

THE HEATHEN



Magazine of
HEATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HALIFAX

New Series.

No. 20.

April, 1939.

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Editorial

"For this relief much thanks."

Change but not, we hope, decay in the surround we see. Stripped of our cumbrous, unbecoming, but hitherto necessary, panoply, like Wordsworth's "Happy Warrior," we are "attired in sudden brightness." Or, to change the metaphor, whether like serpent from its slough or butterfly from unseemly chrysalis, we have emerged into unquestionable shape. But enough of this (so to speak) out-daring ourselves in azure feats, this pyrotechnical display of our own too fertile ingenuity! Even at the risk of bathos it were better to state plainly and baldly that, as, observant reader, you will have seen, we have omitted our advertisements. The gain is indisputable, and not least to our self-respect. A magazine, such as *The Heathen* seeks to be, is a real and necessary part of the School and deserves to exist without the necessity of exacting a periodic levy from adventitious bodies unconnected with its interests or ideals, and for whose contributions, to be candid, we have often felt that we made no adequate return.

"Sweet are the uses of advertisement" we might have said, for, in truth, the uses were all on our side. In bidding our advertisers farewell, we must also give them our very best thanks—but for them we had perished. Few of them ever suggested that they "did not get their money's worth"—as probably none of them did—and almost all have most loyally and ungrudgingly supported us over a long period of years. "Oh reader! had you in your mind such Stores . . ." ? We hope that you had and will continue to have, that you have and will have supported them.

In conclusion, we may perhaps remark that advertisement

"hath done her part ;

"Do thou but thine, and be not diffident . . ."

* * *

We should like to offer our congratulations to Mr. M. S. Moxon on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Hester Whipple, of Highgate, on April 1st in London. We offer them our best wishes for their happiness in the future.

* * *

We are glad to be able to announce the following distinctions :

L. Hodgson, L.D.S., Leeds.

E. Neale, B.Sc. 1st Class in Physiology.

* * *

J. A. Barrett of IVA2 has been awarded a Gold Medal as a result of last year's Zoo Club examination. This award, in the Under 14 Class, is open to Great Britain and the Colonies, and was accompanied by a Special Certificate of Merit ; only three other Certificates were won.

* * *

On Wednesday, January 18th, a party of about twenty-five, led by Mr. Phoenix, paid a visit to Leeds University which was holding an Open Day. Two or three hours were not enough to see all even of one of the three routes which had been arranged but, we believe, everyone found many things to interest him.

* * *

The Heath School Club is now properly constituted. Most of its constitution is the work of a Drafting Committee (to whom our thanks are due) and was ratified on Monday, March 27th.

* * *

The term has seen one staff change, in the exchange of Mr. Young for M. Debons. This is noteworthy if only because it is unprecedented in the School's history, but it has been made more so by the personality of M. Debons himself. Despite the numerous difficulties of teaching at Heath this winter he remained cheerful and jovial. At the end of the term he was presented with a silver pencil, suitably engraved, as a token of the esteem in which he is held.

* * *

Our congratulations to Mr. J. Hutchinson on his unopposed election to the presidency of the Reading University Students' Union. We at Heath who know his charm and personality can well understand how merited this honour is. "Hutch" is also president of his Hall, secretary of the Rugby Club, chairman of the Political Club, stage manager of the Guild of the Red Rose and chairman of the Roman Catholic Society of his University.

* * *

It was unfortunate that the visit of Monsieur G. Debons, who teaches English in France and exchanged posts with Mr. Young for the term, should have coincided with all the confusion of our rebuilding. Nevertheless, that visit was a great success ; the staff and all the boys with whom he came into contact during his stay have found in him a new and well-loved friend. We all regret his going and hope that it will not be too long before

we are able to see him again, either in his country or in ours. Our climate, particularly at this season of the year, the horrible state of the School, and the differences of teaching practice in this country were serious difficulties with which he had to contend. The success with which he overcame them is a tribute to his enthusiasm.

He has asked us to insert the two following messages in *The Heathen*, and this we gladly do :—

"To Mr. Smith.

"Before I go back to France I would like to express to you and to the staff my appreciation of the kindness and consideration you have shown me while I have been here. I shall take back very happy memories of my stay at Heath Grammar School. In conclusion, I am extremely grateful for all the assistance I have received during my sojourn with you.

Sincerely yours,

G. Debons."

"To my pupils at Heath.

"Although I am, of course, looking forward to going back home, I have regrets at having to part from you all. I hope that the instruction that I have been able to give you will prove advantageous and I wish you every success both while at school and in your future careers.

G. DEBONS."

Cher Monsieur Debons,

Le "Heathen" veut vous remercier bien pour la bienveillance de vos deux messages d'adieux. Nous vous prions d'accepter tous nos souhaits de bonheur à l'avenir et espérons que nous vous rencontrerons de nouveau avant peu, afin que nous puissions renouer une amitié bien cordiale. Au revoir.

THE UNIVERSITY,
LEEDS.

DEAR SIR,

The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things. With this quotation was the letter, a despairing, heart-rending, don't-you-fail-me as well letter, begun asking for some news of Heathens at Leeds, but I regret to say that the walrus had been misinformed, at least in so far as concerns University news, for which in actual fact there is very little about which to talk (or write). Consequently I must apologize for the lack of anything interesting in this epistle, and must ask you, my dear, kind editor, to be content with the minute quantity of news I am able to supply.

Although the number of Old Heathens at Leeds is now quite considerable, they all seem to have acquired the habit of hibernating throughout the winter, and I have seen only four this session, namely Riley, Hodgson, D., Neaverson, and Haller. Concerning Riley and Neaverson I have nothing to report, either good or evil, and little of Hodgson, save that he seems to have acquired a thirst for knowledge, judging from the way he works in the lab., which cannot be readily satisfied. Of Haller I know a little, a very little, more, as he is an active member of the O.T.C., and has on occasions, I believe, played on the 2nd XV, though not very frequently.

Well, I am afraid that is all the news I can find, as all that remains is for me to say that I was very pleased to see the school party (complete with throat tablets) on Open Day, but regret that this visit had such an unfavourable effect upon Mr. C—, who has been turned from his intention of joining us by his impression.

In conclusion, I wish every success to the School's activities in general, and particularly to the Scholarship candidates, hoping that some of these will shortly be coming to Leeds.

Yours sincerely,

A. GUEST.

King's House Report

At the end of last term we lost our House Captain, Duce, and Vice-Captain, Emmett. Therefore, at a House meeting early in the term, White was elected House Captain and Dale Vice-Captain. Musson was appointed Rugger Vice-Captain.

The loss of Emmett and Duce reacted considerably upon the sporting activities of the House, with the result that we have had a bad term.

Rugger. The Seniors played their remaining game against School, with only eleven men, and lost by 10 points to 6.

The Juniors played Heath and lost by the narrow margin of 3 points to nil. They were also beaten by School, 19 points to nil.

Fives. All our matches were lost, but here we were minus the help of Musson, one of our best players.

The Cross-Country Run. This was rather disappointing. We have held the Bilbrough Trophy since the inauguration of the run, but this year we were only placed third.

We must, however, congratulate our Captain, White, on his fine performance in running in first.

Although this term's results were not very good, we still have a considerable chance of winning the House Championship.

Next term the Athletic and Swimming Sports take place. If we can obtain enough points in these events, which we certainly can do, our prospects of winning the House Championship will be quite bright.

These points can be obtained if every member of the House will enter as many events as possible. Even if you think you have no chance in a certain event, no harm will be done by your entering it.

Finally, to all newcomers and non-swimmers, a point can be obtained by the ability of any member to swim 40 yards. If each member of the House can do this, the points so obtained will add greatly to our championship hopes.

A.M.

School House Report

The Spring Term has not been an easy one for School House, and it has been pleasing to note how the younger members have pulled their weight, for much depends on them. Members are showing real enthusiasm in House events, and the will to win is prevalent, which is no doubt largely due to the intimacy between those of the Sixth Form and the rest of the House, and to the keen interest of House Masters. This fine spirit will count for much in the Summer Term, when the swimming sports are held, in which we have a high reputation to maintain, and the Cricket House matches are played.

