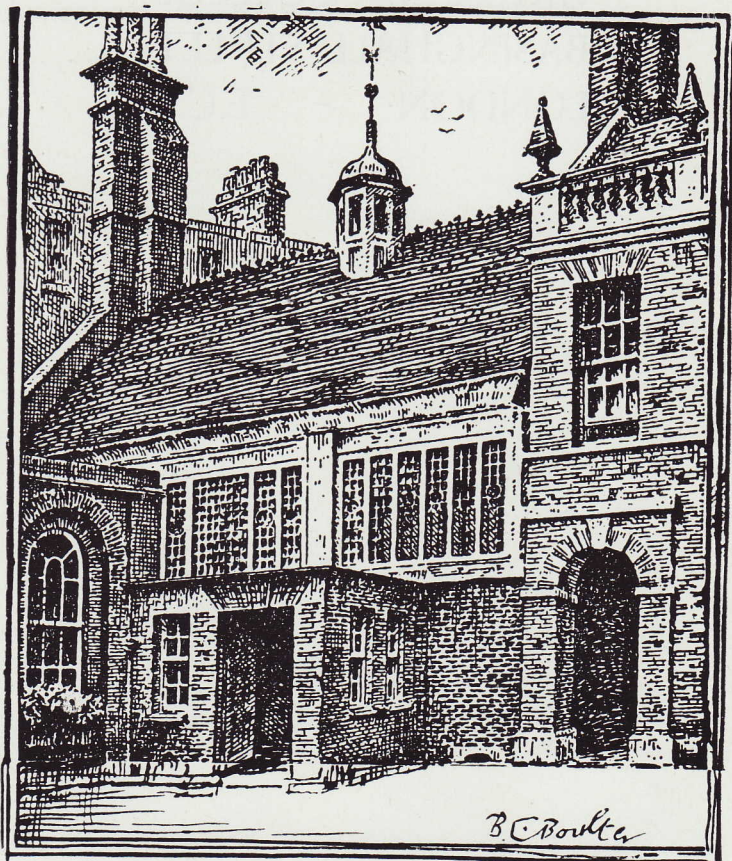




OLD MERCERS' CLUB

1968



BARNARD'S INN



DEREK ARCHIBALD
PRESIDENT, OLD MERCERS' CLUB, 1968-69

CLUB COMMITTEE 1968-69

PRESIDENT : C. D. ARCHIBALD

Vice-Presidents : G. C. Ives
E. S. Wilkins
R. H. Cousens
F. J. Robinson
T. H. Hollings

Trustees : K. M. Scott, FCA
L. Clifton Crick
G. Milne

General Secretary : K. F. Holmes

Treasurer : N. S. Fosh

Honorary Auditor : W. H. Wright

Entertainments' Secretary : H. T. Campbell
"Cairo"
Colne Road, N.21
LAB 1779

Records' Secretary : R. Davey

Past Presidents : D. G. Searls
H. M. Eade
P. Nailor
G. H. Parker
P. J. S. Squirrel

Ordinary Members of Committee : D. Trigg
C. D. Fidge
M. E. Lee
B. D. Pearcy
L. T. Allen
C. P. Garrett

Magazine Editor : R. G. Dawson
15 Brookmead Avenue
Bickley, Kent
(01-467 3108)

THE YEAR 1967-68

Further on in this year's magazine there is a letter written by Mrs. Jepson to Peter Nailor after the magnificent Reception at Mercers' Hall in September. Her comments seem to epitomise the year 1967-68: "Looking back on it (the Reception) now I think how happy my husband would have been to see the spirit of Mercers' as he knew it, so very much alive still today". Certainly it has been a vintage year as was to be expected with Peter Nailor as President. It is just ten years since the bombshell, that the school was to close, burst upon us. Yet over 100 Old Mercers attended either the Dinner or the Reception (in many cases both) and, as will be seen from the names of those present, they spanned the years from 1900 to 1958. Both the Dinner and the Reception were occasions to remember. The President noted that there was a larger attendance at our Dinner than at any of those of other Old Boys' Clubs he attended as a guest. This alone would suggest, for a club with not a single new member in 1967-68, a rather extraordinary achievement.

Other events have continued in the usual pattern. The Dramatic Club produced "Hotel Paradiso", a French farce, in March and had better support for a production which was a masterpiece of ingenuity on the postage-stamp size stage. In November a first class production of "Noah" at the Church of St. Botolph-without-Aldersgate did not have the audiences its excellence merited. Undaunted, the D.C. looks forward to 1968-69. The footballers, struggling as much against anno domini as their opponents, propose to run one side in 1969-70; the cricketers who joined the Old Citizens' C.C. clearly enjoyed themselves. Old Boys' Day was washed out yet again. The Honor Deo Ladies' Festival was well supported; clearly the acquisition of Hartley Campbell as Entertainments Secretary is a tremendous asset to the Club.

Thus we face the future with confidence. The Committee remains a lively, garrulous, sometimes ill-disciplined body full of ideas for discovering new means of bringing Old Mercers together socially. The idea of a history of the School has been mooted and any historian who feels he has the inclination, and time, to undertake this task, should write to the Secretary forthwith. Richard Davey has produced, with great efficiency and no fuss whatever, a new club booklet, which means that this year there are no address changes at the end of the magazine. If, however, members do move, a postcard to Davey at 120, Moorgate, E.C.2, will ensure that club correspondence goes to the right address. Over the years some Old Mercers have been notoriously absentminded. It makes the work of club officers so much easier if they receive money with applications for tickets for functions, not at some future date; the Treasurer is a man with an orderly turn of mind who likes his accounts for various functions in order as soon as possible.

It would not be right to end these notes without expressing the Club's thanks to the Mercers' Company for their financial generosity in 1967-68. The Committee used the grant in the manner outlined in

the President's message last year, and it is hoped that the price of the Dinner ticket, in times of galloping inflation, can be held steady for some years. We hope to hold another Reception; perhaps we may have a fine day in June for Old Boys' Day.

For the moment at least we need have no fears for the future of the Club—but it depends on the support, so obvious and welcome this year, being maintained as we move into the 1970s.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In his Presidential message in last year's magazine, Peter Nailor referred to the grant which the Mercers' Company had made to the Club, and elsewhere in this issue you will find a report of last September's Reception which we were able to hold largely as the result of the Company's generosity. This Reception was a complete innovation as far as our social programme is concerned and proved such a success that it is proposed that it should be repeated in 1969.

Your Committee is constantly seeking ideas to expand the Club's calendar of events and any constructive ideas would be welcomed. In the past the majority of activities have been centred around the Athletic Association, the Dramatic Club and the Lodge, but now that *anno domini* is starting to catch up with a few of our footballers and cricketers, it is all the more important that interest in other activities should be stimulated.

An attempt was made a few years ago by Freddie Robinson to establish a Golf Section, but despite the great amount of hard work that he put into it, the necessary support was not forthcoming. I feel that we should, and could, have our own golfing society, in common with many of the other old boys' clubs that we met on the football and cricket field, and shall be very pleased to hear from any O.M.s who are interested in reviving this aspect of the Club's activities.

In conclusion, please do not forget that we on the Committee find it very difficult at times to know what sort of social programme Club members want, simply because you do not make us aware of your wishes. Please, therefore, do let us have any suggestions you may have for promoting the vigour of YOUR Club.

Derek Archibald.

DEREK ARCHIBALD

Derek Archibald joined Mercers' in 1931 and left in 1936 to enter the world of Lloyds, where he still is today. At school he played school football and cricket and, on leaving school, quickly became a loyal member of the Athletic Association. When he returned to us after the war he brought with him Joan as his wife and she, too, was quickly caught up in the whirl of O.M. activities which Derek supported so faithfully.

For nearly twenty years in the post-war period Derek played in nearly every position in every Old Mercer football eleven, First to

Fourth. He was, and is, one of those invaluable people always prepared to help out in any way he can. Similarly, on the cricket field, Derek was prepared to play anywhere, bowl when required, bat or field in any position. His slash past cover point remains one of the memories of the Cricket Club and, at forty plus, he put many a younger member to shame with his speed and enthusiasm in the outfield.

Such a willing man could not avoid office and Derek served both Clubs in a number of capacities; perhaps it is as Football Secretary in those days when the reduction from four to three then three to two elevens became inevitable that he will be best remembered. That the Club still exists is due, in no small measure, to his efforts.

For years now Derek, like so many A.A. stalwarts, has transferred his enthusiasm to the mother club; we need have no fears that his year in office will be anything but as successful as all his other many ventures in the Club over the last thirty years have been.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 5th, 6th, 7th. O.M.D.C.

CHANTICLEER THEATRE, S.W.3.

April 18th. F.C. SUPPER.

**"WESTMINSTER ARMS", PAGE STREET,
S.W.1.**

April 24th. ANNUAL DINNER, MERCERS' HALL.

June 21st. OLD BOYS' DAY, GROVE PARK.

