and Flemish, I was fortunately granted the opportunity of keeping up my English through permanent contacts with one who was later to become my wife, and with her brothers. Hard work and special courses on the side, saw me through what the French call the Baccalauréat, and three years of University.

I then went into shipping business with Armement Deppe S.A., and specialised in Marine Insurance and claims, where I found my knowledge of English to be most helpful.

In 1936 I wrote a book on Marine Insurance and General Average, which won the "Fondation Génicot" Prize in 1938.

By that time I was also working with the Belgian Government on a War Risks Insurance scheme for Belgian Shipowners. On the 31st of August, when this scheme materialised under Government control.

I was appointed by the King (Arrêté Royal) a Member on the Technical Committee there. This body is still in existence and I am now Chairman of this Committee.

Since 1952 I have been one of the four Managers of Armement Deppe S.A., whom I shall be leaving at the beginning of next year to start on my own as Protection and Indemnity Clubs' representative in Antwerp and Average Adjuster.

1st March, 1960.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,

I am in a school of 2,000+ boys (thank heaven for little girls!). I take more subjects than anybody else—except the boys—and these entail my covering two acres from basement to top floor back.

Apart from luncheon, we have only one break. As the boys practically always move between classes as well as the beaks, it is a miracle if any period commences within five minutes of official time. For all the good points, give us Comprehensive Schools as champion institutions for time-wasting. A statistician working on boy-hours would note two things; a lot of human beings, some in gowns, wearing out a lot of leather, and a lot of pupils working on the principle of "I'm all right, Jack."

Vive le Classics! With my encouragement, quite a number of parents of would-be-promotees have opted for Latin. The top streams still have their noses kept to the Roman grindstone.

I shall look forward to receiving sons of any O.M.'s, for we have our élite.

And now, dear Editor, sufficient unto the day, and back to the mill.

Yours,

A. D. FIRTH.



## JIMMY GRANT

About 25 years ago when my wife and I were on a motoring holiday in Scotland, having previously been given the address of Jimmy Grant's cottage near (?) Grantoun, we decided to pay him a visit. This proved to be easier said than done. An amazing number of James Grants lived in that part, but we persevered, and finally reached our goal: after leaving main (?) roads, we had to tackle very narrow lanes, cart tracks, wide footpaths, all with the most appalling surfaces, and finally had to leave the car and walk across two or three fields: all this took some considerable time, but we did eventually arrive at our destination—only to find that “the bird had flown”—Jimmy was in Edinburgh on holiday. However, we were able to find out his address and on our way south we decided to try our luck again.



This time we were lucky—Jimmy was “at home” and was very pleased and surprised to see us, and more surprised still to hear of our journey to the “wilds of Grantoun”. Before we left him we took the above snapshot of him.

## AN O.M. RECOLLECTS

**I**N a recent Club Memorandum the Editor invited contributions from members upon their experiences, careers or news in general. This has encouraged me to offer a brief summary of the activities of a member who left the School 57 years ago, in the hope that it may be of interest at least to his contemporaries.

In 1903 I passed the Intermediate B.Sc. examination while still at school, and in the autumn entered the Royal School of Mines at South Kensington to take a 3-years' course embodying Chemistry, Physics, Mechanics, Geology and Metallurgy, culminating in a First Class Associateship of the School in Metallurgy. Parts of the somewhat lengthy summer vacations were occupied in brief contacts with Industry, including practical experience underground in a Cornish tin mine, working alongside the miners themselves in regular shifts, acquiring in passing a limited familiarity with the use of dynamite or “blasting gelatine”. Another vacation period was passed in a different area of Cornwall where a Course of Instruction led to a certificate in Mine Surveying. Yet another period was spent in a steel works in the North of England, in day and night shifts.

In 1907, after a brief period as a junior Demonstrator in Metallurgy and a short spell as Junior Assistant in the Assay Office of the

Royal Mint, I proceeded to Spain as Chief Chemist in a lead-smelting works. The extreme richness of the ore admitted of a very simple, though rather primitive, extraction process, but a considerable tonnage of soft lead, manufactured articles of lead, such as sheet and pipes, etc., was produced, and many thousand ounces of silver. The Company was French, with headquarters in Paris; the Technical Staff was English, the Consulting Engineer and Technical Adviser a well-known German, and the operatives, of course, Spaniards. This state of affairs gave rise to interesting opportunities to acquire experience in translating reports, instructions, etc., from one language to another. Some months were also spent on a Zinc Mine belonging to the Company.

After four years I returned to England and decided to study for a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry. To this end it was necessary to obtain a knowledge of more advanced chemistry, including Organic, which had not previously been studied, and a year was spent at the Royal College of Science, doing Chemistry only, and, to save in time, taking the third and fourth year courses simultaneously. As a result of this it often happened that an advanced lecture was attended in the morning and an elementary one in the afternoon of the same day, in the same branch of the subject. After a hectic year spent in this manner I acquired, by examination, the Associateship of the Royal College of Science, an Honours B.Sc. in Chemistry, and the Associateship of the Institute of Chemistry.

Then followed a long period, perhaps too long, as a Lecturer in Metallurgy at the School of Mines. In 1914 a month's holiday was spent wandering about the lesser-known parts of Spain, terminating at Gibraltar on the day war was declared. During the war years scientific work of various kinds was carried out for Service Departments. After the cessation of hostilities the lectureship continued. In 1920 I paid a visit to the United States where a few weeks were spent in a consultative capacity examining a gold-mining proposition in Oregon.

In 1925 I was given a post as Research Chemist to one of the gold-mining concerns on the Rand in South Africa. A number of problems in gold extraction were dealt with as they occurred, and later much work was done on the extraction of platinum and allied metals from ore, plentiful in amount but of low grade. This latter work ceased in 1930, during the world "slump", as a result in the fall of the price of platinum, and, with many others, I was "re-trenched".

I was then unemployed for a whole year, but in 1931 was appointed Chief Chemist to a Research Association in London, remaining with it for 27 years and retiring in 1958.

Hobbies? I have never taken part in many games, other than tennis, but have spent a largely open-air life as far as circumstances have permitted, "dabbling" somewhat in Natural History with perhaps emphasis on the collection of rocks and minerals, and latterly on amateur micro-biology, as applied to microscopic fresh-water life.

