

THE
BENTLEIAN.

The Magazine

— OF —

Spalding Grammar School.

Vol. XVII., No. 2.

EASTER, 1938.

LIST OF OFFICERS

School Prefects: J. H. Measures (Senior Prefect)
W. H. Cragg
A. S. Haresign
F. W. Johnson.
A. H. Seaton
C. W. Stublely
P. W. Watson

Football Captain: W. H. Cragg.
Vice-Captain: J. R. Holland

Bentley House Captain: E. H. Pennington
" " Prefects: G. F. C. Bell
N. G. Matthews

Gamlyn House Captain: C. W. Stublely
" " Prefects: J. R. Holland
F. W. Johnson.

Hobson House Captain: J. Higham
" " Prefects: R. C. Blackledge
R. H. Thompson

Wykeham House Captain: A. H. Seaton
" " Prefects: W. H. Cragg
P. W. Watson

Form Monitors:

VI.—J. H. Measures
V.—A. Housley.
U IV.—J. Bradshaw.
L IV.—W. T. Murfet
U IIIa.—K. Ø. Evison
U IIIb.—B. Watson
L III.—E. G. Insley
I.—R. S. Pickersgill

THE BENTLEIAN.

VOL. XVII.

APRIL, 1938.

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EDITORIAL

At the Prize Giving on May 16th the School is to be honoured by the presence of Lord Burghley. In these days, when Physical Fitness is regarded as a matter of first-rate national importance, Lord Burghley is a very busy man and we are very grateful to him for making it possible to visit you. In fact, he has done good already. Obviously we cannot invite to our Prize Giving the most distinguished of British hurdlers and yet continue to neglect hurdling in our own sports. And so something has had to be done about that.

The wonderful spell of dry weather for the last few weeks has emphasised another of our sports requirements. The present playing field is too small for two full-sized Rugby pitches, and it is impossible to arrange a Rugby pitch of any sort on it without playing on the cricket pitch. Something can be done as a rule to share the cricket pitch by keeping football down to the minimum in the Spring Term, but this term that has not had the required effect. It has been possible to meet the difficulty by recovering the pitch with turf removed from the tennis court, but obviously it will be impossible to apply the same remedy on any future occasion.

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OBITUARY

We regret very much the death of Sir Charles Welby, of Denton Manor, Grantham, who, among the many offices held in the county, was Chairman of King's School, Grantham, Governors. He visited Spalding Grammar School in 1924 to present the prizes on the occasion of the opening of the new Assembly Hall, Art Room and new wing, and gave a very interesting address. He also presented a former master, the Rev. F. H. Adames, to the living of Newton with Haceby, near Grantham.

THE SPORTS

The School Sports will be held on Thursday, June 2nd. This year we are to introduce hurdles. The chief difficulty has always been the expense, but this has been considerably reduced by the kindness of Mr. Spicer who, aided by J. Bradshaw and others, has made the hurdles for us.

THE LAND UTILISATION SURVEY OF BRITAIN

A copy of Part 69 of The Report of the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, together with the one-inch map sheet, number 64, have been received by the Grammar School in acknowledgment of the assistance they were able to give in that work. Part 69 of the Report deals with Land Utilisation in the County of Lincoln (Parts of Holland) and together with the illustrative map sheets was published in 1937, but most of the work was carried out in the years 1932 and 1933. The field work was mainly executed by the teachers and pupils of the schools in the county, and it was in this section that the Grammar School helped. Since the area surveyed by the school is not entirely included on any one of the four accompanying map sheets, the Governors of the School have agreed to purchase the complete set in which the Spalding district has a central position.

“THE THEATRE IS AN ANACHRONISM IN AN AGE WHEN PLAYS CAN BE BROADCAST OR READ.”

The earliest germs of literature of most nations are to be found in such things as war-dances and vegetation rites, giving rise to presentations of former deeds of prowess, mostly in action, but gradually accompanied by more and more spoken words. Then arose the mumming plays, of which “St. George and the Turkish Knight” is still occasionally performed. The development of the dramatic form through Miracle and Morality plays, and Interludes to what is now recognised as a play, was naturally slow, but throughout the general tendency was for the action to become subordinate to the speech. Indeed in such Interludes as the “4 P.s” the action has almost entirely disappeared, giving way to what is commonly known as “cross-talk.” It is not, then, until the coming of the Elizabethan period, and one might almost say Shakespeare, that the play, as we recognise it, was first evolved.

Up to this time and even much later, the majority of the dramatic presentations were only extant in manuscript or even verbally. It is true Shakespeare's plays were published soon after they were written, but this was by no means usual. It was only because his plays became popularised so rapidly on the stage, that the booksellers were willing to print them. For more than a hundred years after this, printing was still a comparatively expensive matter, and it was not until well into the eighteenth century that the reading of plays became at all general. Since then, with the lowered cost of printing and the increase in education, the reading of plays has become much more common. Then suddenly, within the last few years, broadcasting became possible and a new medium was provided for plays which has proved most successful.

Before the assertion before us is considered, let it be realised that there are now two distinct kinds of playwrights: there is the group of dramatists whose first aim is the successful presentation of their plays on the stage, those who, like Shakespeare and his immediate successors could never have thought of the play being appreciated unless presented "on the boards"; and on the other hand, there is that group of writers, let us not say dramatists, who look upon the play as a vehicle of philosophy or propaganda, in which the play is merely the excuse for the contents, and not a simple dramatic piece containing philosophy or propaganda. In the majority of Galsworthy's plays, for instance, "Strife" or "Justice," one is never for a moment allowed to forget the moral which the author is trying to bring home.

Thus we have our two poles: at the one extreme is the mumming play with its excess of action over speech, and at the other there is the modern conversation piece which almost dispenses with action.

Let us for a moment consider the advantages and disadvantages of the three media of "receiving" a play. The reading of plays can ensure complete knowledge of every word or phrase used. If allusion is made to some happening earlier in the play, the reader can refer back to it. He can moreover, if he is of an imaginative turn of mind, picture every scene and situation. Unless one reads a play extremely carefully one does not notice the distinguishing features between every character and if one has not an imagination when reading, plays are no more than "words, words, words." When broadcast, the characters are usually portrayed with persons of distinctly different voices and hence one is able more easily to follow the characteristics of the different people. Music, effects and uninterrupted action are all offered by the broadcasters. In the theatre

alone the eye is offered something as well as the ear. The characters become real living persons, not merely creations of the reader's mind, or voices, the scenes no longer have to be pictured. This last fact however is as much a disadvantage to the theatre as an advantage for the mind can usually produce much better settings than any scenic artist, and for this reason, many of the leading producers are returning to the system of plain curtains and conventional furniture. But the great point on which the theatre scores over the other two media, is that here actions are portrayed.

It will not be doubted that in at least nine out of every ten plays action helps along the dialogue, prevents it from becoming monotonous, and even occasionally replaces it entirely. In comedy and farce this is especially true. Such sparkling wit as Congreve's or Sheridan's may achieve excellent results without the aid of action but there are few comical and above all, no farcical situations which are not enhanced by action. Even in more serious work, action, which, of course, includes facial expression, is a help in conveying any emotion.

There are however a small minority of plays which have little or no action such as some of Galsworthy's or Shaw's. Then again there are some which, by presentation in the theatre, by reason of its limitations would be ludicrous. Shakespeare complains of the impossibility to represent an army or a battle on the stage; then the lion of one's imagination, in "Androcles and the Lion" would be much better than even the best trained pantomime "lion." Then again the directions for setting the scene and for actions of such writers as Shaw and Barrie are so entertaining in themselves that it seems a pity to miss these by not reading the play.

So we may conclude by saying there are certain plays which should be read for the full enjoyment and the full benefit to be obtained from them. Such are the plays "with a purpose" or plays which from their very construction are impossible to represent on the stage ("The Dynasts" is perhaps the extreme example of this). Broadcasting is without doubt the best medium for argumentative or conversational plays. By the variety of voice character and opinions of different people are expressed more clearly than they could be conceived by a single reading of the play, and the listener does not become bored by the lack of action which would trouble the theatre-goer. The vast majority of plays, however, which have not been included under the above headings, are all seen to best advantage in the theatre. Generally speaking, when action adds to the play, then the best medium is the theatre.

J.H.M.

DANCE MUSIC

Dance Music is one of the commonest types of music and at the same time the most popular. Nobody can say truthfully that he dislikes all kinds of dance music. For this branch of music like the other branches is divided into different parts. There is classical dance music e.g. Beethoven's "Minuet in G," ordinary dance music e.g. Léhar, and modern dance music commonly called "Jazz."

Dancing to music has been carried out all through the ages. The ancient religions encouraged it. Gatherings of people encouraged it. We read that in 364 B.C. Etruscan dancers were summoned to Rome. They probably were accompanied by small reed pipes. These were the origins of dance music.

In England the beginnings of dance music were the same. We read of the Druid dances. Dances and music changed with the times. So when civilization had begun to spread in England and people had divided themselves into small communities Folk Dancing became popular, and as at that time there were few musical instruments the people probably accompanied themselves by singing.

With the advent of musical instruments such as the Viol and Harp, the music became more complicated. In England in Charles II.'s reign Balls began to grow popular. In France too under the auspices of Louis XIV. and Versailles dancing became more popular. Purcell and Lully the two great composers of that period wrote delightful dance music and the most popular dances at that time were the Minuet and Gavotte.

The entangled nature of British history from 1688—1760, influenced music of all kinds. With the Hanoverians came that great musical genius Handel. He wrote most elegant and pleasing dance music, chiefly minuets and gavottes. Closely following Handel were the great musicians Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart. They confined themselves to Minuets and Gavottes, and from their music you can get an atmosphere of the times. The elegance and beauty of the dances, the brightly coloured dresses and the old fashioned halls and rooms.

A new dance began to grow popular in the reign of George IV.: it was the waltz. It was derived from the old fashioned Minuet and Gavotte though it was not so complicated. Strauss immortalized this dance with his "Blue Danube." Waldteufel too wrote many good waltz tunes.

Then in keeping with the times dance music and dances changed again. The music of Edward VII.'s reign was called "ragtime." Such dances as the foxtrot became popular. Finally with the age of speed came "Jazz" a curious type of music generally made by bands composed of a piano, a saxophone, drums, one or two violins and possibly a piano-accordion. The dances danced to this 'Music' are for the most part fast and simple. But there seems to be a general trend back to the old type of dance and dances such as the Barn dance and Valeta have regained popularity. Folk dancing was also despised for a long time. But this too is coming back into popular favour.