**October. COMMEMORATION SERVICE and
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

**Honor DEO Ladies' Festival will be held at the Zoo
Restaurant on June 14th. All Old Mercers are welcome;
the man to contact: Hartley Campbell, LAB 5179.**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Old Mercers' Club at Mercers' Hall
at 6.40 p.m. on Friday, 28th October, 1968

In the Chair : P. J. S. Squirrell.

Attendance : 35 members were present.

Apologies for Absence : P. Nailor, G. C. Ives, R. H. Cousens, F. J. Robinson, M. Lee, J. Hall, Rev. J. A. Burley, O. White, D. F. Vanhegan, F. B. Angier.

Before the Minutes were read the Chairman apologised for the absence of the President who had been whipped off to the United States of America at short notice on defence matters; Squirrell therefore conducted the first part of the meeting with his customary aplomb and well prepared ad-lib.

1. **Minutes.** The Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Friday, November 3rd, 1967, were read, confirmed and signed.

There being no matters arising, the meeting passed on to the

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Copies of the accounts and balance sheet were distributed. Fosh went through these; there was a surplus of £14 on the year's working; clearly the Company's generous donation had made a tremendous difference to the Committee's planning of the year. The Dinner and Reception had been subsidised to the extent of £250 and contributions had been allocated to the rates on Gresham College and the Magazine. The innovation on the balance sheet was the investment of £200 in the Co-operative Building Society.

In moving the adoption of the accounts, J. H. J. Dewey congratulated the Treasurer, commenting on the Funding holding which would, presumably, be re-invested in 1969. David Ives, in seconding the adoption, expressed concern over the position of Consols and L. T. Gardner enquired as to the annual reduction to market value.

3. **General Secretary's Report.** Holmes announced the names of the officers of the Mercers' Company for 1968-69 :

Master—George Cummings Walton, Esq., T.D.

Upper Warden—John Philip Carrington Palmer, M.C.

House Warden—Brigadier Geoffrey Acworth Rumbault, C.B.E.,
D.S.O., M.C.

Renter Warden—Lt.-Col. Henry Robin Grinville Houset.

The Club membership totalled 786, of which 544 were life and 242 annual members. Regrettably, six members had died during the year :

Walter Heilbuth	1885 - 1890	Life No. 77
J. Harrison	1892 - 1900	Life No. 83
F. J. Hawes	1897 - 1899	Life No. 37
R. F. Ramsey	1904 - 1907	
K. R. Ramsey	1932 - 1937	
N. H. Jennings	1926 - 1929	Life No. 360

Sixteen members had been removed under rule 3; there were two resignations and two members had been lost in accounting. Significantly, there were no new members.

There had been two outstanding social events during the year. The Annual Dinner in April had attracted a "full house" of 142 members and guests; a number of late applications had had to be refused. The Reception at Mercers' Hall in September had been not only a highlight of this year but of the history of the Club. Over 200 had attended what had been very much the "brain-child" of the President. Honor Deo Lodge Ladies' Festival had attracted a number of non-masonic Old Mercers and their ladies; for the second year running Old Boys' Day had been ruined by rain which barely allowed play to start. However, thirty odd people had braved the Grove Park weather.

The Secretary spoke of the very cordial relationship which existed with the Mercers' Company; he felt that this was, in no small measure, due to the work of the President, Peter Nailor.

In conclusion, the Secretary thanked Hartley Campbell, now the Entertainments' Secretary; Richard Davey, who was dealing with the Records, appropriately enough where they were stored, and the President who had "nursed him, held his hand and given the necessary kicks to keep him going".

4. Old Mercers' Athletic Association Report. The Secretary, R. S. Dean, spoke lovingly of the Football Section, all that remained of the Athletic Association.

The results for 1967-68 were as follows :

- 1st XI. Played 27, Won 9, Drew 3, Lost 15
- 2nd XI. Played 27, Won 8, Drew 6, Lost 13

This would be the last season for the second eleven. From 1969-70 one side would be fielded and the future, after the lease at Grove Park expired in 1970, had to be negotiated. The Club Supper in April had been well supported. Those cricketers who had formed the nucleus of the new Old Citizen 3rd XI had distinguished themselves when the rain allowed. The Cup, presented by the Old Mercers' Club to be given to the winner of the Old Boys' Day tournament, would, weather permitting, be presented to the winner of the 1969 event.

In conclusion, Dean paid tribute to the two Peters, Wainwright and Crawford, who had done so much for the Football Section as Match and Team Secretaries respectively.

5. **Old Mercers' Dramatic Club Report.** L. T. Gardner, without commenting on the organisation or the financial position of the Club, advertised the production of "Noah" at the church of St. Botolph-without-Aldersgate on November 13th - 15th. It was hoped the Lord Mayor might attend one of the performances.

During the year, there had been two productions, "The Typewriter", which was poorly attended, and "Hotel Paradiso" which had much fuller audiences. Socially the Club had produced a one act play in a Clapham pub and had welcomed one overseas member on this occasion. E. S. Wilkins, the Treasurer, would be glad of subscriptions; Gardner himself was President of the Dramatic Club for 1968-69.

6. The following motion was now introduced by the Treasurer :

"In accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Declaration of Trust executed on the 1st October, 1910, it is hereby resolved at this Annual General Meeting of the Old Mercers' Club (such resolution being passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and being subject to confirmation at a Special General Meeting held not less than three months subsequently and carried by a two-thirds majority of members then present) that the Trustees for the time being of the said Deed shall hold the investments and capital monies in or coming to their hands upon trust to raise thereout such sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate a total of £1,000 as the General Committee of the Old Mercers' Club may from time to time by simple majority resolve and to pay the same to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Club whose receipt alone shall be a good discharge for such payments and, subject thereto, to hold the balance of the said investments and capital monies and the investments for the time being representing the same upon the trusts declared by the said Deed **And** the Trustees shall be satisfied with and shall not be required to enquire as to the validity of any such resolution of the General Committee upon receiving from the General Secretary for the time being of the said Club a copy of extracts from the Minute Book of the said General Committee recording any such resolution such copy being certified as a true copy under the hand of the said General Secretary."

G. H. Parker, in seconding the motion, felt that this was a prudent course at this time of uncertainty; this was a precautionary measure. The motion was carried, L. A. N. Kyle querying whether perhaps the sum of £500 might be more appropriate than £1,000.

7. The Chairman now proposed the election of Derek Archibald as President for 1968-69. This was carried with acclamation and Archibald took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The following were elected to fill the other Club Offices. The President was delighted to propose T. H. Hollings, a stalwart of the Football Section for more years than he cared to remember, as a new Vice-President; this was seconded by G. H. Parker and carried with acclamation.

General Secretary : K. F. Holmes.

Treasurer : N. S. Fosh.

Entertainments Secretary : H. T. Campbell.

Records Secretary : R. Davey.

Magazine Editor : R. G. Dawson.

Hon. Auditor : W. H. Wright.

Past Presidents : P. Nailor, P. J. S. Squirrell, G. H. Parker, H. M. Eade and D. G. Searls.

Vice-Presidents : G. C. Ives, E. S. Wilkins, R. H. Cousens, F. J. Robinson and T. H. Hollings.

Elected Members : C. D. Fidge, B. D. Pearcy, L. T. Allen, D. T. Trigg, M. E. Lee and C. P. Garrett.

8. Archibald now proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Nailor for his valuable services as President of the Club in 1967-68. Nailor's many services to the Club were well known; this was no reason not to thank him yet again publicly, particularly for his initiative in the most tremendous event for many years, the Reception at Mercers' Hall in September. His chairing of a Committee was an object lesson to all. The motion was seconded by R. G. Dawson and carried with acclamation.

9. **Any Other Business :** T. W. Parker had enjoyed the Dinner; he would have liked to see more Old Mercers there and proposed to see to this in 1969. D. Ives was hopeful that the Reception would be repeated in 1969. L. A. N. Kyle felt that earlier notice of functions might be given; some discussion ensued but the consensus of opinion seemed to be that Old Mercers must apply promptly for functions in order to avoid disappointment.

Plans for a History of the School had been discussed in Committee; some tentative ideas had been aired and the new Committee would pursue the matter further.

D. G. Searls proposed a vote of thanks to the Mercers' Company, Canon Atkins and Dr. Lloyd Webber for their co-operation in making the Commemoration Service at Mercers' Hall possible. This was carried with acclamation and the Meeting closed at 7.57 p.m. with a vote of thanks to both chairmen; the assembled company then departed to "The Plough" in Fore Street for refreshments.

OLD MERCERS' CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1968.

1967	EXPENDITURE	1968	1967	INCOME	1968
£		£	£		£
86	Magazine and Handbook	Annual Subscriptions:—	...
15	Stationery and Printing	...	103	Current	93
32	Postages	...	11	Arrears	7
85	Rates on Gresham College	...	—	...	—
19	Sundry Expenses	...	114
20	Depreciation	...	209	Investment Income	209
—	Cost of Old Boys' Day Cup	...	2	Deposit Interest	3
	Contributions:—	...	—	...	—
	Towards Dinner	...	211	...	212
	Towards Reception	...	89	Less Tax	87
44		252	—	...	—
—	Grant to O.M.D.C.	...	122	...	125
—	Surplus for Year	...	15	Donations (including £400 from Mercers' Company)	422
		...	50	Deficit for Year	—
		£647	£301	...	£647

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1968.

