

**THE
HARLOVIAN**



**The Magazine of
Harlow College,
Essex**

Vol. 9 No. 9

Winter, 1939-40

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WINTER, 1939-40

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Captain of the School: C. J. Ansell.

Prefects:

M. Willy, J. H. Elphick, G. A. Moses, A. J. Ritchie, R. L. Chapin, C. Copleston, D. Willmott.

Sub-Prefects:

E. J. Forbes, J. M. S. Jackson, J. M. D. Barrow, R. A. Spicer.

Football Captain: G. A. Moses.

Vice-Captain: J. H. Elphick.

Captain of Beatty House: J. H. Elphick.

Captain of Nelson House: M. Willy.

Captain of Keyes House: C. Copleston.

Captain of Rodney House: D. Willmott.

SCHOOL NOTES

National Savings. In the last weeks of March a Savings Group was started in the School, in the form of a Penny Bank, run in conjunction with the National Savings Association. A fair start was made, £8 being banked before the end of the term, there being some eighty members. It is noted, however, that records show that many elementary schools have done better than this, and it is hoped that the senior boys will follow the excellent example set to them by the very juniors in this matter.

* * *

National Service. Mrs. Dames is to be congratulated on having passed her First Aid Examination and the Home Nursing Examination, both of the St. John Ambulance Association. She is attached to the Harlow First Aid Post. Other

R. J. Bristol
Ridge View
Great North Road
Brookmans Park
No. 11, Hatfield
Herts

engaged in part-time National Service are Mr. Robertson, who is a Special Constable, and Mr. Morris, who has volunteered for First Aid work. Certain boys, also, of various ages, have done excellent work in the sphere of knitting comforts for the troops, and it is rumoured that they can turn out a better scarf than many neighbouring schools of the opposite sex. Mrs. Robertson is to be congratulated on the tuition given. Many of those who are unable to ply the needle have given of their funds to the Overseas League, through whom some seventy parcels of cigarettes have been sent to the men in France. The School, also, figured very largely in the Christmas treat which was given to the evacuees during the holidays, for eighty toys were handed over by the boys to those responsible for the entertainment, while Mr. and Mrs. Dames presented a cinema show on behalf of the school. Mrs. Dames is also local secretary to the British Red Cross Hospital Supply Depot.

* * *

Staff Changes. At the end of the Christmas Term we were very sorry indeed to have to say goodbye to Miss Horsey, the last remaining link with the old regime. She had given faithful service to the school for many years, first as form mistress of Form I and as Drawing Mistress, and later, when she founded a kindergarten school of her own in Harlow, as Drawing Mistress alone. She will be remembered both for her own artistic talents and for the very high standard to which she brought the art in the school, a legacy to her successor, Miss Mayes, who came to us from Ongar School in January last, and to whom we wish a happy and successful sojourn with us.

At the same time we had to say goodbye to Mrs. Hogg, who had for some two years taken Miss Horsey's work in Form II, and had during her last term nobly taken over some of her husband's work in the senior school. She has now joined her husband in Gloucestershire, where we wish them both all happiness. In place of Mr. Hogg we welcome Mr. W. Morris who has, in the short time he has been with us, shown that his enthusiasm extends over many fields.

* * *

Music. Under the direction of Mr. Morris the music of the school is taking a new lease of life. He now takes charge of the hymn practices and is making good use of the B.B.C. Schools' programmes which deal with music. In this he is receiving support from Messrs Edmonds and Hogarth.

* * *

Cinema. The weekly cinema shows have been held as usual throughout the winter months, and many interesting and amusing films have been seen, including Conan Doyle's "Lost World," and "Further Adventures of the Flag Lieutenant," with many comedies and instructive films. For obvious reasons we have not been able to have any treats in the way of Talkie shows.

* * *

The War Memorial Literature Prizes :—

The winners of the Literature prizes for the Autumn Term were:—Va (1) Copleston, (2) Phillips; Vb (1) Dixon, (2) Grant; IV (1) Stephenson, (2) Leever; U.R. (1) Dellow, (2) Phelps; L.R. (1) Graham i, (2) Buist; III (1) Baldock, (2) Kemp ii; II (1) Overton, (2) Tinney, (3) Bicknell.

And in the Spring Term :—Va (1) Copleston, (2) Jackson, (3) Elphick; Vb None; IV (1) Stephenson, (2) Cook, (3) Spicer ii; U.R. (1) Hullett, (2) Gardiner, (3) Phelps; L.R. (1) Buist, (2) Perring ii, (3) Hasler; II (1) Drain, (2) Desprez, (3) Swire.

SALVETE

Anderson, R. ; Ashby, H. G. R. ; Baggott, M. J. ; Baggott, B. R. ; Barham, B. O. ; Baskett, Ann E. ; Baskett, J. P. ; Bernie, H. L. ; Berry, B. W. ; Blackwood, Pat ; Blackwood, R. J. ; Bruck, L. C. ; Bruck, P. J. ; Bushell, Valerie I. ; Carey, R. H. ; Catherall, G. E. ; Collison, N. ; Cripps, D. E. ; Davison, C. E. ; Engeham, W. D. ; Engeham, R. ; Findlay, A. J. ; Gardiner, I. D. ; Geggus, R. C. ; Gray, Ann E. ; Hahn, P. V. ; Harvey, P. J. ; Hasler, E. W. ; Hunt, A. G. ; Jacobson, P. B. M. ; Kelly, G. ; Kittle, J. I. ; Koch, H. A. ; Lack, R. W. ; Laurie, Margaret W. L. ; Laurie, D. S. ; Leever, K. N. ; Marshall, R. G. ; Mayson, C. R. ; Maskell, J. F. A. ; Parsons, Shirley ; Parsons, P. C. H. ; Peacock, A. J. ; Perring, F. H. ; Perring, M. S. ; Power, B. E. ; Reiner, J. P. ; Robertson, D. F. ; Sait, R. A. ; Simons, Nita E. ; Slatter, Susan M. ; Slatter, C. M. ; Smith, P. J. ; Smith, R. ; Swire, A. C. ; Taylor, P. F. ; Tickner, D. ; Thomson, K. ; Vaughan, M. J. ; Warboys, F. E. ; Wilkins, J. F. L. ; Williams, C.

VALETE

Aptaker, J. ; Aptaker, B. ; Baskett, Ann E. ; Baskett, J. P. ; Blackwood, Pat ; Blackwood, R. J. ; Bonney, A. E. ; Bushell, Valerie I. ; Butler, I. L. ; Catherall, G. E. ; Chapin, R. L. ; Claasen, D. M. ; Collison, N. ; Cook, J. E. ; Dickinson, P. W. ; Dodd, G. E. ; Geggus, R. C. ; Grant, I. G. ; Gray, Ann E. ; Green, M. R. ; Guinn, G. B. E. ; Kicks, A. J. ; Horton, J. E. ; Hutchins, E. J. ; Jacobson, P. B. M. ; Jefferys, A. K. ; Long, F. X. ; Maguire, E. F. J. ; Mansfield, R. F. ; May, E. L. ; Reiner, J. P. ; Rowe, P. G. ; Schmidt, P. ; Schoults, J. R. ; Shone, R. D. C. ; Silcox, E. A. ; Silvester, T. G. M. ; Simons, R. E. ; Stewart, P. G. ; Stuart, R. S. G. ; Watson, R. V. ; Wilson, A. J.

HOUSE REPORTS

BEATTY HOUSE

Once again we can say we have had a fairly successful term, though it has not been very active owing to the war. However, in the football competition, which was the major event, we fared quite well and finished up second. We were unfortunate in losing our Football Captain after the first match owing to illness, and had it not been for this we might easily have been first in the competition. With the 2nd XI we held the same position as we have done for the last four years, namely, 1st.