B. DRINKWATER (1897-1903).

## THE SCHOOL

### Summer Term 1959

The last term at Barnard's Inn was tranquil. Every now and then mysterious envoys removed familiar bits of furniture, but an enormous amount still remained for the attention of Mrs. Eldred and the brothers Cridland when term was over: certainly enough for the attenuated ranks who assembled for "O" Level. Earlier, we had all joined in a thoroughly enjoyable visit to the Royal Tournament, and later, it was surely a very good suggestion from somebody to arrange the match between O.M.C.C. and University Old Mercers. A great concourse attended this and the preceding luncheon.

The authorities made the sensible decision to bring effective term to an end on Friday, July 9th. There was a very simple tea party, during which the remaining boys made graceful presentations to the remaining masters. And we left Mr. Moss to see G. J. Sargent through the remainder of his examination.

Belated but no less sincere expressions of our sympathy to Mr. Roy Moore, Headmaster of Mill Hill School, and one time Assistant Master at Mercers', on the sudden death of his greatly beloved wife Muriel: and to Mrs. McKenzie on the death from drowning of her son, Roger H. C. McKenzie (Acon 1952-56).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

J. E. AGNEW (1952-58), now at U.C.S., on being awarded an Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences at Magdalen College, Cambridge.

B. M. ASH (1952-58), now at City of London School, on being awarded an Open Exhibition in Modern Languages at New College, Oxford.

E. R. DOUBLEDAY (1952-58), now at Haberdashers', on being awarded an Open Exhibition in English at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

J. A. FOSTER (1954-58), now at City of London School, on being awarded an Open Scholarship in Classics at Lincoln College, Oxford.

### THE MASTERS

W. D. Haden, 39, The Grove, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon Tyne.  
Headmaster, R.G.S., Newcastle.

G. G. Allen, 28, Eglantine Road, Wandsworth, S.W.18.  
Retired.

H. G. Andrew, 39, Waverley Road, Harrow, Middlesex.  
Lower School of John Lyon, Harrow.

A. J. Buckland, 74, Okus Road, Swindon, Wilts.  
Commonweal G.S., Swindon.

J. C. Bullen, 4, Warren Road, St. Stephen's, St. Alban's, Herts.  
Campion School, Boreham Wood.

G. H. Cowan, 71, Dransfield Road, Sandygate, Sheffield, 10.  
King Edward VII Grammar School, Sheffield.

PIN 3065

- E. J. P. Devereux, 7, Eastville Avenue, N.W.11.  
Retired.
- F. J. Elliott, Falcon, Monk's Grove, Compton, Guildford, Surrey.  
R.G.S., Guildford.
- W. J. Fairbairn, 42, Sutherland Avenue, Pett's Wood, Kent.  
Sevenoaks School.
- F. F. Farnham-Flower, Little Barnards, Eastbourne Road, St. Austell,  
Cornwall.  
St. Austell C.G.S.
- A. D. Firth, 64, Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey.  
Wandsworth School.
- H. Fyson, Quarrydene, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, Sussex.  
Horsham, Collyer's School.
- A. A. Hood, 84, Mashiter's Walk, Romford, Essex.  
King Edward VII School, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
- H. S. Moss, Cleveland, Stoney Lane, Bovingdon, Herts.  
Royal Masonic School, Bushey.
- V. Rosetti, 26, St. George's Road, St. Margaret's, Middlesex.  
North Western Polytechnic, Head of Department of Arts.
- W. L. Scott, 13, Broomfield Road, Beckenham, Kent.  
Friends' School, Saffron Walden.
- W. F. Stevens, 78a, Sudbury Court Road, Harrow, Middlesex.  
Lower School of John Lyon, Harrow.
- J. K. Tabert, 39, Glenlyon Road, Eltham, S.E.9.  
Chislehurst and Sidcup C.G.S.
- J. Wearing, 42, Alexandra Road, St. Austell, Cornwall.  
St. Austell C.G.S.
- H. Whate, 52, Nettleden Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex.  
Kilburn Grammar School.
- P. F. Wookey, 82, Kingsdown Avenue, Ealing, W.13.  
Hendon Technical College.

#### QUEEN MARY COLLEGE,

LONDON, E.1.

April, 1960.

Mr. W. D. HADEN brought to the office of Headmaster many of the military virtues. The School was made more sharply aware of the value of punctuality, neatness, and order as the framework of its existence. Yet within this framework there existed the closest of personal relationships between the Headmaster and every member of the School, as some found to their cost. He had the ability to keep a shrewd finger on the pulse of affairs without intervening where authority had been delegated. Boys who held office in the School carried real responsibilities and wielded real authority, and yet the firmest support—and the bluntest criticism—were always at hand when necessary, and were warmed by a sense of humour that was as subtle as it was catholic.

To the firm pattern of the Mercers' way of life he added his own innovations, indicative of his broad conception of the function of education. The "Sixths" and the C.C.F. had much in common, a hieratic obscurity of vocabulary, a tendency to timelessness, and side-effects as valuable as they were intangible. All School activities were encouraged by the support of the Headmaster, and often by that of Mrs. Haden also, of whose presence on many occasions, both at Barnard's Inn and at Grove Park, Old Mercers will have pleasant recollections.

He was a good games-player, with a sound technique and an almost unbridled will to win. His ballroom dancing revealed not dissimilar qualities, and it is not too fanciful to see them again in the zest with which he tackled the terrifying task of helping masters and boys to find new schools when the doors of their own began to close.

F. F. F. F.

Mr. ALLEN—"Gordon" to the privileged many—came to Mercers' in 1926 to serve ninety-nine terms and three headmasters. His first impact was on games, then supported by a minority. Himself a competent player, he so transformed the attendance at Ealing that a ground of our own became imperative. The Company generously provided Grove Park in 1932, but such was the impetus of enthusiasm that accommodation was seriously under-estimated. On one memorable Wednesday in 1939, three hundred boys played cricket.

Acon, under his generalship, met with astonishing runs of success, and to the orchestra he contributed his own love of music and a personal performance. A judicious blend of witticism, criticism, analysis and logic brought History to life and made true scholars. Pondering on the past gave wisdom to the present.

Active interests embracing bridge, golf, tennis, fire-watching, billeting, Old Mercers, Old Bancroftians, Stamford Bridge, Kennington Oval, brought him many lasting friendships. The great gift of delaying an answer just long enough for proper thought devastated many a debate in the Parliament of Marvels Lane. The magazine reflected, as it still does, a great propriety and the deft touch of a craftsman.