£	£	£	£	£	£
152	General Fund 1.10.67	102	93	Cash at Bank and in Hand	253
50	Add Surplus	14	86	London Trustee Savings Bank	15
			—	Co-operative Building Society	200
102			—	Sundry Debtors	15
	INVESTMENT FUND		116	INVESTMENTS (held by trustees of Old Mercers' Club)	
4171	Life Subscriptions 1.10.64	4171	4302	£4444. 5. 3 4% Consols	4302
	Capital Accretions, reinvested in-		939	£1029.13.10 3% Funding 59/69	939
1070	come, invested gifts from Life Members	1070			
			5241		5241
5241		5241	1683	Less to reduce to M/V	1876
1683	Less to reduce to M/V	1876			
			3558		3365
3558			91	Office Equipment	71
86	Uninvested Life Funds (Rule 4B)	110	1	Other Property	1
13	Subscriptions in Advance	25			
70	Sundry Creditors	304			
			£3920		£3920
£3829		£3920	£3829		

NORMAN S. FOSH, Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers of the Club and certify same to be in accordance therewith.

W. H. WRIGHT,
Chartered Accountant. Hon. Auditor.

ANNUAL DINNER, 1968

The Annual Dinner is always an occasion; the Dinner of 1968 will be remembered as a "sell-out" and as the first highlight of Peter Nailor's year; the second was the Reception in September; but more of that anon. The 142 who sat down at Mercers' Hall on April 25th will not forget the evening.

Firstly, the President, something of a gourmet, among his many other talents, had chosen a delectable menu; avocado pear with shrimps, vol-au-vent of sweetbread, Guinea fowl, peach melba and coffee, with appropriate wines. Secondly, the speeches were of a high quality; the editor feels that the other speakers will forgive him if he publishes the President's toast to the Mercers' Company verbatim. In his reply the House Warden, J. P. C. Palmer, M.C., spoke of the progress on the new St. Paul's School building and of the Company's many charitable undertakings.

Proposing the toast of "Our Guests", Chris Garrett said that this had been a booking made after the Old Mercers' Football Club supper—he gathered that on this occasion he must be less coarse. He felicitously welcomed the guests from other Old Boys' Clubs, Bancroftians, Citizens, Collyerians and Dauntseians. Replying, Commander "Bob" Gifford, U.S.N., if he will forgive the familiarity from one who values him as a friend, brought a breath of humour from the U.S.A. After two years in England and a close association with the President, he felt he had been completely "mercerised".

The final toast of the evening, The President, the Old Mercers' Club and Constituent Clubs, was proposed by Peter Squirrell. He spoke of the President's distinguished career in the Civil Service—"the Minister can go but Nailor must stay" was, he thought, the watchword in the Ministry of Defence. In his reply, the President enlarged on his information on human behaviour in outer space begun at last year's Dinner. He thanked particularly Hartley Campbell who had organised the Dinner after taking over as Entertainments' Secretary at short notice. He was honoured by the attendance of so many.

And so we passed to the beer and conversation in the reception room. A list of those Old Mercers who attended is attached; several were disappointed and the lesson is obvious—apply promptly next year.

N.B.—ANNUAL DINNER 1969. THURSDAY, APRIL 24th,
MERCERS' HALL.

TOAST TO THE MERCERS' COMPANY

Gentlemen,

It is almost ten years now since Mercers' School was closed; and for everybody who was in any way connected with the school the closure was a sad and loss-laden day. For those of us who were, or had been, pupils there the sense of loss was, and for must of us

remains, a very special thing in our lives. It meant something different to us who had been there; something that the Company, or the parents, or even the staff, could not wholly share.

If this feeling, which I do not think I can put into words, exists in any quantitative fashion it is most nearly embodied in the Old Mercers' Club, of whose members and their friends, 140 sit here tonight, House Warden, to do honour to their Club, and to welcome you as the senior representative of the Company whose name our school and club bear, and in whose standards of Godliness and good learning good men tried to raise us.

That there should be so many here to night, and that we have had to turn others away for lack of space, are causes for gratification which I should like to develop.

In the first place, we have a very special bond between us: not the same bond that there was when the School was alive, and we potted along happily at its side. A very special bond now, and in some ways stronger and closer than it was before.

Secondly, we have the privilege which the Company has offered, of being able to have our Dinners here in this beautiful Hall. It is a privilege which we very much prize, and I should like to thank you, Sir, for the kindness which it embodies.

Thirdly, we have the opportunity, which this Annual Dinner allows, of acknowledging the friendship and hospitality which we receive from other Old Boys' Associations. We shall be hearing more about that later, but I want to put my "two pennorth" in now, and say how much we value the ties which the presence here tonight of representatives from the Old Bancroftians, the Old Collyerians, the Old Dauntseians and the Old Citizens acknowledges.

There are some other features of this particular occasion which give me personally especial pleasure. It is, Sir, the happiest of coincidences that I can, in proposing your health this evening, pay tribute to the kindness, thoughtfulness and charm of your father, Mr. Harold Palmer, who was Master of the Company in the year when I was Captain of the School. He was a very good friend to the school, and a very understanding handler of head prefects.

In a number of ways, that year was a very unusual year, at any rate so far as I was concerned. I am delighted that one of the principal reasons for it being so is here tonight; I refer of course to the Headmaster. About one-third of the Old Mercers here tonight are products in part or in whole of the Haden era. We are not noticeably more handsome than the rest of you, nor, on the other hand, do we have very many more bad habits than some of the rest of you; and yet I think there are few of us who could not identify some particular attribute to the influence on our lives of Bill Haden. I myself, for example, can readily think of two things he has done for me. He showed me very early on that the composition of Latin verse was a distinction to which I could never have a claim, and he has, consistently over the years, stimulated my ability to read indecipherable

script. When you add to this sort of influence the qualities one could absorb from good men like Gordon Allen, Freddy Elliott, George Andrew, Jim Fairbairn, Bill Scott and all the others, it is easy to understand the sort of compulsion which brings people to an occasion like this annual dinner: to join together in celebrating their good fortune, alas, their unique good fortune, in having been at the Mercers' School.

Since the school has closed, the Mercers' Company has been assiduous in helping the Old Mercers' Club in all its activities with encouragement and support. The latest in a long line of practical and generous initiatives has been the grant of an annual sum of money to help us in maintaining the liveliness and cohesion of the Club. This grant, as you will all have read, I hope, in the Magazine, we have decided to apply in a number of ways which will allow us to maintain the basic service the Club gives to its members, and to emphasise the position of this annual dinner as the main social event in the Club calendar. In publicly acknowledging our thanks and gratitude, House Warden, I ask you to look around you and to see in this crowded Hall, the first fruits of the success of the Company's generosity.

I say "first fruits"; but some of us are approaching a ripe maturity.

If, as I think it does, this support and encouragement from the Company betokens a degree of affection for the Old Mercers' Club, let me remind you all of what Ogden Nash, that great standby for bad speechmakers, says about affection :

"Affection is a noble quality;
It leads to generosity and jollity.
But is also leads to breach of promise
If you go around lavishing it on redhot momise."

Now, Sir, we don't exactly plan to do that. But I hope that we can do the next best legal things. On September 18th next, with the Company's permission, we are planning to hold a Reception here at Mercers' Hall, from 6 - 7.30, to which ladies, as well as members of the Club, may be invited. I hope that you will all make a note of that date, so that you will keep it free in advance of the club circular; and I shall look forward to identifying the redhot momise, as well as the wives of members. I should add, by way of explanation to our guests, that it seems to me to be the invariable rule that my Old Mercer friends marry ladies who are much, much too nice for them. And this is perhaps why I have quite a lot of Old Mercer friends.

I said at the beginning that I believed that the Old Mercers' Club was now, more than it had been before, a special sort of group. It has a very definite spirit, and, I believe, a very close cohesion. I do not know what the future will hold for us, except that we shall have many problems to grapple with. We hope that, with the support of our members, and with the encouragement which we receive from the Mercers' Company, we shall be able, for a very long time to come, to maintain a lively and interesting Club.