The Seniors, with a team below full strength, succeeded in beating King's by 10 points to 6 in their last House match—a creditable performance, for which Pickles and his team-mates deserve our earnest congratulations. The Juniors, as expected, won their two remaining House matches against Queen's and King's by 13—3 and 17—0 respectively, both of them being convincing victories.

The fives matches have been rather disappointing, only the match against King's producing a School victory, and this by 161—151 points, when Price, our only member of the first fives four, proved an able leader.

In the Cross-Country run, the number of entrants was very pleasing, but the result of the race not so pleasing. Price and Hewitt are to be commended for their performances, and the latter should be a valuable runner next year.

In closing, we should like to remind each member that his every effort is needed if the House is to be well placed at the end of the year.

T.W.

Heath House Report

Once more we may say that we have had a very successful term. With the single exception of a draw against School in a Junior match, both rugger teams have emerged victorious in every match; our fives team, too, has remained unbeaten, and since all three matches have been played, this means that we are the first holders of the Old Boys' Cup for inter-house fives. Our showing in the Cross-country run, too, is commendable, for we finished second to Queen's by the narrow margin of one point. This result contrasts sharply with that of last year, when we came in last, and is due mainly to the number of people who finished near the end, for although their individual marks were low, they gained on the aggregate a large number of points. This emphasizes the importance that lies in everybody's entering this, and any similar event, even if they feel they have no chance of winning.

We must concentrate now upon the Athletic and Swimming Sports, and upon Cricket, and we can expect confidently at least to equal our performance last year, *but only if each member really gets down to it*. It will be remembered that last year we won the Athletic Sports, and came in second, by a small margin, in the Swimming Sports. Our aim this year, of course, is to be top in everything, and if we are, which is quite possible if we work hard, then the House Championship, which last year we just lost, is assured for us.

Queen's House Report

The annual party was held on Shrove Tuesday. At this party there was a very good film show, facilities for table tennis (by permission of the Heath S.T.T.C.), a beetle drive, and various other amusements. The attendance was not as large as usual—Shrove Tuesday came in half-term—but all those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and on their behalf I should once again like to express our thanks to Mr. Withycombe for organizing the party, and to Boocock for giving us such a fine film show.

Both the House Rugby XV's have been unsuccessful in their efforts to gain points, but with only thirteen men against Heath the senior team put up a good fight, only losing by 9—5. The Fives IV have been much more successful, having beaten both King's and School and losing to Heath on points after a draw on games at 6—6.

The inter-House Cross-country race was held on March 16th and we had the great satisfaction of winning the Billborough Trophy for the first time in the history of the House. The two

Bottomley brothers ran well, M.W. being second and D. fifth. Jeffries also did well, finishing in the seventh position.

Our chances of winning the House Championship are not very good, but if the cricket team does well and every member wins at least one point in the Athletic and Swimming Sports we should finish in quite a respectable position.

A. B. WADE

(House Vice-Captain and Captain of Rugby).

Rugby, 1938-39

FIRST XV

This season has been a very unsuccessful one indeed for us; of 21 matches played we have lost 18 and won only three.

The cause of the very apparent weakness of a team with such a long list of defeats to its discredit can partly be attributed to the loss of most of last year's team, coupled with further losses at the end of the Christmas Term. We began the season with only five members of last year's team, and lost our best forward and scrum leader, Day, as well as Duce, another enthusiastic forward, and our full-back, Emmett, at Christmas. The vacancies had to be filled with members of the 2nd XV, itself far from strong, and the difficult position of full-back had to be entrusted to Moger who was without previous experience in that capacity.

Although the number of our victories shows an increase of only one on last term's figure, the standard of play since Christmas has shown considerable improvement, and with the exception of the Silcoates game, we were able to keep the points scored against us much lower than in the first half of the season. After quite a heavy defeat in the first match of the Spring Term against Bradford, there was a steady improvement, culminating in a really encouraging display against the Technical College. Contrary to our usual custom we were not assisted by any of the masters, but in spite of this we were able to bring off a victory. In the first half our opponents were not very efficient in their marking, and our backs, given a reasonable amount of room, showed themselves at their best.

Unfortunately this standard was not maintained in our next two matches; in the first against Silcoates the forwards missed their scrum leader, Walton, who was absent through illness, while the backs were completely outclassed by the tactics of Pearson, Silcoates' stand-off; in the second, at West Vale, our Old Boys adapted themselves to the weather conditions better than the School XV. We found the ground in an awful state and to make matters worse it rained during a large part of the

game. The Old Boys were evidently more at home at muddling than we were and with most of the players unrecognizable the game ended in their favour.

The Thornton match was one of the hardest games of the season. Shortly before time Wade scored a try, which was unconverted, giving us a lead of two points, with the score 11-9. This gave us high hopes of victory, but Thornton put on a last minute spurt, and just before the whistle went they were awarded a rather doubtful try. At Whitcliffe Mount our team was bewildered from the beginning by the mountainous aspect of the field, and after allowing the opposing side to make a large score in the first half, was unable to make full use of the downward slope in the second.

Our last match against Keighley showed a very great improvement on this form. The forwards did stout work in stemming the rushes of the much bigger Keighley forwards, and the backs dictated the tactics by using close-spotting methods. By these means we managed to keep the score of the unbeaten Keighley XV down to 15 points. Compared with the score of 65 points against us at Keighley this effort was quite creditable.

In most games the team has been too prone to give up hope after the first half and resign itself complacently to defeat. The forwards have lacked vigour, especially in following up, while the backs have not been equal to their opponents either in speed or powers of penetration. The forward work undoubtedly improved towards the end of the season. Magson, a newcomer to the school, whose enthusiasm had not been damped by a large number of defeats, seemed to give fresh life to the pack, and he well deserved his place in the few games in which he played.

We must congratulate Pickles, Wade and White on winning their colours.

We extend our thanks to our few staunch supporters who have given us the encouragement of their presence through our defeats, also to Mr. Bilbrough, our former games master, and to Belford, last year's captain, for their interest and assistance in training, and finally to those members of the staff who have given their help both in training and on the field.

R.M.

RESULTS.

Wed., Jan.	21—Bradford G.S.	.. .. H.	Lost : 0—28
Tue., Feb.	7—Doncaster G.S.	.. .. H.	Won : 9—3
Sat., „	11—Rochdale G.S.	.. .. H.	Lost : 11—19
Wed., „	15—Technical College	.. .. A.	Won : 20—0
Sat., „	25—Silcoates School	.. .. H.	Lost : 0—54
Wed., Mar.	1—Whitcliffe Mount	.. .. H.	Lost : 5—20

Wed., Mar.	11—Heath O.B. 2nd XV	.. .. A.	Lost : 3—14
Sat., „	18—Thornton G.S.	.. .. A.	Lost : 11—12
Wed., „	22—Whitcliffe Mount	.. .. A.	Lost : 5—35
Wed., „	29—Keighley G.S.	.. .. H.	Lost : 0—15

SECOND XV.

The 2nd XV have only played four matches this term, several matches having had to be cancelled owing to the long delay in the repairing of the heating apparatus at our Kensington pavilion. All four matches have unfortunately been lost, although in the game at Rochdale the team put up a good fight, only losing by four points.

Moger, Carling (G.), Ramsden, Aked and Heron have now graduated and became regular 1st XV players. The loss of these five players has not been felt as severely as might have been expected. Team spirit is abundant and all that is now required is a little more combination and skill on the part of every member of the team.

Butler (S. C.) remains a safe full-back, but he must improve his kicking for the full-back should be the best kicker in the team. Carlin (K. P.) and Ackroyd on the wings possess speed but lack resource. The centre and stand-off positions have been filled by various people, often members of the Colts XV's. Lumb, at scrum-half, is very plucky but at present rather slow in getting the ball out to his backs. Among the forwards, Jagger, Bland and Butler (T. W.), the front row, have been most consistent. A new player, Magson, who has come from Alloa looks like proving a useful forward next year.

I now append the full list of this season's 2nd XV results :

Doncaster	.. .. A.	Lost : 0—32
Rochdale	.. .. H.	Lost : 3—18
Ashville	.. .. A.	Lost : 0—35
Keighley	.. .. H.	Lost : 0—49
Rishworth	.. .. H.	Won : 14—5
Crossley's	.. .. A.	Won : 40—0
Silcoates	.. .. A.	Won : 13—3
Bradford	.. .. H.	Lost : 0—27
Crossley's	.. .. H.	Won : 15—0
Colne	.. .. A.	Lost : 0—14
Rochdale	.. .. A.	Lost : 6—10
Keighley	.. .. A.	Lost : 0—25
Belle Vue	.. .. A.	Lost : 0—28
Hipperholme	.. .. H.	Lost : 3—9

Played, 14 ; Won, 4 ; Lost, 10. Points for, 94 ; against, 255.