Maybe it is well that Gordon's retirement coincided with our closure: he could never have been content elsewhere—save perhaps at Bancroft's. We regret his serious illness at a critical time in his second-mastership and hope that convalescence will be continuous and complete. With the full weight of his counsel when the clouds of crisis gathered, we might better have weathered the storm.

H. G. A.

Mr. H. G. ANDREW.

WHERE'S GEORGE? There could be so many answers. He might be in the Chemistry Lab.—in one of its side chapels. He might be holding a Gresham House meeting, hearing his house captain explain why one was not being held. He might be addressing the School Juniors on football or cricket, or the Science Masters' Association on one of its own little games. He might even be in the Masters' Common Room; and one North London Common Room has the imprint of his feet on the ceiling to prove that he was. He might be in or under a car, or teaching somebody how to drive. He might be chasing a reluctant orchid, or travelling with J.K.T. in search of a camping site. He might be playing football or cricket or golf or badminton or bridge or chess. He might be slipping up to Nuneaton (in the good old days), or to Cambridge, or Cornwall, or Scotland. He might be writing a text book on Chemistry, or quietly composing an after-dinner speech which could well contain one of his astonishing improvisations in the English language; his contacts with other European languages are almost equally empirical.

He sometimes cultivates a brusque manner, but he cannot hide an instinctive kindness and an unfailing eagerness to give a helping hand. Any group comes to life as soon as he joins it. This is as true of the *Conversazione* of the Royal Society as it is of a Saturday evening gathering of the Old Mercers' Football Club. He is a good schoolmaster, a good teacher, and a true friend.

G. G. A.

J. C. BULLEN

Photographs, pen-pictures and X-rays are needed in combination to convey J. C. Bullen's shrewdness, tolerance and apparent calm. A master of understatement, he could seriously say that one advantage of war-service with the R.A.F. was that it gave him time to think, but his apparent detachment was misleading. True, he might say, "See—you don't want the scenery ready for the Dress Rehearsal, do you?" and, a week before the School Play, "It's next term this comes off; isn't it?" but this was to prevent anyone from knowing that a sewing group was at work in the cellar, a printing team beneath the stairs, stage builders in the Hall, scene painters under Barnard's Inn, and armourers in the Art Room, and to help conceal that he was working nightly until 9.0 or 10.0 p.m. When the curtain rose, he might confess to a long-standing stomach-ache and go home without seeing the Play, but he would not mention countless hindrances by thoughtless people.

He might not seem to be listening—but he heard. He might be taken for granted as an obvious life-long Benedick, but he nevertheless married a Beatrice whose modesty and accomplishment matched his own. He could be blind at times—for it is not wise in a teacher officially to notice all the failings of a pupil. He could be deaf, for all the orders that come from above are not wise ones. Similarly,

he could make sound allies out of forgetfulness carefully practised and sparingly used, and dumbness or the wise art of not giving an immediate answer. He had to, or he would have been overwhelmed by work given him by those who thought that because he moved thoughtfully, he had too little to do. He designed a score of things that became part of the everyday life of the School, and took in his stride skills even less noticed, such as the ability undetectably to forge a boy's report in order to avoid bothering a sick colleague. Mercers' was lucky. He worked there for twenty-three years. V. R.

Mr. DEVEREUX is the doyen, as they say in the Diplomatic Corps. It is as far back as 1924 that he joined the Staff, being himself the son of a distinguished Old Mercer. In his early days he was a good athlete. He had little chance of indulging his first choice, hockey, but he was a valued member of Staff cricket and tennis teams, and he was also, it was confidently asserted, an accomplished tap dancer and drummer. He has not always enjoyed robust health, and in later years he has reserved his energies mainly for the precepts and practice of Geography. He created the Geography Room and the Geographical Society. There it has been an obvious pleasure to him, as it has been to us, to have the support of his son Michael, and we extend to them and to Mrs. Devereux our best wishes for the future and our hopes that we shall be seeing them again soon.

JIM FAIRBAIRN is one of those men around whom legends grow, and the most legendary of them is the one which he tries most sedulously to propagate, that he is an Innocent Abroad who is continually manœuvred by clever men into acts against his better nature.

In fact, his design for living is simple. He has a wife and two daughters, and even he cannot pretend that he is dominated at home, whatever may happen on the golf course. For the rest, the legend will serve to explain why a man sometimes seems to be ignoring the smaller points of the Highway Code, or of a school time table.

His share in the life of the School was vigorous. The Physics Lab. was not, perhaps, ideal for demonstration, but some principles could always be shown, and some good physicists have learned their trade there. He carefully nurtured his Lower Fourth Forms, and both there and in the School Games, where he bravely undertook the second elevens, he tried all the time to show the way to self-respect. There were no awkward silences when he was on the touchline.

It would perhaps be over solemn to say that nothing in his school life became him like his leaving of it, but it is true that the community in the closing twelve months owed much to him for its purpose and liveliness.

Mrs. Fairbairn has done more than most to support Common Room enterprises in the past and she needs no assurance of an un-failing welcome in the future.

Mr. FYSON is a countryman. He has the countryman's patience, keen observation, imperturbability, and mistrust of haste. He has also

qualities more often considered to be urban. He is, as the Games Club and the Magazine will testify, a formidable Chancellor of the Exchequer, vigilant, lucid and thorough. He is a wizard with time tables. His construction of them is quick and sound, and any necessary adjustments are made with something like magic. His Mathematics lessons are, as might be expected, quiet and purposeful, and if he may be said to suffer fools gladly, he knows very well who they are. But he does not exclude them from his untiring efforts as Careers Master to provide opportunities for gainful employment.

He annually did miracles of screening in all six classes of the Long Jump, and he could always be counted on to referee or umpire whenever he was wanted. He is a more than useful games player, and there is always the memory of the piteous appeals of a team of conscientious objectors who bounced off his broad shoulders in a football match arranged at a Brandon forestry camp. The Chinese goalkeeper is another story, and how well he can tell a story!

He was for many years the power behind the throne of Acon, and the Common Room's representative of the Assistant Masters' Association, not forgetting the widows and orphans. It is pleasant to think that he is maintaining the link with Horsham and Collyer's.

Mr. STUART MOSS had a sunny outlook on life at school, and this on a ration of sleep which would cast a cloud over most of us. German and French are his main studies, but there are few countries of Europe where he encounters language difficulty, and for him language quickly leads to enjoyment of literature.

