

THE HEATHEN



Magazine of
HEATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HALIFAX

No. 29.

New Series.

April, 1942.

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EDITORIAL

An agreeable shock awaited 'bus drivers and conductors—now, even more than before, inclined to lose their tempers—on the routes adjacent to the School, as, peering forth from their glazed fastnesses, they saw not a yelling, fighting, shoving, screaming and thoroughly disgusting mass of grimy schoolboys surrounding the vehicle, but an orderly queue controlled by a haut prefect resplendent in cap and authority. So travellers to the Infirmary can now get off the 'bus without being defiled by the contamination of the lower fourths and being knocked over by the Remove: loud had been the complaints, silent, alas!, will be the praise.

We, unlike very many of our greater contemporaries, profess no political creed; we exhort nobody with sensational leading articles to expurge this cabinet minister or lynch that general; we are humble and appear but thrice a year: nevertheless, let us record our overwhelming patriotism, our love of land of birth, and implore Heathens and the world about us in general to sink petty squabbles about fire-watching hours or "Need I join up?" in a common all-embracing and-consuming effort to WIN. Otherwise we shall hardly survive.

SCHOOL NOTES

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Peace back to the Art Room, and were delighted to receive a visit from Mr. Owen, prime mover in the production of *The Heathen* until he joined up. One Wednesday morning during the recent cold spell, a burst boiler—or some such mishap—gave us all an unexpected morning off; for these trifles may we all be truly thankful.

* * *

We find that *The Heathen* has as yet made no mention of the Halifax Thespians: this body late in 1939 produced their first war-time play in the School Hall—for want of a better. Since then they have performed plays of all kinds from Esther McCracken's "Quiet

Wedding" to Robert Ardrey's "Thunder Rock," and all passing well, despite the cramped back-stage space—adequate perhaps for schoolboys' acting, but utterly inadequate for the Thespians—and the unconquerable hardness of the seats. The school's interest, we fear, has extended little further than the nightly attendance—free, of course—of the firewatchers: still, they are welcome, and may well inspire our own play-acting.

SUCSESSES

E. Neil, M.B., Ch.B., Leeds.
D. Hodgson, L.D.S., B.Ch.D., Leeds.

MISSING

Gunner J. Ackroyd, R.A.: Driver D. Redman, R.A.S.C.: Bombr. J. Waring, R.A.: Pte. K. Handley, R.A.S.C.: Signaller T. H. J. Pickles, R.A.

O.H.M.S.

C. Bland (—), Pte., R.A.O.C.: G. Brayshaw (—), F/O., R.A.F.: R. C. Green (38), R.A.F.: E. Morley (—), Sgmn., R.C.S.: A. Spencer (36), A.C.I., R.A.F.: B. Smith (—), R.A.F.V.R.: T. Walton (—), R.A.F.V.R.: F. A. M. Wolfenden (—), Bombr., R.A.

HOUSE REPORTS

KINGS. There has been little to report in the matter of house activities during the past term. Inclement weather has necessitated the abandonment of Fives fixtures up to the time of writing, and training for other events has been interrupted. A welcome innovation after half-term has been House Prayers held on Fridays in the Library; unfortunately, our promising two-man orchestra has ceased to function, and the gap has yet to be filled.

H.A.F.D.

HEATH. Well done! Congratulations to C. R. Sugden and all the others who helped us to win the cross-country race. Victory has also crowned the only Fives match played as yet, against School, and the Junior House matches with Kings and School; we lost the Junior match with Queens. We must now focus our minds and bodies upon the Athletic Sports to be held next term.

The "House Prayers" system, introduced this term, is enabling us all to come into contact with our fellows, when we assemble for prayers in Room G on Fridays, together with the House Musicians who accompany the hymns.

F.E.W.

SCHOOL. This term's activities have been confined to one Fives match and the Cross Country Race. In the former we were defeated by Queen's and in the latter came out second, which is a very creditable performance considering the number of entries. Another pleasing event to be recorded is the institution of House Prayers, which take place on Friday mornings, when a hymn is read by the House Master and the lesson by a senior boy. Looking forward to next term may I appeal for the ardent support of the House in the cricket matches and the sports.

J.D.P.

QUEEN'S. We have nothing much to report this term, since we finished rugby last term. We have played one Fives match against School House, which we won 7 games to 3.

In the Cross Country Run we had no spectacular runners, but thanks to those who did run, we managed third place.