In the Drama Festival, which was the other event of the term, we produced "Elegant Edward" and upheld our worthy reputation. Some of our seniors are now promising Badminton players and we hope for a crop of fine players when the juniors are allowed to play. Next term we hope to keep up the veteran tradition and carry off the Cross Country.

In the second term activities were greatly curtailed because of the severe weather, and then later the widespread sickness. There was only one house match against Nelson which we lost by 2 goals to 3. We were unable to field a full team because of illness, but we did the best we could. The match with Rodney had to be postponed and we finished up second in the games we played.

Owing to the cancelling of the Cross Country, table tennis was the only other major event. In the first tournament against Nelson we did not fare so well. In the second one we

were winning by quite a good margin, one of the players winning all five of his games. But, again, the tournament could not be completed.

In the middle of the term we were unfortunate in losing Grant, our Vice House Captain, who left to join the staff of a bank. Chapin also leaves us this term and joins the R.A.F. in the summer. We offer these our best wishes for success.

NELSON HOUSE

Although Nelson House was reduced to very small numbers this year we did not let this deter us from keeping up our old tradition. The very youthful football team came through the term unbeaten and for the fourth year in succession was top of the football championship.

Normally there would have been little other sports activity save football, but this term saw the introduction of Badminton into the school. The high standard of play shown amongst our senior members should place us at the top of any forthcoming house competition with ease.

For the Drama Festival we produced "In the Cellar" which deals with an air-raid situation in the last war. With our Housemaster's help we modernised the play, introducing an air-raid siren. The general level of the acting was this time so good that no actor was finally singled out as is normally the case for special praise.

Activity in the second term was greatly hindered by bad weather, but in the outdoor sports Nelson was at its best. We beat Beatty House by 3—2 goals, retaining the football cup which has not left our possession for four years. The Cross Country run was postponed, but Nelson men while practising showed great capabilities. Indoor sports was mainly confined to Table Tennis, in which many tournaments were held among the Nelson boys. The pick of these then challenged Beatty and easily beat them. The Junior Nelson-Beatty tournament in Table Tennis had to be abandoned because of sickness, when the scores were fairly even.

We are particularly indebted to our Housemaster, Mr. Edmonds, for co-operating with us in such a friendly spirit, and look forward to further successes.

RODNEY HOUSE

Rodney, if with little to report, can say that it has held its place in competition with the other houses. The 1st XI, although mostly made up of boys from the Lower School, has

proved its capability by equalising with stronger houses. In especial, creditable mention must be given to Muffett, Gemmill and Perring i. The 2nd XI did not win many games but has shown plenty of enthusiasm.

In the Drama Festival Rodney presented "A Man of Ideas." Phillips portrayed "the Man" very well, while Whitby gave a good performance as Billy. Willmott i and Gemmill completed the cast. The play was produced by our Housemaster, Mr. Hogarth.

This term we were sorry to lose our Vice-Captain, Simons. Without him the team has been considerably weaker but the Rodney house spirit has not been lost.

KEYES HOUSE

Once again Keyes House can congratulate itself on a very successful term. In the Drama Festival we surpassed ourselves. Our play "Between the Soup and the Savoury" was received with much applause, and might even be called the best play of the day. This was very ably produced by Mr. Butler. We were agreeably surprised by the exceptionally good performance of Emery, who has never before shone so much on the stage.

On the football field we were no less successful. In the past, although keen, Keyes has not had much success in this sphere, but this term we have shown what we can do. Of our five games we have won two and lost three. When it is remembered that only three members of last year's team are in this year's 1st XI, it can be seen that we have put up a very creditable performance. Of the new members of the team Dellow and Kelly, who have both played consistently well throughout the term, are certainly worthy of mention.

Our 2nd XI has not done well, owing entirely to lack of keenness and support from some of the younger members of the House. Now we look forward to even better things.

OUR VISIT TO AN AERODROME

On 15th December, 1939, Mr. Dames and Mr. Robertson took twelve boys by car to an aerodrome. On our arrival several officers, carrying model planes, gave us a lecture on the difference between our planes and the German ones. This lasted for half an hour. Then another officer took

us to a Hurricane plane standing outside its hangar. He then asked the pilot to show us over. In batches of two we were shown the uses of the controls and the button which, when pressed, fires all eight machine guns at the same time. After that the superbest pilot in the whole of the R.A.F. went up in his own plane. He did a power dive at 340 m.p.h., looped the loop and did the barrel roll. His name was "John Smith." Each pilot has his own plane, so that if a young pilot went up and tried to make the plane go too fast, he would spoil his own plane and nobody else's. These planes have to be thoroughly overhauled after every 300 miles of flying.

When "John Smith" came down again he got some men to fire the machine guns of his plane into a sand bank, and when it had all finished we collected the empty cases. Later we went to a hangar and went over a Bristol Blenheim with its pilot. It can carry three men, a gunner, a wireless operator, and a pilot.

We were very grateful to the authorities for allowing us to see so much of the R.A.F. at close quarters, and spent a very enjoyable morning.

D. N. Franklin.

STAGE

On the outbreak of war both B.B.C. and the Ministry of Education advocated intensive amateur theatricals as an alleviation of the blackout, and even more as a medium of pleasurable instruction, and we were proportionately pleased to reflect that we had been pursuing such a policy and believing in it for the last three years. So much so that, despite staff changes which deprived us of Messrs. Hogg, Harper and Robson (through whose generous and loving care for the new idea play-acting in the schoolroom was definitely established), we were able to complete once again a full-blown Drama Festival to finish the Christmas Term.

Messrs. Edmonds, Eldridge and Hogarth are to be thanked for continuing in a very able and understanding way this fruitful avenue of expression. Without their co-operation the Festival would not have been carried through, and their ready acceptance of the producer's task combined with the experience already afforded to most of the actors to effect a very successful Drama Festival. To Mr. Butler, too, we are grateful

for his continued direction of dramatic activities in Keyes House, and for his quite invaluable help in preparing the stage and its lighting.

Though evening rehearsals were limited to one stage instead of the customary two because of blackout difficulties, the full complement of six Form Plays and four House Plays was successfully staged, and through the good offices of Mrs. Robertson, we even were able to add an innovation—a playlet from Form II.

Form Va offered scenes from "Macbeth," with Ritchie (King Duncan), Copleston (Lady Macbeth), Jackson i (Macbeth), Forbes (Banquo), Barrow (Messenger and Witch), Tilley (Witch), and Phillips (Witch).

Form Vb gave scenes from "Henry V" with Seif (Katherine of France), Grant (Henry), Chapin (Capt. Gower), Dixon (Fluellen), Jefferys (Pistol), Brazier (French Lord), Hockley (the Boy).

These were produced by Mr. Cairns.

Form IV staged scenes from "Julius Caesar," the whole form being admirably regimented as the Roman mob with Kelly (Antony), Leever (Brutus), and Firkin (Cinna). Mr. Edmonds produced.

Form U.R. indulged in the deathless buffoonery of the yokel histrionics before Titania in "The Dream," with Bonney (Titania), Biss (Bottom), Harvey (Puck), Short i (Snug), Phelps (Starveling), Franklin (Snout). Play produced by Mr. Edmonds.

Form L.R., under the direction of Mr. Eldridge, scored an outstanding success with the fresh gaiety of "All on a Summer's Day," a tale of Robin Hood. The acting was an excellent combination of careful rehearsal and natural spontaneity.

It was one of the best plays we have had from such a young form. Cripps took the Robin Hood role, and the supporting actors were Collins ii, Perring ii, Menhinnick, Buist, Peacock, Congdon, Bristoll and Jackson ii. Both form and producer are to be congratulated on a very charming and finished piece of work.