O.M.s WHO ATTENDED THE DINNER IN 1968

A. J. Cutting	1931-37	H. T. Goldner	1931-37
N. J. Atkins	1915-18	H. E. Titford	1900-03
R. G. Williams	1917-20	G. J. Chandler	1931-36
K. F. Holmes	1937-40	C. P. Garrett	1944-52
G. C. Ives	1937-45	R. A. S. Ritchie	1929-33
C. D. Fidge	1948-54	M. E. Lee	1949-53
P. G. Wainwright	1943-47	E. Golding	1913-19
J. H. J. Dewey	1910-16	E. J. Gladwyn	1921-27
G. E. Pow	1900-04	T. W. Parker	1928-33
Rev. F. J. Neal	1898-1901	P. A. Stevens	1947-57
D. Symonds	1923-29	D. J. Moys	1953-58
A. Simpson	1943-48	G. H. Parker	1918-24
D. G. Searls	1910-13	R. Marks	1942-43
L. K. Bowman	1920-26	L. T. Gardner	1937-41
K. M. Scott	1913-18	G. V. Mills	
N. S. Fosh	1940-45	Rev. S. M. Epps	1914-18
D. C. Simpson	1923-27	G. J. Fox	
D. Ives	1945-55	L. T. Allen	1938-45
R. H. Cousens	1938-45	J. L. Roberts	1923-32
V. L. LeRoux	1913-20	R. S. Dean	1945-49
W. D. Haden		J. Murrell	1952-58
F. J. Elliott		D. J. Griffin	1950-56
W. J. Fairbairn		J. R. Sargeant	1948-53
D. F. A. Vanhegan	1934-39	R. G. Linger	1952-58
H. W. Moys	1921-24	E. S. Wilkins	1934-38
A. Woodburn	1935-43	C. D. Robinson	1952-58
G. Milne	1927-34	C. D. Archibald	1931-36
F. B. Angier	1924-28	D. N. Vermont	1942-50
G. F. Foat	1955-58	B. L. Jacobs	1929-34
R. L. Kettle	1955-58	F. J. Robinson	1941-45
P. Moys	1947-52	I. M. H. Williamson	1952-58
J. Myland	1952-56	R. J. C. Davey	1952-58
R. C. Parish	1936-42	L. Clifton Crick	1916-23
K. E. Jones	1927-31	R. W. H. Coles	1950-58
J. Morgan	1937-43	B. A. Rollinson	1920-24
J. F. Gray	1919-24	H. T. Campbell	1937-41
S. E. Holmes	1922-27	H. F. Cochrane	1927-31
P. J. S. Squirrell	1929-36	P. Nailor	1940-47
R. G. Dawson	1935-42		

THE RECEPTION

For years Old Mercer wives have bade farewell to their husbands as they set off for the Annual Dinner at Mercers' Hall; they have probably been green with envy as the husbands returned with descriptions of the evening and the beauties of the Hall. Small wonder, therefore, that when, thanks to the initiative of our President and the generosity of the Mercers' Company, the ladies were enabled to visit the Hall on September 18th, a company whose number exceeded 200 gathered for a reception which gave the opportunity of meeting old friends, making new ones and seeing the many treasures of Mercers' Hall.

It was an informal evening; the President greeted the guests as they arrived; there were no speeches but many conversations. A

number of Old Mercers not seen for many years came along and, we hope, will come again. Excellent sherry was plentiful, delicious savouries titillated the palate and many took the opportunity to view the superb furniture, carvings and paintings which adorn the Hall and Chapel. Various relics reminded us that, though the Club is only a little over sixty years old, Old Mercers did meet to dine together back in the nineteenth century.

All too soon 8 p.m. came and we dispersed after an evening much enjoyed by those fortunate enough to be present. We look forward eagerly to a similar occasion.

The following Old Mercers were present :

C. F. P. Mazinke	1905-07	J. R. Hawkins	
P. M. Mazinke	1937-44	G. J. Chandler	1931-36
P. E. Burrell	1936-41	G. C. Ives	1937-45
H. G. L. Carter	1914-19	B. C. Boreham	1957-58
B. G. Wright	1927-34	I. C. Pearson	1944-48
B. G. Hazell	1949-56	L. Clifton Crick	1916-23
F. J. Elliott		H. F. Cochrane	1927-31
D. R. Chandler	1949-57	J. B. T. Bird	1936-43
G. F. Banks	1934-41	R. H. Cousens	1938-45
M. H. Woods	1951-58	H. J. Holmes	1917-23
D. Ives	1945-55	K. F. Holmes	1937-40
W. J. Fairbairn		W. R. Lewis	1912-18
R. G. Dawson	1935-42	B. D. Percy	1949-51
M. Cato		F. B. Angier	1924-28
J. R. Rann		B. A. Brewer	1922-30
C. D. Fidge	1948-54	G. E. Pow	1900-04
D. Trigg	1938-45	V. L. Leroux	1913-20
F. J. Robinson	1941-45	D. J. Griffin	1950-56
M. E. Lee	1949-53	L. T. Allen	1938-45
N. S. Fosh	1940-45	R. Worthy	1930-38
R. G. Williams	1917-20	J. W. Howie	1922-30
C. D. Archibald	1931-36	P. J. Roe	1936-39
D. F. A. Vanhegan	1934-39	N. J. Watson	1946-54
C. P. Ellis	1947-55	L. J. Chesterman	1927-32
M. D. Jepson	1932-39	C. G. Willner	1911-13
Mrs. Jepson		S. E. Holmes	1922-27
N. R. Pocklington	1927-31	J. A. Burley	1925-30
D. C. R. Jenkin	1911-18	N. C. O'Blath	1919-24
P. J. S. Squirrell	1929-36	C. C. M. Sweeney	1943-47
M. J. Cummergen	1947-55	G. J. Fox	
A. Norman	1943-48	E. J. Gladwyn	1921-27
P. G. Wainwright	1943-47	J. H. J. Dewey	1910-16
R. A. Webbe-Bowen	1932-43	J. G. Bailey	1937-43
R. G. Corfield	1939-45	L. T. Gardner	1937-41
T. W. Parker	1929-33	P. Nailor	1940-47
W. J. Tait	1956-58	H. G. Andrew	
D. G. Searls	1910-13	B. A. Rollinson	1920-24
R. A. S. Ritchie	1929-33	J. Myland	
H. H. Crane	1896-1903	G. H. Parker	1918-24
C. D. Robinson	1952-58	K. H. Neville	1928-35
G. Niblett	1950-54	G. D. Edwards	1925-29
W. Latey	1897-1902	P. Sandle	1938-42

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CLUB DINNER, 1968

Twenty-eight gentlemen sat down to dine at Brasenose College on Saturday, November 23rd. They had come from north, south, east and west; they included, among others, Headmasters, Company Directors, high ranking Civil Servants and boffins; and they all had one thing in common, Mercers' School. Though we dressed formally, the atmosphere was informal as we took our pre-prandial sherry. This informality persisted in the dining room where there was no table plan. We dined royally — considered opinion was that the smoked salmon was the finest ever — and afterwards many and varied conversations went on over a glass of beer until midnight when we went our own several ways. A group of ten or more, staying at the same hotel, continued the conversations long into the night.

On Sunday morning, with the sun shining on a sparkling Oxford, this party too broke up after an excellent breakfast; so ended a gathering of Old Mercers of varying ages which became once more a part of Mercers' School. The Headmaster, Messrs. Andrew, Fairbairn, Moss, Scott and Whate represented the Common Room; we others gratefully acknowledged yet again what we owe to them and Mercers'.

To John Foster, whose persuasive manner ensured the feast and to Peter Nailor who gathered the clans, go the thanks of the members of the Club and those others of us who were privileged to be present.

CRICKET WITH THE OLD CITIZENS

It was with some apprehension last April that a number of Old Mercer's cricketers took the field with the Old Citizens' C.C. It was a dreadful summer weatherwise; two wet periods, each of three weeks duration in May and August, prevented any cricket at all. The newly formed 3rd XI, for which most of the O.M.s played, was the most successful side. Graham Hargrave-Smith, the noted kitty-holder, quickly won a place in the 2nd XI and enjoyed his best season with the ball for a number of years. In fact he played twice for the 1st XI, strictly on merit, so *he* says. Before the recurrence of his back injury, Peter Wainwright found his form of some years back; a fine innings of 68 for the 2nd XI was an outstanding performance and he topped the 3rd XI averages with an average of over 40. Four O.M.s headed the averages of this side. The blend of a veteran Old Citizen captain, some athletic Old Citizen fielding and the solid, rather staid batting of the O.M. contingent made this the most feared side in the cricketing bars around London.

The O.M. cricketer of yore was an untidy character who left his kit scattered on the floor, to be walked on by damp gentlemen returning from the showers; he paid his tea money at the last possible moment and expected at least four pints from his five bob kitty contribution. Wonder then at the sight of Peter Wainwright polishing the clubhouse floor, Reg Vanhegan arriving early to sweep out the changing rooms and Dixie Dean counting and packing the kit each week. Reg Vanhegan, so 'tis said, worked late into the night counting

the tea money and the match fees; it is rumoured that he was assisted by that financial manipulator, John Lucas.

All those Old Mercers who played cannot speak highly enough of the hospitality shown by the Old Citizens. The Cup, presented by the Old Mercers' Club, to be awarded to the winner of the Old Boys' Day cricket tournament, was, thanks to the weather, unused in 1968. It is to be hoped it will be competed for on June 21st, 1969. From some of the comments in the Old Citizens' Gazette it is fairly obvious that they have not taken long to recognise the quality of the Old Mercer cricketers. A comparison is made between the "dulcet tones" of G. Hargrave-Smith and R. S. Dean; the latter threatens legal proceedings. "Reg Vanhegan is hoping his holiday will inspire him" (it never has yet—Ed.), "Graham Ives scores at a sedate pace" and "Quickly is the only way Mick Manning knows how to score".