So far only ballroom dancing has been dealt with. A new kind of dancing and of dance music became popular. Dancing on the stage in opera. Opera dancing was however not the only kind of stage dancing. Ballet was popular and Lully, Louis XIV.'s musician, who was an Italian by birth wrote a fair amount of ballet music. Comic opera followed opera e.g. "The Chocolate Soldier" with music by Oscar Strauss. This in turn was followed by Musical Comedy e.g. Ivor Novello's "Glamorous Night." All these shows contained dancing and dance music. Sir Edward German introduced a number of Folk songs and dances into his operas "Merrie England" and "Tom Jones."

The Wireless has done much to help dance music. Modern dance tunes are almost entirely dependent on the wireless for their introduction. Although the wireless includes much "Jazz" in its programmes, it does not completely neglect the old fashioned and more sedate dance music of years ago.

One interesting thing to notice about dance music is that while modern dance tunes loose favour after six months, old fashioned tunes live on. It is true that to-day modern dance bands do not play many old dance tunes but there are nevertheless many people who like dancing to the old tunes. It seems that dance music has gone round in a circle and that modern "Jazz" closely resembles the war dances and witch dances of long ago. Indeed it is an acknowledged fact, that modern dance music has been influenced to a great extent by native music e.g. Hawaiian music.

The different kinds of dance music can be enjoyed by all. They appeal to rich and poor, old and young. Whether you are dancing or not you can enjoy dance music.

R.C.R.B.

DICTATORSHIP OR DEMOCRACY ?

At the end of the World War every great Power which had taken part found itself thrown into chaos, and impoverished by the years of fighting. Complete reorganisation was needed, and from the ruins appeared the Military Dictatorship as we know it to-day. Men from humble walks of life, such as Hitler and Mussolini appeared as the leaders of great nations. Germany, Italy and Russia as well as several smaller countries became Totalitarian States.

We in England have become so used to learning of the great deeds done by Dictators and the progress of their various causes that we begin to wonder if there were any chances of England becoming a Totalitarian State.

At the present time we have seen many questionable Acts carried out by both Hitler and Mussolini. To make a short review of some of the major ones, we easily remember such acts as the Conquest of Abyssinia by Italy, the re-occupation of the de-militarised zone in Germany and the occupation of Austria by Germany, and also interference by both these countries in the Spanish Civil War to gain their own ends. The realm of "Big Business" which in many ways resembles an Oligarchy in England, and other natural enemies of Totalitarianism, have made these actions a ground for attacking this new system of administration. We often see and read such things as— "Both Hitler and Mussolini have continually shown that they intend to recognise treaties no longer than it suits their purpose, and have thus shown themselves to be a source of danger to Civilisation. If Humanity is to remain humane, if Civilisation is to continue to exist, if indeed, World Peace is in any way to be preserved, then indeed some form of administration, other than a Dictatorship, must appear."

These sentiments may or may not be true, but it must be remembered that they only apply to the Dictator himself, not to the system of Government. In other words these acts of aggression and lawlessness have prejudiced us against the System of Government, whereas they should have only prejudiced us against the men, Hitler and Mussolini.

When it is seriously considered it is easy to see that both systems of government have their own particular advantages, and Democracy is not necessarily the better of the two.

One obvious advantage of a Totalitarian State is that whatever the value of its currency with relation to the rest of the world, it can still trade easily within itself, as private business concerns are

abolished. This system works very well with such large countries as Russia, but not so well with smaller and less self-reliant countries as Italy and Germany.

Also a Dictator, not being shackled with an opposition, can get things done far more quickly in a time of crisis, but however, the steadying influence of an intelligent opposition is entirely lost.

Another point against the Dictator is that he may lose connection with the Nation, he may have been popular when he came into office, but that is not to say he will remain so. after five years. There is no way of removing a Dictator except by violence, unless he dies, and then there is the dangerous problem of choosing a successor.

However, all these points are not the things that will settle the fate of Communism or Fascism in England, that will be decided by the character of the average Englishman. His interest in politics in comparison with that of most foreigners is almost non-existent. On the whole he is more interested in sport than politics, and in Football Pools than Voting Papers. It is this National Character more than anything else which will decide the fate of Communism and Fascism in England.

R.G. and P.C.

VIEW FROM A WINDOW

Faint roaring city
 Half hidden in a haze of smoke,
 Chimneys in regimental row,
 The scent of cold tea
 From the kitchen below.
 Down in that city
 Humanity lives,
 Hopeless humanity
 Stubborn and dead.
 But the leaves are out
 And the trees are green,
 The bare black trees
 For the winter have stood
 Dead stubborn wood.
 ' There's a good time coming
 Be it ever so far away '
 Far away
 Away
 Far away.

D.A.C.

VERGILIAN RUGBY

The morrow's noon was scarce sprinkling the building tops with light, when first under the walls of the mighty encampment of the Spaldonienses, the lists had been set out and were being prepared for the great fight to be held thereon. Some, clad in blazers of many colours were sprinkling sawdust on the boundaries, others, clad only in shirt sleeves, were vainly trying to hurl an egg-shaped bladder high between two mighty white pillars with their foot.

With a mighty acclamation from all those gathered on the walls, the mighty army of Spaldonienses were led out. Those preparing the lists immediately withdrew to the edge to urge on the Spaldonienses.

Sacrifices having been made, on this side, the wedge to defend the honour of Spalding Grammar School was being drawn up in battle array. Their leader, one Scopulus (which being interpreted is a Cragg), resplendent in his black, gold and purple, and his velvet helmet with gold-crested tassel, together with Hollandus Sarcus, boasting a tremendous beard, the second hope of that great team, was first shouting orders to his men.

Drawn up in the phalanx were Dobbes, a man of fierce and fiery mien, who was commander of the close fighting; Quidfilius of mighty stature (in training, so they say, for the police force) and Tubbus possessed of the hefty kick; behind these one Pater Ross, a dour and silent man, also possessed of a black, stubby beard, was crouched ready to do or die, while Claudius and Bonusvir, the wing forwards, hovered around ready to brain anyone who might unwittingly err on the wrong side in order that the more readily he might pick up the bladder.

Near this solid mass of brain, brawn and muscle was the one who often tinkles orders to the phalanx, backed up by the great Hegosum.

Stretching away in the distance were the "threes" and the commander of the right wing of the army, a certain Carlius Penningtonius, who had come from far over the Tiber, late as is customary, had just taken up his position in his chariot.

Behind this line there appeared the imperturbed grin of one Niger Ledgius (often termed Nigger) standing impassively awaiting the onslaught.

Suddenly, Hollandus Sarcus, beard bristling, uttering a loud cry either of anticipated joy or already-felt pain, took a running kick at the precise centre of the bladder which was lying, balanced precariously on its end, in the middle of the field, just as if it had deliberately insulted him. As the swallow in summer-time flies low

o'er the ground with mouth apart ready to seize on any unwitting insects, so the whizzing bladder flies through the empty void, and, as by chance fifteen brothers of beautiful body and magnificent physique were drawn up opposite, it singles out one and lands with a resounding thwack on his expansive chest. He falls prostrate to the ground and his brothers angered by the fate of their comrade, rush forward and come to grips with the Spaldonienses.

The enemy chieftain becomes entangled with (what seems to him) a couple of oak trees. On closer examination, however, they prove to be the nether limbs of Spaldonian Nosse, whom he bears to the ground. Nosse, infuriated by this outrage, calls the phalanx to gather round quickly. Unfortunately both the Spaldonian and the enemy phalanxes arrive in answer to the urgent appeal. A fierce and bloody battle ensues.

Scopulus and his fellows stand shouting for their phalanx to retrieve the ball. Suddenly the bladder is thrown straight into the grasping arms of Scopulus. The enemy forwards, however, zealously embrace his speeding legs although the ball of contention had been lobbed to the king of the left wing, one Gus. He trips and the phalanxes having got tired of making Nosse just another blot on the sand, cross the plain and wildly dive on the unfortunate Gus.

Soon, half the enemy are lying on the sands their arms sprinkled with gore and following up, the Spaldonienses make a concerted rush. The enemy's remains give one last long look at the unfortunate field, and then turn their backs and flee far over the plain. The Spaldonienses, give up the pursuit and return to the camp where the victory is celebrated by a regal banquet of venison and old wine.

A. KNEE.

WHAT WE HEAR

That when the Reference Library books were called in P.W.W.— was seen lugging a cabin-trunk up from the station.

That R.C.D.— once ate his dinner at dinner time.

That W.H.C.— tried to resuscitate the elephant.

That when K.J.M.— has dissected his rabbit, the scientists will have "lupin à la casserole."

That G.R.A.B.— is going in the Police Force.

That a good crop of plantains is expected.

That in consequence R.G.— has bought a new knife.

That one Wednesday A.H.S.— had two dinners.

- That A.H.— does not think much of hurdling.
 That there is no school rule about pullovers—one is expected to use one's taste.
 That Upper III. Jockey Club is going strong.
 That Danny never pays.
 That certain members of the VIth. in a public-spirited moment kindly offered to forego their exams. in order to watch others re-catalogue a library. To them we extend deep-felt thanks.
 That during the play scene shifters and others, despite instructions to the contrary, found their way into the staff-room. No explanation has been officially forthcoming.
 That practice on the double-bass tends to cultivate the muscles of the tongue.

HEREWARD.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

Characters

Mr. Hardcastle	R. C. Dobbs
Mrs. Hardcastle (his wife)	J. E. Prentice
Tony Lumpkin (son of Mrs. Hardcastle) ...	A. Edinborough
Kate Hardcastle (daughter of Mr. Hardcastle)	M. A. English
Constance Neville (niece and ward of Mrs. Hardcastle)	P. S. Wilkins
Country Fellows	C. W. Stubley, J. Pulford, R. Goodman, W. H. Cragg
Innkeeper	R. K. Prescott
Charles Marlow	J. H. Measures
George Hastings	K. J. Macdonald
Diggory	A. S. Haresign
Other servants of Hardcastle—	J. C. Moon, R. Goodman, D. Moffat
Pimple	J. Bradley
Servant to Marlow	J. Cheney
Sir Charles Marlow (father of Charles Marlow)	R. C. Blackledge

Produced by MR. A. BOTTOMLEY.

Stage Manager: Mr. W. BRUNDRETT.

Lighting arranged by Mr. J. B. SMEATHERS.

Stage Carpenter: A. HOUSLEY.

Stage Assistants: F. W. Johnson, U. Snaith, M. C. Stubley,
G. Bell, J. R. Holland, L. Pennington, G. Ross and N. G. Matthews.