Nelson's play was "In the Cellar," an echo of the last war, ably produced and modernised by Mr. Edmonds. The acting throughout was of a very high standard, so that if any player left a clearer impression than another it can only be because of having more words to say. The cast was made up by Ritchie, Moses, Stephenson, Cripps, Valder and Seif.

Beatty played "Elegant Edward" quite successfully with Jackson i, Brazier, Barrow, Jefferys and Forbes i as the players.

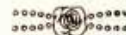
Rodney gave "A Man of Ideas," none too easy a piece, with Phillips, Whitby, Willmott and Gemmill as the cast.

Keyes redeemed its former failure with a definite success in giving "Between the Soup and the Savoury." Hicks, Copleston and Emery were the players. The performance of the latter (making capital perhaps out of a natural hesitancy) was outstanding.

FORMS III AND II

Form III under the direction of Mr. Hogarth, presented a play which was practically extempore. The plot was supplied by Mr. Hogarth and the actors supplied the dialogue. Just how well the players—Ann Gray, Soper, Kittle, Marshall, Power ii, Collison, Baldock and Tapley—entered into the spirit of their parts is evidenced by Tapley's utterance while aping an old man—"Go steady, my heart's weak."

Form II presented "The Little Red Shoes," a play about Father Xmas, in which John Baskett was excellent as Father Xmas, and sang his numbers sweetly. The parts of the shoe-makers were taken by Drain, Tinney and Gane. All four played charmingly and we hope that Form II will always help with a play towards the programme in the future. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Robertson for all her trouble in making so perfect this little play.



HARLOW COLLEGE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

In September, and under the supervision of Mr. Edmonds, the former debating society was revived and remodelled with the idea of widening its scope. Mr. Edmonds became chairman and the secretaries for the two terms were Willy and Forbes i. A number of political subjects have been debated and the standard of information shown was high. Very popular were the balloon debates, in which a dozen or so famous personalities of modern times were represented as travelling together in a balloon which is rapidly losing altitude. Each person made a speech in his own defence in order to avoid being sacrificed in the interests of the others by being thrown overboard. The results were amusing as were the speeches, in one case Mr. Cyril Fletcher being sacrificed while Herr Hitler and the President of the Board of Education retained their seats.

The second term opened with a debate on the suppression of Communist and Fascist organizations in this country, and the speeches were well received. On other evenings there were impromptu debates, one typical subject being "That kippers should swim flat and not folded."

Then followed a debate on "That this house believes in socialism." The motion was vigorously and enthusiastically debated and finally lost. To finish the winter's activities in the society a Mock Trial was held. A murder (a member of the staff being the supposed victim, which added interest) was arranged and motives, weapon and a realistic, nasty-looking criminal produced. The trial lasted three hours and scored a great success.

Altogether the Society's proceedings have been a great boon during the weary blackout, and have doubtless added something worth while to the school's store of knowledge.

THE SCOUTS

The Scouts opened their Autumn Term with a furious onslaught on the Scout gardens surrounding the Hut. A competition was arranged and prizes awarded for the best effort. The judges, Miss Pearl and Mr. Cairns, had a supremely difficult task in deciding the winners, and would willingly have dispensed with the honour paid to them if they could have avoided saying that any one garden was better than another. Indeed, there was little to choose, so well and so artistically

had the plots been laid out. Finally, however, since decisions must be made, the Woodpeckers were given first while the Owls got the consolation prize, since the latter did the most work and were unfortunate in having the most sunless area.

In the same term we had a feast followed by five-minute interludes from each patrol. The Kangaroos and the Owls offered vocal entertainment while the Woodpeckers and Eagles provided plays specially written for the occasion. The feast showed a mighty variety of eatables (if at times not easily recognisable to the eaters) and a number of the scouts passed their cooking tests.

In the second term so much havoc was wrought in the ranks from flu that no ambitious programme could be followed, and the remaining scouts who escaped illness spent their time in splicing ropes to be used for skipping in the gym.

Now we look forward to the real joys of scouting in summer time.

SPORT

We have to offer to Mr. Horsey our sincere apology for omitting his name from a previously published list of donors towards the Sports Prize Fund, especially as we know Mr. Horsey as an ever generous patron of our school activities. We offer him our heartfelt if very belated thanks.

HOUSE MATCHES

This season only 1st XI games were played. It was found impossible to raise two teams in the day-boy houses, owing to the fact that a large percentage have some distance to travel home before blackout commenced. Then in the Spring Term when the evenings were lighter, no play was possible for a month on account of the snow. Thus it was not found possible even to complete the 1st XI games, but sufficient were played to enable a decision to be reached. Nelson, with one more game to play, were in an unassailable position. Beatty, Keyes and Rodney, also with one game each not played, were level on points, Beatty, however, having a superior goal average.

The matches were divided into two sections, one for each term.

In the first series the results were as follows:—Beatty 0, Keyes 1; Beatty 1, Nelson 1; Beatty 2, Rodney 2; Nelson 3, Keyes 0; Nelson 5, Rodney 0; Keyes 2, Rodney 1.

The half-way table was :—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals		Pts.
					For	Against	
Nelson	3	2	1	0	9	1	5
Keyes	3	2	0	1	3	4	4
Beatty	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Rodney	3	0	1	2	3	9	1

In the second series the following games were completed :
Beatty 3, Keyes 1 ; Beatty 2, Nelson 3 ; Keyes 1, Rodney 3 ;
Nelson 1, Rodney 1.

Thus, the final placings were :—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals		Pts.
					For	Against	
Nelson	5	3	2	0	13	4	8
Beatty	5	1	2	2	8	8	4
Rodney	5	1	2	2	7	11	4
Keyes	5	2	0	3	5	10	4

TABLE TENNIS

Climatic conditions robbed us of outside sport but the indoor ones thrived and many exciting games of table tennis were enjoyed. As all the games were played after prep. it was an all-boarder affair. Teams of five were chosen, all playing all. They were :—

Beatty : Hannah, Elphick, Hullett, Grant, Cullum.

Nelson : Stephenson, Willy, Seif, Moses, Rolstone.

The first matches were completed and were such a success that a second series was started. Owing to illness it was not completely finished, two games being uncompleted. Nelson were the winners over the whole series, winning 29 games to Beatty's 20. This, however, does not truly represent the position as the greater proportion of the games were only decided by one or two points.

Second team matches resulted in a draw of 10 games all, thus giving Nelson the match by 39 games to 30. Altogether 58 games were finished and the points won were : Nelson 1,270, Beatty 1,057. That is, on the average, Nelson were the better by just over 3 points per game.

Individually the first six were :—

	Points won
1. Rolstone	142
2. Stephenson	119
3. Seif	112
4. Willy	111
5. Elphick	110
6. Grant	104

POEMS

By E. W. Edmonds

ODE TO A TOAD

Living between the lawn and gay herbaceous,
What enigmatic jewel do you possess,
In landed property more warmly spacious
Than all our ideological duress?
You execute your dull banausic duty,
Leaden-lipped caretaker of the summer show ;
Such ugliness may stimulate to beauty
In terms the hackneyed lily cannot know.

CHOICE

The wall flower sun has purged the air
Of lousy rumoured slow despair ;
These garden breezes would seek to prove
Creation quickens to very fair.

And man, the angel-streaked, the beast,
Always the greatest, always least,
Still makes monopoly of sin
Yet tries to join the wedding feast.

But shadows thicken, die nacht ist hier,
The choice is real though it may seem queer ;
Sign then now for an all-in-Hell,
Or sign for God and the end of fear.

NO HEALTH

Some funny people live in the world,
Some of them fat and some of them thin.
Some spend their time in original sin.
Some lean to Labour, and some to Tory,
But all men love their cash and their power and their glory.
For it's slosh 'em and shout at 'em,
Get in and win,
For it's heil to the Hitler beneath the skin.