As ever, Grove Park wickets have been perfect, thanks to ever-green Charlie Parker. We look forward to the 1969 cricket season and hope that the weather will be kinder. As a footnote, honour has just been served on the football field; the O.M. 2nd XI defeated an Old Citizen side 8—1.

R. S. D.

N.B.—OLD BOYS' DAY 1969, JUNE 21st at GROVE PARK.

OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL SECTION

Results for the 1967-68 season were :—

1st XI Played 27, Won 9, Drawn 3, Lost 15

2nd XI Played 27, Won 8, Drawn 6, Lost 13

The results are a little disappointing compared with the previous season but remain quite creditable bearing in mind the fact that the fixture list has not been further "watered-down". The morale of the section is excellent and the important thing, that everyone continues to enjoy their sport, is obvious.

The 1st XI have played some good football on occasions and, despite the loss of goalkeeper Gordon Evans for most of the season with a very serious injury, they have managed to score enough at the other end to keep the goals "for" and "against" in reasonable proportion. We were very pleased to see Gordon fully recovered and playing again at the end of the season. During his absence Mick Manning stood in most capably on those Saturdays when he was not in some distant part of the world. David Trigg was another injury victim and we look forward to seeing him in action again in the coming season.

The 2nd XI have been somewhat affected by demands from the 1st XI caused by injuries but have managed some notable results and it can be said that any team, leading one of its strongest opponents 4—0 at half time and finally winning 5—4, is at least playing interesting football! In a poor start, both sides had won only twice up to

Christmas but the second half of the season produced much better results.

There have been many meetings and much discussion during the season as to how much longer the section could continue to run two sides. All playing members were canvassed regarding their future football intentions and the results were favourable enough for the Annual General Meeting to pass a resolution that fixtures for two sides be arranged for the season 1968-69 and for a decision about the following season to be made in the early part of 1969. At the A.G.M. the existing Committee was re-elected and a special vote of thanks was recorded to Peter Crawford who had a most difficult year as Team Secretary but who performed wonders in gathering 22 players each week.

At the Team Supper held after the A.G.M., Club Captain Mickey Cato presided over 54 members and their guests. Playing members were particularly pleased to see so many ex-players there in support and a very sociable evening was enjoyed.

Robin Whiteland, one of the few remaining bachelors in the section (and by far the most eligible), finally succumbed and flew off to Spain to get married; as all good footballers should—in the cricket season! We wish Robin and his bride, who has been a frequent visitor to Grove Park, every happiness. It is understood that Robin will continue to play football even though it entails a journey from Bedford each week. We have just learned, with great regret, of the death of Ted Rayment, for many years Assistant Groundsman at Grove Park until his retirement less than two years ago. Ted was well known to countless Mercer boys and Old Mercers, all of whom are saddened by his death. The section again expresses its sincere thanks to Charlie and Mrs. Parker who continue to provide pitches and facilities at Grove Park which are the envy of the majority of our opponents. We continue to cement many friendships with the Old Citizens in the haven of their bar, for the continued use of which we are most grateful.

Lastly, of course, the playing members wish to thank that stout-hearted body of men, our referees. They continue to exert a sort of avuncular control over the worst of our Saturday afternoon excesses and would be only too pleased to welcome any new recruits to their ranks.

P. G. W.

N.B.—FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPER 1969. APRIL 18th.

“WESTMINSTER ARMS”, PAGE STREET, S.W.1.

P. G. Wainwright, 45, Cancell Road, S.W.9. REL 3551.

OLD MERCERS' DRAMATIC CLUB

“HOTEL PARADISO”, March 1968

Yet again the Old Mercers' Dramatic Club demonstrated how readily man may triumph over his material! Eric Wilkins and the actors created an illusion, on a tiny stage, first of an architect's living-

room cum drawing-office, then of a hotel foyer, plus not one but two bedrooms; they then manipulated a large trunk in and out of the first, and held a crowded tea-party in the second, in such a way as to suggest a far larger stage—it was the neatest crowd-work they have ever offered us.

Feydeau was a dramatist with no mercy for actors; the speeches must be rapid, the timing good and everyone's appearance extremely attractive, before the plot can mean anything. Here we must heartily congratulate Shirley Mold, whose work on the costumes produced a most charming effect. As usual Brian Percy set a good pace, and gave us the happy picture of a traditional French husband out-witting his wife. He used rope-ladders with casual aplomb and straddled window-sills with agility. Several times he reminded one of Chaplin as Monsieur Verdoux, engaged in the same sort of high jinks.

Margaret Wilkins, as the lady whose charms have currently enmeshed him, wove her way skilfully between chairs six inches apart, and made sweet lamentation while he juggled her love-life from hand to hand; and tripping lightly in and out of this sophisticated pattern were three pretty young girls of a sweet innocence, who threw a spanner into the works on every entrance. They were adorable and every Old Mercer in the house was smitten with delight.

Well-played scenes by Kay Francis and John Lawrey remind us how much good young talent the O.M.D.C. have found recently, and again we had the pleasure of a characterful study from Les Borman as the excitable Italian hotelier. It would have been pleasing to have French tunes for interval music, not to mention French coffee! But it was an entertaining evening, and that, we may safely say, is what we have come to expect from this very hard-working company.

F.G.

"NOAH" by André Obey

Five-year-old Peter, at the breakfast table, cast his eyes heavenward. "Are you there, Lord? Lord? Oh dear, off again!" We had attended the O.M.D.C. family performance at St. Botolph-without-Aldersgate on November 16th, and the youngest member had obviously appreciated the friendly relationship between the patriarch and God.

I've started here because I'm sure this review is going to be coloured by the fact that it was a family outing. Anyone who has taken a child out—to the pictures, a cricket match, the Zoo—will know that either one is so distracted that only the haziest impressions of the event survive, or the whole experience is somehow altered, and more vivid. On this cold November afternoon the magic worked for everyone, so I find I look back on "Noah" as one of O.M.D.C.'s real successes.

I had read the play but never seen it. I had, however, seen a good deal of drama in churches, and this production confirmed my

impression that, given a genuine dramatist, it works wonderfully well. It's odd that a lack of realistic scenery should be a positive advantage, but it is. Perhaps the setting is right for "a willing suspension of disbelief"! Sound effects, on the other hand, were used with great effect. The animals roared impressively, and I particularly remember the startled attention which the audience gave to the thudding, tramping, scampering sounds of the creatures getting restless "down below".

The style of "Noah" is very simple, the characters are types rather than studies in depth. It's the story that counts; and yet, after all, we all know how this tale ends. In this performance, however, writer, producer and actors combined to achieve a marvellous orchestration of mood and feeling. Every scene had its shape. The steady unfolding of the opening was exploded by the sudden irruption of "the man"—a very striking figure! I remember especially the exultation when the rain stopped; an exultation which went *on* mounting; the gentle pity of Noah's scene with the animals; the extra turn of the screw of Mrs. Noah's uncomprehending despair; the jagged violence after the landing at Ararat. At times the audience was given plenty of line; we could sit back and consider, with some amusement, the antics of the sons or their girl friends; the next moment we were reeled in, thrashing about in high excitement, completely involved.

From the actors' point of view opportunities are limited, and there are some unusual problems. I thought all the animals were most effectively handled—perhaps the bear was particularly appealing. Peter liked the monkey! Noah has the only role with any real depth, and Ted Slade was in complete command of his long part. He managed to combine simplicity and authority, and added the good-humoured obstinacy, the sheer cussedness which must make saints very awkward to live with!

Brian Percy made Ham a worthy opponent. This young champion of the rational was too self-centred to be sympathetic, but he never became trivial. Shem and Japheth (Christopher Gerrard and John Lawrey) showed clearly the value of team work in a production. Their intelligent listening and reactions contributed a great deal towards the shifts of feeling which were so striking. The three giggling maidens of the first scene also developed, in the persons of Judy Kingwill, Shelagh Foley and Rosemary Scholes, three very different personalities, and their symbolic exit was superb. I have never seen Margaret Wilkins give a less than excellent performance, and her Mrs. Noah was beautifully spoken and at times very moving. But I felt it was not really her part. Mrs. Noah operates on instinct; here we kept suspecting depths.

However, the greatest share of the credit for this delightful performance must go to the producer, Eric Wilkins, who gave the whole thing a style and shape which perfectly matched both the play, and the setting in which it was performed.

B.M.D.

HONOR DEO LODGE NO. 3562

W.Bro. H. J. Goldner was installed on 2nd November, 1967, as the 57th Worshipful Master of the Lodge and during the year 1967-68 two new members were welcomed: John Myland (1952-56) as an initiate and W.Bro. Geoffrey Searle (1936-39) as a joining member. W.Bro. Kenneth Scott, who has been Treasurer of the Lodge since 1958, and W.Bro. C. S. Hutchinson were honoured by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master with appointment to London Grand Rank, a distinction conferred only in recognition of long and meritorious service to the Craft in the London area.