Rather earlier than usual in the Autumn Term Mr. Bottomley and some of the older members of the Dramatic Society began the search for a play. Since the production of "The School for Scandal," P. V. Smith, who had filled the main comedy parts for the past three or four years, had left, and it was realised that the loss of him would be felt. During the first few weeks of the term play-readings were held and at one time it seemed that "The Merchant of Venice" would be fairly easy to cast, but the women did not fit well and it was abandoned. After reading a few more plays it suddenly became obvious that "She Stoops to Conquer" almost cast itself. As the society had been aiming at varying the style of play from year to year there was the objection that this was of the same period as last year's play, but it was soon realised that this was outweighed by its many advantages.

There were fewer large parts than there had been in previous productions; the main action falling on about eight people, and these were soon filled. The original draughting of the cast was very similar to its final form. However, Measures and Dobbs changed parts and Blackledge took Sir Charles from Haresign who became Diggory. Thus several weeks before Christmas the cast was in its final form—a feat never before achieved! As usual as Christmas drew near, rehearsals became less frequent; preparations had to be made for the End-of-term Concert and exams. were upon us. A few rehearsals were held during the holidays, but they were begun in earnest on the return to School in January, when just over a month was left, for the production was to take place on February 14th, 15th and 16th.

Meanwhile those "behind the scenes" were beginning to get busy. Housley was making door-frames, a trough for the footlights, frameworks for hedges and fire-places and all the other necessary carpentry for the stage. Mr. Brundrett, together with Johnson and their assistants, were working on the stage itself. There were only three scenes and under Mr. Bottomley's direction, these were gradually evolved. The setting for Hardcastle's house was comparatively easy, and could be similar to those used last year, but the Inn and Garden scenes needed a lot of attention. After feverish preparation, entailing late work on several evenings these were completed in time for the first public performance. Mr. Smeathers had made new footlights and increased their power, as well as that of the headlights, by fixing metal reflectors. Dr. Goode had undertaken the booking, and almost succeeded in filling the hall every night. Mr. Green again acted as Business Manager.

Although it was thought there would be difficulty in again attaining last year's high standard, hard work and a determination on the part of everyone concerned to have everything just right, produced

the required effect. The standard of acting was much higher and the greater demands of this less artificial play were more than met.

J. E. Prentice, as Mrs. Hardcastle, had to carry a large portion of the play and he did it, showing a great improvement from last year. He no longer ceased to act when not speaking. His broken voice was a handicap, but his movement of body and head were excellent. His large hands sometimes flapped awkwardly, but he was quite successful in suggesting such emotions as distress at the loss of the jewels and fear at the approach of the "Highwayman."

In Mr. Hardcastle, R. C. Dobbs had a difficult part, in which over-acting would have been easy, but he carefully held himself in check and gave a convincing portrayal of the kindly and somewhat old-fashioned country squire. The ease with which he took the majority of the situations lent a smoothness to the play, whilst his rising anger at Marlow's impudence was well regulated.

A. Edinborough will have to go far before he finds a part to suit him better than Tony Lumpkin. In every scene he was completely at his ease as the carefree bumpkin whose thoughts rarely rose above "Bet Bouncer" and "The Three Jolly Pigeons." His scenes with his mother and cousin were most entertaining. At times he allowed his laughter to become rather harsh and monotonous, but this was but a small blemish on a good performance.

M. A. English had improved much since last year. Miss Hardcastle is not such a striking part as Lady Teazle; it is at least twice as long, and extremely complex, but there was little in her character that English failed to make clear. His voice had become rather too deep for a woman's, but this he counteracted by his lady-like gestures. He is inclined to forget to use his facial expression, and when he remembers to do too much, but his acting, as a whole, was of good quality.

When P. S. Wilkins did so well last year after about three weeks' rehearsal, it was expected he would be very useful this year, and those expectations were not disappointed. He absolutely sank himself and infused the part of Miss Neville with a charm which was completely feminine. He played up well to Tony.

R. Goodman and C. W. Stubley contributed chiefly to the success of the drinking scene. As a very weary and very drunk bear-dancer, Goodman produced an entirely artificial voice which contrasted well with Stubley's boisterous merriment. The by-play between the two was extremely good. J. Pulford's face was that of a regular frequenter of the "Three Pigeons" and W. H. Cragg completed a fine quartet of "drunkards."

R. K. Prescott's corporation, his stately walk and his general behaviour caused much laughter. As the Inn-keeper he had a smaller part than last year but he played it magnificently.

J. H. Measures showed much skill and understanding in bringing out the many sides of Marlow's character, while keeping the whole harmonious. He changed from the generous friend to the impudent Rattle and again to the excessively shy young man unaccustomed to society, without labour. It was in this last side of his character that he was most appreciated by the audiences, especially in his attack of stammering and semi-speechlessness before Miss Hardcastle. Most of his movements were very polished and expressive, but his hand movements when he is standing are still constrained. Apart from his personal excellence those on the stage with him were throughout conscious of those products of experience, smoothness and readiness for any emergency, which often calmed their nerves and carried them over awkward moments.

As Hastings, a rather wordy young man, K. J. Macdonald played much better than ever before. He took more pains over his part than previously and the improvement was evident, for he really did seem to feel the appropriate emotions. He managed to check much of the nervous twitching of neck and hands which must detract from any performance.

A. S. Haresign's Diggory was a good portrayal of an old, talkative country servant who has been in the employment so long that he has lost the thought of his master being his superior. His usual awkwardness in movement looked well in this part. He was admirably supported by a trio as outrageous as himself. These were J. Moon, R. Goodman and D. Moffat, the last of whom caused considerable amusement by his laughter.

J. Bradley, who took the small part of Pimple, the maid-servant, displayed talent which promises well for the future.

J. Cheney, in his two appearances, was convincing as Marlow's town bred servant as opposed to Hardcastle's yokels.

R. C. R. Blackledge made a dignified Sir Charles Marlow. He was a very staid gentleman and at times even too pompous, but throughout he presented a good contrast to Hardcastle, the friend of his youth.

The scene shifters, under the direction of Mr. Brundrett were most efficient. M. C. Stublely, as usual, acted as call-boy and U. Snaith prompted. The latter's services were most useful in rehearsal, but happily he did not have to give a single prompt on any night. Doorkeepers and programme sellers completed the list of assistants.

Mr. Spicer conducted the School orchestra during the intervals.

THE CRITICS.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT

It was generally acknowledged that the school concert of 1937 was one of the best ever produced.

Once more the ball was set in motion by M. C. Stubley, who played a pianoforte solo, which was much appreciated. Then J. E. Prentice gave his usual monologues. This year they were better than ever. These were followed by twenty minutes' "Jazz," given by Woodham and his Boys, aided by W. H. Cragg. "The Western Brothers" were, as usual, enthusiastically received. Although the performance was not as "pointed" as that of the previous year, we may safely say that it was an improvement. This year the "Western Brothers" were A. Edinborough and R. C. Dobbs. The title of the next act was a little terrifying, and "The Spiritualists," a Pulfordian sketch, was well put over. The only thing which could be criticised was the length. A musical interlude by the School Orchestra was very enjoyable.

A sketch, given by the Third Forms, "The House of Mystery," revealed possible dramatic talent. All the boys showed promise. We also think that the fact that Mr. Rentell spent much of his spare time over this sketch should be more widely appreciated. This was followed by violin solos rendered by A. Woodham and R. K. Prescott. Then Shearer entertained the audience with some songs and a banjo. One of the greatest successes of the afternoon was G. Pacey, whose impersonations were loudly applauded. Mr. Green then sang two solos, which were greatly appreciated by all.

The grand finale was a melodrama, "Bragazio the Brigand." Great credit is reflected on the producer, who wishes to remain anonymous. We have heard that the play was so terrifying that many members of the audience wept. And so the curtain rang down on a most enjoyable School Concert, and for some their first, but for many their last.

R.C.R.B.

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

We had twenty players in the orchestra this term, including three experienced Old Boys who proved invaluable, and to whom we are greatly obliged. We hope any of our members, if they still reside in the town or district after leaving school, will come and help. It is good practice for all.

Every boy should be given a chance by his parents to learn an instrument. It may be that after giving it a fair trial he finds he can do nothing with it. Then try something else.

Others may discover some unsuspected talent and make progress. Music is for ever afterwards that boy's hobby, and he will look back with satisfaction that he had sufficient grit to continue what, at one time, looked like nothing but sheer donkey-work. The musician is welcome still, wherever he goes, as the minstrel of old.

We can always do with new members, and shall welcome all who are able to help, for our membership is naturally always changing. There are gaps to be filled, so think it over before it is too late.

On the last night of the play our Leader presented the Conductor with a silver-mounted baton from the Orchestra. This most kind thought was greatly appreciated.

The members were as follows: R. B. Allen, G. R. A. Bishop, G. A. Clarke, P. B. Cowling, R. Edgoose, D. W. Everingham, R. E. Hammond, F. B. Hanson, B. B. Hayton, S. E. C. Hemy, G. R. Pacey, R. K. Prescott (Leader), A. B. Tatnall, F. Turner, G. A. Shearer, U. Snaith, P. W. Watson; Old Boys: Messrs. J. D. Mann, H. P. Whittaker, and A. C. Woodham.

E.V.S.

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METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Although this term has been short, the Christmas holiday weather is noteworthy. The barometer gradually rose throughout December, and the weather improved with it, although on December 20th nine degrees of frost were recorded. There were few slight frosts, but in the latter half of the month maximums of over 50° Fahr. were recorded.

The temperatures and rainfall for January were moderate, and apart from a gale in the middle of the month, which blew the thermometer screen over, there is little to report.

In February the barometer remained fairly high, and the total rainfall of .79 inches was considerably under average. The winds were very changeable throughout the month, in one period of five days the record being N.; W.; N.N.E.; E.; S. respectively.

The maximum for February was 57.0° Fahr. on the 28th, and the minimum was 27.7° Fahr. on the 25th.

March this year has beaten all records. It has been unusually dry and sunny in comparison to the snow of last year. From March 1st to the 24th there was no rainfall at all and after three days together giving .21 inches, there has been no rain up to the time of going to press. The average maximum for the month is 59.4° Fahr., the highest reading recorded being 67.0° Fahr. on the 20th.

We regret that R. K. Prescott who has acted as officer of the station for ? years has left school this term on taking up a post in the Civil Service. He has done much good work for the station and we wish him the best of luck in his new career. His place has been taken by G. R. Pacey.

G.A.S.