EVACUATION

And I am Miss Emily Baterville,
Of the Limes ;
I've been trying to get a nice companion
Through the *Times*.

My old home in Hampshire has had
To be sold ;
My only surviving sister
Is ninety years old.

This new neighbourhood is not
Friendly at all ;
Even the local clergy
Don't call.

Hardly anybody knows that
I am here ;
The very thought of war makes me feel
Quite queer.

I shall be eighty this November
In the gloom ;
I will go and be good for trade
In Ilfracombe.



THE LEATHER INDUSTRY AS A CAREER FOR BOYS

[For the information contained in this article we are indebted to Professor D. McCandlish, Director of the Leather Industries Department at Leeds University, Mr. M. C. Lamb, ex-Principal of the Leathersellers' Technical College, Bermondsey, London, and formerly Editor of the *Journal of the Society of Leather Trades' Chemists*, and Mr. J. R. Blockey, Principal, Leathersellers' College.]

Leather in Early Times

The leather industry is probably the world's oldest industry, since the conversion of animal skin into leather has been practised from time immemorial. Indeed, in all kinds of historical writings we find reference to the use of skins and leathers for clothing and other purposes of utility. In Genesis III v. 21 we read that "Unto Adam also and unto his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothe them." Homer's *Iliad*, written 1200 B.C., describes what is probably the oldest form of good tanning; the chamoising of leather by forcing oil into the pores of the hide by beating and rubbing the skins whilst stretched. The Roman tanners, as also the Egyptian and Greek tanners, were distinguished by being considered a separate class of the community; and it is said that the Romans used leather for money and that the word "pecuniary" is derived from the Latin word *pecus*, meaning hide. It is also stated that the Romans gave the world the word "tan," derived from *tanare*, a Roman word for oak bark.

Leather in the Middle Ages

The Trade Guilds or fraternities, sometimes called "misteries" or companies founded in the Middle Ages, were the first attempts at the organization of an industry, and the importance of the leather industry in association with the trade guilds may be gauged from the fact that of some 111 different trades being practised in London in 1422, no less than 11 of these were associated with the leather industry.

It is interesting to note that in almost every civilized country in the world leather has always been applied to uses where strength and resistance to atmospheric conditions have been demanded.

The earliest settlers in America found that the North American Indians had already discovered the art of making leather chiefly for the purpose of harness, clothing and tents, and that skin dressing was regularly practised by the Indian squaw. Still further North, the esquimaux women have been responsible for the conversion of skin to leather for the purpose of making wearing apparel.

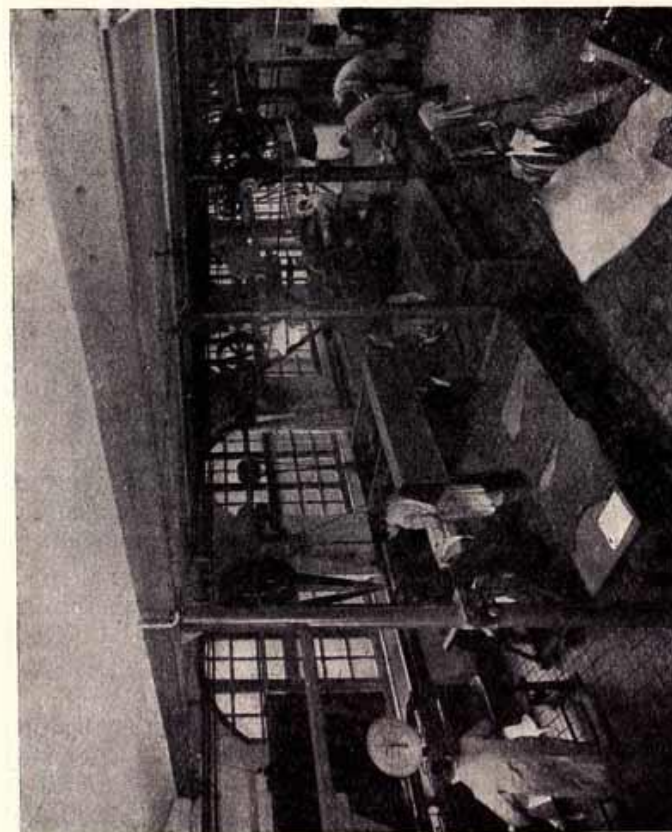
The Application of Modern Scientific Methods

It is curious that, in spite of the fact that the manufacture of leather is perhaps the fourth or fifth most important industry in the world, really serious work with a view to attempting definitely to ascertain the extremely complex and variable physical character of the skin and the leather made therefrom, was not attempted on a truly scientific basis until comparatively recently.

In a Chandler Lecture given at the Columbia University by Dr. J. A. Wilson a few years ago it was pointed out as an example of the glaring ignorance of the properties of leather that one of the causes of discomfort in the wear of certain leathers used for shoes was excessive shrinkage and expansion of the leather due to change of atmospheric conditions, and that this defect was capable of being overcome by a change in the method of tanning.

It was only towards the end of the last century that science was applied to the manufacture of leather in an organized way, with a view to obtaining an explanation of the complex chemical and physical reactions, which take place in the conversion of the raw pelt into the tanned leather.

The first serious attempt in the direction of the application of science to this old-time industry may be stated to have commenced when Mr. Henry Richardson Procter—a practical tanner who had a scientific bent—was appointed to the Chair of "Leather Industries" at Leeds University in 1891. This man, whose scientific attainments later obtained world-wide recognition, may truly be regarded as the pioneer of the scientific advancement of the industry. Since the time of his appointment considerable progress has been made in the application of science to leather manufacture. It may be said that



STUDENTS AT WORK IN THE FINISHING ROOM IN A LEATHER INDUSTRY COLLEGE

it is only during the last 40 years that the industry has changed from being entirely empirical and dependent for its success upon the experience of the individual tanner who worked strictly according to "rule of thumb" methods, into a well understood chemical industry.

Leather manufacture as practised today may be regarded as an advanced science; the quality of the production being dependent upon the exact application of scientific principles. The leather trade, because of its antiquity and the mystery with which it was enshrouded in the past, has ever been a somewhat close preserve, and its members have been almost exclusively recruited from families actively associated with it. In order to make headway in this industry, the leather manufacturer of the future must necessarily possess an intimate knowledge of the scientific principles underlying the very intricate chemical processes upon which the manufacture is based.

Career Prospects in the Industry

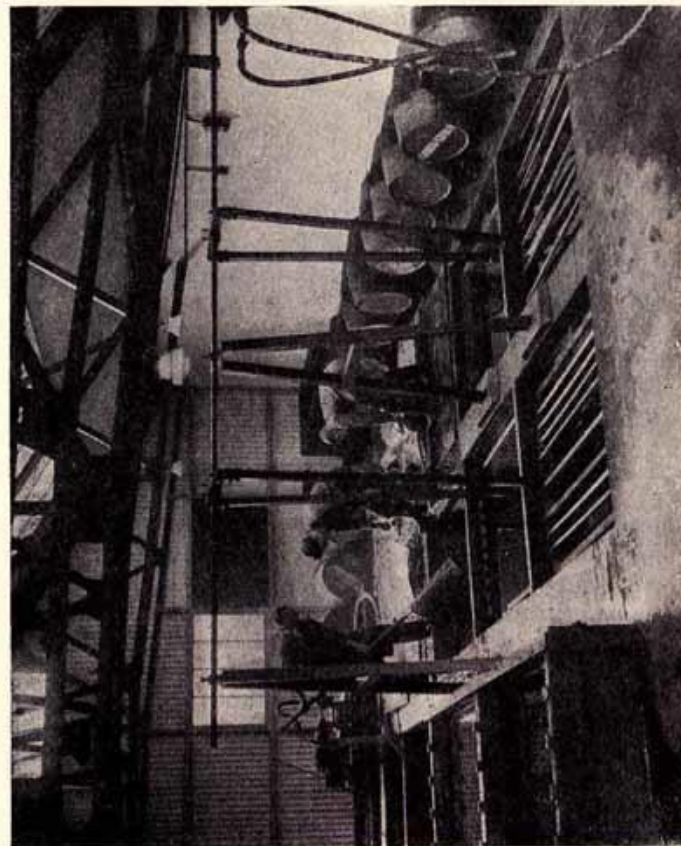
The leather trade offers an extremely good career for a youth possessing the necessary attainments. The need for scientific knowledge in the industry is now fully recognized, and there is a continual demand for students who have been trained in one or other of the educational establishments specializing in this branch of chemical science.