On 22nd November, 1967, the Lodge sustained the loss of its last surviving Founder in the person of W.Bro. Walter Heilbuth (1885-90), Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. W.Bro. Heilbuth was also the Lodge's first Secretary and his continued interest in and services to Old Mercer Freemasonry will long be remembered.

Once again the Ladies' Festival was the occasion of a happy and successful evening at the Zoological Gardens Restaurant. These dinner-dances are more and more becoming social occasions for the meeting of Old Mercers (within or without Freemasonry) and their ladies.

R. G. Williams, Lodge Secretary.

HONOR DEO CHAPTER No. 3562

The Chapter enjoyed a happy year with E.Comp. J. L. Roberts as First Principal, E.Comp. A. C. Winn as Second Principal and E.Comp. J. F. Gray as Third Principal.

The following were elected for the year beginning October, 1968:

E.Comp. A. C. Winn as First Principal.

E.Comp. J. F. Gray as Second Principal.

Comp. K. E. Jones as Third Principal.

Old Mercers who are already Freemasons and who would like any information concerning joining the Chapter should contact E.Comp. F. W. Yardley, Scribe E, at 5 Gloucester Road, Hampton on Thames, Middlesex (01-979 1454).

CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS

The Court and Officers of the Guild for 1968-69 are:—

Guild Master: A. C. Winn

Guild Renter Warden: F. B. Angier

Guild Junior Warden: R. E. M. Crane

Guild Assistants: All Past Guild Masters and A. C. Bealer,
John Bealer, E. J. Gladwyn

Hon. Clerk: A. H. Hall

Hon. Assistant Clerk: K. H. Neville

Apprentice Warden: M. J. Herniman

During the year the Guild sustained a great loss in the death of Past Guild Master Walter Heilbuth. He was one of its founder members and a most generous and loyal supporter. He was active in the Guild until within a few months of his death.

The Annual Installation Dinner was held at Tallow Chandlers Hall on 28th June with the new Guild Master, A. C. Winn, in the Chair. The two official guests of the Guild were the Master of the Tallow Chandlers Company, Mr. K. H. Paterson, who replied for the guests, and the Chief Commoner, Mr. D. L. Clackson, M.B.E. It was a most successful evening, although somewhat hampered by the "work to rule" dispute on the railways. During the evening a musical interlude was provided by the Whittington Handbell Ringers under their Bell Master, Mr. A. E. Pearson. This was much appreciated by the assembled company.

The Court is disappointed that there has been no response to their appeal in the last issue of the Magazine for sons or grandsons of Old Mercers, between the ages of 14 and 21, to join the apprentice scheme of the Guild. The subscription is only 5/- and further particulars can be obtained from the Apprentice Warden, M. J. Herniman, 46 Worrin Road, Shenfield, Essex.

The Hon. Clerk, A. H. Hall, 23 Uvedale Road, Enfield, Middx., will be pleased to hear from any Old Mercers or their sons (over 21 years of age), who have an interest in the City of London and its traditions and wish to take up their Freedom with a view to joining the Guild. The cost of the Freedom is normally £3 3s. 0d. but in some cases may be less. The subscription to the Guild is £3 3s. 0d.

OBITUARY

WALTER HEILBUTH

On November 20th, 1967, the Old Mercers' Club lost one of its staunchest supporters, its most loyal pillars, in the passing of W. H. S. Heilbuth in his 93rd year.

Walter was in the School from 1885 to 1890, and on the formation of the Club in 1904 (out of the Old Mercers' Football Club) by Harry Merrett and others of Walter's generation, he became one of its most active members (Life Member No. 77) and served the Club as President in 1917-18. There was hardly a subsidiary Club which did not number Walter on its Committee (and then elect him President), but it was on the Committee of the parent body that he did his finest work, recognised in 1954 by a presentation to signify 50 years' membership.

As a Freemason (he was then already a Past Master) he was Secretary to Honor Deo Lodge at its consecration in 1911, and was the first First Principal of Honor Deo Chapter in 1935. At his death he was a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies of Grand Lodge.

With his brother George (who was a Deputy Alderman) he took a great interest in civic affairs, and helped him as Secretary of the

Guildhall Lodge in which successive Lord Mayors are installed as Master. Walter was a Loriner and the oldest surviving Past Master of that Company. When "Old Mercers' City Liverymen" (out of which grew our present Civic Guild) began in 1947 he, with Harry Merrett, Sir Frederick Tidbury Beer and Stanley Wells, was a Founder, and to that body his generosity, for which most Old Mercer organisations were thankful, was most noticeable.

Walter never recovered from the shock of the closing of Mercers' School in 1959 and thereafter he never attended functions at Mercers' Hall. He was a great enthusiast in a cause in which he believed, and Old Mercersdom has suffered a great loss in his passing.

J.H.J.D.

MARRIAGE

R. T. Rees (1952-58) has recently married; no details are available.

BIRTH

To Vera (née Würfel), the wife of C. D. Hughes (1945-52), a daughter, Natasha Simon.

SCHOOL CAMPS

Mercers' camps started in 1931 when a scout troop was formed and a camp was held at Charmouth. The next year the camp was moved to Lynton and several staff came as guests. These changes were not unconnected with the opportunity to play in the Lynton cricket-week.

Perhaps an outstanding memory of this camp is, that after a careful briefing about bathing and the forbidding of all cliff-climbing, a master had to be rescued from a cliff after the first bathe. J.K.T.'s public reminder was little related to his private comments. The weather was vile and scores on the local billiards table were better than on the cricket field.

A new site was now found, quite by accident, at Talland, between Looe and Polperro, and here, for the next seven years the camps became less and less scout camps until they were finally school holiday camps. Our change did not always change the weather.

Even at Talland there were catastrophes. One master (our climber of course!) invented a new automatic porridge stirring device based on his camera tripod. This automatically deposited the nearly-cooked staff porridge on the fire which had taken an hour to light with wet wood. Again J.K.T. was displeased but we soon passed to the Primus age.

The last Talland camp was not without incident. Perhaps we now knew the locals of this bit of Cornwall too well, (or they us), but more probably gathering clouds of war led to restlessness. A dispute with local youths at Looe fair, which produced some violence, and

the removal of de-restriction signs from the one-in-four Talland hill took our minds from the evacuation plans now ready at School. This was our last school camp at Talland, but many of us later returned there for private camping.

At all these camps we welcomed Geoffrey Darke. He came when he could and passed on much of his camping enthusiasm. It is nice to have a "Doctor in the House". The splendid site is now a commercial holiday camp, complete with camp shop—the lot!

We made many friends at Talland including the Pucky family, the Tamblins, and even the vicar. The Tamblins have now retired from farming and live near Launceston.

The first summer of the war took us to our first working camp at Ditton Priors near Bridgnorth. Here, working for the Forestry Commission, we camped in icy winds and worked at high altitude clearing and burning brash to make room for tractors to pull out the tree trunks. The fires had to be put out with water, carried it seemed a vast distance, and finally covered with earth before blackout time, as sporadic raiding had started and bombs were being dropped at that much over-attacked place known to the B.B.C. as "Random".

A forest fire called us all out one night, (bonus rates for this!), and since the bonus rates also applied to villagers who helped, once the fire was under control the exercise became rather prolonged. A demonstration by J.K.T. that the quickest way to traverse a felled forest was to run along the trunks concluded when he completely disappeared in a fathom of branches at the end of a trunk. It was in Shropshire too that we discovered how to quench a smouldering camp mattress when the nearest water tap was four hundred yards away and the time 1 a.m.

Special memories remain of the constant search by the owner for 'n 'acker with 'n M on it; Michael Jepson's dart which penetrated the board, and the bull, so deeply that its recovery removed the board and some of the wall; and a senior mathematical master turned public-house sign painter.

The next year our assignment turned to Santon Downham, near Brandon. This tiny village in Breckland was a local headquarters of the Commission. They could not have been more helpful. The work varied from hard to monotonous; from digging and saw-pruning to miniweeding minipines at Weeting, where the soil was so sandy that it wore away finger nails and skin.

Our site bordered the Little Ouse. With unlimited timber delivered by the Commission we built a splendid pier to facilitate good swimming from the marshy brink. Unfortunately the vicinity abounded with a species of mosquito which devoured all but good alcoholics. The resulting dysentery and prolonged sleepiness prompted the local doctor—who could be consulted only when there was no near cricket match in which he could play—to send some boys home. "The locals" he said, "just swell up with it and put up with it".

A strong feeling at School that weeding at Weeting won no wars and that farming was full of glamour (driving tractors and dating

land-girls) next took us to a farming camp at Minster Lovell in Oxfordshire. For the first time we had to find our own work.

Sometimes working in large parties on big farms and sometimes in ones or twos on small ones, we still had to find work. If a large party worked too hard, as it often did, and finished too soon there was a rush that night to find work for the next day. Finding work meant using petrol. In emergencies an extra coupon for two gallons could be obtained. This was delivered from Oxford by lorry. Perhaps more than one coupon had to be delivered.

There was soon competition at Minster Lovell for collecting the milk from the Trinder farm, and collection took an increasingly long time. Farmers often do have daughters. Fred we now know was the winner and we again congratulate him, and Margaret.