Next term we must practise hard for the Athletic Sports and Cricket, and there is no reason why we should not do well in the House Championship if we work hard and pull together.

J.H.S.

LIBRARY. This term we have been very fortunate in the matter of gifts to the Library. From Mrs. Sutton we received several volumes, among which were "Fire of Life," an autobiography by H. W. Nevinson, and "After Everest" by Somervell. In this respect the Classical Sixth, in the person of Collinson, has at last repaid its debt by donating a "Life of Dr. Arnold." Other acquisitions were "Europe in the 17th Century" by Ogg, and the "English Abbey" by Crossley. The above is the credit side. On the debit side we have to report the loss of one more precious volume. The only criticism of borrowers is that some tend to hang on to books far too long. It must be remembered that there are other people in the school wishing to read the very books you have out.

THE 1st XV. This has been an unfortunate term for rugby players. The winter snows made the ground unfit for rugby during the greater part of the term, with the result that only one match has been played. It is especially unfortunate that the bad weather should have occurred in this particular season, when both 1st and 2nd fifteens seemed likely to have very good records.

Our only match this term was against Crossley's, who started the game with great confidence. They have a heavy pack, which succeeded in providing the Crossley backs with a very good share of the ball. However, our threequarter line made good use of its chances, and the final score was:—Heath 30, Crossley's 3. Everyone is looking forward to the Old Boys' match which is to be played on Easter Saturday. We have played two other matches against the Old Boys this season and both games have been drawn, so that the result of Saturday's game, which will be published in the next "Heathens," will be interesting.

Below is given an account of the members of the first team which is, of course, based upon last term's games, not enough games having been played this term on which to base an account.

Clarke (Full Back). A very sound player, who kicks and fields the ball accurately. He has missed his man on occasions, but this has been due to lack of speed, or bad positioning, an art which he cannot be expected to have acquired yet, since he only joined the 1st XV. in the middle of last term, having previously played stand-off for the 2nd XI. He makes many skilful solo runs which prove very useful now that he is avoiding being tackled in possession.

Jackson, H. B. (Wing). A reliable wing who is very fast and who tackles quite well. He could make better use of his weight by going harder, instead of slowing down, when faced by an opponent. The fact that he has scored several times, however, shows that he can make good use of his opportunities, which have not been numerous.

Jackson, J. A. (Centre). He can always be relied upon to make some ground whenever he is given the ball, although the ground has, on occasions, been lost by his ending a good run with a bad pass. He is a great asset to the team both as an attacker and as a defender. He uses his weight and speed, both of which are considerable, to the greatest advantage. Colours—1940-41, 1941-42.

Tordoff (Centre). He is very sound without being brilliant, and his value is thus underestimated. His tackling is very accurate and he makes very good use of his speed. He has saved us from many awkward situations by falling on the ball or by a judicious kick. Colours—1941-42.

Wells (Wing). A very fast wing, who has scored many tries by sheer speed. He has not had many opportunities but has made good use of the few he has had. He should be very useful next season.

Shoemith (Stand Off). He has improved tremendously since last year and we have to thank him for many delightful tries. He is first rate at running, kicking, tackling, and those other qualities which make a good stand-off. At times he has held the ball too long, but this is perhaps justified, since he has so often broken through our opponents' threequarter line, to score under the posts. Colours—1941-42.

Dudley (Scrum Half). An excellent scrum half who works very hard on the field, and who is rewarded with hard knocks rather than with glory. His work behind the scrum has played a great part in this season's victories. Colours—1940-41, 1941-42.

Lumb, R. W. (Loose Forward). He has come into the scrum from the half-back position, and has made a grand loose forward. His experience as scrum half enables him to deputise when Dudley has been lost, and his experience in almost all the back positions has enabled him to play havoc amongst our opponents' threequarter line. His tremendous energy keeps him right up with the play however hard and fast it may be. Colours—1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42.

McDonald (Back Row). His speed is very valuable. He was not happy on the wing, and thus came into the scrum. He is now settling down to forward play. We have to thank him for two seasons' valuable work in both positions. Colours—1941-42.

Ward (Second row). A sound forward, whose play is useful without being conspicuous. He has worked very hard indeed in every match he has played.

Stansfield (Second Row). A fast, keen, determined forward who has been extremely useful. Like Ward, he works very hard throughout the match.

Steele (Prop). A grand worker who makes good use of his weight. He fulfils his duties as a "prop" admirably.