It is no exaggeration to state that the demand for the trained individual is very considerably in excess of the supply, and in this respect the industry probably stands unique.

The tendency hitherto has been for the Public or Secondary School boy to adopt as his future career one of the professions, to the undoubted detriment of industry and also, to a very considerable extent, except in the case of an isolated and privileged few, to the detriment of the individual's pocket.

Industry is today calling for more scientific application and more exact knowledge of the various processes associated with it, and the leather industry, which ranks as the fourth or fifth most important industry in the United Kingdom, is keenly alive to the advantages to be gained by scientific knowledge, as is evidenced by the support the industry is giving to education and research. Consequently, the boy who has an interest in science, a penchant for engineering, and a liking for constructive effort, can make rapid headway in the industry.

Leather manufacture is probably built upon a greater number of sciences than any other industry. Whilst chemistry forms a very important part indeed, engineering, physics, and even art, also play an important rôle. The modern tanner re-



HEAVY LEATHER TANNERY

quires analytical data not only of materials which he is purchasing, but of goods in course of manufacture at well-defined stages, in order that he may keep a complete check and thus control his manufactured output. The analytical data required are very comprehensive, necessitating as they do the analysis of such divergent materials as tanning agents, water, tannery liquors, oils, fats and waxes, dyestuffs and finishing materials; this requires a knowledge of both organic and inorganic chemistry of an advanced character, and at the same time a somewhat extensive knowledge of analytical chemistry in practically all its branches.

Where Training is Obtainable

Suitable training is given in the science and technology of leather manufacture in the two leading British Institutions:—

The Leather Industries Department of Leeds University and Leathersellers' Technical College, Bermondsey, London.

The Leather Industries Department of Leeds University provides specialized instruction in the science and practice of leather manufacture. In general, a student taking a leather course devotes his times equally to the study of pure science and technology. Various courses of study are available, some of which lead to the degree of Bachelor of Science, with pure chemistry and the chemistry of leather manufacture as principal subjects. For non-matriculated students a Diploma Course may be followed, or a special course arranged to meet individual requirements. The laboratories, experimental tannery, and workshop are equipped with all apparatus and machinery necessary for practical instruction and demonstration purposes. Devonshire Hall, the University Hostel for Men Students, provides adequate accommodation for one hundred and fifty students. Facilities for all branches of athletics are provided, and the football, cricket and sports grounds rank with the best in the North of England.

A new Students' Union building and swimming bath will soon be available, and a modern gymnasium is already in use. Thus a student has ample facilities for healthy indoor and outdoor relaxation. Recently a voluntary system of medical supervision was instituted which has proved attractive to a great many students.

It should be added that all students must reside either in Devonshire Hall or in lodgings approved by the University. A complete list of the latter is obtainable from the Supervisor of University Lodgings.

Training in London

Leathersellers' Technical College, London, was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of London in 1909. For fifteen years prior to this date the Leathersellers' Company of the City of London, in conjunction with the London County Council and the Borough Polytechnic, carried on the specialized training at Herold's Institute, Bermondsey, a technical school for leather manufacture, which gave some two hundred students a technical training. Though this school was successful, in the course of time it became obvious that the Herold's Institute was not adequately equipped to give a thorough practical and technical training, and the Court of the Leathersellers' Company, wishing to maintain and strengthen their historic connection with the Leather Industry, built the present Technical College in 1909, and equipped it with every facility for giving comprehensive instruction in leather technology.

The object of the College is to provide both practical and theoretical instruction in the manufacture of leather of all descriptions; its aim being not only to train men to become conversant with general leather manufacturing methods, but also be familiar with the materials they are employing and the scientific principles underlying the various manufacturing processes.

The Course of Study

- (1) Practical, including instruction in the manufacture of every class of leather.
- (2) Theoretical, including lectures in the science and manufacture of leather and the necessary fundamentals incidental to their application to the leather industry of the sciences of chemistry, bacteriology, microscopy, physics, engineering, and cost accountancy.

A two-year course for the Diploma of Leathersellers' Technical College is recommended for students who eventually hope to occupy positions as Managers, Departmental Heads, or Leather Trades' Chemists. Before entering the Diploma Course a student must either have passed an examination equivalent to the Matriculation standard or have satisfied the College Authorities that he has sufficient general knowledge to enable him to benefit by the course. In order to qualify for the Diploma, the candidate must have attained a satisfactory standard in the several sessional examinations held at the end of each year, and, at the termination of the course, in special written examinations on the Science and Practice of Leather Manufacture and also in Practical Tests.

The Associateship of Leathersellers' Technical College is the highest award granted to students. The Associateship is only granted to students who have attended a full-time three years' course of instruction approved by the College Authorities. Before entering for an Associateship course, students must possess sufficient knowledge of chemistry and general science to enable them to benefit by the course of instruction. The standard of knowledge required is of a much more advanced character than that required for the Diploma. The course is intended for those students who will endeavour to obtain a high standard of scientific knowledge, and only such are permitted to sit for the examinations.

The College contains practical workshops fully equipped with the most up-to-date machinery which enables students to carry out most processes in the manufacture of the chief varieties of leather under what are practically factory conditions. There are, in addition, large Chemical Laboratories, Bacteriological Laboratory, an Experimental Tannery, and an Experimental Dyehouse.

The social side of the College is catered for by the Corium Club, which was established after the War as a Students' Union, and is very successful. The Club aims at fostering a spirit of good fellowship amongst the students and organizes spare-time recreation.

The Boy Who is Needed

Students desirous of entering these institutions should have received a sound preliminary education, either in a Public or a good Secondary School. The minimum entrance age to the London College is 16 years, and students should preferably have a knowledge of elementary chemistry; and to Leeds University 17 years. The entrance requirements of the two Institutions differ, but full particulars regarding these and the courses of study available may be obtained upon application to the respective registrars, at The University, Leeds, 2, or Leathersellers' Technical College, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London, S.E.1.

THAT ASS, BALHAM

At the University, Balham was considered "a bit of an ass." It took him five years to graduate, and then he only obtained a third class.

He never took anything seriously.

When the University authorities, who were making a census of old students, wrote and asked him what he was doing, he replied to the effect that he was passing a life of meditation, dreaming dreams and doing nothing in particular, and he signed himself "Childe Harold."

When a friend asked him "Well, Balham, what do you intend doing with your life?" he would reply laconically, "I intend writing a book, and afterwards devoting my life to the study of music."

He bought a typewriter and wrote dozens of short stories, essays and poems, all of which were never published.

He became a tourists' guide in Germany, a translator on a small Parisian newspaper, a hotel assistant in Madrid and a secretary to a Greek business man.

One summer found him in Trieste as a tutor in English at an Italian summer school.

In his letters home he wrote: "This is a wonderful country. I can now understand why Byron referred to Italy's beauty as fatal. For there is something dangerously fascinating about it. I have started writing a novel with this part of Italy as a background. If it is published I shall have realized one of my wildest dreams."

He bought a yacht and spent most of his spare time wandering among the many islands of the East Adriatic shore.