THE REFERENCE LIBRARY

There has been an unusual amount of activity in the Library this term. For the last ten days eight members of Form VI., P. B. Cowling, A. Edinborough, R. Goodman, J. Higham, L. H. Pennington, J. Pulford, U. Snaith and M. Tarlton have been engaged on the formidable task of re-cataloguing the whole library, which now contains about 1,800 books.

The following are the new books which have been purchased:—

English—

Milton—Private Correspondence and Exercises. ed. Tillyard.
 What Happens in Hamlet—J. Dover Wilson.

French—

Le Grand Méaulner—Fournier.
 Tartarin de Tarascon—Daudet.
 Les Maîtres de la Littérature Français (Saint-Beuve)—Mayoux.
 A History of French Literature—Nitze and Daigan.
 Jettatura—Gautier.
 Pierre Loti—Ritchie.
 Contes Choisis de Guy de Maupassant—ed. Mansion.
 Gil Blas—Lesage.
 Anatole France—Ritchie.
 Zadig—Voltaire.
 Zaire—Voltaire.
 Histoire de Manon Lescaut—L'Abbé Prévost.

Latin—

- Plautus and Terence—G. Norwood.
 Latin Phrase Book—Meisener.
 Catullus and Tibullus—trans. Cornish, Postgate and Mackail.
 Juvenal and Persius—trans. Ramsay.
 Social Life at Rome in the Age of Cicero—W. Warde Fowler.
 Cambridge Ancient History, Vol. VII.
 Horace's Satires—trans. Conington.

Science—

- Biology—Graham and Morples.
 Qualitative Analysis—Moodey.
 Electricity and Magnetism—Lambert and Andrews.
 Aeronautical Science—Hart and Laidler.
 Elementary Maths.—Westaway.
 Mathematics for the Million—Hogben.
 Elements of Practical Biology—Graham.
 Foundations of Technical Electricity—Mollet and Vinzcomb.
 Practical Zoology—Marshall and Hurst.
 Heat—Calvert.
 Three Philosophers—Ackroyd.

Art—

- Art Appreciation—Dobson.
 Manual of Historic Ornament—Glazier.
 Writing, Illuminating and Lettering—Johnston.
 Pen Practice—Higgins.

History—

- English Seamen in the 16th Century—Froude.
 Political History of England, Vol. VI.—Pollard.
 History of Europe—Fisher.
 An Epitome of English Social History—Raddock.
 Queene Elizabeth—Neale.
 Students' History of England—R. I. Gardiner.

Geography—

- Geographical Statistics—Elliot.
 The Natural Wealth of Great Britain—Duly.
 Economic Geography of the British Empire.
 The Eskimos—Birkett-Smith.

Periodicals—

- Lincolnshire Magazine Vol. I. and II.
 The Incorporated Accountants' Year Book.
 The Calendar of King's College, London, 1937-38.

Dictionaries—

Cassell's German Dictionary.

Miscellaneous—

The Children's Encyclopedia (8 Vols.)—ed. Arthur Mee.

Engineering. The Romance of Water Power—Levis.

The Romance of a Modern Liner—Capt. E. G. Diggle, R.D.,
R.N.R.

The Blue Riband. The Romance of the Atlantic Ferry—
Charles E. Lee.

Lure of the Lore of London's River—Linney.

The Conquest of the Atlantic by Air—Dixon.

Examinations and the Examinee—Valentine.

Although all books were called in, many are still missing. Some of these have probably been borrowed by Old Boys. They should be returned to the Library as soon as possible but should not be placed in the shelves.

A. H. SEATON,

M. TARLTON,

Librarians.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Up to the date of going to press we have had only one lecture but Mr. Holland has consented to give one on "Egypt" on March 30th.

The lecture we have had was given by the Rev. A. Rattray Allan on "Jamaica." The Rev. Rattray Allan provided his own set of slides and Mr. J. B. Smeathers kindly worked the lantern. Most of the slides were coloured, and the series began with a view of Jamaica in the distance. The lecturer gave us the history of the island and took a route which led us from the coast into the heart of the mountains to the Church where he once used to work.

The audience was very appreciative and a vote of thanks received great response.

A large number of new and interesting books have been purchased for the library, and we must thank J. R. Holland for looking after this side of the society's activities.

A. H. SEATON, Hon. Secretary.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

President	Mr. L. J. Driver
Chairman	Mr. J. H. Measures.
Vice-Chairman	Mr. A. S. Haresign.
Secretary and Treasurer	Mr. U. Snaith.
Committee: Mr. G. Shearer.	

Up to the present date the activities of the Society have been very limited owing to the absence of officers until the General Meeting held on Friday, February 24; at which Mr. A. S. Haresign was elected Vice-Chairman in the place of Mr. R. K. Prescott, who left during this term, and Mr. U. Snaith Secretary and Treasurer in the place of Mr. S. A. Casswell, who left last term.

On Wednesday, March 2, a debate was held on the motion that "A Union between Germany and Austria would be conducive to the peace of Europe," proposed by Mr. A. S. Haresign, seconded by Mr. J. A. Pulford, opposed by Mr. M. Tarlton, seconded by Mr. A. Edinborough. Although there was a very small attendance, owing partly to illness, much interest was shown in the debate, and the motion was rejected, in spite of the rather unsound arguments of the opposition.

In conclusion we hope to hold another meeting before the end of term. Also some additions are to be bought out of the funds for the library.

U. SNAITH, Hon. Sec.

FOOTBALL CHARACTERS

- *W. H. Cragg (captain). — A very capable "centre" who runs straight, and goes through whenever he has a chance. Latterly he has shown a tendency to hang on to the ball when he shouldn't. As captain he has always been energetic and cheerful, and has set an inspiring example to his side.
- *J. R. Holland (vice-captain).—Originally a forward Holland has this season moved to centre threequarter. He has strengthened the three-quarter line immensely by his thrustful attack and resolute defence, but undoubtedly his real place is in the scrum.
- *C. W. Stublely.—Has played consistently and well throughout the season at wing forward. Tackling is his only failure, but brilliance in "tacking on" in the loose has more than made up for this fault.

- *R. Goodman. — Played at stand-off half at the beginning of the season, but returned to the scrum, his rightful position, later. Packing in the back row he has always done his part in securing the ball, and together with Pennington has given his own halves valuable assistance against the opposition. He tackles well.
- *L. H. Pennington.—Has played both in the scrum and on the wing. He is fairly successful in the “ threes ” although he tends to kick to touch too frequently. At wing forward, however, he is very energetic, and hard tackling together with a good understanding of the game makes him a first rate forward.
- *F. W. Johnson.—Owing to illness he has played very little this season and has had little chance of proving his worth. A hard working front row forward who can be very useful in the line out.
- *J. Higham.—He has played some extremely good games at fly-half while on other occasions he has been rather slow with faulty handling and passing.
- *G. F. Bell.—Has the making of a fine scrum half, being small, quick and very energetic. He is very forceful behind the scrum and never gives the forwards a spare moment. He must, however, get out of the habit of setting off on his own round the “ blind side.”
- P. Watson.—Has held his place as a hard-pushing front rank forward all through the season. He makes his presence felt both in the line-out and in the loose scrum, even though he does so rather clumsily. Tackling is his strong point in practices but unfortunately not in matches.
- A. Housley.—A heavy front rank forward who has always played well; he can place kick very well indeed and has scored many extra points in this way. He would do well, however, to be a little less gentle and improve his tackling somewhat.
- P. Futter.—Like Ross he is a very hard-working second-row forward. He has earned and kept his place in the senior team through sheer hard-work and good tackling. With further experience next year he should become a first class forward.
- Rd. Edgoose.—Another keen forward who is never idle. He packs in the second row, pushes hard and tackles well. He should also improve a lot with experience, especially in the matter of keeping onside.
- V. E. Moor.—Was unfortunately out of the team for a long time through injury. Playing at full-back he tackles fearlessly, and this together with accurate touch kicking makes him a very promising young player.

- A. H. Seaton.—A very tall back-rank forward who is very useful in the line-out. He has plenty of stamina and is always up with the ball doing very useful work in the loose. His tackling could be improved a lot.
- R. C. R. Blackledge.—Has done some very good work at full-back in the absence of Moor. He kicks to touch very well and can tackle from most angles. As a winger he has his opponent "weighed up" but is not fast enough to score as a winger should.
- G. N. Ross.—Is a small but very useful forward. He tackles without hesitation and is always doing a tremendous amount of work in a quiet way in the loose. He has pushed in the second-rank and has also acted successfully as hooker.
- N. G. Matthews.—Has played a consistent game on the left wing all the season. His defence is good and he goes hard for the line once he gets going.
- R. C. Dobbs.—Has played several times for the 1st XV and has been first reserve for the rest of that time. He is a very hard working forward whose tackling is sound and who promises very well as a hooker.

* Colours.

FOOTBALL

OLD SPALDONIANS v. SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

During the Christmas holidays the School played a strong team of Old Boys. In the absence of Blackledge, Goodman had to play at back, and this naturally weakened the team. Considering this, and also some of the mediocre performances the School have given, the score against them was remarkably low, but the play justified the score. It was a very good and enjoyable game and the Old Boys' team contained, among others, Bailey, Burn, Herring, Muse, Facer, Hewison and Green.

The Old Boys' first try came through Muse, after good work by Herring and Bailey and the second try by Ian Smith on the right wing. The School now pressed, but in spite of good movements by the School threes, they found the Old Boys' defence too strong for them.

FIRST XV 1937-38.



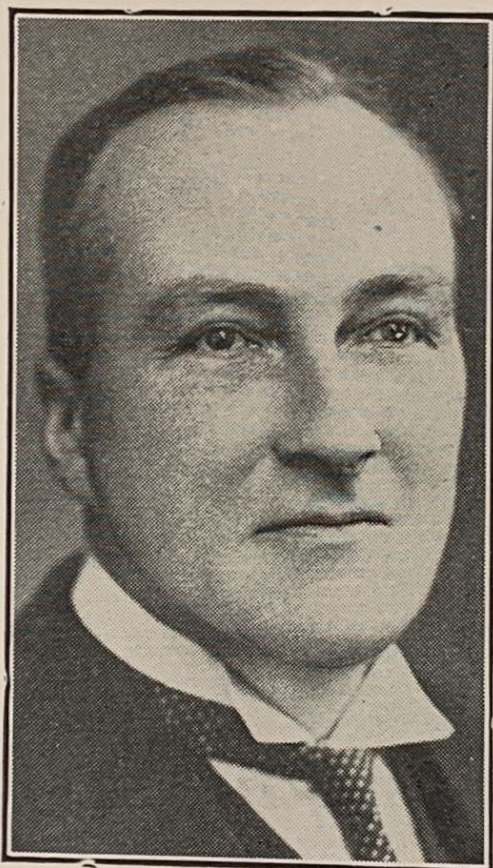
Standing: N. G. Matthews, R. C. R. Blackledge, R. Edgoose, P. W. Watson, A. H. Seaton, P. R. Futter, A. Housley, G. N. Ross, V. E. Moor, J. H. Measures. Sitting: L. H. Pennington, C. W. Stubley, J. R. Holland (vice-captain), W. H. Cragg (captain), F. W. Johnson, (secretary), R. Goodman. In front: J. Higham, G. F. C. Bell.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER. FEBRUARY 16th, 17th, 18th, 1938.