UNDER 15 XV.

There has been distinct improvement in the team during the season although it is still a collection of useful individuals rather than a sound team. The difficulties of forming a more or less permanent combination for this team has led to the decision to discontinue it next year; the age limit has been lowered to fourteen years for most of the original Under 15 fixtures.

RESULTS.

Doncaster	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 6-21
Keighley	.. .. .	H.	Lost: 3-33
Pannal Ash	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 3-24
Ashville	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 3-46
Woodhouse Grove	.. .. .	H.	Draw: 3-3
Keighley	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 0-28
Doncaster	.. .. .	H.	Lost: 0-5

COLTS XV.

Although their unbeaten record has gone, the Colts have good reason to be pleased—though not satisfied—with their season. On a dry day especially, they can be a real pleasure to watch, full of energy and initiative.

The forwards in particular have improved, and their hard following up and good covering have gained and saved many points. Their chief weakness has been a tendency to scatter too soon, so that, especially on a muddy pitch, a good old-fashioned hard-shoving and dribbling pack might give them a nasty shock. Fletcher and A. Hartley have been the most active of the pack, the former in addition showing a cunning intelligence which has often placed him in the right position to loll over for a try. All the forwards (reserves included) have done their share, not least, perhaps, Sykes the hooker and P. L. Bedford, who have worked unspectacularly but hard where a forward's first duty lies, in the tight. (Others please note! What about it, Pop Eye?)

By their comparative weakness in the tight the forwards have left Dudley with more dropping on the ball than is healthy for a scrum-half. Though he obviously enjoys hurling himself at the feet of opposing forwards, and has not so far been annihilated, he should be relieved of some of this work. He slips the ball out nicely too, though it is not clear whether Harrington's occasional tendency to run back into the forwards is his own fault or forced on him by a pass which does not quite reach him. Apart from this doubt the stand-off and skipper, powerful, fast and elusive, have been the spearhead of the attack and a very present help in time of trouble. He knows several

ways of reaching the line, and can help others to find it also. The Shoemith-Jackson wing has remained the stronger, Shoggie's beautifully crisp kicking, and Jacko's outward-swerving run and strong tackling being particularly noticeable. Last line of defence, Skinner Hartley still lies a little close, enabling a fast wing-threequarter to round him sometimes. His cool nerve and pluck, however, have merited the confidence of the men in front, and his improvement during the season has been considerable and well-deserved.

RESULTS.

Colne	.. .. .	A.	Won: 11-0
Whitcliffe Mount	.. .. .	H.	Won: 18-5
Belle Vue	.. .. .	A.	Won: 9-0
Rochdale	.. .. .	A.	Won: 20-3
Rochdale	.. .. .	H.	Lost: 0-8
Whitcliffe Mount	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 17-23
Colne	.. .. .	H.	Won: 12-8

Fives Report

It is the purpose of this report to give an account of this term's fives fixtures and to give a summary of the season as a whole.

Our fixtures were resumed, this term, a few days after our return to school, when we visited Leeds University with a first four, on Saturday, January 14th. We lost by 11 games to 1, or in points 178 to 84, the wide margins indicating our opponents' definite superiority. A succession of two matches cancelled, one postponed, followed. This period of inactivity ended, however, when during the half-term holiday, our second four, playing away, beat a similar Crossleys' team by the comfortable margin of 9 games to 3 (points 164 to 122).

The return game with Leeds University, at home on March 1st, resulted in a clear victory for us, the score being 10 games to 2. It must be admitted, however, that this team was slightly weaker than the one against which we had played previously. A match for second fours, again with Leeds University, and played away, produced a like result, and again we came away victors by 10 games to 2.

Our next match was played on Tuesday, March 21st, against the College of the Resurrection, at home. They proved to be a strong and hard-hitting side. The honours of this game fell to our second pair, Sutcliffe and Musson, who put up a stubborn resistance. The efforts of our first pair, however, were enfeebled by the injury of one of its members, Mann. We were defeated by 10 games to 2.

The next day we were called upon to play a Crossley first four at home. With a first pair of our own whose play did certainly not merit that designation, the brunt of the attack fell again upon our second pair. They played very well to win five of their six games, but since any strong support from the first pair was lacking, our score remained at that level, and we lost by 7 games to 5 (points 165 to 112).

At the time of writing one match remains to be played, against the College of the Resurrection, away. This game does not, therefore, enter into the following list, a synopsis of the season's fixtures.

CROSSLEYS'.

1st IV, Nov. 26	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 12—0
„ Mar. 22	.. .. .	H.	Lost: 7—5
2nd IV, Dec. 7	.. .. .	H.	Won: 9—3
„ Feb. 22	.. .. .	A.	Won: 9—3

HULME HALL.

1st IV, Nov. 30	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 11—1
„ Feb. 1	.. .. .	H.	Cancelled.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY.

1st VI, Jan. 14	.. .. .	A.	Lost: 11—1
„ Mar. 1	.. .. .	H.	Won: 10—2
2nd IV, Nov. 23	.. .. .	H.	Cancelled.
„ Mar. 4	.. .. .	A.	Won: 10—2

CARNEGIE.

1st IV, Dec. 10	.. .. .	A.	Abandoned (bad
„ Mar. 8	.. .. .	H.	Cancelled. light).

KING EDWARD VII SCHOOL.

1st IV, Nov. 12	A.	Cancelled.
„ Dec. 14	H.	Won: 7—5

COLLEGE OF THE RESSURRECTION.

1st IV, Mar. 21	H.	Lost: 10—2
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Thus, out of a total of eleven matches played, five have been lost and five won, while one was abandoned.

It cannot be said that the season has been a success, nor yet a failure, but these results do tend to show that the decline in the standard of Fives, manifest since larger numbers of boys have been leaving after having gained their School Certificate, has not shown itself to be as great as in other spheres of sport, more notably Rugby.

But while I am loath to proffer excuses for our not winning more matches, I would ask the reader to remember that not one of this season's players was a last year's colour. Moreover, most of the teams we play are University teams, or are of establishments linked with Universities. Players on such teams do not usually play other games, but concentrate on Fives. To them every afternoon is free to practise the game.

Regarding the composition of this season's teams. Musson and Sutcliffe have, throughout the season, proved a strong and steady pair, reliable at all times. Their partnership has been all the more effective owing to its containing a left and right hander, with good understanding between the two. Sutcliffe is possessed of an excellent left hand, but is considerably weaker with his right. Musson is more ambidextrous, relying most, however, on hard right hand shots. He also has a powerful serve.

The other pair of the first four has varied in its composition and consequently in its standard of play. One consistent player has been Price, but of course the less said about him the better. The other place has been filled at various times by Nicholl, Shoesmith, and once, Mann. Nicholl has a hard right hand, but counterbalanced by a poor left. His morale is terrible (he, if no-one else, will understand this). Shoesmith is a good all-round player, but his fame lies in the future, when he can make his shots harder.

Perhaps the reader will think that in the list of results above I ought to have separated the first and second fours more than I have done. The reason for my not doing so is that in all its matches the second four has been bolstered up by one or more members of the first four. One consistent pair of the second four, however has been made up of Dean and Shoesmith. Dean, a left-handed player, tends to place too much reliance on that hand, while neglecting his right.

Prophesying for next season is apt to be very risky. But surely if such players as Musson and Sutcliffe stay on at school, and rising stars like Shoesmith persevere in their practice, then our hopes can be high. What is and will be lacking is a reserve of good players. This latter depends upon the popularity of the game in the school. I have tried to increase that popularity by means of the reinstatement of the Fives Ladder. Whether this has been successful or has failed I am not prepared to say. It is unfortunate, however, that the present Sixth Form is so apathetic to the game. But speaking now to those boys of the lower forms who cannot, but would like to learn to play, pester the Sixth formers and boys of the higher forms who do play, until they consent to teach you, for upon your shoulders lies the future of Fives at Heath.