In another letter he wrote: "The beauty of the country must be seen to be appreciated. The skies at night are literally purple and the sea in the daytime is the softest of dark blues. How wonderful it all is."

His work finished in the late afternoon, he would sail down the coast a little way, return at dusk and withdraw to his room where he typed away at his novel until the early hours of the morning. He spent all his week-ends in his yacht. Sometimes he took the little dockyard boys on small expeditions with him. He spoke Italian fluently and these urchins kept him amused with their incessant chattering and tales about the neighbourhood.

On occasions when the attraction of the sea was not so strong as usual, he would walk into the mountain fastnesses, behind the city, talking with the rugged mountaineers, charmed by their folk-lore and their quaint and weird tales.

He spoke Italian so well that they never suspected that he was English and he never told them, for he felt proud of his mastery over the language.

From the summit of a high mountain, he would scan the country for miles around with a pair of binoculars.

One evening, he had returned after one of his itineraries, when he found his room occupied by two policemen, his private belongings ransacked, his typewriter commandeered and all his manuscripts confiscated.

"What is the meaning of this?" he demanded coldly.

"We have orders to confiscate certain possessions of yours and take you into custody," replied one policeman.

"But why?" demanded Balham indignantly. The policemen merely shrugged their shoulders.

He found later that he had been arrested on suspicion of being a spy. His landlord who lived beneath his room had been suspicious of his nocturnal activities. He complained how his English tenant locked himself in his room at night and typed away until two or three in the morning.

Thus it seemed that adventure had at last broken the placid flow of Balham's life.

He protested his innocence vigorously. At a secret court certain of his manuscripts were read out and he was asked to explain them. The following passage describing an island south of —— was read: "Approaching the island from the west the traveller sees a rugged wall of limestone rocks rising sheer from the sea, a gloomy wall of rock that presents a formidable barrier in every respect. But on rounding the southern corner of the island quite a different panorama meets the eye. On this side countless little valleys enter the sea, valleys which appear forlorn, deserted and uninhabited until, having explored one of them, you find them throbbing with human activity, industrial as well as agricultural.

To one of these valleys came the Count of Arethusa, in his search for the Tulliente treasures. According to his plan the most likely spot for its discovery lay on the south-east extremity of the island in latitude 44 N. and longitude 15 E. He found it very difficult to land at this point and was forced to make a detour and approach it from the south-east, which meant that his direction was now completely reversed, since he approached from the westward . . ." There followed a plan. This passage had been heavily underlined as though his questioners really believed that there was treasure hidden there.

Balham pleaded his case vehemently. He was writing a book; he had chosen this part of Italy as its background;

his description of the island in question had been necessary for purposes of verisimilitude; he had adopted this method of description from Edgar Allan Poe, another author who had fallen in love with Italy. He quoted passages from the writer to illustrate his point.

He told them he had been writing short stories for years, and showed them yarns of his such as "Heart Burn," "The Soul's Desire," "Love in Spring," etc.

For a whole month his arrest and trial was front page news in five countries. In England he became famous in a night. His friends at home became alarmed for his safety, because, knowing what an ass he was, they doubted whether he had the common-sense to retrieve himself from his dangerous position. They almost envied him a little for he had almost become a national hero.

However, either because of his innocent blue eyes or— and this was the more likely reason—because no further discoveries were made concerning any connexion he might have with some secret service agency, Balham was acquitted of all charges.

Balham was so terribly shocked—"most fratefully unnerving" he told one reporter—by this sudden and abrupt interference with his normal course of life that he did not stay long after that in Italy—in fact, he only stayed long enough to pack his things.

At Victoria, cheering crowds greeted his arrival; in fact, it was a typical British-subject-vindicated-and-Union-Jack-unsullied mob.

A dozen perspiring policemen escorted him to a waiting car. Safely ensconced in the back seat, all alone, he told the driver, "The War Office, Whitehall."

Arrived there, he hurried through a labyrinth of passages, until he came, by instinct, to a door with the number 15. He entered and handed to an impassive man a pile of carbon copies.

"Good work," said the impassive one.

"Thank you," said Balham, and without another word he left the room.

H. H. Morris.

OLD HARLOVIANS

A CALL TO MEMBERS OF THE OLD HARLOVIANS CLUB

I have struck upon the idea of using the Magazine as a means of telling you something which I hope will be of great interest to you all, and before I go any further I will say I am greatly indebted to Mr. Dames for his kind permission to do so, and to our Editor for giving this the "once over" in his truly editorial manner.

To get to the point, as they say. I as your rather inexperienced Hon. Secretary took upon myself to call a meeting of your Committee on Saturday, March 16th last, to consider the position in which we now find ourselves.

War conditions have naturally curtailed our activities up to the present but I am pleased to tell you the members of the Committee present at the above-mentioned meeting have come to the conclusion that there is really no need to allow these conditions to interfere with such of the activities as are capable of being carried out, and I was accordingly instructed to do all in my power to arrange a DINNER AND DANCE on SATURDAY JUNE 22nd NEXT AT 6 P.M. at the "Pavois Arms," Page Street, Westminster, and consequently I now appeal to one and all who find it possible to do so to come along on that evening with their ladies.

I feel almost bold enough to say there is "no limit" to the number that can be accommodated; most certainly all will be welcome on this occasion. It is up to you to give me a real "headache" by coming along in large numbers—I nearly said "large lumps"—I promise you I shall not complain.

It is, of course, realized that generally the weather, very funny at times we all know, towards the end of June is quite warm, but there is however one thing which is certain—war or no war—the evenings remain quite light until quite late. This is one of the reasons for picking on this date for our gathering.

Consideration has also been given to other matters, of which I will have more to say later.

The Dinner will be the best circumstances will permit, and all the attendant requisites will be available.

It has been agreed that the cost on this occasion shall be 8s. 6d. per head.

It is the earnest desire of your Committee that this should be considered by all members and their guests as one

of the occasions when all those present should thoroughly enjoy themselves, and consequently the only regulations that have been made deal with the following:—

1. Dress: Morning Dress or Uniform. *SHOES for dancers, please.*
2. Behaviour: This should be traditional and strictly collegiate. Freedom of action will be encouraged.
3. Speeches: These are to be reduced to a drastic minimum, and an assurance is given that those that are made will be brief and in good humour, and helpful. I have no doubt that there are sure to be some of our members present who will know how to deal with "gas bags."

The menu will be chosen with great care and will be as near as possible as follows:—

Crepe Dubarry
Consomme Celestine

—
Fried Fillet of Sole
Tartare Sauce

—
Braised Tongue, Madeira Sauce
Chateau Potatoes
Spinach

—
Roast Chicken and Bacon
French Salad

—
Pear Cardinal

—
Biscuits and Cheese

—
Coffee

I expect I have taken up much too much space already, but it is now off my chest, and I leave the rest to you. If you will support my theory that we can have an enjoyable evening in spite of "that man" with a little black appendage on the upper lip, I, in turn, will assure you I will do everything possible to justify that support.

I ask you, therefore, to fill in the blanks in the enclosed card and post it off to me at once—this will enable me to do my job properly.

While I am at it I want to tell you that yearly subscriptions are now due and I shall be glad to receive these at your early convenience. If any members now serving with the Forces would like to leave the payment of their subscriptions in abeyance this may be done without in any way affecting the continuance of their membership of the Club.

Should this Magazine reach a member "Somewhere in France," etc., I would ask him to drop our Editor a line for insertion in the Magazine telling us about himself and his doings, within, of course, the bounds permitted to be told. Old Harlovians one and all are very anxious to hear from you.