Standing: J. Bradley (Pimple), A. S. Haresign (Diggory), & A. Pulford (Country fellow), J. C. Moon (servant), C. W. Stuble, R. Goodman, W. H. Cragg (Country Fellows), J. Cheney, D. A. D. Moffatt (servants), R. K. Prescott (Inn Keeper). Seated: K. J. Macdonald (Hastings), P. S. Wilkins (Constance), A. Edinborough (Tony), J. E. Prentice (Mrs. Harcastle), R. C. Dobbs (Harcastle), M. A. English (Kate Harcastle), J. H. Measures (Marlow), R. C. R. Blackledge (Sir Charles Marlow).

PRESIDENT OLD SPALDONIANS' ASSOCIATION, 1938.



RAYMOND W. HASTINGS, ESQ.
Clerk to Spalding U.D.C., Member of the
English Livestock Advisory Committee.

The second half saw the School often pressing, through good play by both the scrum and 'threes, but they were continually driven back by Facer's tackling and Bailey's kicking.

Hewison crossed the School line during this half.

The whistle blew for "no-side" after a most enjoyable game and reunion, and the score stood at

Spalding G.S. Old Boys (3 tries, 1 goal)	14 pts.
Spalding Grammar School	0 pts.

THE SCHOOL v. SUTTON BRIDGE R.A.F.

On Saturday, 22nd January, the School entertained Sutton Bridge R.A.F. in the return match and again suffered defeat.

The School won the toss and despite the combined advantages of wind and sun failed to press home their advantage. The School rather seemed incapable of playing as a combined team. The inevitable result was that the heavier and more experienced airmen soon forced their way to open the score with an unconverted try. Soon afterwards mis-handling by the School threequarters enabled the visitors to gain another try which was converted. A fine run by the Air Force wing three-quarter from the "25" line put the School further in arrears. The School, however, now settled down and play was rather in their favour, and on more than one occasion were they unlucky not to score.

The School continued in this style after the interval and both Holland and Cragg were unlucky not to score. Higham, however, was more fortunate and succeeded in forcing his way over, Pennington adding the extra points.

In the course of the second half the School were unlucky to lose Moor who had to retire after a kick on the head. Towards the end the Sutton Bridge wing three-quarter again scored, this time near the posts but the kick failed.

Sutton Bridge R.A.F. (3 tries, 1 goal)	14 pts.
The School (1 goal)	5 pts.

THE SCHOOL 1st XV v. THE TOWN "A" XV.

On Saturday, March 29th, a School team, weakened by the absence of Cragg, the captain, entertained the Town "A" XV. The School lost the toss and kicked off into a strong wind which, blowing almost straight down the field, made play swing rapidly about

from one half to the other. Play was confined to forward rushes and individual sprints. Although the goal lines were almost gained several times, only one try was scored in the first half, in favour of the Town "A."

In the second half the School, attacking strongly, pressed upon the "A." The forwards kept the halves well supplied with the ball from both set scrums and line-outs, but handling was difficult and the backs were able to do little. It was not until a few minutes before the end that Pennington scored an unconverted try and the match ended in a draw.

The Town "A" XV (1 try)	...	...	...	3 pts.
School 1st XV (1 try)	...	...	...	3 pts.

SPALDING TOWN R.F.C. v. THE SCHOOL.

In view of the Town's much improved form this season and the School's moderate displays in some previous games, the match with the Town at Fulney on February 5, was expected to be a walk-over for the Town. The game proved, however, to be exactly opposite, for the School played such a good game, that the Town had to go all out to win and were lucky to have no score against them, while they scored 10 pts. for themselves.

The game itself was very exciting and open, and was a splendidly fought exhibition of Rugby from start to finish.

Both teams were at full strength, the School making slight changes. Ross played his first game as hooker, while Pennington returned to the scrum at wing-forward, and Holland and Matthews were in the centre and on the wing respectively.

The School had a little advantage from the wind in the first half, and pressed for a time from the kick-off. Then followed a spell of mid-field play with both sets of backs too well marked to take advantage of the ample opportunities their forwards gave them in a very open game. The Town had a period of pressing but met a stern defence, and it appeared that the School would score first when they were given a penalty. Pennington's attempt, however, hit the upright. The Town scored shortly before the interval. Pocklington moved into the centre and gave White a chance to get away and he scored, Green adding the two extra points.

The second half was equally exciting. The Town changed their tactics and advanced by kicking ahead. Moor was safe, however, and these attempts were foiled. The Town then nearly scored when

Hines just failed with a drop-goal, and Green failed to convert a penalty.

The School had by no means finished, however, and they launched a series of attacks in which Holland was in the fore. The Town were very lucky a little later when Cragg went ahead with a kick on the wing and must have scored in the centre if the ball had bounced right.

The Town scored one try in this half after good work by Farrow. Hines cutting through to score under the posts, Green converting. The School failed in a last attempt to score and a most enjoyable game ended with the score:

Spalding Town (2 goals)	...	...	...	...	10 pts.
School	...	...	...	...	0 pts.

SCHOOL 1st XV v. CRANWELL A.A. AND BOYS.

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, the School 1st XV visited Cranwell to play the return match with the Apprentices and Boys.

The School backs often handled beautifully but passing movements were never rounded off, and the forwards, at a disadvantage in the line-outs and rather out-weighted, lacked life at times. For the first few minutes Cranwell played with only 12 men and during this time the School pressed hard but could not score.

A strong wind blowing diagonally across the pitch spoilt the play, but the School kept pressing and were rewarded with a penalty which Pennington narrowly missed. Some time later, however, Housley put the School ahead with an excellent penalty kick some 40 yards out, but just before the interval Cranwell took the lead with a try scored half-way out from the posts and converted by a magnificent kick against the wind.

Thus at half-time the home team were leading by 5 pts. to 3 pts.

In the second half the School played up better but could not penetrate the Cranwell defence. Then Cranwell came near to score during pressure but were driven back, and during the last twenty minutes of the second half play was confined to the Cranwell half. The School forwards frequently took the ball well inside the Cranwell "25" and were unfortunate not to score when Cragg burst through but was pulled down a bare yard from the line. Thus when the final whistle sounded, the score still remained:

Cranwell A.A. and Boys (1 goal)	...	...	...	5 pts.
School 1st XV (1 pen. goal)	...	...	...	3 pts.

THE SCHOOL v. SPALDING TOWN " A. "

An extra fixture with the Town's " A " XV was played on the School field on February 19. The Town turned out a formidable team against the School, being strengthened in the scrum by Whitaker, Shaw and Green and in the " threes " with Smith and Pocklington. The School played the same team that drew with Grantham the previous week.

The School with a good wind to help them, set off at a fast pace and almost immediately had the Town on the defensive. During this period the School forwards were heeling well and Ross as hooker was doing very well against his very experienced opponent, Whitaker.

The only score of the game came in the first half when the ball was cleanly heeled from the " A's " " 25 " and passed along the line to Cragg who raced over near the corner. Housley failed with a difficult kick.

The second half was scrappy, the School being mostly to blame in this respect. The Town forwards looked dangerous several times after the interval particularly Green, who was twice pulled down very near the School line. The School held out, however, until near the end they themselves took the play into their opponents' line. The ball was heeled from near the line and passed to the centre where Cragg, being too greedy tried to go through on his own, but was easily stopped. No-side was called soon after with the score:

The School (1 try)	...	...	...	...	...	3 pts.
The Town " A "	...	...	...	...	...	0 pts.

THE SCHOOL v. GRANTHAM R.F.C.

On Saturday, the 12th February, on the Priory Road ground the School played Grantham, the result being a draw.

With the wind blowing straight down the field the conditions were not suitable for good passing movements and as a result play throughout the game was rather scrappy. One thing which was very noticeable, was that the home three-quarters and halves were not marking their opposite numbers very well.

From the kick-off the school attacked strongly with the wind in their favour. But the Grantham forwards soon carried play back into the school " 25 " and from a " breakaway " scored. The try

was not converted. Shortly afterwards the school were awarded a penalty about 35 yards out and Housley kicked a fine goal. The school pressed strongly after this and it seemed as if they had scored when Cragg went over, but the touch judge was consulted and it was decided that Cragg had been pushed out just short of the line.

The second half produced some dull and rather aimless football. For most of the time the school were penned in their own half. They were attacking however when the whistle brought an end to a most disappointing game.

The School (1 penalty goal)	3 pts.
Grantham R.F.C. (1 try)	3 pts.

THE SCHOOL v. THE OLD DEACONIANS

The Old Deaconians visited Spalding to play their return match with the School on Saturday, February 26. The "O.D.s" were full of revenge for their home defeat of 19 points to 4 points by the School earlier in the season, and, turning out a good team of keen players they nearly reversed the score, running out victors by 19 points to 3 points.

The Old Deaconians lost the toss and kicking off with the wind were soon harassing the School defence. They had a particularly good three-quarter line which took the School "threes" all their time to hold. The Old Deaconians were soon on top and they took the lead with an unconverted try, when a defensive error by Moor, the School full back, let through Pattinson, the visiting centre. By half-time the visitors were leading 8 points to nil, having scored a converted try in the centre.

During the second half the game was still keen all round but the Old Deaconians were superior in most departments and they scored three tries, one of which was converted.

The School's only score came near the end when Futter made no mistake with a penalty kick wide out between the "25" and centre.

The School (1 penalty goal)	3 pts.
The Old Deaconians (3 tries, 2 goals)	19 pts.

THE SCHOOL v. PETERBOROUGH TOWN "A" XV.

On March 19th, the School XV. travelled to Peterborough for the last match of the season and lost by 8 points to 3.

Peterborough kicked off aided by a strong wind and the School were driven back to their own "25." From a set scrum Ross hooked the ball and it went out to the school "threes." Faulty passing allowed Peterborough to get through and score a try which was not converted. Peterborough scored again in this half and the extra points were added.