At Barnard's Inn he was for many years a stalwart of Whittington and a genial dictator of VA. This in turn led him to mastery of S.A. and O. Level Regulations, which he understood so clearly that year by year he dazed the Common Room by producing a supplementary time-table to cover all invigilation. He also occupied himself as secretary of the School Mission and organiser of the Savings Movement.

He was always ready to scorn distance and do his turn at Grove Park, whence he would return in one of his rapid vehicles to his beautiful home at Bovington. There it was a joy to him to join forces with Gretchen in providing hospitality, of which many of us hope still to partake in the future.

## FROM THE UNIVERSITIES

LINCOLN COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.  
April, 1960.

Dear Sir,

As one described in last year's Letter as having a "serious, almost haggard outlook," it is almost apologetically that I must confess to enjoy being at Oxford. True, after the first enthusiastic plunge into University life a reaction often sets in: illusions are lost, and many Freshmen become disenchanted and cynical as they discover that life



and people here are perhaps not exactly as they had pictured them. But this is a passing phase, and one usually emerges from it to a more balanced view and a greater appreciation of the unique breadth of opportunity offered to the undergraduate. You can join any of more than two hundred societies, from the Astronomical Society to the Yoga Club; you can indulge in any sport from archery to yachting; you can "talk great things with the teachers, called dons," as one American magazine put it in an article on Oxford; and if you are really hard-pressed, you can go to a lecture—say, on "Irish syllabic poetry", or "Atomism versus continuum theory in Ancient Greece". Of course, there is far too much to do, and far too little time in which to do it. But it is all part of the game, and a most enjoyable game I find it. Not that I wish to portray Oxford as a kind of intellectual amusement-park: these activities are none the less serious for being enjoyable. Nevertheless, here as elsewhere, it is those who take themselves *too* seriously who are apt to appear foolish.

On the *surface*, Oxford does not change very much, and had there been a Mercers' Magazine a few centuries back, the Oxford Letter might have described a scene not very different from that of today: "... In suemer, when the sonne doth shine, Oxenford hath an appearance both of dignitie and calm, though I own it doth mightily vex me that the beautie of the High is altogether undone by the numbers of carriages travelling thereon. The students walke freely in the Park or disport themselves on the waters; some quoff ale, some go to the bookshoppe of the Black Well. . . . There was not a little talke regarding a new Chancellor . . .," etc. To the casual observer, Oxford remains much the same as ever, but some events of the past year indicated that changes are in progress. Latin, previously a compulsory requirement for entrance, is now making its exit. Revolutions took place on the Isis (magazine) and the Isis (river), the latter in the form of a completely new system for Torpids. For the first time, male guests were allowed to dine in a women's college, St. Anne's. Even the Union, that most traditionally-minded of all Oxford institutions, actually voted to allow women to become members, though a ballot, required by the Constitution of the Union, later reversed this decision. Certainly change and adjustment to the rapid advances of modern life do not come easily to Oxford, which would really like to be like its river: meandering peacefully along as it always has.

Old Mercers here continue to distinguish themselves unobtrusively in various fields. Adrian Sinfield, for instance, has been Treasurer of the University Committee for World Refugee Year, which has so far collected the magnificent total of £2,700. Though he takes his work seriously, he is capable of enjoying himself, as I saw when he and I both attended a course in Salzburg last summer.

David Ives continues to have an umbrella in most pies—J.C.R., Blue Ribbon Club, Balliol Victorians (I very much regret not having had the opportunity of seeing him as a Music-Hall Star). He shows remarkable tolerance towards me, since I must have infuriated him by being out on nearly every occasion that he has called (the climb to

my room is a long and very arduous one). Even worse, I voted to admit women to membership of the Union.

Michael Sumner committed an unpardonable error by helping the Hertford soccer team to defeat Lincoln in a Cuppers replay instead of accepting my invitation to tea. Nevertheless, he redeemed himself by kindly providing route-maps for our trip to Cambridge, which is described elsewhere. Michael has our best wishes on his recent engagement. Best wishes also to David Talks, who is getting married in July. This may or may not explain why he, too, was looking "serious, almost haggard" last year.

Brian Taylor and Alan McMurtrie are both active in the theatre. Brian, mindful no doubt of that memorable School Play a few years ago, is producing Sheridan's "The Critic" for St. Edmund Hall, while Alan has written a play and submitted it to Wadham for production.

Colin Kerr is still terrorizing at least one person in Oxford with his motorcycle; he has tried his hand at most Oxford activities. Nicholas Selley, who, like Adrian Sinfield, will be staying up for a fourth year, conducts the Ensemble Club, an orchestra which has been much more *ensemble* since I stopped attempting to play the timpani in it. Michael Harman I assume to be with us still, though he has not actually been seen with the naked eye.

May I in conclusion offer best wishes to all those who are shortly to do battle with the examiners and also offer a warm welcome to the Old Mercers who are coming up next October.

Yours sincerely,

TONY WERNER.

THE UNIVERSITY UNION,  
MANCHESTER

Dear Mr. Editor,

The first half of my stay at this University has passed very quickly, and I was surprised to realize that if I wait for the next O.M. magazine before writing, I shall have finished my course here. So I am sending you a few remarks about Manchester and its University.

Manchester University is expanding rapidly and already has over 6,000 students. New buildings are planned for quite considerable nearby areas now being cleared of their slum-like dwellings. In a few years' time this will be a most up-to-date University, but with many more students than now, and a real danger of turning into nothing more than a college of advanced education. Already, I think, the place is too large, and the increasing number of day students who take little part in the social life make it even more difficult to get to know people, particularly outside one's own Faculty. Since our only regular meetings with the staff are for pur-

poses of study, purely social gatherings have to be arranged specially, and so staff-student relationships need considerable improvement.

There is more social life for those who live in the halls of residence, but these too have their disadvantages. In the two new halls opened last October, the inmates have not always felt that they were receiving all they should in return for six guineas a week, and there have been complaints about certain of the regulations. One of these forbids the men to have women-friends in their rooms after seven o'clock, except at week-ends (ten o'clock). This "no sex after seven" rule does not always have to be observed, but naturally it is still most unpopular.

The facilities provided by the University Union are considerable and comprehensive. One could spend most of one's time in the Union building, and, of course, some do. The Union newspaper, published fortnightly, is one of the best student newspapers. But again the size of the University causes many people to lack interest in the Union, and they leave its administration to the small group who are prepared to devote their whole time to it, and do not mind taking six years to obtain the easiest Ordinary degree. This group's intrigues and counter-intrigues are recounted and predicted by one of the contributors to the Union paper, writing in the style of "Cross-Bencher" of the *Sunday Express*, and they read like a diluted version of the struggle for power in the Kremlin.