FINALLY—FILL UP THE BLANKS on the enclosed card AT ONCE, please. Do not send me any money until you hear from me again.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

NEWS AND EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

Douglas de Lisle (1901-1906), Harlow Estate Post Bag, Gingindhborn, Zululand. "I am hoping to hear what is going on in England and how the war is affecting you all. There is no doubt that this country was on the verge of civil war, when the vote on neutrality was taken in September. It is a blessing that General Smuts rose to the occasion and stood by England. Things have settled down here now and Smuts is rapidly getting the defence of the Union into something like ship-shape. The Republicans here are always shouting and threatening to break away from England, but fortunately they are in the minority, and the reasonable Dutchmen are quite satisfied, knowing when they are well off. The farm has had a very successful year, and we have bought a nice big car which takes us to Durban and back—a distance of 200 miles—in comfort. All the family are keeping well and the grandson is now toddling about. I was so looking forward to coming to England in 1940, but, unless the war is over, I don't think I shall. My wife told me only to-day she would not go on the sea with all these submarines and mines about."

* * *

R. Leith (1894-1903), Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2. "I hope to be at the Old Harlovians Committee Meeting, but I find that nearly all my spare time is taken up with A.R.P. work, as I am a Post Warden, and have about 40 wardens to look after, besides various trench shelters, which are usually half full of water. John Gilpin is now a full captain in the Tank Corps, not bad at 23."

Captain John Horsey (1906-1912), Imperial Airways Ltd. "I am schoolmastering like the rest of the Horsey family. I am instructing. After 17 years as a pilot on the civil air routes, I am now handing my experience on to younger pilots, and I spend most of my time explaining the working of a modern aeroplane and taking them up for instruction flights."

* * *

D. E. Rintoul (1921-1924), P.O. Box 284, Singapore. "The war has made very little difference to us here. Sometimes I feel mean for continuing to enjoy a happy, peaceful life, but people in England all seem to feel that the fineness has gone out of war, and say to me 'Keep out of it if you can, and good luck to you.' The war has done one good thing for me. It caused the recall of a War Office man to England and allowed me to take his house. The house is right beside the sea, so that at high tide we can dive straight out of the garden into about 8 feet of water. So far we haven't encountered any sharks. By levying a small tax on the vast amounts of tin and rubber exported from this country the Government gets all the money it requires and only puts small taxes on drinks, tobacco and opium for pin money, to so speak. We pay no income tax, but even so the Straits Settlements Government sends the Chancellor of the Exchequer a free gift of a million pounds, amid much back-slapping and ceremonial noises generally. Personally, I feel we ought to pay much heavier taxes here, though I should dislike it as much as anyone. Thank goodness to-day is a holiday. It is called Thai Pusam. It is the Indian holiday on which they stick needles all over their bodies, and spears through their cheeks and tongues. It is not a very pretty or useful business. A few months ago I saw the Indian fire-walking ceremony, and if any one tells you that it is all a trick, you can assure them that they are wrong. The explanation probably is that these people never wear shoes so the soles of their feet are extraordinarily tough, and a little treatment with alcohol or something similar is all they need. They are so under-developed mentally that it is also possible that their appreciation of the pain is not great."

* * *

P. A. Compton (1925-1931), Pay. Sub-Lieut. R.N.V.R. "I am here now after a period of cruising in the Atlantic since November last year. The work is quite interesting though so far it has not been extremely exciting. Perhaps my best experience has been serving on the H.M.S. *Exeter* for six weeks—joining her just after her triumphant action, and leaving her on the way home. In our spare time we have

quite a lot of swimming, hockey, cricket and football. This life is certainly a most amazing box of surprises. I certainly did not expect, when I left Harlow, that I would travel in less than six months to the Falkland Islands and then to this place. Furthermore, you can imagine my surprise, when I walked into the ward room of our depot ship, to see a face I knew in my school days. We looked at each other for a whole day before I realized it was Clark, V., who if you remember obtained a scholarship to Merchant Taylors' School. He is now a Sub-Lieut. in the R.N.V.R. In private life he is a journalist and married. It was 13 years since we had met, and we had an interesting yarn about the old days, and old masters, including Mr. Blytheman and 'Condor' Harris. It was like some good fresh air in this rather sultry atmosphere."

* * *

The following extract concerning *Eric Peel-Yates* is taken from a Clacton newspaper:—"The distinction of having travelled some thousands of miles in order to take an active part in the war belongs to a member of the Peel-Yates family. This week Mrs. Peel-Yates welcomed home her second son, Eric, who left a most important and interesting position with Courtaulds Ltd. in South Africa, in order to come back to England to join the Forces. He has been in South Africa for some years, but determined to bid the Union goodbye, for a time at least, in order to play his part in the great struggle. It is an inspiring example of the patriotic spirit, which actuates sons of Britain in all parts of the world."

* * *

Mrs. Castle (1936-1939), c/o British Embassy, Ankara, Turkey. "It was very cold on the boat and colder still in Paris. After I got on the Simplon express there, everything was plain sailing. I was very lucky in finding that Lady Truited and her daughter were on the train. They were going to Palestine (her husband is chief justice out there) and came all the way with me. Harry met me at Istanbul, and after that everything was wonderful. This is a very funny place and terribly expensive. I know quite a number of Turkish words already, but shall have to learn a great deal more; as, when we move into our flat next month, I shall have to deal with a maid who speaks Turkish only. I have finished all my official calls now, I am glad to say, and have met all the English community. Out here one does not start paying calls until four o'clock, and one has to ring up and ask if one may call. I have already, in less than two weeks, paid five calls, been to three lunches, two dinners and a cocktail party, not

including a lunch at the Embassy. After my quiet life in England I have suddenly been rushed into meeting everyone one should know out here, and very interesting people they are."

* * *

D. H. Mason (1923-1928). "I joined the London and North Eastern Railway after leaving school, but three years later, as opportunity for promotion to any position of importance seemed to be lacking, I decided to leave, and was fortunate to gain a position in the Law Courts. Although I cannot pretend that the latter is a tremendous plum, the work itself is interesting and promotion is not entirely blocked, as it was in my previous post. As you will see from my address, I am at present, and shall be for the duration, in the Navy. I cannot tell you anything of the Navy proper, as this is only a preliminary training camp, and I have been in it only a week, but I can say that, so far, the life has been very enjoyable, for, although discipline is strict, it is not severe, food is good and abundant, and there is ample entertainment at amazingly cheap prices. When I have become a really hard-bitten son of the sea, I will write again."

* * *

Driver H. E. Minett (1930-1934), 955970, Ki, Squad 10, C Battery, 22nd Medium and Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery. "I have had the 'Harlovian' sent me from home and having thoroughly enjoyed the section devoted to news of Old Boys, I thought I would write a few lines about myself. I was one of the many who enlisted during the January cold spell, and naturally found the change from home comforts worse than ever. I did not see the barracks ground free from snow for four long weeks, but now that the weather has improved, and I have rather a comfortable job of driving cars and lorries about most of the day, life in the Army has become much more pleasant. I remember that my first school report had against the space for remarks 'Lacks *esprit de corps*' and for the remainder of my time at the college I endeavoured to rectify that defect. Now that I am in the Army I find that in all things *esprit de corps* plays a very important part, so my scholastic training in that direction was of great use. As you will probably remember, I was in the school dance band with the two Stocks, and we kept up this hobby until the war intervened. I still correspond with both—Stock i being at home, unfit for service, and Stock ii being in France with the B.E.F. In conclusion, I should much like, if possible, to be remembered to the fellows who were at college with me, and I hope that you are all in the best of health."