A. PRICE.

Cross-Country

BILBROUGH TROPHY.

On a very warm Tuesday afternoon, March 14th, fifty-eight runners lined up for the usual cross-country race for the

"Billbrough" Trophy. After waiting about ten minutes, looking nice for their photographs, the runners were off. Proceeding along Linden Road, Sanderson had the misfortune to fall and gash his knee; but he pluckily finished the course. Turning right up the moor the runners began to thin out. M. W. Bottomley took the lead followed by Carling, White, and Wade. The route lay along Birdcage Road, down the hill, left through the woods and along the Copley Hill. After the latter had been climbed the field was well strung out with Bottomley leading, closely followed by White. Along New Lane these two began to leave the rest of the field and turning right through the ginnel, past the end of fourteen corners, were well in front. Along Broomfield Avenue and across the moor the order was the same, and in the stretch down the moor the pace increased. Turning into Linden Road, Bottomley was still in the lead but was outsprinted in the last fifty yards by White, who won in 18 mins. 22 secs., thus just failing to beat the record. Walton finished third. Altogether thirty-eight runners finished within the stipulated five minutes of the winner to obtain points for their Houses. Final House placings were: Queen's 30, Heath 29, King's 23, School 21.

RISHWORTH v. HEATH CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

On Saturday afternoon, March 25th, a team of eight from Heath went to Rishworth to take part in a cross-country run. The two teams lined up in the school courtyard for the start and on the Head Master of Rishworth's firing a gun they were off. Proceeding via a field and a lane, a narrow ginnel was reached ascending steeply to the Rochdale road. Here the Rishworth team had the advantage of knowing the course, for they spurted ahead to crowd into this ginnel. Since there was no room to pass our speed was that of their slowest men. About two hundred yards left along the main Rochdale road the track dropped down a so-called lane. An endless bog would have been a more appropriate name. Crossing three fields on the north side of Bogden reservoir several walls and fences were crossed. By now the field was fairly well strung out with, at this point, Verity of Heath making the pace, with Trott, Rishworth, and White and Bottomley, Heath, following. Crossing a wooden bridge in the valley the worst part of the run began. This was an extremely steep hill leading up for 270 yards to a ruined farmhouse. Here the runners either failed or carried on. Trott and Taylor of Rishworth went in front with White and Bottomley following. Reaching the farmhouse a further steep pull up was encountered and at last the awful hill was passed. The gradient of that hill was 200 feet in as many yards. The route now took a direct line to Porrock Nook chapel, the runners

still in the same order. Fields, with several walls and fences, but all a gradual descent, were now encountered. A boggy section led the field to Lower Cockroft farm and here it began to snow. In what seemed like a howling blizzard, the runners continued along lanes and a field to Upper Cockroft farm, where the order was now Trott, White and Bottomley. Along a footpath to a road both White and Bottomley tripped up but did no harm to themselves. Down the road the track turned right through a stile, over boggy ground to the Rishworth School playing field. Here the finish was in sight, a funnel by the pavilion and the runners came in as on the appended list.

The course was policed by markers who preceded the pack in relays and then directed it to the next point. Intricate points were marked with paper. The Heath team was undoubtedly hampered by not knowing the course since the finish was reached before either White or Bottomley was aware that it was near. As a result Trott was comparatively unchallenged by these two. The distance given was about three miles but it seemed very much longer and compared with that course our own is a mild trot. Still it was very enjoyable and looks like becoming an annual event. Heath can be congratulated on putting up as good a show as they did.

M.W.B.

		POINTS.		Rishworth.	Heath.
1.	Trott	Rishworth ..	1		
2.	White	Heath			2
3.	Bottomley, M. W. ..	Heath			3
4.	Taylor	Rishworth ..	4		
5.	Hirst	Rishworth ..	5		
6.	Haynes	Rishworth ..	6		
7.	Hardy	Rishworth ..	7		
8.	Mitchell	Rishworth ..	8		
9.	Jefferies	Heath			9
10.	Maude	Rishworth ..	-		
11.	Walton	Heath			10
12.	Verity	Heath			11
13.	Longbottom	Rishworth ..	-		
14.	Carling	Heath			12
15.	Beaumont	Heath			-
16.	Lumb	Heath			-
		Total ..	31		47

First six in each team scored points.

Time: 23 mins. 49 secs.

Hurdling

The general standard of hurdling in schools is definitely poor, and at Heath particularly low. The public schools' record, held by F. V. Scopes, stands at 15.2 secs. for the 120 yards event, whilst the Heath school record is only 18.8 secs. even over hurdles which are 6 ins. lower than those used at the White City for the Public Schools' and A.A.A. Junior Championships. The apparent reason for the comparatively poor showings of our school hurdlers is that they have lacked suitable and proper training. A few words about hurdling would, therefore, be useful.

There are two standard distances for hurdle races: the 120 yards over 3 ft. 6 in. hurdles, and the 440 yards over 3 ft. hurdles. Only the shorter distance is run in Junior events, and the height of the hurdles is only 3 ft. 3 ins. The best hurdlers are rather tall and endowed with long legs and loose, flexible joints: lithe men, the upper parts of their bodies being on the light side. The attire of a hurdler must be well fitting and special care must be taken to see that the shoes are light and close fitting. As for spikes, it is advisable to have six half-inch sole ones, and two in the heel to give a better grip, to ensure greater stability, and to lessen the jar of landing rapidly from successive hurdles. The shoes should be kept well oiled, and a spare pair of laces should always be in the kit-bag. As a hurdler's greatest asset is a set of loose and flexible muscles, he must always keep himself warm by wearing a sweat suit over his shorts and vest.

In the Heath Sports the 120 yards event is featured, so I shall deal with this event. Training falls into three categories: general, sprinting, and actual hurdling. Under the heading "general" it is not meant to classify the general methods of getting fit, but rather to suggest specialized exercises which aim at obtaining loose joints, supple muscles, and general flexibility of the body. These exercises must occupy the sole training at the beginning of every season, and later should always be used as a preliminary to training proper or competition.

The suggested exercises which tend to loosen muscles are touching the toes with the knees straight, high-kicking, and the Russian or Cossack leg dance. Actual hurdling exercises must be practised before hurdling is attempted. The first of this type consists of standing at the side of a hurdle with the leading leg furthest from the hurdle. The back leg is then brought up and over the hurdle, being flexed at both hip and knee, and bent out horizontally, so that as it crosses the hurdle, thigh and leg lie parallel to the top bar, which they ought almost to graze. The second exercise is the splits. A position is assumed on the floor with the leading leg straight out in front and the rear leg

drawn up at right angles to the body with hip and knee flexed. The body is swung forward and attempts are made to touch the toes with the fingers of the arm opposite to the leading leg. The other arm is kept tucked into the side.

Sprint starts are very important, for a faulty start means the knocking down of the first hurdle, a fact which usually prevents the hurdler from gaining anything like good form over the remaining nine flights. The front foot should be placed six or nine inches behind the starting line, and the rear foot in such a position that the knee rests on the ground alongside the instep of the front foot. The holes are dug in these positions and tested before the command, "Get to your marks!" At this point the hurdler takes off his warm clothing, and gets into his holes placing his hands on the starting line, with the thumbs pointing inwards, and shoulder width apart. The eyes should look at the spot where the back foot will come at the end of the first stride. On "Get set!" the whole poise alters; every muscle becomes tense, every faculty alert. The rear knee is raised 12-15 inches and the weight thrown forward on to the fingers. At the pistol, a forward movement of the back leg is counterbalanced by a forward drive of the arm on the side of the front foot and a backward and upward drive of the other arm. Short sprinting bursts of about 50 yards are valuable for the hurdler, and an occasional fast 200 yards is to be commended.

Actual hurdling should not be practised more than three times a week, and even then not more than six flights should be crossed. When training care should be taken to acquire a good style, and to fit in the three strides between each hurdle rather than to go all out for speed. One last thing to remember is that time spent in the air is time lost, so the front leg should be snapped down as near to three feet beyond the hurdle as possible.

Now then, hurdlers of Heath, let us see the record time for the 120 yards hurdles reduced by at least two seconds at your Sports in the Summer Term!

Heath School Club

RULES.