As for Manchester itself, the widely-held belief concerning its peculiar meteorological situation does not appear to be true. What is particularly noticeable is the general grime, while every so often local doctors utter warnings about the effects of the concentration of sulphur fumes in certain areas. The ugliness, and the poverty, of much of Manchester and nearby towns such as Stockport and Ashton-under-Lyne is thoroughly depressing. An outstanding feature is the large number of abandoned churches, many of them now in use as television studios. The view I got of Manchester from the train as I first arrived here was anything but welcoming, but the great friendliness of the people makes up for the city itself.

Looking through what I have written, I observe that a note of criticism has crept in. I hope you will not imagine that I do not enjoy myself here, because I find University life very enjoyable and very interesting, and very well worth while.

Yours sincerely,

ANTHONY J. WILLIAMS.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Since last year Cambridge has undergone no transformations, as quiet as ever during the holidays, and as urgent during term time. However, in relation to the Old Mercers who have been members of the University, or still are, the prospect of but few further coming in the future has caused much comment and discussion amongst members of the O.M. Oxford and Cambridge Club.

This year we met in my college, Pembroke, and I believe all attending enjoyed themselves, at least I hope so. We were glad to welcome Mr. Haden, who I hope is now comfortably established in his new headmastership in Newcastle, and several masters of the School, as well as members of the opposite University and a few other past Oxford and Cambridge men. The function of this Club, which is probably not well known to all O.M., is to provide an annual dinner for present members of these Universities who are O.M., masters of the School from these Universities, and others who have recently entered the open world. With reality forced upon us, a new outlook has evolved, with but few opposers, that is to include all past members of the Universities in a Roll of Members. In the past, there was no committee of organisers, just a President, chosen by his precursor of the opposite University, and his chosen Secretary. The dinner was held alternating annually between the two Universities in one of the Colleges. In the future, when all O.M.'s have left the Universities, for the continuation of the Club a definite committee should be annually elected and bookings made well in advance in the selected University, the only possible way of securing dining accommodation. The reason for my dealing at such length with the Club is that, as an auxiliary body not directly attached to the O.M. Club, this is our only opportunity of bringing to the notice of past members of the Universities the change in our Club, and I would be grateful to hear from all who are interested in supporting these dinners.

We welcomed another three O.M.'s to Cambridge this year: Tom Brent "fresh" from the R.A.F., Howard Gordon who spent a year in the City of London School, and also Keith Tayler. All seem to have adapted themselves rapidly to Cambridge life.

Brian Clements is as untraceable as ever, Mike Nash is spending a fourth year here in pursuit of a Diploma of Education, and I myself am influenced by the prospect of impending examinations.

I would like to add my sincerest regrets and those of the members of the O.M. Oxford and Cambridge Club at the absence of Mr. G. G. Allen from our dinner this year, and wish him and all other Old Mercers a very happy Easter.

Yours,

JOHN M. CAPPIN.

## OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE OLD MERCERS' CLUB

*President:* J. M. CAPPIN

*Vice-President:* A. C. WERNER

*Secretary:* H. GORDON

The occasion of the Annual Dinner of the Club is not only enjoyable in itself: it also provides an excuse for Old Mercers at one of the ancient seats of learning to visit what, in more charitable moments at least, they will allow to be another such institutions. This last year it was the turn of Cambridge to be the hosts, and consequently on a bright November's day we in Oxford made our various ways eastwards across the steppe to the other place. The present writer committed himself with prayer, if not fasting, to Tony Werner's vintage Ford, which, in fact, aided by judicious routing which seemed to involve us in a lot of downhill runs, made very good progress.

By a strange coincidence, Saturday, November 21st, 1959, also saw the Balliol Rugby Football XV in Cambridge, and I spent a very interesting afternoon viewing their activities for what I must confess was the very first time. After some minutes it seemed to me that it would affect the conduct of the struggle but little if the ball were taken away altogether, and I marvelled that such pleasant men could play such a barbaric game. Contemplating this and other weighty matters, I moved on to take sherry with the President of the Club, John Cappin, in his rooms in Pembroke, where I was glad to find a goodly company gathering for the Dinner. We finally mustered: Messrs. Haden, Andrew, Whate, Moss, Fyson, Elliot — Messrs. Cappin, Clements, D. Thomson, Gordon, K. J. Tayler and Brent from Cambridge — Messrs. A. C. Werner Sumner, Harman, McMurtrie, Talks, Sinfield, and Ives from Oxford: and Messrs. L. C. Johnson, Michael Jepson, John Werner, Michael Nash and Kenneth Gray, late of their respective universities.

We dined splendidly on what no one claimed to be Cambridge turkey, in the very pleasant atmosphere of the Old Library, Pembroke, and then the rest of us relaxed while the speeches were undergone, the President proposing and Mr. Haden replying to the toast of "The School", Mr. Andrew and David Thomson disputing the toast of "The Club". About this time the evening developed into a discussion as to the future policy of the Club with regard to the problems presented to it by the closing of the School, but several gentlemen felt that important as these matters were, the post-dinner atmosphere was not conducive to agonizing reappraisals, nor perhaps were gentlemen at their most mentally agile after a good dinner. Consequently, discussion and decision was deferred until a later date.

What was clearly manifested, however, both on this occasion and later, was the general determination to maintain the Club broadly in its present form for as long as possible. Tony Werner, the President-elect, assured us that barring an act of God, he would hold a dinner

in Oxford in November, 1960, and even if the more distant future is uncertain, we left Cambridge with this comforting prospect and with the memory of a very pleasant dinner and week-end.

DAVID IVES.

The Editor,  
Old Mercers' Magazine.

Dear Sir,

As I strolled along the Mile End Road from Stepney Green Station towards the ancient shrine of learning, I meditated upon the great privilege that had been accorded to me, that I should study within these ancient and historic walls of red brick. I reflected upon the compendium of diverse happenings of the previous term, but was lamentably saddened by the recollection that Turbids Week had been postponed owing to an excess of tar in the Regent Canal. A shaft of sunlight fell across a pre-stressed concrete cloister as I . . . . .

Life here is much the same as it was last year. Brian Wichman and David Hetherington are working hard—as far as I can make out. Brian went on a skiing holiday at Christmas with other members of the maths. department, and returned with the same number of legs as he had when he went. David is rarely seen—history students are, and always were, dark horses at Q.M.C.