S. F. Browne (1931-1937), Artists Rifles. "We were stationed at the Daily Sketch Holiday Camp for Children at . . . for a month, but as the place was condemned by the M.O. for winter use we moved to . . . We moved only just in time, because the rain started and after only one day the rooms or huts were running with water, and the ground soaking. I was glad to leave because we were so far from anywhere. Now every four minutes there is a bus running to the nearest town. The Artists have more or less passed away and we are now the 163rd Officer Cadet Training Unit. I had the honour to mount the last guard of the Artists Rifles before the old companies were split up into new training companies. Under the new system of training the jobs of the officers and N.C.O.s are taken over by the cadets. It is a good plan, as it gives one useful practice. These barracks are quite comfortable and in great contrast to the holiday camp, which was essentially a summer resort. Here we have coarse sheets and blankets, and proper iron bedsteads, and fires in the room. We have also good blackout arrangements, so we can see after it gets dark. The bank manager has written several times to me and also to my father, and he says that there is every possibility of my getting back into the bank after the war, and that he hopes I shall." (S. F. Browne now has a commission.—E. P. H.)

* * *

Mrs. Seed, 4 Devonshire House, Brondesbury, N.W.6, writes: "John (1928-1935) passed out of Cranwell at Christmas, 1938, and went to Palestine last March, where he is L.A.C. in the R.A.F., and out of trouble for the present at any rate. Harry got his wireless ticket last May, and was for a while at sea, but he always wanted to fly, and the war has given him the opportunity. He has been with the Scottish Aviation Co. in Scotland since October, instructing for the R.A.F. There is some talk of the R.A.F. taking this company over, in which case Harry would automatically become Sergeant Instructor. In the meantime he is studying for his flying ticket, and is anxious to go in for the exam. next month, as it is the last which will be held at the pre-war standard."

* * *

Roy E. Wells, 29 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, writes: "Since September I have been working as a Junior in the British Standard Assurance Association. I am hoping to get into the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Association, but this is not at all certain."

J. E. Bradbury (1933-1937), The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. "I am thoroughly enjoying myself in the K.O.Y.L.I. I have only been here three weeks, but I already feel as if I were at home. The training is really not difficult for us, because most of the men are recruits, and the sergeants do all the work. There are now ten officers in this regiment who were with me in the Artists at . . . We, therefore, have a very good time, and as we are in the majority in the mess, we do not have much trouble. As you probably already know Struan Browne has been sent to . . . It is rather out of the way, but as there are already two Artists there, he ought to find it all right."

* * *

James H. Wood (1931-1935), A3181, A Company, 4th Training Battn., R.A.O.C., etc. "As you see from the address above, I am now in the Army, training as a storeman in the Ordnance Corps. I haven't really started serious work yet, as I have been inoculated and have 48 hours free of duty in consequence. I shall not be able to get any leave till I have been here a month, but I got used to being away from home for long stretches, while I was at the training college, and am quite enjoying myself. The food is substantial and good. The Army boots, which are always supposed to be so heavy and uncomfortable, are not at all bad when you get used to them."

* * *

J. G. Grant (1937-1940), Rosemaerkie, Orchard Lane, Amersham, Bucks. "This is to thank you for sending me the R.A.F. form. I started work in the bank a fortnight ago, and I am now getting used to the atmosphere. The hours are not bad. They are from 9 to 12.30 and from 1.30 to 5, or earlier if it is not a busy day. I have been most fortunate in being sent to the bank at Amersham, as the manager and cashier have both tried to make me feel at home. It was, of course, quite a shock for me to have to leave at such short notice, especially as the plays and football were just getting into full swing, but it was much too good an offer to refuse. I hope soon to join the 'Old Boys' Club,' and keep in close touch with the College."

* * *

R. Poynter (1927-1931), 290 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, S.E.9, who applied recently for a commission in the R.A.F.V.R., writes:—"I am glad to say that I have passed my medical exam. A1. I was very pleased to learn that Mr. Cairns is still with you. By this time he is a piece of the College. If he is still teaching Shakespeare, he should soon be qualified for a part at the 'Old Vic'."

Hearty congratulations to *Captain H. L. Gummer* on his appointment as A.D.C. to the Governor General of South Africa. H. L. Gummer, who is a nephew of Mrs. Horsey, was one of our most successful pupils. From Harlow he won an open scholarship to St. Lawrence's College, Ramsgate, where he did extremely well both scholastically and at sports. From St. Lawrence's he went to Sandhurst. He gained his commission shortly before the end of the war, proceeded to France, and unluckily was very soon taken prisoner. After the war he remained in the Army for some years and was for a time A.D.C. to General Whygham. As soon as the present war began he received a staff appointment at the War Office, which he held till he became A.D.C. to Sir Patrick Duncan.

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We were very pleased to receive a visit from *R. C. Bloore* (1919-1928). While at school he distinguished himself by passing the School Certificate when only 14, and followed up this early success by passing the London Matriculation when barely sixteen. On leaving school he joined the Midland Bank, and maintained his school record by getting through the difficult Bankers Institute Examination at the age of 21, which is no small feat; as all the study has to be done in the evening, after a hard day's work in the bank. He joined the H.A.C. in April last.

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Another welcome visitor was *C. K. Hodges* (1927-1932), now in the K.O.R.R. On leaving school he went into a furnishing firm at Newcastle, and in his spare time studied to become a chartered secretary. He became a territorial in January 1939, and joined up just before war, and is now somewhere abroad.

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L. C. Barnes (1928-1936) was another welcome visitor. When the war broke out he was serving as an apprentice in the motor engineering firm, Mann, Egerton & Co. He joined the militia in September 1939, is at present in the K.R.R.C. All who remember how pleased we were when he was chosen as one of the Essex County Schoolboys' Football team, will be sorry to hear that he has had to give up Soccer altogether on account of a damaged knee.

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Geoffrey Hodson (1932-1937), The Grange, Bishop's Stortford, has now, we are glad to say, recovered from his long illness and is a "city man" in a stock-jobber's office, and standing up to the daily work quite well.

A. Vallé-Jones, like his brother, has now joined the Merchant Service, and has successfully completed his first voyage.

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C. E. Lawrence, No. 2332235, Signalman, Squad 256, B. Company, Royal Corps of Signals, writes that he is comfortable and happy in his new occupation.

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W. M. Brown, O. Tel., Fx Div., Class W38, writes that he has weathered his initiation to the Forces very successfully and quite enjoys the variety afforded by this new opportunity to study his fellows.

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We offer our congratulations to *J. W. Murphy* on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Joyce Fuller. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy reside at 24 Coningsby Gardens, South Chingford.

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Alan Jefferys ii has joined the staff of Barclay's Bank, serving in the Walthamstow branch. He writes that he has got over the "strangeness" of the first few days and likes the work very much.

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On the day that this magazine went to Press the Headmaster received a visit from *John Bradbury*, 2nd Lieut., who had that morning landed in England after a month's campaigning in Norway. He is the first Old Harlovian to visit the school after having seen active service, and he had, as can be imagined, many exciting and interesting things to tell us, the most important being that his men showed marvellous discipline and that they regretted having to withdraw without "having a smack at them." He is now enjoying a well-earned leave of ten days.

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The following were among visitors to the College during the Autumn and Spring Terms:—B. Browne, S. Browne, R. Browne, J. Jones, C. Constable, J. Humphrey, J. Fennings, J. C. Hodges, C. K. Hodges, H. M. Gray, J. G. Henfrey, J. Bradbury, R. Prior, I. Copas, L. Barnes, —. Webb, J. Grundy, A. Vallé-Jones, F. Lecren, R. Bloore, —. Linton, J. Negus, —. Bower, A. Deans, A. G. Ross, P. Stewart, —. Cook.

No complete list can yet be printed of Old Harlovians serving in the Navy, Army or Air Force. But an attempt is being made to compile such a list, and we hope to print it in a future number. In the meantime news is much appreciated by our readers about all Old Harlovians, particularly those serving in the Forces. Letters—the longer the better—will be gratefully received at the College by Mr. Dames, or at Baythorn House, Harlow, by the Old Harlovians' Sub-Editor.