1. The Club shall be called the "HEATH SCHOOL CLUB."
2. The object of the Club is to assist and co-ordinate the out of school activities of the School, i.e. games, sports, School Societies, and the Magazine, and to protect and promote the general welfare of the School.
3. All boys in the School shall be entitled to membership of the Club by paying the subscription and conforming to the Rules of the Club.

4. The subscription shall be 2/6 a year.
5. The treasurer shall have control over the funds of the Club and shall be responsible to the Head Master for their care and application. He is empowered to receive subscriptions and to sign cheques on behalf of the Club.
6. All Masters of the School are *ex-officio* members of the Club.
7. Old Boys, Governors, Parents and other friends of the School may become Honorary Members of the Club at an annual subscription of 1/6 and shall receive a copy of each issue of *The Heathen*.
8. The Executive Officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a General Secretary, a sub-Treasurer and an Editor of *The Heathen*.
9. The Special Officers shall be for Football a Captain, a Vice-Captain and a Secretary, for Cricket a Captain, a Vice-Captain and a Secretary, for Fives a Captain, a Vice-Captain-Secretary, for Athletics a Secretary, and for Swimming a Secretary.
10. The Auditor shall be appointed at the beginning of each School year by the General Committee.
11. The Executive Officers shall be elected at the beginning of each School year by the General Committee.
12. The Special Officers for Football and Fives shall be elected at the beginning of the Christmas Term, for Athletics and Swimming at the beginning of the Easter Term and for Cricket at the beginning of the Summer Term by the General Committee. Each Special Officer shall serve for one year.
13. The Names of the Officers of the Club as elected shall be submitted by the General Secretary to the Head Master for his approval.
14. The business of the Club shall be controlled by the General Committee.
15. The General Committee shall consist of Prefects, House Captains and Vice-Captains, one representative elected from the Club members of each Form below the Sixth Form, the Second Master, the Senior House Masters, the Games Master, the Master controlling *The Heathen* and any Officers not included among these. All members of the General Committee must be members of the Club. Twelve shall form a quorum.
16. The General Secretary shall call a meeting of the General Committee at the beginning of each School Term or at other times to effect a proposed change in the rules.

17. The General Secretary shall call a meeting of the Club when required to do so by at least twenty members.
18. An Executive Committee shall be constituted to conduct such general business as is not covered by Rules 15 and 16 and to advise the Treasurer in the disposal of the funds of the Club.
19. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive officers, the Second Master, the Senior House Masters, the Games Master, the Master controlling *The Heathen* and the House Captains. Six shall form a quorum.
20. The House Competitions shall be regulated by a House Committee, consisting of the Senior House Masters, the House Captains, and the Games Master.
21. The House Committee shall be empowered to call into consultation any member of the Club not represented on the Committee. Such member called into consultation shall not vote.
22. The Executive Committee shall appoint such sub-Committees as it shall think fit, provided that such sub-Committees shall include the appropriate Special Officers.
23. The General Secretary shall be an *ex-officio* member of all Committees and sub-Committees of the Club.
24. The Dramatic Society, Orchestra, School Camp and other School Societies shall be invited to become affiliated to the School Club on certain conditions. (Rules 25-29).
25. Affiliated Societies shall be allowed to remain autonomous if they so wish.
26. The Secretaries of Affiliated Societies shall report on the activities of these Societies to the General Secretary from time to time and at least once a year.
27. The General Secretary shall report on the activities of the Affiliated Societies to the General Committee.
28. The General Secretary shall act as co-ordinating agent for the activities of the Affiliated Societies when necessary.
29. An Affiliated Society seeking the advice of the School Club shall appoint a representative to meet the Executive Committee.
30. The minutes of the General Committee and the balance sheet of the Club shall be printed in *The Heathen*.

These rules were adopted at Representative Meetings of Members held on December 5th, 1938, and March 27th, 1939, and take effect from April, 1939.

Sonnet

ON READING CICERO'S ORATIONS AGAINST CATILINE.

Before th' assembled senate house, alone,
Old Cicero, with thund'ring bitterness,
Doth Catiline expose, now haply gone;
His words, afire, ring in the quietness,
The cool air quivers with his mighty speech,
And all the conscript Fathers, hushed with awe,
Do hear him as he 'passioned doth beseech,
Their concord for his breach of Roman law.
Ah senators! so prosperous and sure,
Ungrateful ye to Catiline indeed;
You banished him an exile to endure,
Who saved you from a cruel villain's greed.
Had he left you to Catiline a prey,
You'd scarce have lived this patriot-role to play.

M. W. BOTTOMLEY.

Australasian Jamboree Tour, 1938-9

On March 6th last, I, among twenty-seven others, arrived at Southampton after a four month tour in which we saw some of Southern Australia, and attended the Australasian Jamboree at Bradfield, near Sydney. The contingent, number twenty-seven, left England in November and had a very enjoyable and interesting voyage out on the *Esperance Bay*. At Colombo we were entertained by the Sea Scouts there, and we paid a visit to a rubber plantation where we saw the whole process of manufacture. Then we sampled the native food (mainly curry) and were very glad to get back to dinner on the ship. Our first glimpse of Australia was at Fremantle, where we arrived early in December. The countryside seemed very different from English scenery at a first glance, and this was probably because in Australia the same scenery stretches for miles, while in England there is a change round nearly every corner. The houses are nearly all bungalows and many of them had corrugated iron roofs, and the shops all have verandahs built over the street. However, we only had a day in Fremantle, and our first impression of Australian home life was at Adelaide where we arrived five days later. Here the party was split up and each of us stayed with an Australian boy of his own age. This was the best way in which we could get a first hand experience of the home life out there, and we found our hosts a very pleasant and hospitable people. After staying three days in Adelaide we set off on our

cross-country tour. As far as Melbourne we followed the coast road and saw some very fine scenery. Melbourne is a very large and busy city and we were sorry only to have one whole day there. From Melbourne we moved on to Mount Buffalo, which is a famous beauty spot. To get to it we had to climb 2,000 feet from the surrounding countryside and we spent the night at the Government Chalet, which is on the edge of the plateau, 4,500 feet above sea level. The scenery here was among the finest of the whole tour and we were sorry to leave the following morning. We continued along the Hume Highway and entered New South Wales at Albury. This part of New South Wales is very fertile and we saw many orchards on our way. During our stay in Gundagai most of us spent the night at sheep stations and were able to see the daily routine of such a place. After Gundagai we branched off the Hume Highway to Canberra, and stayed there for two nights. In Canberra there are many fine buildings and, as they are all white, they make a very striking picture from the hills which surround the city. From Canberra we went on through Bathurst and Mudgee, and arrived in Sydney just before Christmas. Here we again stayed in Scout homes and all had a very enjoyable Christmas, although it seemed strange to be having temperatures of over 100 degrees in the shade. The Christmas holidays are spent mainly in picnicking and surfing on the marvellous beaches which surround Sydney. The Harbour and Bridge are the main attractions to tourists, and at week-ends the harbour is dotted with scores of yachts and motor boats. On December 28th we went into camp on the Jamboree site at Bradfield, and for the first two days we were busy settling down. Then we began to wander about and meet some of the 10,000 Australian Scouts, and we also met several members of other foreign contingents. Our small, green tents attracted quite an amount of interest as all the Australians had larger tents. Our most interested visitors, however, were members of the public, many of whom came from England. They all wanted to get home news and were delighted if they found anyone from their own home town. There were many fine displays at the Jamboree, and the evening camp fires, to which the public were admitted, were very popular. We made many friends at the Jamboree and were very sorry to break camp on January 9th. After the Jamboree most of the contingent stayed on a large sheep and dairy farm about forty miles from Sydney, then, at the end of January we sailed for home on the *Jervis Bay*, and were very sorry to leave the land which had entertained us so well.

We had another very enjoyable voyage home, and in Colombo were taken to see a tea plantation where we saw the whole process of manufacture. When we arrived at Suez we

left the ship, and travelled by car to Cairo, where we stayed the night. The following morning we went out to the Pyramids, and had a very exciting ride on a camel. After this we went to the Cairo Museum and saw the marvellous jewels and other possessions of the Ancient Egyptian kings. After this we returned by train to Port Said where we rejoined the ship. Then, after a fairly rough passage we arrived home a month ago to find weather very different from that which we had experienced during the greater part of the tour.