Expansion of the College is near completion. The extension of the engineering block and the nuclear engineering building were opened last October. The new physics block will be used after October. The number of engineering students is unlikely to be increased very much for fear of "flooding the market". We are fortunate to be in an area of London where expansion is possible. At King's College (in the Strand) they have to expand downwards into the earth. I have heard reports that the King's students who work in the sub-sub-sub-basement are growing horns, cloven hooves and forked tails. It must be warm down there.

During the past six months, owing to the South African Government's "Blow you black—I'm all white" attitude, we have been besieged with requests from the National Union of Students to boycott South African goods. This was not greeted with great enthusiasm, the general opinion being that it would solve nothing and be rather childish. The net outcome of several hours heated debating at the Union meetings is that Stuyvesant cigarettes (which are filled with South African tobacco) are no longer stocked in the College bar. South Africa must be reeling after this crippling blow to its export trade.

Engineering students are advised to work for firms during the summer to obtain practical experience. This causes a host of stories to be related after the summer vacation. A friend of mine worked for eight weeks with Wimpey at a pithead in Lancashire. The engineer, under whom he worked, claimed that the following actually happened to him.

He was driving alone towards London from the West when, on rounding a corner, he was confronted by a line of elephants progressing slowly in the same direction as he was travelling. He blinked once or twice but the animals did not disappear and so he slowed down and stopped behind the rear of the rear elephant. The latter animal, for no apparent reason, backed towards the car and sat on the bonnet, which crumpled under the weight. This did not please the driver who got out and shouted at it. A man walked back along the road and explained that he was the elephant keeper for a certain circus, and if the engineer would accompany him to his caravan, which was a little way up the road, he would settle the matter.

Some time later the engineer drove on with two or three whisks inside him and £20 in his pocket to pay for the badly-crumpled bonnet. He was stopped by a policeman in the next town who pointed at the bonnet and asked what had happened. "An elephant sat on it," answered the driver, breathing whisky into the policeman's face. It took an hour of explaining and 'phone calls to the keeper before the police were satisfied and let the unfortunate gentleman drive on.

Which only goes to show—but I'm not sure what.

Yours sincerely,

PETER TABERT.

ST. CUTHBERT'S SOCIETY,  
UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

28th April, 1960.

Dear Editor,

This remote corner of our fair kingdom which in the past has not been well-favoured by Old Mercers—certainly not by those seeking intellectual advancement—has (at last) gained a permanent place on the O.M. map by the illustrious advent of the Headmaster to neighbouring Newcastle. It will be my pleasure in the near future, I hope, to show him the massive piles of our unsurpassed Cathedral and perhaps also the less pretentious but more frequented streets of our small city.

But it seems that even Durham is to become a place of significance in this atomic age, for, as a result of the drive for all-round Universities' development, we have it "from unusually reliable sources" that the Colleges will get their own nuclear reactor. How this will affect life in such an unaffected city might be interesting speculation, but for those of us in our final year such things do not have the same aura of immediacy. In June week, though, when the Durham Regatta (older than Henley!) is taking place, let us hope that the projected reactor will not reveal the strangeness of man's peculiar ability to delight and enthuse over events that will not alter the course of things.

Yours sincerely,

P. W. AIKMAN.

BALLIOL COLLEGE,  
Oxford.  
1st May, 1960.

Dear Sir,

Last night until dawn most of the freshmen, and a few dauntless second- or third-year groups, sat in punts on the Cherwell waiting till the choirboys sang in the first sunrise of May from Magdalen Tower. This year the dawn arrived gloomy and chill, not warm and shining as in my first Trinity term two years ago.

But the sun has shone often this term and there is little sign of gloom save perhaps in the faces of those fast approaching Schools. For most of us this term is one of pleasant activity: deceptively pleasant to the visitor as he snaps his way round the colleges, for in fact there is barely a pause in University activities.

Reforming is now the fashion. This started last term when the Archbishop of York led the Mission to the University there was of course opposition to this—from OICCU, the Inter-collegiate Christian Union, who, despairing of reforming the Archbishop, boycotted him. Boycott—the Bomb, African goods, Apartheid, the Archbishop and even the 11-plus—remains, but for most of us it has been no more than a talking-point in spite of the publicity given to it in Oxford by the press.

Incidentally, has anyone at Cambridge noticed an increasing interest on the part of the press in University life? Nearly every magazine that I have flicked through recently has revealed to its readers the joys and sorrows of an undergraduate: even the newspapers have become interested. "This Oxford cult could ruin us," warns the Beaverbrook Press. "Is it possible that Oxford education is perhaps the biggest existing menace to Britain's future?" *The Sunday Times* offered a children's guide to Undergraduate Life; *Life* magazine settled us in a fantasy where the eccentricity of dons, the glories of punting and the romance of Commem. balls were painted against the colleges hallowed in tradition; *Lilliput* deserves the last word: "The truth is less exciting. Oxford today is thoroughly and comfortably middle-class." We continue happily unruffled at being so misunderstood!

Within the University journalists have had to face criticism. "Sheer technical incompetence, incorrect reporting and teenage sensationalism," said the retiring Senior Proctor. Yet here too reform is rampant. Cherwell remains as unashamedly sensational as ever, but Oxford Opinion has doubled its size and the quality of its material. The magazine which has attracted most comment is *Isis*: the storm over David Dimpleby, the new editor, reached the national press through reflected fame from his father. The usual smear of "status-seeker" is rejected by those who have met him and *Isis* itself is much improved. The bad old days of a 900 circulation should be left far behind.

In society and political life at Oxford the Tories and Cosmos—O.U. United Nations Association—seem to attract the lively minds



and Top people. The Labour Club has not yet regained its standing since the election, but may well be resuscitated by the advent of Paul Foot. Paul has left the Liberal Club in the doldrums when he jettisoned it after holding the Presidency. One of the redoubtable many-partied family, he seems to be following his father, Sir Hugh, to the Presidency of the Union with an "ends-justifies-the-means" policy which has taken him up through two political clubs and a magazine of humorous slander: actions which strike the politically naive as being strangely out of harmony with his moral stand over nuclear-disarmament. Meanwhile Peter Jay has the Union chair; he is another professed reformer and leads the reaction against the recent conception of the Union as "a circus-show with a foot-note".