It was at Minster that we had the odd camp accidents. Gordon Allen fractured a wrist on falling off a load of hay and a boy needed anti-tetanus injections after a pitch-fork wielder mistook him for a sheaf of corn. A master complained one night that his back was very sore. A 2 a.m. diagnosis settled for harvest bugs and his severe sunburn was bathed in vinegar. Our English department had clearly specialised in Anglo-Saxon. The local M.O.H. advised us of a polio outbreak in our area and Witney was put out of bounds. Unfortunately two boys were infected—one seriously. Fortunately both recovered completely, but only after some time in hospital.

The agricultural-workers rations and good friends we had made kept us well fed, particularly as we had brought Mrs. Pautard, the school cook, with us. The pay was fair and there was a useful share-out after each camp to revive the workers.

The Minster Lovell camps continued after the war, but finally ended when there was a surplus of labour and little work for us as the area became a centre for yet-to-be-repatriated prisoners of war and they were usefully employed.

We retain some vivid memories of the Oxfordshire camps including particularly the Indian assault at midnight on the owl of the Minster ruins; the party with the R.A.F. on V.J. day; and the Sunday visit to lunch by the new headmaster. Unfortunately the staff were all late for lunch and the headmaster's youngest daughter sat on a wasp. There have been better introductions.

H.G.A.

MERCERS' IN HORSHAM

The Editor has asked for some words on Mercers' in Horsham and I will do my best, but this is now a matter of memory—and "old men forget".

We had known somethings of Collyer's and a little of Horsham in those uneasy pre-war days. We heard the news of one of Hitler's invasions on the radio at Collyer's while having tea after football and in the following cricket season the umpires of the Under 14 game at Grove Park, when Collyer's visited us, more or less settled the

evacuation plan. Details were, of course, worked out at a higher level, but in spite of this, it was nearly a non-event. After another of those history-making "long marches"—Holborn to Waterloo—under a banner with a strange device, "L.C.C. H71", we eventually boarded a train and headed South. Were we headed for Horsham? No one knew. We held our breath at Three Bridges, but instead of swerving to the right the train continued non-stop down the main line and eventually pulled up at Lewes. Everybody out! "We really wanted to go to Horsham", we explained to a member of the local station staff and Sussex rose to the occasion. "Hold that London, Bill!", and to us, "Over the bridge, get that train to Haywards Heath, change there and at Three Bridges and take the 2.17 to Horsham". In due course we did all this and that was the beginning of our stay in Horsham—but it might well have been Lewes.

From Collyer's we were distributed to the various homes which were to act as our billets for the period that followed, in some cases for almost the next three years. Not everyone was at first placed in the most appropriate surroundings—as for example when a perplexed householder seeing two hefty fifth-formers on his doorstep said, "We were expecting two little girls!" Then there was the young married couple who were offered a fourth-former as a start to their family at a time when normally, they would have been on honeymoon! These and other difficulties were gradually smoothed over, particularly by G.G.A. and, later, W.L.S. whose chore or headache, this was to be.

We had come, presumably, to continue our studies in more peaceful surroundings, but memories of what happened in the classroom are few, though there must be some Old Mercers' who can claim a School or Higher Certificate of the vintage 1940-42. There was a certain amount of interchange between the teaching staffs of the two schools. Old Mercers' will be glad to know that "Bob" Greenop, then Collyer's Second Master and Senior Science Master, is still going strong at 80 plus. His chief occupation now seems to be acting as Toastmaster at Old Collyerian dinners, as past presidents of the O.M.C. will know, but he still does some part-time teaching in private schools.

Out of school there were some good games of football with Collyer's and during one of those early, cold war-time winters ice-skating on Warnham Pond was for a time the main outdoor activity. The star performer here was Collyer's Art Master, Dick Rivaz, afterwards Flight-Lieut., R.A.F., D.F.C., and author of two books about his flying experiences, who was unfortunately killed in an air crash at the end of the war when flying as a passenger. There was some exciting cricket on the Horsham ground, where one spectator was heard to compare the Mayors (David and Paul) with Constantine (Sir Learie). Some summer half-days were spent doing voluntary work on a farm near Horsham and we did what we could to help the war effort in a variety of ways. Civil Defence, Collyer's A.T.C., and above all "Dad's Army"—the Home Guard—all benefited, we like to think, from our presence. Charlie Hardy still enquires about his former comrades-in-arms when he comes round on his "lavender

cart", on his quarterly visits to those in the outlying parts who are not yet on main drainage!

When the war had settled down to what was called in some places the "phoney" stage it became clear to the School authorities that Holborn had to be re-opened and so for more than two years both branches continued to function and this involved a certain amount of commuting by Headmaster and staff. Church parade had been one of the regular features of our Horsham way of life and so in July, 1942, we came to the farewell Festal Evensong in the Parish Church, and soon the final departure of the Mercers from Horsham.

A few months later Collyer's received an illuminated address and the foundation of a scholarship as a token of gratitude for the hospitality extended to the Mercers during their stay in Horsham. The connection was not completely ended, however, some Old Mercers live in or near Horsham. The son of one and the grandson of another are members of the present Collyer's sixth form. They are of course in Mercers' House. Visitors to Horsham would inevitably notice some changes. Hurst Road seems to have attracted all the public services—the Fire Station, the Water Board and the Post Office have put up new buildings. Although Cyril Boulting has retired, the "Dog and Bacon" still stands, but is no longer the scene of Staff Meetings as in days of yore.

Finally there is in Collyer's the Old Mercers' War Memorial Library the very fine result of the co-operation between the O.M.C. and the Governors of Collyer's, and a permanent link between the two communities brought so close together by war.

H.F.

FOOTBALL CLUB MEMORIES

The Entertainments' Secretary received a letter from Alex Robertson in Zambia which began a journey via H. M. Eade, D. G. and H. V. Searls, G. H. and F. W. Parker, D. E. Oliver, B. A. Rollinson, D. C. Jenkin and Jim Willis recalling Football Club memories of the Twenties. Many illustrious names figured in the ranks of the Club in those days; G. Thomas, A. H. Appleyard, Jack Willis, J. C. Fenton-Jones, J. H. Dewey, J. S. Doig, S. C. Hall, Mick Carter, all appeared, not forgetting, as Robertson put it, "our faithful supporters, 'Olives', Edward (Hill) and Cecil Mason". And again we are reminded how much the Old Mercers' Club owes to the Football Club and, later, the O.M.A.A.

CORRESPONDENCE

Trails End,
West Drive,
Cheltenham.

Dear Dickie,

After what must be ten years without meeting an O.M., I found myself at a luncheon party in Oxford with Roy Moore last July. I was spending a term at St. John's as Schoolmaster Fellow, he was just off to Berkeley, California, to teach at the University. We had not

met since he came on leave from the R.A.F. to Barnard's Inn just before I went up to Cambridge in 1941 as a Q.M.C. evacuee.

Here in Cheltenham there are now three of us: Richard Doubleday (1952-58) and I both teach English in different schools in Gloucester, and are both concerned at present with an experimental Cambridge English Literature paper in which books are used in the examination room. E. B. Townsend-Dyson (1920-27), whom I hailed in full O.M. fig. last week, has just moved into a house I nearly bought five years ago.

My present school, Sir Thomas Rich's, Gloucester, which celebrated its tercentenary in 1966, was founded by a Mercer. It would be interesting to know if he was the Rich who endowed the exhibition on which I went from Mercers' to University. Does any O.M. historian know?

Yours sincerely,
L. C. Huddleston.
(1933-41)

Tiripano Farm,
Box 300,
Mangula,
Rhodesia.
30th August, 1968.

Dear Sir,

Would you please note my change of address.

I cannot remember my number but I was at the old School between 1929-33.

Could you also let me know what happened to John Wray. He had been living in Australia but was at School with me. He joined the R.A.F. a few years before the war but I have a feeling he may have been one of the unfortunate ones.

Best wishes to you from one of the "rebels".

Yours faithfully,
P. J. O. Knight.
(1931-34)

Pengwern,
20 Mirrow Croft,
Guildford,
Surrey.
19th September, 1968.

Dear Mr. Nailor,

Thank you for a delightful evening—I enjoyed every minute of it. Everyone I met was so kind and welcoming that for me it was a very heart warming occasion.

Looking back on it now I think how happy my husband would be to see the spirit of Mercers' as he knew it, so very much alive still today.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Jepson.

St. Martins,
Saint John County,
New Brunswick,
Canada,
8th July, 1968.

Dear O.M. Dawson,

Many thanks for the copy of the Old Boys' Magazine. The copy that you sent earlier in the year was awaiting my return from a trip to West Africa and my attendance at the Old Mercers' Annual Banquet in April. I apologise for the extra trouble to which you were put in sending me an extra copy. Again many thanks!

When I was at school between 1898 and 1902 we had an outstanding athlete named A. P. Dawson who won the School Handicap from Scratch in 1899 and a few years later won the Old Boys' Half-mile. I am wondering if he might have been a relation of your family. He was quite a "champion" in the eyes of us smaller fry!