Stead (Hooker). He makes up for his lack in height and weight by first rate hooking, tackling and dribbling. We could not wish for a better hooker. Colours 1940-41.

R. Heron (Prop. Capt.). A most reliable and enthusiastic player. He has always set a fine example to the remainder of the team, by his keen desire to be in at the hard work; an excellent leader.

We offer our congratulations to Tordoff, Shoemith, McDonald and Stead, who have been given colours this year. In giving these colours, we are convinced that the usual high standard is being maintained. C.H.P.

FIVES. We have had a very successful year, having won eight matches, drawn one, and lost one. This performance is very creditable, for, with the exception of Shoemith, the team was composed of newcomers to the first team. They have played well on the whole, but we have all had our erratic moments.

The matches have been most enjoyable, particularly the two matches against the College of the Resurrection, at Mirfield and at Heath, one of which we won and lost the other.

This year we have made a new fixture with Dalton Hall of Manchester, the match being drawn owing to lack of time, for we had to rush to catch a bus—which we missed!

Following is a list of matches played during the year:

FIVES, 1941-2			
Oct. 15.	H.	Crossley's	Won 160—148
Nov. 8.	H.	Manchester U.	Won 183—121
Nov. 29.	A.	Leeds U.	Won 174—151
Jan. 17.	A.	Dalton Hall	Drawn
Jan. 31.	A.	Manchester U.	Won 153—113
Feb. 7.	H.	Mirfield	Won 161—117
Feb. 14.	A.	Mirfield	Lost 137—158
Feb. 18.	A.	Crossley's	Won 156—131
2nd.			
Oct. 15.	A.	Crossley's	Won 174—64
Feb. 18.	H.	Crossley's	Won 178—90

J.H.S.

ORCHESTRA. The main item of the term's programme has been Mozart's "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." This is a fascinating piece to play. Everyone has a part that is alive and significant, and however often it is rehearsed it retains its freshness. Its technical difficulties are formidable to our players, and at the same time it presents a tough problem of style and interpretation. In our more inspired moments we have been part way towards a solution and felt well rewarded for our pains. Most of the work was done in the Christmas holidays. This admirable willingness and keenness of the players is the driving force behind the Orchestra. In addition we have played an "Adagio" by Mozart and the "Finale" from Symphony No. 35.

The present members of the Orchestra are:—R. Heron, F. E. Wellman, E. J. Starkey, J. A. Macdonald, S. Hartley, M. K. Sykes, J. Schofield, F. Wolfenden, R. Whitehead, G. W. Smith, J. Palmer, N. H. Palmer, P. Wade, C. P. Hodgson.

Mr. Taylor has conducted us, and we owe a great deal to his musicianship and patient thoroughness. He has a job that would strike terror even in the heart of the redoubtable Beecham. A.H.

RECORD HOUR. This term has seen the revival of the weekly gramophone concerts started last summer. The attendance has been reasonably good, though the "Request Programmes" seem to have been the most popular. On the other hand, programmes which catered for more specific tastes such as the "Operatic Programme" drew an attendance of only eighteen, which dwindled to nine at the end! The reason—we tried to present an abridged form of "Iolanthe" on records.

Variety is the spice of life, and has been well exemplified by the programmes. These have included modern music, selections from Schubert and Elgar, intermingled with Request Programmes. We have also tried to retain variety inside the programme as well as outside—overtures, songs, orchestral pieces, instrumental solos, and symphonies have all been included.

An innovation, "Surprise Item," has proved very popular: timed to provide a complete break in the middle of the programme, it has included Ronald Frankau singing some of his inimitable songs, the music from "Snow White," et cetera. The classical music has also been varied: it has ranged from Bach's Double Concerto in D minor for two violins to Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue; from Schubert's Unfinished Symphony to Haydn's Toy Symphony. Altogether, we have had quite a good set of programmes with a comprehensive list of music, and—may we hope that an even larger number of boys will come and enjoy the music with us?

M.K.S. and L.J.A.

THE FAVOUR-ITES. Two debates and two play-readings have occupied the Society this term. The first debate, "That this house disapproves of co-education," was, naturally, somewhat heated: Mr. Smithies and Mr. Heron, speaking for the motion, produced little beyond

the information that boys would become men, and girls women, and that boys want to learn carpentry and girls cooking. They made much of these antitheses. Messrs. Ward and Dudley stressed particularly the usefulness of co-education in preparing for the later social life: there was also the effect on the staff to be considered. The motion was defeated by 13 votes to 8.