J. DENHAM.

The Heathen in his blindness wants to know—

What a certain Modern Sixth Former sees in a Corporation 'bus ?

* * *

What Sixth Former, confronted with the *weight*, dignity and majesty of the law, discovered that, after all, a policeman is only human ?

* * *

Whether the vernal atmosphere recently observed in the office has any spiritual significance ?

* * *

Whether recent tutorial changes have strengthened the Entente Cordiale ?

* * *

Whether the Nuremburg laws are receiving feminine support ?

* * *

Why is there never room for them in the inn ? and has Alice anything to do with it ?

* * *

Whether the successful candidate at the recent elections is considering forming an OGPU in the school ?

* * *

"Where is Mount Parnassus ?
And who at its bottom lies ?
And should he chance to pass us
Who'll sear his sanguined eyes ?"

aedes conspiciens ; "How long, oh Lord, how long ?"

* * *

Who is HER ?

The Favourites

There have been, we fear, but three meetings this term, and of these we can report personally on but two, an important appointment with a bout of 'flu necessitating, or at least rendering highly desirable, our absence from the third.

It chanced that we ourselves opened the initial debate by aberring that "Convention is the curse of Modern Society," declaring, among other things, that it is stifling man. Perhaps surprisingly to many members of the Society, we enlarged at great length upon the moral aspect of convention, and with irrefutable logic showed that convention can exert no influence in the production and maintenance of a moral life. Dazed, no doubt, by our brilliant exposition, Mr. Nicholl, our opposer, delivered himself of a somewhat rambling speech, expressing admiration for our nerve, and pronouncing that the real curse of Modern Society was the absence of a code of morals. Changing his mind, he later stated that the profiteer was the greatest curse. The Society was then treated to four charming anecdotes from the gifted life of Mr. Harwood, who was our second, and an enjoyable time was had by all. Mr. Wilkinson, who supported the opposition, was unable to rise to the heights of eloquence so easily attained by Mr. Harwood, and his speech consequently came somewhat as an anticlimax. Indeed, we can remember only that he said that convention promotes security. Strangely enough, we cannot record a victory for the proposition, for the vote taken indicated that, by five votes to six, the Society welcomed convention.

Of the next debate, "That this House deplores Mr. Chamberlain's Foreign Policy," we have no personal recollections, this amount being garnered from minutes written by a most able deputy. It appears that Messrs. Bottomley and Nicholl considered that Mr. Chamberlain's foreign policy (the existence of which was denied by Mr. Bottomley) was responsible for an increase in the power and prestige of the Dictators, and for the present condition of Palestine, Mr. Nicholl maintaining that the gentleman in question was so frightened of Communism that he was going Fascist. For the opposition, Messrs. Price and Butterworth staunchly supported Mr. Chamberlain, declaring that the right policy was to parry the Dictator's blows, until England was strong enough to withstand their aggression. We note (still from the minutes), that Mr. Butterworth "flung an extract from *John Bull* at his opponent's heads . . . and followed this onslaught with a destructive blow from *Til-Bits*." The motion was carried by the unsatisfactory figure of four votes to three.

We still have vivid memories of the last meeting of term, when the Society held a Mock Election. Three candidates were nominated, Messrs. Scales and Bottonley, and Comrade 'Ben' Wilkinson, who represented respectively Fascism, Independent Progression, and Communism. Mr. Scales addressed the Society first, after an excellent introduction by Mr. 'Fluff' Price (Opposition cry of 'Boo!'). Mounted high upon a purple-piled dais Mr. Scales told us, indeed, hurriedly assured us, that he was not setting himself up as a second Hitler or Mussolini. This struck us as rather superfluous, for anyone knowing Mr. Scales would at once realize the absurdity of such a thought. However, Mr. Scales continued and extolled the merits of Fascist countries, publicly proclaiming that Democracy was degenerate (Sensation!) Following this destructive cut came a shrewd blow at the Imperialists, for he assured us, in a voice charged with emotion, that only Fascism could save the Empire from disintegration. But this was not all: with a deadly lunge he informed us that he would annihilate street corner loungers, and in reply to a question, made the final telling thrust that he was 'not a jitterbug!'

After the forceful style of Mr. Scales it was a welcome relief to listen to the quiet, soothing tones of Mr. Bottomley, and an added relief to be able to do so without getting a crick in our neck. Introduced by Mr. Taylor, he began to tell us what Independent Progression was, and this he did in a most peculiar manner by telling us what it wouldn't do, and a lengthy and ponderous list it was. Indeed, we could detect no difference between the absence of any Government and the presence of an Independent Progressive one. We did gather, however, that he was more concerned about social problems, than about political ones.

This gentle speech put us in fine fettle for Comrade Ben, who was introduced grandiloquently by Comrade Nicholl. To ensure no confusion he first informed us that he wanted a Communist Society, and then declared firmly that the State is not an end in itself. His denunciation of Democracy because it allowed the bloated capitalist to exploit the poor worker was most harrowing, and undoubtedly gained him many adherents. Unfortunately he probably lost them by admitting that a revolution would be necessary before the Communist state could come into existence; indeed he strenuously pointed out that only such unconstitutional measures would enable the Communists to reap the fruits of their labours. He vigorously refuted our suggestion that these fruits would be blood-oranges (laughter). Mr.—sorry—Comrade Ben seems best described as an Intermittent Anarchist, as one member put it.

Tense excitement prevailed when the Society voted and great was the jubilation when Comrade Ben emerged triumphant with a vote of five, a victory of one over his Fascist, and three over his Independent Progressive, opponents.

And so, after its most successful meeting for some considerable time, the Society wended its way homewards; and so also your Scribe lays down his pen.

Boy! where's that embrocation?

Hiawatha at Heath

By the iron gates of Free-school,
By the portals of the Heathen,
Stood, one morning, Hiawatha,
Hiawatha of the mountains,
Stood, and turned towards the building,
Stood, and gazed with many sighings,
Turned towards its gloomy doorway,
Strode along with lagging footstep,
Thinking of his Minnetonka,
Strode along with sinking feeling,
Soon approached that awful portal,
Saw a gleam of red within it,
Saw a blazer, then a prefect,
Saw a notebook and a pencil,
Saw all this with trepidation,
Trembled with a strong foreboding,
Dreaded yet to enter quickly,
Then at last took up his courage,
Stepped inside with footsteps gentle,
Name and Form, loud cried a presence,
Name and Form for you are late,
Hiawatha quickly answered,
Quickly gave the information,
Went inside into his form-room,
Sat upon a desk and wondered.
By the iron gates of Free-school,
By the portals of the Heathen,
Stood each morning in the sunlight,
Stared with fear, as Hiawatha,
Many other of his brothers
Who were late that sunny morning.

M.W.B.

Heath School Table Tennis Club

The most important development of this term was the addition of a second table which certainly livened up the club. As last term meetings were held on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The play has improved all round, and the club can look forward to next winter, when it hopes to enter a league.

Last term we were promised a game with the staff; this match was played on March 10th and the Masters were defeated by 13 games to 7 (354 points to 280). Next term we hope to play a few outside teams—there are one or two of these in mind. Then, also, we shall be able to play at 4.15 p.m. on certain days of the week.

Towards the end of this term an internal league was instituted and this has increased the interest of play.

D.W.A.

Meccano Club Notes

This club, founded last term, has already made splendid progress and is now an official club of the Meccano Guild. Last term in addition to the meetings of the Hornby and Meccano sections, lectures were given to the club by Mr. G. A. Vowles, Halifax Electrical Engineer, and Mr. W. B. McLusky, Halifax Gas Engineer. Both were well illustrated and very interesting. This term, in addition to our ordinary programme, members have visited the Electricity Works and a coal mine. The two sections meet on alternate Mondays and the programmes of the meetings combine instruction with the more light-hearted side of club life. Various competitions, with prizes, are run and members agree that it is well worth the subscription of 6d. per term. New members should apply to the Secretary.

M.W.B.