The School, who now had the advantage of the wind, kicked off for the second half and were soon pressing, and the backs had a fair share of the ball. On several occasions the wingers Matthews and Blackledge were unlucky not to score after good passing movements by the threequarters.

Towards the end Cragg went over for a good try which was not converted.

The whole team played well and especially Stubley, in his last game for the School, and Pennington. Final score:—

Peterborough "A" XV.	...	...	...	...	8 pts.
The School	...	...	...	...	3 pts.

HOUSE NOTES

BENTLEY.

As is usual in the Spring term there has been a lack of activity in the house so these notes will be rather short.

In the remaining house matches we were defeated by Wykeham 17 pts. to nil and by Gamlyn 23 pts. to 13 pts. In the match against Wykeham the Juniors were defeated by 39 pts. to nil. There has been a great lack of enthusiasm this season among the junior members of the House; this must end if we are to regain our former position. The Junior match with Gamlyn was postponed on the day of the Senior match, owing to the large number unable to play and since then there has been no pitch available.

We congratulate all those in Bentley who took part in the School's production of "She Stoops to Conquer," and especially A. Edinborough and M. A. English, who played two of the leading parts so successfully.

We wish success to those who have left us during the term and a pleasant holiday to all.

L. H. PENNINGTON.

GAMLYN.

We must congratulate the two Hollands who were successful in gaining exemption from London Matric. and Woodham for his success in the December examination. We were unfortunate to lose the latter, Woodham, last term, and this term Prescott, who has entered the Civil Service. Both have been regular members of Gamlyn's rigger XV. and cricket XI., and have been keen swimmers. Their services will be greatly missed and we wish them every success in the future.

We have only had one house match this term, against Bentley. Both houses were depleted, Gamlyn were without Holland and Prescott, Bentley without Pennington. However, a keen spirit was shown and we won by 23 points to 15.

We are now looking forward to the cricket season, and hope all Gamlynites will show their enthusiasm on the roller. Training for the sports has been started, and if all the members train seriously we have a fine chance of winning both the Howard and sports cups.

In conclusion we all join in wishing Johnson a speedy recovery from his operation and everyone a most enjoyable holiday.

C. W. STUBLEY.

HOBSON.

The Spring term, as usual, is rather void of school activities.

In our remaining house match, we played Wykeham and lost by 34 pts. to 0. However, we must mention Grief and Graves, two juniors playing for the senior team, who gave a very plucky display. The Juniors also lost their match. This season there has been very little enthusiasm among the junior part of the house and we should like to see a better spirit with regard to house matches.

Congratulations are given to Wilkins and Prentice, who successfully played leading parts in the Dramatic Society's production of "She Stoops to Conquer." The dignified part of Sir Charles Marlowe was played by Blackledge, and Pulford also played a minor part.

In the School 1st XV, we have been represented by Moor, Blackledge and Higham, and in the 2nd XV by Gooding and Thompson.

In conclusion, our best wishes go with any members leaving this term, and we wish all Hobsonites a happy Easter.

J. HIGHAM.

WYKEHAM.

There is not much to report this term apart from our two House matches with Bentley and Hobson. We omitted from the notes last term the junior match with Gamlyn which our juniors won comfortably.

Our first House match this term was with Bentley and we won by 17 points to nil although Cragg was absent. Goodman scored two tries and converted one, Pell scoring two more and Dobbs another. Our juniors also beat their opponents by 39 points to nil.

The match against Hobson we won by 34 points to nil. Eight tries were scored but only two were converted, most of the team having a shot at goal. The juniors were victorious by 88 points to nil, so that neither seniors nor juniors have lost a match this season.

All we require now is first place in the Sports and we shall unquestionably be the top House for the year, having won, so far, the Cricket and Rugby matches. With all this intensive training a Sports victory should not be too hard after all, so we hope everyone who can do anything will do his best for the House.

A. H. SEATON.

 THE UNIVERSITIES

CAMBRIDGE LETTER

St. John's College,
Cambridge.

To The Editor of "The Benteian."

Dear Sir,

The request for a Cambridge letter comes at a very inopportune moment, for we are just recuperating after a term of work. The feeling of freshness has completely worn off, and Cambridge seems almost as ordinary as Spalding. But it has not the atmosphere of School. It is a common and justified complaint that students tend to gather into comparatively small groups, and seem for this reason rather snobbish. Still, when you get used to this state of affairs and are willing to accept it, life is usually very happy.

As was expected, Jesus easily retained their position at the head of the river in the "Lents," and had the honour of being able to burn their boat on the last day. The Lady Margaret rugger boat won its oars on the second day and made two further bumps, but it was the only John's boat to do anything of note. The races were not without their amusing side, for we saw half of one crew reluctantly take to the water to lighten their boat; and another boat run into the bank and split.

John's reached the final of the rugger knock-out competition, but were beaten by St. Catherine's 11—9. The passage to the final was so easy that we scored 120 points against 12 in four matches. The final was a wonderful game. When we were leading 9—3 after the interval we were very jubilant, but Cath.'s, whose side included two Scottish internationals, J. G. S. Forrest and W. B. Young, scored two late tries and won by a conversion. In no other sport did John's excel, but it might be of interest to some of your readers that the two Old Moultonians in residence were in opposition in the soccer final, when Pembroke beat Downing 1—0.

Cambridge has shown its usual interest in the political situation, many demonstrations calling for the re-instatement of Mr. Eden.

The Union has had among its prominent visitors this term Sir A. Sinclair, who talked to a full house.

Among the shows of the term we must mention G. B. Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession," performed at the rather quaint little 'Festival' Theatre. This theatre resembles in shape the traditional Elizabethan type, and has a peculiar interest of its own. The outstanding show was the Marlowe Society's production of "King Lear." A prominent Oxford University lecturer said that he had seen five productions of the play, and that this was the only good one. Except in the storm scene, it carried the spectator away as only a good production can. Lear himself was brilliant, and the last scene was most moving. It was an answer, if not quite a complete one, to Lamb's well-known criticism of the play.

Now we are looking forward to summer activities, and all too soon the shadow of exams. looms into sight once more. With this happy thought I will conclude.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

J. E. BAILEY.

LEEDS LETTER

Hostel of the Resurrection,
Springfield Mount,
Leeds, 2.

Sir,

It seems to have fallen to my lot again to write a letter from Leeds. The honour is great, the task arduous, for from a term that has passed so very quickly and has been so full of exciting events what can one single out as important? A mission to the University conducted by the Archbishop of York is I think the thing I remember best. The Archbishop awakened great interest, and both his lectures and the informal discussions with him were rather exciting. The rest of the term was made up of a mixture of work and play—both pleasant. Lectures are not the most important part of the University training, and most of the work seems to be done in the University library. In the University work is interspersed with enjoyable debates on prevalent problems, lectures on various subjects by external lecturers, and mid-day music recitals. In the city the theatre, the cinema, the music hall and symphony concerts all have their attractions. At the theatre we had the interesting experience of seeing Raymond Massey in a new play, "Idiot's Delight," which has since begun a run in London. The various Leeds cinemas are fairly frequently patronised, being, I think, the cheapest form of entertainment. When we feel plebian we visit the music hall to see and hear such personalities as Billy Bennett or Harry Roy, while, if we feel highbrow, we go to hear the Northern Philharmonic Orchestra.

My other diversion is Rugby, and I seem to have played twice a week at least, for every week of the term. I have played for the University third and second teams, and, during the latter part of the term, after an injury had put Lanham out of the game, I played for the Hostel team. I have also played for the Hostel at hockey in an exciting, if not very skilful, game.

I am afraid this letter contains too much of myself, but I cannot say much of Lanham, who seems to be very busy with his Finals, and, of course, in his third year, while I, on the other hand, am a young Fresher experiencing the delights of University life for the first time. However, amid this new and very full life, we still have time to think of Spalding Grammar School, and the arrival of the local papers is always eagerly awaited.

So must I end, wishing the School every success for next term and a pleasant Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,

D. A. COWLING.

NOTTINGHAM LETTER

University College,
Nottingham.

Dear Sir,

Owing to the fact that other more responsible people claim to be overwhelmed with work, it falls to me to let you know how the Old Spaldonians at University College, Nottingham, are progressing. Mr. Judge is the only one in Hostel with me, but, owing to the proximity of his Finals, I rarely see him except when he passes my window on his way to College, and, of course, at mealtimes. I often see Messrs. Clay and Garfoot between lectures at College, where they are preparing for a Civil Service Exam., and doing an extremely wide syllabus (according to them).

In my spare time I have watched quite a number of 1st XV. matches, and so have seen Mr. Facer quite a number of times in the full-back position. I hear he also plays water-polo for the University, but I have not managed to see any of that. The remaining member of the Spalding band, Mr. Prentice, I have seen only in the distance, as he is doing research somewhere in the depths of the science department.

The main activity of this term has been preparation for next terms Hospital Rag, which promises to be a very enjoyable affair, for students at any rate. It should be worth a trip to Nottingham on Rag Day (advt.!). Another event worthy of mention is the Dramatic Society's production of "Two Gentlemen of Soho" and "Maria Marten" in the same evening. In the latter intellectual effort Mr. Clay portrayed Mr. Marten, no doubt being inspired to great efforts by the presence in the audience of Mr. J. F. C. Parsons.

To end the term on a quiet note, our Hostel, Hugh-Stewart Hall, played Mapperley Hall at soccer. Our representatives won 6-1, but the match was not half so interesting as the vocal, and occasionally physical, struggle which took place on the line.

To become personal, I find Hostel life surprisingly peaceful after three years in Form VI. at S.G.S. Naturally there are occasional incidents—melting the bottom out of the block kettle, or awakening to find a pair of pink pyjamas dangling from the Hostel flag-staff, but these merely help to keep away monotony. With this cheerful thought, dear sir, I will conclude, hoping that my first letter to "The Bentleian" has not bored you and your readers.

J. S. OVERSON.

OLD BOYS' SECTION

NOTES.

Congratulations to two Old Boys on their election to the Spalding Urban District Council. Derek Frost was unopposed in the Central Ward, and Ald. E. H. Gooch also made an unopposed return to the Council of which he was a member some years ago.

R. H. Adams has taken an appointment on the railway.

A. H. A. Bastable is now with Messrs. Aircraft Components, Ltd., of Cheltenham, who specialise in hydraulic equipment for aircraft. He has obtained the Graduateship of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and is in charge of the experimental and prototype production:

H. C. Beecham has joined the Metropolitan Police.

C. M. English has been appointed headmaster of the large modern Underlea School, Liverpool.

C. J. Kirlew has taken office as Worshipful Master of the Delta Lodge of Freemasons at Sharia Abbas, Tantah, Egypt.

M. A. Macdonald has been appointed Honorary Dental Surgeon at the Johnson Hospital, Spalding.

At Liskeard High School, S. Watson recently presented with an escritoire and illuminated address by the staff and boys as a mark of appreciation of his twenty-one years' service at the School.