Very sincerely and with every good wish,

Rev. Frederick John Neal, D.D.
(1898-1901)

47 Southlands Grove,
Bickley,
Bromley,
BR1 2DA.
14th November, 1968.

Dear Editor,

In September, 1967, I left my job at the chief office of the Prudential Assurance Company and became a full-time student teacher at Avery Hill College of Education. Having done spare-time youth work for a number of years and being still single, I took the plunge and "turned professional".

The course lasts for three years, and each year we spend two terms in college on academic work and the third at a school on teaching practice. I am studying mathematics and divinity for secondary schools. The only other student doing exactly the same course is a young lady from Horsham who goes to the same church as Mr. Fyson! In addition to our two main subjects we study Education, which covers such things as educational theory, psychology and sociology.

I spent a pleasant and useful term last summer practising at Ramsden School, Orpington. Some of my fellow students went to schools in rather tougher areas, and did not find life very easy. My turn, no doubt, will come in the spring, when we shall be out at schools again.

I see few Mercers' people these days. Most of my friends seem to have moved well away into the provinces. I do occasionally meet Mr. Rowsell and his wife, who live quite near. Mr. Rowsell has retired as headmaster of Bonus Pastor School, Downham, but remains on the Board of Governors of Avery Hill College.

One I meet very frequently is O.M. Laurence Kyle, who, as mentioned in the last issue of this magazine, has been ordained and is a curate at my parish church, St. Luke's, Bromley Common. Under a new scheme in the Church of England he exercises his ministry on a part-time basis only, and continues with his normal occupation (he is another Prudential man). He gives much of his time to church activities, both in the evening and at weekends, and is a good preacher.

Yours sincerely,
Robert N. Hutchings.
(1945-55)

Ruxley Towers,
Claygate,
Esher,
Surrey.

27th September, 1968.

Dear Dicky,

I remember the beginning of the acceptance into Mercers' School of what we called "Scholarship Boys" who had won an Open Junior County Scholarship from a Primary State School.

A certain amount of feeling was thereby engendered, but Dr. Scott was very careful in his selection, and if one thinks back to the names of those selected, one realises that they formed a closely knit block at the top of the mark lists of every Form they went through. Among my contemporaries I am thinking of A. H. Appleyard, Edward Hill and the Kettle Brothers: I may have been an exception to that rule!

The Public Schools' Commission suggests that there should be a minimum of 50 per cent. of such entrants into the Public Schools, but two views have been taken by the Headmasters' Conference, and in reading their views it is interesting to remember that nearly ten years ago a view was held (though not by Old Mercers') that Mercers' School would be merely the first of all the public schools to sink beneath the onslaught of Socialist one-class policy.

Yours sincerely,
Jack Dewey.
(1910-16)

37 Royal Road,
Lord Byron Place,
Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada.

29th June, 1968.

Dear O.M. Holmes,

As you will see from my new address, which became effective last week, I have now moved from the Province of Manitoba.

I am starting a four-year speciality course in psychiatry which will, I hope, lead to fellowship, and will be working at the University Hospital here for next two years at least.

Seven years of general practice in a prairie town were beginning to induce a certain amount of mental sclerosis and lethargy, besides the increasing work load, and I had been contemplating specialising for some time.

I hope that everything continues to go well for the Club; as far as I can find from the address list, I have to go to California, England or Quebec to meet another O.M.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

B. W. M. Dorran.

(1945-51)

Flat 8, Red Cross Flats,
304 Main Road, Walmer,
Port Elizabeth, R.S.A.
11th July, 1968.

Dear O.M.s,

As you will see from my new address I am now in harness in the Republic working for the South African Red Cross on a new project for European aged consisting of endowed flats and sub-economic flatlets run in conjunction with a nursing home for those not able to look after themselves.

I have not had any correspondence nor a magazine for more than a year now—whether it's my fault or not I am not sure, since I left North Rhodesia (now Zambia) in a hurry in 1964 and took the post of hospital secretary at a native isolation hospital near Fort Victoria, Rhodesia, just before U.D.I. and have been in South Africa since January this year—no doubt some of my post just did not get delivered nor catch up with me.

I spent two months in Salisbury prior to coming South but was sorry to miss F. Gordon-Harper who was in the U.K. at the time.

In the last five months my wife and I have travelled just on 7,000 miles by car, seeing most places between Mossil Bay in the South to the Mozambique border in the North. My younger son is now with Anglo-American at Chiredzi in Rhodesia and my elder married son is a Game Ranger in Zululand helping to care for some very bad-tempered black rhinoceroses one of which very considerably decided not to charge the car when we visited them on our travels.

Somewhere between Katanga in the Congo and here I lost both my O.M. tie and the address book of Club members. I would be grateful for the address of the Club colour suppliers and a new members list if this is available.

If there are any O.M.s in Port Elizabeth we would welcome a call from them and, of course, from any others visiting. Prior advice of their coming is advisable in case I am away at the time.

We had a flat in East London and rather favour that city to this. But with a job to do it will not really matter much where we are situated as I can only get away for long at weekends.

We have had some of the coldest weather for thirty years in the last month, while we read that you have had some very hot weather, in fact, hot enough to seize Tower Bridge which was cooled off with water from Thames tugs' hoses.

I hope to hear from you soon and meanwhile send my very best wishes to the Club and especially to any who may remember me.

Yours sincerely,

W. Densham.

(1925-29)

Windyridge,
176 Kingston Road,
Taunton,
Somerset.
30th May, 1968.

Dear Dicky,

It must be many years since we last met, much to my regret, but I hope that I can at least make the Dinner next year.

I do not know if it is Magazine material but some of my contemporaries in the Football Club might like to know that at the last Taunton Borough Council Elections held on 9th May, 1968, I was successful, as a Conservative Candidate in gaining the seat from Labour with the highest number of Conservative votes ever recorded in my particular ward—1,126 to 565.

It was very hard work for six weeks canvassing 1,650 houses and poor Mary developed a very bad knee as a result of all the walking but it was worthwhile and the knee is now better. We were out each night for six days a week from about 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. I had a wonderful team of helpers but it is certainly the personal call by the Candidate and his wife which makes the impression—not that I am much to write home about!

It was sad to see the Cricket Club have to disband but it was a nice gesture on the part of Old Citizens to open their Club to O.M.s.

I wonder what the life of the Football Club is likely to be as this must be reaching the end in the not too distant future.

Incidentally I occasionally see Geoff Darke for a noggin, the last time being just before Christmas when Peter Squirrell was staying with him; quite naturally a lot of talk was about Football and the advantages of playing for one's Old Boys rather than Barts!

Remember me to any O.M.s whom you come across; one makes new friends when one moves to new districts but they are not quite the same as Old Boys of your old School.

All the best to you.

Yours very sincerely,

"Budge"

G. A. Finch.

(1919-24)

OTHER NEWS OF OLD MERCERS'

H. G. Andrew is back in Harrow after a year at Blundell's School, Tiverton. The Editor heard from him with regret that J. K. Tabert, "Tab" to his countless Old Mercer friends, has been seriously ill and is sure that all will join him in wishing "Tab" a speedy recovery; latest news from Mrs. Tabert (a good friend to many of us) is that he is "more himself than for a very long time".

J. H. J. Dewey (1910-16), still, by far, the Editor's most loyal correspondent, has this year retired from the Treasurership of the Corporation of Insurance Brokers, an office he has held since 1963.

"Jack" has also been Master of the Company of Barbers of the City of London this year and had oversight of the rebuilding of the Company's six-hundred-years' old Hall in Monkwell Square off London Wall. He was, until recently, President of the Bishopsgate Ward Club.

Finally, in a full year, Jack was presented, as Master, at Her Majesty's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 25th July.

E. J. Devereux, whom many will remember in the Geography room at Mercers', has been ill—his many old Mercer friends will wish him a speedy recovery.

J. R. Hawkins brought to the Reception a commemoration medal awarded to his brother-in-law, S. R. Seward (killed in World War I), as one of the winning team who got the Drill Association's Frankfort Shield (for shooting) in 1907.

At a meeting of the Pickwick Club the guest of honour was Major Stanley Wells (1897-1900) "probably the most youthful eighty-year-old you could meet in the City". Major Wells is a Common Councilman for Cripplegate Ward.

Many will remember the Rev. A. V. Wintersgill (1930-36); some may even have been stumped by him on the cricket field. We heard that he is still active on the games' field, though the game is now bowls. He is apparently known as the "firing canon" locally and has won his Club tournament regularly, the Champion of Champions tournament, and was doing well in the E.B.A. championships two years ago until eliminated in the third round. It is alleged that he once proposed to lay a carpet down the aisle of his church, St. Barnabas, Peterborough, and "have a roll-up".

It was good to see Mr. Harold Whate at the Oxford-Cambridge Club Dinner in November, enjoying his first evening out since a serious illness.

Telegram received on the evening of the Reception :

BEST WISHES FOR HAPPY RECEPTION SORRY
WE ARE NOT IN LONDON MR AND MRS
MCCLUNAN DURBAN.

(F. M. McClunan 1908-11)