A Visit to a Coal Mine

On Saturday, February 11th, the Heath School Meccano Club paid a visit to the colliery owned by Messrs. Stringer and Son Ltd. at Skelmanthorpe, near Huddersfield, kindly arranged for them by Mr. W. B. McLusky, the Halifax Gas Engineer. After a fine run in wintry sunshine over the snow-covered moors the party reached Skelmanthorpe about an hour after leaving Halifax and were there welcomed by the General Manager of the Company. The first item on the programme was a short talk by him in the company's office. He explained that at Skelmanthorpe the seam of coal was on an average only about

21 inches thick in parts. He explained that coal was really composed of vegetable matter which had flourished on earth before man came, in an atmosphere heavily charged with carbon. The bed on which the coal rested was the original ground level of those far-off days and the ground above the coal had been super-imposed during millions of years. He then told us that a modern mine was all electric and that no ponies are used nowadays. Since dirt was inevitably mined with the coal, he said, they had to wash the coal.

The party was then conducted to the "wash-house" where they inspected the Baum type coal washing and preparation plant which can deal with 100 to 200 tons of coal per hour. The washing process was of the "wet washing" type. In this the coal and dirt passes through a bath of water which is pulsating all the time. The coal, having a specific gravity of only 1.3, is carried along by the gentle flow of water, while the dirt, very much heavier, sinks as mud into a trough at the bottom, which automatically empties when full. The water is pulsed by a sort of a U tube arrangement, in which a pressure of 2 lbs. is applied at quick intervals to one limb. The U tube being filled with water in the other limb, the water pulsates rapidly. After washing the coal is passed on to vibrating screens which grade the coal by allowing it to drop through different sized holes into storage bunkers. The water from the washing process is not wasted but, strange as it seems, is filtered. This is done by means of an ingenious wheel which has large "elephant's feet" attached. These dip into a trough of washing water which has been reduced to mud, and as each foot is in the mud a vacuum is applied. This sucks mud onto the foot and as the foot comes out, air is sucked through drying the mud, which is then knocked off.

After this the party proceeded to the shaft of the colliery a mile or two away. I was privileged to travel in the Managing Director's car and he told me what splendid opportunities there are for boys who go in for mine engineering since there is a paucity of good engineers. I was surprised to learn that a mine manager can earn up to £3,000 per year.

On arriving at the pit-head the party assembled in the winding house. Here another short talk was given by the Manager and the winding engine inspected. After seeing the engine which drives the ventilation fan, drawing air at about 28,000 cubic feet per second through the mine. The party was then split into divisions of six and each boy was given a new type of electric miner's lamp, weighing 8 lbs., and supplied with a guide. Our six descended the shaft first and going down in the cage was not a very exhilarating experience! At the shaft

bottom we were asked if we had any matches in our pockets, our lamps were tested, and then we proceeded—that is, we tried to proceed, but the mixture of clay, coal dust and moisture was so sticky that one boy left his shoe behind and we were continually stuck. However, after about ten minutes we came out into the main roadway where the going was better. We proceeded along here, passing numerous passages leading to the different coal-producing “districts,” each with its engine for drawing the trucks out of it, until at last we turned down one of these! We soon reached the coal face which consisted of a layer of rock at the bottom, then about 18 inches of coal, then more rock. To the right a narrow passage extended. In here we were told the men worked at “undercutting” the coal with electric coal-cutting machines. When this was finished the coal was blown down into the space which had been “undercut” and then loaded into trucks. The passage was then filled in and another begun on the left. So they gradually proceeded into the seam, moving about 4 ft. 6 ins. a day. The trucks were fastened by a special clip on to an endless chain and would be fastened to about eight different ropes before they reached the surface.

On our return journey we were shown the pumps, driven by compressed air, which keep the faces free from water. Our guide explained in answer to a question, that there were four kinds of “damp” in a mine. Fire damp, or methane gas; white damp, or carbon monoxide; black damp, and stink damp, or sulphurated hydrogen. Fire damp, he said, caused most explosions and was followed by white damp which choked men to death and which accounted for the heavy death rolls. The other two were not so common. He pointed to a white powder which covered walls, floor, and roof, and explained that it was crushed rock which, in the event of an explosion would form, a suspension in the air and prevent another. All the time we were down the mine a cool breeze was very noticeable and we were told that the mine was ventilated better than most homes. In reply to another question, our guide told us that there was enough coal to last another three hundred years and that the mine had been in existence as long as that already. Most of their miners, he said, earned upwards to 25/- a day. We agreed that they had deserved it.

So with our lamps feeling like 80 lbs. and with a new conception of the value of coal we were whisked up again to the welcome fresh air and on looking at one another thought it a great joke to see how dirty we were. But after a wash we could rub our sorely benumbed hands in moderate cleanliness and laugh at the others as they came up.

M.W.B.

HALIFAX.

March 28th, 1939.

To the Editor of “The Heathen.”

SIR,

For many years our school athletes have had to labour under somewhat unsuitable conditions. The Kensington football ground is suitable enough for running, but the other departments of athletics are not catered for. A very poor long-jumping pit is usually dug at Kensington less than a fortnight before the annual sports. No sand is placed in this pit and the run up is through rough grass and over uneven ground. Our high jumpers have had to take off and land on hard and slippery grass surfaces. No wonder that there have been broken arms!

The old lawn behind the school has been rendered unrecognizable by the recent building operations, and I suggest that two jumping pits should be dug. The advantage to be gained by two such pits are numerous. Being at school, boys would be able to use them after afternoon school and Mr. Birchall would be able to coach during Gym. periods. The cost of construction would not be very great, and I feel certain that money spent in such a way would soon show a good return by bringing a welcome improvement in school jumping standards. If carefully planned these pits would not make the back of the school look untidy.

Yours truly,

A. B. WADE.

To the Editor of “The Heathen.”

SIR,

In the past we have been denied many pleasures owing to cramped quarters, but at present much is being done to overcome this difficulty. Recently, social activities have been greatly encouraged in the school, but there has been a serious omission—dancing. This activity has been deemed sufficiently important to be included in the curriculum of most schools,—why not in ours?

Dancing, if taken in the true sense, is a form of education which deserves a place in the school life. It is not easy for members of the school to find the time to attend dancing classes, because they are held at rather inconvenient times. But any enthusiast would be able to fit in one class per week at 4.15 p.m., and would be willing to pay a small subscription for the engagement of a teacher.

This letter is not written as a complaint, but as a suggestion and as such, we hope it will receive favourable consideration by those in authority.

Yours faithfully,

THREE SIXTH FORMERS.

To the Editor of "The Heathen."

SIR,

It is very difficult to see what the letter of Three Sixth Formers (*sic*) is demanding. Why must they be so vague? First, I would venture to challenge their statement that dancing "has been . . . included in the curriculum of most schools." I should like to know what "social activities" have *recently* been encouraged in the school and what precisely they mean by "social." Moreover it is definitely untrue to imply that our "cramped quarters" have denied us any "pleasures" which we should otherwise have had: the fact is that the number of school activities has actually increased despite the extreme lack of room since September last.

Dancing "if taken in the true sense" (strange phrase) may, or may not be "a form of education which deserves a place in the school life." Before we can decide we must know what form of dancing these Sixth-formers have in mind. Do they aim at the Ballet, the Ball-room or the Nine Men's Morris? We venture to suggest that not all of these have an equal educational value. Do they advocate dancing as a pleasure or a study? I know, of course, that learning is a pleasure, but am I to equate dancing with Latin and Mathematics, or Football and Cricket, or the Favorites, or Table Tennis, or Paper Aeroplanes? I am prepared to consider their opinion when they give it with reasons; until then I shall continue to believe that many educated men are ignorant of Terpsichore's arts but tolerably well acquainted with logic.

The most important point, however, seems to be the inconvenient habit of Teachers of Dancing of holding their classes at inconvenient times. These enthusiasts (how many, we wonder?) would find that if they could persuade one of these experts to come to the school at 4.15 they could even more easily persuade them to give tuition in their own studios at a similar time for an even smaller subscription.

Will Three Sixth Formers let us have their proposals in plain English which we can understand backed up by reasons and facts. Until they state their case it cannot be judged. I only want to know.

Yours, etc.,

MR. WALKER.

Scouts

One day recently, the powers that be (known commonly as the Group Council) decided that Scouting was to be brought forcibly in the public's eye; we were therefore approached and politely asked whether we would collect all the items from the various sections into one article. ("You'd better do it, or . . .!") It was explained that this step was to ensure that there were four reports in the same Magazine, a state of affairs which has been rather rare recently. We accordingly snooped round the school interviewing secretaries.