Of Oxford O.M.'s, Tony Werner has written. I was glad to meet many O.M.'s, in Cambridge last December, and in London at the New Year and at Alan McMurtrie's party. Peter Aikman who has retired to the south of Kent, gave me very pleasant hospitality down at St. Margaret's Bay this Easter: when he is not preparing for his theological exams this term, he spends his vac. tree-felling and his term rowing.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN SINFIELD.

### GAMES, SUMMER TERM, 1959

There were not sufficient keep or active cricketers to have two sides playing in a weekly game. Accordingly a full fixture list was arranged for Wednesdays with Under 16 or 3rd XI's of other schools. On the Friday half-day net practice was available for the enthusiasts, who soon dwindled from thirteen to six. Tennis, after a lapse of 19 years, was revived and a new court was made behind "A" pitch, the old position being impossible owing to the depredations of Hitler's bombs and Rayment's ducks. However, this venture was not well supported. On the cooler days throughout this lovely summer two or three boys maintained interest in cross-country running. Enthusiastic swimmers went to St. Bride's baths on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and, of course, table tennis was continuously played, chiefly before school by the majority. All activities noticeably closed down rather sharply when the "O" level examination started.

The Cricket XI consisted of four experienced cricketers who had played for School teams. Some of the others improved considerably and all fielded keenly in the matches. It was encouraging to see the rise in the standard of ground fielding and catching as the season progressed. The record was all that could be expected, with two good wins and three very close games; five half-centuries were made. the bowling was always weak and lacked variety; more matches would have been won had the side included a steady slow bowler. Three of the side played in a scratch XI against the O.M.'s in their cricket week but this was one of the matches in which the best achievements were kept until afterwards.

Altogether it can be said that during the last term of the School's history the standards and traditions were well maintained. W. J. F.

## RESULTS

May 6	Kingston G.S. 3rd XI 171—8 dec.; Mercers 111.	
„ 20	Mercers 61; Forest U.16 63—5.	Home. Lost.
„ 27	Mercers 125—7 dec.; John Lyon U.16 126—2.	Home. Lost.
June 3	Mercers 89; St. Olave's 2nd XI 90—6.	Home. Lost.
„ 10	C.L.S. U.16 170—9 dec.; Mercers 62.	Home. Lost.
„ 17	Mercers 213—7; Chigwell U.15½ 40.	Away. Lost.
„ 24	Mercers 212—7 dec.; C.L.S. 3rd XI. 94.	Home. Won.
July 1	St. Dunstan's U.16 235—4 dec.; Mercers 133.	Home. Lost.
„ 3	W.J.F.'s XI 101; O.M. 102—0	Lost.
„ 15	Eltham U.15½ 102; Mercers 95.	Home. Lost.
	Played 10, Won 2, Lost 8.	

Team:—Goodenough (capt. and wkt.), Williams, N. M., Stephens, Pilgrim, Griffiths, Robertson, Williams, K. B., Parsons M., Weston, Russell, Edwards, R. *Reserves*: Griffin, Cook, Taylor.

## THE BOYS: FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

### *Haberdashers' School*

I. M. Ainsworth-Smith. VI Special Modern; Sub-Prefect; House Captain; Sgt. C.C.F., Basic Section; Rowing, 3rd VIII; Edmund in *King Lear*; Entrance to Exeter University.

T. W. L. Andrewes. VI Special Modern Privileged; Corporal, C.C.F., Army Section; Gloucester in *King Lear*; School Historical Review "Brief Candles".

R. Bartman. School Junior Cross-Country Team.

E. R. Doubleday. VI Special Modern, Privileged; House Tie; Shooting, First VIII; Sgt., C.C.F., Army Section; Edgar in *King Lear*. Open Exhibition in English, Pembroke College, Cambridge.

R. Howard. School Junior Cross-Country Team; Call Boy, *King Lear*.

W. G. Lewis. Sub-Prefect; House Tie; School Swimming Team; Rowing, 1st VIII.

S. Simmonds. VIB Modern; School Cricket Colours.

G. Stebbing-Allen. VI Special Modern; Sub-Prefect; House Recorder; S.S.U. First Aid Examination; Cricket XI Scorer; Gentleman in *King Lear*.

### *The City of London School*

B. M. Ash. Prefect; W.O.II, C.C.F., Army Section; Athletics, Hon. Secretary, half colours, 1st team, L.A.C. Schools Competition, White City, 1959; Middlesex Junior Champions, Cross-Country;

Shooting, 2nd VIII; Prizes for French and Modern Languages; Open Exhibition in Modern Languages, New College, Oxford.

M. J. Crowder. VI Maths.; L/Cpl., C.C.F., Army Section; Swimming, 1st VIII.

J. A. Fuster. Chess, Full Colours, Captain, Board 1; Rosenkrantz in School Play, 1960; Open Scholarship in Classics, Lincoln College, Oxford.

A. J. H. D. Greely. VI Classics; C.C.F., R.A.F. Section; R.F.C., 3rd XV; Cricket, 2nd XI; Polonius in School Play, 1960.

P. A. Hill. Sub-Prefect; VI History; Cpl., C.C.F. Army Section; R.F.C., 3rd XV; House Colours; Chairman, Modern Languages Society; Christian Union; Beeching Memorial Prize.

J. F. D. Knust. Cpl., C.C.F., Army Section; House Athletics, 1959; Modern Languages Society; Economics Society; Historical Society.

S. A. Morris. VI Maths.; First Aid course, C.C.F.

G. J. Parsons. VI Science; Sgt., C.C.F., L/c Artillery Section; Shooting, 1st VIII; Mortimer Prize for English.

C. D. Robinson. Prefect; W.O.II, C.C.F., C.S.M. Basic Section; Cross-Country, 1st VIII; Shooting, 1st VIII; Half-colours, N.R.A. Schools Hundred, 1959; School Orchestra.

J. M. Slater. Swimming, 1st VIII, full colours, A.S.A. Silver Medal; Cross-Country, 1st VIII, half colours. Beaufoy Shakespeare Prize, Mechanical Drawing, Proficiency Prize.

M. E. D. Turner. A.B., C.C.F., R.N. Section; House Tennis, Athletics, Cross-Country; Historical, Economics, Parliamentary Societies.

W. X. Wilson. VI Maths; C.C.F., R.A.F. Section; Chess Club; Photographic Society; School Camp.

Twenty-one Old Mercers altogether.