N. E. Woolley has left Spalding to take up an appointment at Hull.

THE CRICKET CLUB

The Old Spaldonian C.C. are anticipating another enjoyable season. A splendid fixture list has been arranged by H. Walker, the fixture secretary, there being only one vacant Saturday between mid-May and the middle of September, and the usual August Week has been arranged. Matches played before the school holidays will again take place on opponents' grounds, home matches being played on the School field during August and September.

New fixtures are with Sleaford, Heacham and Beeston. Two whole-day games are to be played with the last-named, at Beeston on Whit-Monday and at Spalding on August Bank holiday.

Officers for the year have been elected as follows: President Mr. Raymond W. Hastings, Captain and Match Secretary N. N. Webster, Vice-Captain S. Brice, Fixture Secretary H. Walker, Treasurer J. R. Green. The Committee consists of the officers, with F. V. Green.

Practices will be held on the School field on Monday and Thursday evenings, and the Officers will be very glad to hear from any Old Boys who would like to join.

MARRIAGES

K. G. Healey to Miss Lucy Jane Cooley, of Moulton.

J. B. Parsons to Miss Cecily May Exton, of Dunsby Fen.

OLD SPALDONIANS' ASSOCIATION

THE ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the Old Spaldonians' Association held at the Spalding Grammar School on Friday evening, is always a jolly affair, providing as it does opportunities for renewing old acquaintanceships, but on this occasion it was something more and might be described as a celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the old school.

Mr. E. A. Wilson, Editor of the "Free Press" proposed the toast of the evening "The School" of which he gave some interesting personal recollections, while Ald. E. H. Gooch, who presided, went back many years in the School's history and brought to light some interesting facts.

Remarking that it had been suggested that the modern boy was losing the love of adventure, Mr. Raymond W. Hastings observed that the Association were happy in having as president last year, Ald. Gooch who, all his life, had been a gallant adventurer.

The Headmaster (Mr. L. J. Driver) referred with justifiable pride to the success of old boys of the School, many of whom were occupying prominent positions.

There would be in all a company of about 80 Old Boys.

The retiring President of the Association (Ald. E. H. Gooch) presided, and he was supported by the President-elect (Mr. Raymond W. Hastings), Coun. J. H. Longstaff, J.P. (Chairman of Spalding

Urban District Council), Coun. H. G. Frost, J.P., Coun. J. C. Rayner, Dr. S. H. Perry, Dr. E. P. Farrow, and Messrs. E. J. S. Maples, Tom A. White, W. Cecil White, T. A. Pick, E. A. Wilson, E. A. Osborn, W. Osborn, H. H. Small, D. Munro, Haydn Chester, S. E. Andrew, J. F. Alexander, W. Benner, S. Brice, L. Bilsby, H. Beecham, H. Blackbourn, C. Blackbourn, J. H. Barton, S. Cooper, G. Delahoy, D. Frost, C. Ford, J. Facer, E. Gooch, S. Gunn, B. Gibbons, E. L. Hancock, S. Hubbard, K. Harradence, D. Harradence, G. Kingston, E. Law, M. Linnell, D. MacMillan, G. Mountain, E. C. Nelson, E. A. Osborn, W. Osborn, H. Plummer, H. Pocklington, D. Pocklington, J. C. Rayner, J. Rayner (junr.), N. Simson, J. Saunders, H. Walker, G. Webb, A. J. Watkinson, J. W. White, N. W. White, J. Gostelow, A. Bottomley, J. Hastings, C. Pacey, D. King, H. B. Massey, E. Strickland, P. Nicholson, together with the Headmaster of the School (Mr. L. J. Driver, M.A.).

There was a telegram from Mr. Alec Blades, conveying his best wishes for a happy re-union.

Some personal recollections of life at the School years ago were given by Mr. E. A. Wilson, proposing the principal toast of the evening "The School."

Paying tribute to the retiring President, for "an adventurous spirit that ever kept him young," the speaker praised the rise of Ald. Gooch to "dizzy heights" in public service. Proceeding he referred to the history of the School.

It had a record of which they should be proud, he said. If they dated the School no earlier than the Elizabethan foundation in 1588, it was a long record—350 years that year—and many things had occurred in that period. Only the other day he read that in 1802, the number of pupils had dwindled down to one boy, who received his instructions at the Master's House in Church-street. Since the erection and opening of the buildings in Priory-road in 1881, the School had made great and ever-increasing progress.

"My recollections of the School date back to the days when the Rev. T. A. Stoodley was headmaster," said Mr. Wilson, "and looking round to-night, I see only two of my old friends who were scholars at that time—Mr. H. H. Small and Coun. Longstaff, Chairman of the Urban District Council."

Mr. Stoodley was a good disciplinarian, and there lurked in the minds of the younger boys, always the fear of corporal punishment. That, however, did not happen very often. Mostly, they got off with what were called "impositions." They had the pleasure of writing out one, or five hundred times something they had forgotten or never learned.

The assistant masters of that day were, he added, Mr. Staley, Mr. Mutton and Mr. Ward, and one of them was rather a severe sort of gentleman. If he asked one a question which one could not answer, his reply would be "You stupid ass." One day one of the scholars had his own back. He suddenly pointed to him and rapped out, "What did Richard II die of?" The boy flashed back "Shortness of breath, sir."

Mr. Wilson also related some of his experiences on the sports field, recalling a Soccer match against Boston Grammar School, when George Phillips (now Dr. Phillips, of London) was captain of the Spalding team. Boston in those days, he said, were nearly all young giants compared with the Spalding boys. He remembered that Phillips and Basil Aitken played back, Cocks, of Donington, and a boarder named Steele were among the half-backs, Bill Tinsley and Tiny Tinsley, of Holbeach Marsh, and Tiger Blasson, of Billingsboro', among the forwards. Tiny Tinsley was the hero of the day. He scrambled the ball between the legs of a Boston defender, and scored before the goalkeeper knew he was there.

"Shortly before I left," said Mr. Wilson, "Mr. Stoodley retired to the calmer atmosphere of a country rectory at Folkingham, and the Rev. E. M. Tweed was appointed headmaster at the age of 26.

"Both Mr. Stoodley and Mr. Tweed performed miracles with the very limited equipment and facilities at their disposal. They not only strove to impart knowledge, but also to create an atmosphere which has caused all Old Boys in all parts of the world to look back on their school days with gratitude and affection."

In conclusion, Mr. Wilson spoke of the future, and said: "I think we must say that the prospects of Spalding Grammar School were never brighter, the opportunities never bigger, than they are to-day. In Mr. Driver we have a headmaster, a very able man, who unites vision with purpose, and has around him a loyal and efficient staff of masters.

"Wonderful opportunities are opening out before them. From experience, we know they can be trusted to rise to the great occasion. There is no lack of brains or ability in the youth of South Lincolnshire. If our Grammar School could speak to-day, I can imagine it saying to the town of Spalding: "Grow old along with me: The best is yet to be." (Loud applause.)

Acknowledging the toast, the Headmaster (Mr. L. J. Driver) said that that was the second time the Association had held its annual re-union dinner at the School. He hoped it would decide to hold that function there always in the future. (Applause.)

It was both a great honour and privilege, he continued, to be able to respond to the toast of an institution that had lasted for 350 years, but he had no intention that night of sketching the history of that period, except to say that he was writing a book about the history of the School. (Applause.)

"History seems to be repeating itself," he said. "Three hundred and fifty years ago the trouble that threatened this country was from Spain, the same trouble that threatens us to-day. Then, three and a half centuries ago, the country was re-arming because it was in great danger. I don't say that we are in any danger to-day, but we are re-arming. Three hundred and fifty years ago a large number of schools were being founded all over the country. The same thing is happening to-day."

Another coincidence was the revival in literature, he said. He already saw that somebody had burst forth into poetry on the menu card.

Mr. Driver went on to speak of outstanding successes recently achieved by Old Boys of the School, but before so doing he had a word of appreciation of the help he always received from the local Press.

"No school can be without some sort of publicity," he said. "It does such a great deal of good. It encourages the boys, and circulates news of the school which people would be otherwise unable to find out." (Applause.)

Old Boys had done exceedingly well during the past year, at work and on the field of sport, and he mentioned three successes each by older and younger pupils.

Mr. J. Facer had done brilliantly at the University, and had been sent back by the Governors for a fourth year there. Also, he would like to mention the great honour that had been conferred upon their President-elect, Mr. Raymond Hastings, in his being appointed a member of a committee of national importance. A third distinguished appointment was that of an Old Boy to the post of Chief Constable of Grantham.

Of the three younger boys, he would take his examples from pupils they had at the Spalding School, between the ages of 13 and 14, and the three he had chosen were all attending now the Public School. The first was the son of Captain Guy Armstrong, who won a scholarship, probably worth £120 per annum, and who went to Horsham. Tom Elsom had gone to Worksop, where he was now in the 1st XV. at Rugby, and Dimmock Francis was captain of the colts. (Applause.)

Mr. Driver maintained that Spalding Grammar School could hold its own with the Public Schools. His predecessor and friend, Mr. Tweed, had great difficulty perhaps in making bricks without any straw, but he made some very excellent bricks, and they had a number of them present that night.

“ It was much stricter discipline in the old days,” he said. “ To-day we try to treat the boys in a far different way than they did in my time.”

Moreover, there were to-day much better relations between the parent and headmaster. In the old days, he thought the headmaster regarded the parent as impossible, and the parent the headmaster as out-of-date. One headmaster wrote at the top of a boy's report, “ Obstinate and stupid. Will make a good parent ”—(laughter)—and another, “ His mother's homework is improving.” (Renewed laughter.)!

Mr. Driver agreed that they never had greater opportunities than they had to-day, and declared that that old school, with its great past, would play a much bigger and greater part in the life of South Lincolnshire in the future.

He also concurred with Mr. Wilson as to the Staff he had at the School, and appreciated, too, the help he received from the Board of Governors. That, in itself, made it possible for them to look to the future of the School so hopefully. Six or seven of the Governors were Old Boys, and the Chairman (Alderman J. W. Glead) took a tremendous amount of interest in the work of the School. They were very sorry, he was sure, that Alderman Glead had found himself unable to attend the dinner that evening.