The 'A' Section secretary, being politely requested to do so, retired into the office, from which he came, a few days later, bearing the following report, all neatly typed out:—

"At the beginning of the term the Troop was honoured by the visit of Mr. Claude Fisher from Imperial Headquarters. Our Section was represented by the Otters.

"We have had a good term; several new recruits being invested. The main activities have been 2nd Class Ambulance and 1st Class Morse. We have had quite a few outdoor games during the meetings this term. Nearly every member of the Section is in the Camp Bank, this showing very good promise of future camps. There will most likely be a camp this Whitsuntide.

"Next term, being the camping season, we want as many Scouts as possible to be present at camps, especially the younger members, as we want the Camping Competition Trophy to be brought back once more to our Section and keep up the good name of 'A' Section for camping; so it's up to you!"

The "B" Section fellow refused, quite flatly, to write anything at all. "Aw!" said he, "Write it yourself!" Which we did:—

"'B' Section, we may safely say, has taken the lead in the matter of badges. We have now two King's Scouts and 1st Class badges and all-round cords galore; one of the King's Scouts is going to the St. George's Day service at Windsor. The Troop is, we fear, not working as hard as it might; the getting of badges is confined to a small minority of P.L.s, 2nds, and a few odd Scouts.

"Four members of our Section are entering for the National Service badge course these holidays. We must especially commend one of the Bulls for his feat of being the first Weatherman in the Troop; a Horse for getting his 2nd Class in a phenomenally short time—he will have to wait nearly two years before he is eligible for his 1st Class! We also extend our

heartiest congratulations to 'C' Section for having a Public Health Man's Badge.

"The Camp Bank, with us, has exactly one subscriber! Many other people have, however, declared their intention of going camping; we hope they will carry their resolutions out. We should also like to correct a slight misapprehension on the part of 'A' Section: if the camping competition trophy returns to the Troop at all—it returns to us, not them."

"The Section also has suffered two Wide Games in the true Jack Blunt tradition; they were, however, dismal failures. The Section does not seem to have been reading its full quota of sensational fiction—they have absolutely no idea how to snoop and shadow!"

"D" Section's secretary, interviewed just before prayers on the last day but one of term, showed considerable consternation at being thus obliged to make a report; he had, apparently, no intention of writing one had we not, so to speak, coerced him. He pleaded that he had suffered much from German measles and 'flu: we can sympathize with him, for we have been victims, in common with numerous other Scouts, of the same disorders. He gave us a hurried résumé of his Section's activities, with the injunction: "Don't print it as I've written it!"

"D" Section, he says, has now four Patrols: the Lions, Eagles, Stags and Elephants (we bet we can guess who the Elephants are . . .), and but one vacancy. Work has, it seems, been going on much as in any other Section, but, despite this, this youngest Section has no 2nd Class badges yet. We hope that their efforts in this direction will soon be rewarded. They hope, this summer, to have as successful a Whitsuntide camp as they did last year. The Section enjoyed a Grand Xmas Party, followed by a cinema show kindly given by Mr. Brunton. So ends this term's record of "D" Section—our "baby." We hope that next term they will take up a bit more space.

"C" Section, masquerading under its nom-de-plume the "Webeces" (a name which we imagine, has no definite meaning. We might as well go around saying "Usabes" (Us are bes) or "Usbedes," or something like that. These "C" Section people produced, after some delay, the following report, re-produced *in toto* :—

"This has been a mixed term. Attendances have been poor at times and there are still a few lads who believe in Scouting-without-Effort, which is impossible. But there have been signs of life as well—badges gained. First class work done and good wide games in the dark. We know now how heavy a Gold Brick can be.

"Winter camping can be fun but only if you are a very good camper and pretty tough. We have, however, found that by using a Youth Hostel it is possible to "very-nearly-camp" without exposure to the full rigours of the season. We used the Luddenden Hostel at half-term and it was quite a good do. The Y.H.A. is worth remembering, especially if you wish to hike without a heavy pack, for cooking utensils and blankets are supplied. If the Scouter in charge belongs to the Association, a group of juveniles can use hostel and cooking facilities, all at a shilling per head per night.

"We are also experimenting with the making of a small one-wheeled trek-cart suitable for taking over footpaths, stiles, bogs, rivers, scree, gullies, and precipices. At Easter we hope to try it out in an expedition which includes Malham and Gordale. For details, see our next term's thrilling instalment."

We should certainly like to see them negotiating a river—especially if a bridge were not handy: a bog might be quite amusing too! We fail quite to catch the exact meaning of a "Gold Brick": it probably has something to do with the "Calder Cannibals."

So much for the four Sections as separate units; the terminal Church Parade was held at King Cross Methodist, where we heard Mr. Bramwell-Evens, of B.B.C. fame.

And lastly we would like to address all Scouts in general: to all of you who are at a loss what "weekly" to take—take the *Scout*, 3d. weekly, and worth it!

A Model Railway Exhibition

Early in January a Model Railway Exhibition was opened in aid of the Scout Hut Fund. Mr. G. Hanson very kindly obtained the use of a room in Mount Street, where his railway was laid out.

On entering the room I saw several models arranged on a mantel-shelf. There was a very fine model of a car, showing all the framework and "innards," also a fine horizontal engine, and a model (electric) of the Stirling single-driver type of locomotive.

I think the first thing that struck me was the scenery. Mr. Hanson spent many hours on this, and he has produced a grand result. Right across one wall was a great panorama of hills and valleys, with small villages and close to the layout, docks and steamers were painted. There were also large cuttings, trees, animals, houses, and for railway work there

were stations, signal boxes and a large engine shed. On the stations were miniature porters and passengers (I saw Lloyd George and Charlie Chaplin having a chat).

Then there was the enormous layout consisting of several hundred feet of track. There was everything there, points, loops, sidings, cross-overs, all electric. That brought me to the control panel, to find out why there wasn't a glorious mix-up. There were two controls, one for the inner and one for the outer track. All tracks were divided into sections, so that the train could be stopped anywhere.

There were some quite large loads being taken round, one that I saw consisting of 42 trucks. The trucks were of various types: coal, wood, and stone, and the closed vans were cattle, perishables, etc., and there were also two mica vans, painted white, as in proper railway working. I then examined the engines, of which there were 14 or 15. Outstanding were, I thought, the two "Princess" class engines, the "Claughton," and a "Rail-car." There were other fine engines, but I liked these best.

The coaches were true to type, and one, the dining-car, was very good indeed. When the trains were diverted, the man at the points levers had to pull them over "just like a real 'un," as I heard one small boy say.

The lighting arrangements were fine. All the room lights were put out, and trains raced on through the dark, pulling up at brightly lit stations, and then going off once more into the night.

I could say tons more about the railway, but space does not permit, so I will end by thanking Mr. Hanson, not forgetting his helpers, for a splendid entertainment.

R. THURLOW.

Junior School Notes

We have been unfortunate this term in experiencing much illness. Two boys have had operations on their appendix, and several boys have had German measles.

This has, of course, affected, not only the work of the school, but also the games.

* * *

G. Heighington was 1st in Transitus. G. Helliwell was 1st in 1A and R. Holdsworth was 1st in 1B.

* * *

The following is the completed list of Inter-House matches during the football season.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
School	4	2	2	0	6
Heath	5	1	3	1	5
Queen's	3	0	1	2	1

* * *

During the year, twenty-three members of the Junior School have joined the National Savings Society, and £27 7s. 6d. has been saved. This is a very satisfactory total.

* * *

The following boys have read during morning prayers during the term: D. Wilkins, J. Greenwood, J. Riley, E. Heppenstall, I. Manson, P. Wade.

M.S.M.

Cub Notes

The Cub pack seems to have bucked up somewhat since we were members. The senior sixer, being interviewed, was very helpful indeed. During this past term they have been very active, a first star, two team player badges, and two artist being obtained. Every evening, prior to inspection, they give the hut a thorough clean up: there is a party of four learning the First-Aider badge. During the term one new recruit has joined, but there are still a few vacancies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of the following Magazines, and apologize for any omission: *The Whitcliffian*, *The Hebden*, *The Torch*, *The Crossleyan*, *The Keighleian*, *The Gudgeon*, *The Tetburian*, *The Wheel*, *The Scodiensien*, and the Magazines of Ashville College and King Edward VII School, Sheffield.