### *Highgate School*

I. S. T. Archer. House Monitor, House Cricket, Football, Fives, Swimming.

M. J. Houghton. School Under-15 Football XI; House Junior Football, Athletics.

J. R. Jackson. House Shooting.

A. V. Levantine. House Monitor.

C. L. Nunn. V Form; Gregory Prize, English Prize, Science Prize; House Colours for Fives.

B. A. Young. Secretary of Christian Union; House Monitor; House Football; Athletics, Cross-Country, Swimming.

### *St. Dunstan's College*

A. F. Beggs. Under 16 Fives, School Team.

C. E. J. Dolamore. Head Sub-Prefect; Rugby 2nd XV; Basketball 1st team.

G. P. Ells. School Colours, 1st VIII Cross-Country.

J. L. Goodwin. School Captain of Lawn Tennis, Colours, 1st VI. Rugby 2nd XV.

T. R. P. Moore. Rugby 2nd XV Under 16.

J. E. Tiffin. Rugby 2nd XV under 16.

C. B. K. Travers. Fives, School Under 16.  
M. R. Warring. School Rugby Under 16; Fives; House Colours.  
N. Wilding. House Colours.  
Fourteen Old Mercers altogether.

#### *Lower School of John Lyon*

A. W. Baillie. House Athletics and Cross-Country.  
R. A. Clark. V Form Mathematics Prize; Careers Librarian;  
School Football XI; Athletics (half colours); Cross-Country; House  
Colours, Football, Cross-Country, Road-Relay, Athletics.  
A. R. Dawson. School Under 15 Cricket; 2nd XI Football;  
School Play (*Morning Departure*); House Colours, Football, Cricket,  
Athletics, Cross-Country.  
G. L. Fermor. House Gym.; Football (Intermediate XI).  
J. D. Hayes. School Under 15 XI (Colours); House Colours,  
Athletics (Under 16 Javelin record), Cross Country, Football, Cricket.  
D. R. H. Jones. School Under 15 Football, Under 14 Cricket,  
House Football, Junior Chess, Junior Cricket.  
J. C. Robertson. Corporal C.C.F. (Army); Drummer, C.C.F.  
Band; School Shooting VIII (Colours).  
A. D. Thomas. School Under 15 Cricket XI; House Cricket;  
Intermediate Football.  
J. A. Topliss. Schools Athletics (half colours), Cross-Country,  
Road Relay; Under 16 Athletics Challenge Cup (first in 220, 440, 880  
and Long Jump); House Colours, Athletics, Cross-Country, Road  
Relay.  
A. R. G. Ward. House Football (Intermediate); Cross Country  
(Junior).

#### **STOP PRESS**

We regret to report the death of the following members :

B. C. Boulter, Life Member 173.  
D. A. Cooney (1911-16).  
F. J. Edkins (1897-1904), Life Member 10.  
R. H. C. McKenzie (1952-56).  
P. J. Proud (1893-1902), Life Member 182.  
W. D. C. Todd (1913-20), Life Member 245.  
S. A. Wilson (1902-08).

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 16th.—Cricket Club Supper, Westminster Arms, Page  
Street, S.W.1.  
October 21st.—Annual General Meeting, Mercers' Hall.  
November 11th.—Dinner/Dance, Rembrandt Hotel.  
May, 1961.—Annual Dinner, Mercers' Hall.

#### **PERSONAL**

L. K. Bowman (1920-26) has secured a seat on the Godalming  
Borough Council.

## OLD BOYS' DAY, 1960

The President's letter made it clear that, while the Athletic Association had the use of Grove Park, we should make every effort to observe this day. It was now the task of the Old Boys to arrange this function, instead, as in so many previous years, of enjoying the hospitality of the School and having little else to do but notify our intention of being present.

In the event, the occasion turned out to be a worthwhile get-together for O.M.'s of varying age groups ; its success was, in no small measure, due to willing voluntary help from a number of members—and their wives. In the morning the President, L. A. N. Kyle and L. T. Gardner transported chairs for a hundred people from a location in Bromley within Kyle's sphere of influence. The return journey in the evening was undertaken by J. G. Bailey and D. Trigg. In the afternoon the Tea Room was taken over by Mesdames Robinson, Hollings, Locke, Archibald and T. W. Parker (the cricketers having been banished to Changing Room Five) and, thanks to their efforts, there was an ample supply of good things to eat at reasonable prices ; some of us knew that the Mrs. Dawsons, Senior and Junior, had played their part in the preparations.

All were delighted to see some of the Masters present, not least G.G.A. Word went round that H.G.A. was prevented from attending by a similar function at his new School.

On such occasions, few people seem to watch the cricket, but those who did stop talking to do so, saw some fine batting by M. Horne and a most interesting duel between L. C. Johnson (not seen at Grove Park for far too long) and John Squirrell, batting like a man inspired to ensure an honourable draw. The Cricket Club Secretary, F. J. Robinson, had much to do with the success of the occasion and it was good to see his sparring partner, L. T. Allen, back from his sojourn in Rhodesia.

Later a number of jolly parties really did rub shoulders in the Chinbrook to bring a happy day to a close.

The score sheet for this game is printed below ; it may interest many to see that George Milne, who captained J. K. Tabert's XI, thinks so little of his batting prowess nowadays !

### J. K. TABERT'S XI

M. Horne c. Locke b. Squirrell	.....	.....	67
M. Gosling b. Squirrell	.....	.....	25
D. Beggs c. Johns b. Squirrell	.....	.....	15
D. Moxey c. Green b. Locke	.....	.....	6
L. C. Johnson c. Robinson b. Locke	.....	.....	15
F. W. Withall c. Hollings b. Robinson	.....	.....	12
F. E. Wells c. Squirrell b. Locke	.....	.....	2
R. H. Cousens b. Locke	.....	.....	2

M. Sack not out	0
A. Kemp b. Robinson	0
G. Milne b. Robinson	0
Extras	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>

#### OLD MERCERS

G. C. Ives b. Kemp	10
A. J. W. Johns l.b.w. Moxey	16
C. D. Archibald b. Johnson	7
B. Harris c. Johnson b. Horne	29
J. Locke c. and b. Johnson	12
M. Green not out	31
M. Manning run out	0
T. H. Hollings c. and b. Horne	3
A. Hepburn c. Milne b. Johnson	1
F. J. Robinson b. Horne	1
J. L. Squirrell not out	20
Extras	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>136—9</b>

The Cricket Club record for the season is as follows :

1st XI, played 13, won 6, drawn 3, lost 4.

2nd XI, played 12, won, 6, drawn 1, lost 5.