“ The President and Officers of the Association ” was proposed by Mr. Raymond W. Hastings, who referred first to work of the Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. Walker and Brice. There was no doubt that these two officers had served the Association excellently.

Thanks were also due to Mr. Cecil White, who ever since the Association was founded, had acted as their auditor, and he hoped he would continue in office for many years yet, as he had never found anything wrong with the accounts. (Laughter and applause.)

Special mention should be made, he said, of two other members, whose names did not appear on the printed list of officers, but who did such fine work to help the Association out of its financial difficulties. He referred to Messrs. Ford and Simson. (Applause.) They had organised many successful social functions and the Association had benefitted considerably. (Applause.)

He thought the work of their officers might be better appreciated when he told them that in 1933, when the balance sheet of the Association was presented, they had only 48 members, and appeared to be heading for bankruptcy and possible extinction. The efforts made since that time enabled them to show not only a balance in hand to-day of nearly £43, but a membership of 112 members. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Hastings went on to refer to others who had been associated with the work of the Association, and mentioned in particular the name of Mr. Bottomley, who had been responsible for the production of the first play by the newly-formed Dramatic Society.

"We, as Old Boys," he said, "would like to congratulate Mr. Bottomley on what he has done. It is a very fine thing for our School and the Girls' High School to take an interest in this work. I, myself, am very fond of a very good show, and I hope the new society will go on, and prosper, and give us some more stuff of the quality we had in 'The Middle Watch' last year."

Mr. Hastings said that he had known the retiring President for as many years as he could remember, and was reminded of Alderman Gooch some months ago, when listening to one of the great captains of British industry declaring that the modern boy leaving school seemed to have lost the love for adventure; that he was, in the main, looking for a comfortable job with a good pension at the end of it.

"I am not so sure that that is a serious criticism of the average boy," he said, "but, whether it is true or not, it certainly was never true of you, sir, because, if we have in the Old Spaldonians' Association, a man who may be said to have been, all his life, a real adventurer, it is Alderman Gooch, who occupies the presidency of this Association."

He remembered Alderman Gooch talking to him on one occasion of his adventures globe-trotting in America and in most of the countries of Europe, and he had heard of a certain trip in a little ship called the "Hopeful," which, like a boat he had been reading about during the Christmas holidays, probably did not mean to go to sea, but found itself a long way from shore on a very adventurous voyage. (Laughter and applause.) Harry Gooch had done all kinds of things, and, even with the weight of responsibility resting on his shoulders, always appeared to be having a jolly good time.

"In rather more serious vein, however, it can be said about him, I think, that, although he has always enjoyed life as an adventurer, there has forever been the feature of his character that he has had a consistent pride. (Applause.) I don't mean that kind of pride with results in bumptiousness and boastfulness, but

that pride in the honour of a good name; that pride in the town and county from which he comes; that pride in the School which helped to make him what he is. And not only do we think of him as an adventurer, but as a citizen of Spalding of whom we can be proud."

Responding, Alderman Gooch thanked Mr. Hastings for what he described as "his very kind, but flattering remarks." He also expressed appreciation of the help he had received from the officers of the Association during the past year. He happened to be the thirteenth president, but it had made no difference, and he had spent a very happy and enjoyable time.

A word of praise was also due to Mr. Driver, without whose kind co-operation and hospitality, he said, the Association could not have done many of the things it had accomplished. Mr. Driver did try to help them in every possible way.

Continuing, Alderman Gooch said that it was rather a peculiar coincidence that in 1938 they should be possessed with very similar feelings and fears to those of their ancestors, when the School was founded in 1588. That year was probably the most momentous in the history of England, not so much because the School was founded then but because, as they all knew, it was the visitation of the great Spanish Armada, which the English people had so long dreaded, and which finally gave them that relief and self-respect when they saw that they were just as good as the Spaniards, if not a jolly sight better.

That night, he thought, was a fitting occasion to say something about some of the prominent Old Boys of their School, he went on, as he maintained that the town of Spalding had had its share of famous men.

One was the famous actor and dramatist, Thomas William Robertson, who was sent to Mr. Henry Young's school at Spalding in 1836, and uncle of Sir William Forbes-Robertson, who died last October. Mr. Young's school was very well known in its day as being a very select seminary for young gentlemen. It was held on the premises now occupied by Mr. W. B. Massey in Westlode Street.

This school's predecessor, the old monastic college, could lay claim to teaching men of distinction, including William of Waynfleet, who was Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. He was ordained deacon by Richard Fleming, Bishop of Lincoln, in the Parish Church of Spalding in 1420, and in 1426, priest, on the title of the Benedictine Priory of Spalding. During these six years he studied divinity at Spalding Priory, and styled himself William Waynfleet of Spalding.

The most prominent Old Boy of the School was Maurice Johnson, the famous antiquary and the founder of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, who was one of the most learned men of his day and considered the greatest authority in England on drainage. It was through Maurice Johnson that the chaplaincy of Wykeham became connected with their School.

Including Maurice Johnson, there were three Old Boys of the School who were mentioned in the Dictionary of National Biography. One of them was the Rev. Timothy Neve, junior, who was a well-known divine and author. He was also an antiquarian, in fact all the Old Boys mentioned seemed to have gained fame through their antiquarian pursuits, for they read of Benjamin Ray, antiquary, son of Joseph Ray, merchant of Spalding, and a kinsman of Maurice Johnson, who was educated under Timothy Neve, at the Spalding Grammar School.

There were three old masters mentioned in the National Biography. Richard Bentley, who was master there in 1681, was the most famous, as he was one of the finest classical Greek scholars this country has ever known.

"Personally I haven't much use for him," added Alderman Gooch, "as he 'pinched' a lot of valuable manuscripts from Ayscoughfee Hall and gave them to Bishop Stillingfleet. They are now in some of the college libraries at Cambridge when they ought to be in our museum at Spalding."

The Rev. John Rowning, who was master at the School from 1757 to 1770, was a well-known mathematician and philosopher, while another master was the Rev. Timothy Neve, senior, father of the forementioned scholar. He was master there from 1716 to 1729, and was a well-known divine and antiquary. He was best remembered by them through having built the Masters' Lodge (where Dr. Perry now resided) in 1722. This land was taken from the Town Husbands on a 99 years' lease and reverted back to them in 1821, though the masters had the use of the house until 1885, when the Rev. Mr. Sissons, the Usher of the School, died in that year.

"This school, like most of us, has had many ups and downs," continued Ald. Gooch, who said that it was ruled by the Johnsons, of Ayscoughfee Hall for nearly 300 years.

The last Johnson to be master was Walter, the father of the Miss Johnsons, who built the Johnson Hospital and St. Peter's, and St. John's Churches. He followed Mr. Maclellan in 1792 and remained master until 1826, but until 1820 he had never more than one scholar and for a great number of years none at all.

In 1801 they read that "this excellent institution has only one scholar on the foundation, although the present worthy master has an usher, a gentleman duly qualified from one of the universities and has used every means to induce the inhabitants to send their children."

Ald. Gooch said that the following extracts from a letter written in 1802 by an old boy of the school was of interest: "About the year 1789 the school was in a very flourishing state; its fame was spreading abroad and the number of scholars from all parts of the country was increasing rapidly. This was owing to the unremitting attention of a gentleman who acted under Mr. Maclellan, and who is now I believe, the master of a similar school in a neighbouring town: but it unfortunately happened that the absence of this gentleman blasted all the fair prospects, and after a little time, and not by slow degrees, the scholars were all dispersed. Previous, however, to their total dispersion, the number was so small that it was deemed unnecessary to use the old chapel and the house of Mr. Maclellan was the place where the last scholar used to resort to receive the required instructions. This was in the year 1791, and it was not until after that year that Mr. Maclellan resigned and with the exception of one solitary instance not one person has since received instruction."

The School apparently remained empty till 1820, when the late Canon Moore was the first scholar under his great-uncle Walter Johnson. Canon Moore says: "In Walter Johnson's time Mr. Maples and my brother, Maurice Peter Moore, late Clerk of the Peace for Kesteven, were at the top of the school, and the late Mr. Charles Green and I were at the bottom."

"Though Canon Moore was at the bottom of the school," said Ald. Gooch, "I consider he was one of the finest boys this school ever turned out, and did more good to the town of Spalding than anyone else with the possible exception of Maurice Johnson. He was not only an old boy but Master and Chairman of Governors and connected with the school for nearly 70 years. When Walter Johnson resigned in 1826, the headmastership fell into the hands of Canon Moore's brother-in-law, John Howard Marsden, who governed the school for nine years."

He was the father of the Vicar of Spalding, the most remarkable man that Spalding had ever known and ruled the town until his death in 1889. Whatever he wanted he got and he required many things. His first task was to restore the Parish Church at a cost of over £10,000.

When that was completed he turned his attention to Crowland and through his efforts what remained of the Old Abbey was restored with great difficulty, and if he had not intervened when he did there would be little of the ancient building standing to-day.

He had built other churches in Spalding, St. John's and St. Peter's.

The Johnson Hospital resulted from his brain and when all these and many other works in the neighbouring villages were completed, he turned his attention towards the school and collected enough money to have it built and opened in 1881.

Ald Gooch concluded: "There are one or two old boys in the town who were at the old school at the church and the first to inhabit the new school. Many of us can remember Canon Moore who was at school here many years ago. Some can remember when the school celebrated its 300th anniversary. Many of you young men here to-night should be here when the school celebrates its 400th year. You will then be a link with the past and be able to tell how you celebrated to-night. I hope you will be able to truthfully say you had a pleasant time."

Mr. T. A. White made an excellent toast master. The artistes were Miss Jean Harley and Mr. George Barker, who provided splendid entertainment throughout the evening, and gave great pleasure to the company.

The catering was excellently carried out by Mr. A. E. Pacey.

SALVETE

E. S. Neave, D. A. Exton, J. H. T. White.

VALETE

- S. A. CASSWELL. — Secretary, Literary and Debating Society. Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1935, London Matriculation, July, 1935, H.C.C. Intermediate Scholarship, "Revis" Scholarship (£30 per annum) to University College, Nottingham, 1937, Cambridge Higher School Certificate, July, 1937.
- C. CHRISTIAN.—Cambridge School Certificate, July, 1937. London Matriculation, July, 1937.
- A. C. WOODHAM.—Cambridge School Certificate. Member of Swimming and Polo Team. Leader of School Orchestra.
- G. R. CLEMENTS, A. F. MONKS, D. P. BRITAIN, P. T. FRANCIS, J. HARRISON, J. B. HUBBLE.