We then read Richard Llewellyn's play "Poison Pen," and, although all enjoyed it, it was generally agreed that the sinister secret was given away too soon.

The second debate, which might reasonably have been expected to arouse even more feeling than it did, was "That this house disapproves of the present tendency toward the indiscriminate clipping and adaptation of serious continuous music." Mr Sykes spoke movingly of people who "hot up the works of the great Composers until they boil" and then "play them on policemen's whistles" or as "drum solos." Mr. Atkinson supported him ably by ridiculing the inane "lyrics" given to these "numbers." Messrs. MacDonald and Green, the opposition, seemed undecided what attitude to adopt in so presumably classical an assembly, and produced no outstanding remarks. The only constructive remark in the quibbling which followed was Mr. Stephen Hartley's "Well, surely it's just cribbing!" The motion was carried by 12 votes to 8, with one abstainer.

The term's programme concluded with a reading of Shaw's wonderful play "St. Joan," which was heartily appreciated and enjoyed—especially the seemingly topical allusions.
R.J.H.C.

THE HEATHEN IN HIS BLINDNESS WANTS TO KNOW

Whether as a result of C.I.L...n's eloquence the Buddhist religion will now be left to its fate?

What effect did the Friday night Brains Trust have on the members of the Trust and on the audience?

If anyone can predict with accuracy the times of the explosions in the Laboratory?

What really goes on at Ackroyd Place?

Whether race decadence is indicated by the School Dance Band, and if so can we expect a return to "cave-man" technique on the part of its members?

Whether State Scholarships really grow on trees?

Whether it really was Moiseiwitch that drew R...y to the Victoria Hall?

Whether legitimate cheating is allowed in the Science Sixth Speakeasy, and if so does six aces beat a straight flush?

Whether they are really sincere about co-education, and if so, why?

What time did they really get home and whether the Egg has now hatched out?

Also are the coats of many colours the first result of the hatching?

Is the Heathen as blind as he makes out, and who is he anyway?

CANOEING.

Canoeing as we now know it is very different from the conventional idea entertained by most of the public. "Modern" canoeing, as it is styled, does not use the Red Indian open canoe but a decked in, folding variety which is both more manoeuvrable and more convenient to handle. Our canoe belongs to this type, having a weight of about 50 lbs., a length of 17' 9", and a draught of 4½". This very shallow draught enables the canoe, in the words of one writer, to "cross morning dew."

Our canoeing experiences began one Easter on the River Avon, a placid stream in Warwickshire. Our ignorance led us into many curious situations, in one of which we first dropped our bread into the river and then attempted to burn down our light tent with a recalcitrant Primus. We learnt, however the elements of paddling, a double-bladed paddle being used, and a little of the, by no means simple, art of "rapid" shooting.

Encouraged by our success we next spent a week on the lower reaches of the Wye, a cruise which was a complete success in spite of the fact that we were at one time a day and a half without food, and at another we nearly lost the whole boat in lowering it down a mud slope. We had a horrible vision of identity cards, ration books, cameras, and other equipment disappearing into the mud.

Our last trip was on the River Dee, and the low level of the water resulted in severe damage to our boat. We were compelled to abandon the trip after we had punctured the boat on a sharp rock. Much experience was, however, gained.

As an open-air sport there is little to beat canoeing. Usually one paddles in bathing costume and there is always the opportunity of a dip. It is exciting in the extreme if a fast river is chosen, but may be made a rest cure on rivers like either of the Ouses.

It is surprising, in the light of this knowledge, that canoeing is not so popular in Britain as in other countries, but we are glad of this, as we would hate to see the peace of our rivers disturbed.

2nd HALIFAX SCOUTS. The one event which will stick in all our memories this term was the Warship Week Parade of Youth: yelled at hoarsely and coarsely by an irate D.S.M., and too numb with bare arms and knees to take in his oft-repeated instruction to "cover off, Eath!" we arrived in the Modern School yard, and shivering, were talked at for far too long by a shivering Mayor—*alias* our D.C. *alias* chairman of the Board of Governors. Then, completely frozen up, we straggled back to Crossfields, and there—oh wonder!—dismissed. As a solicitous elder sister remarked later that evening, "K—m's arms are *still* numb! Wasn't it silly? Having those scouts *standing about waiting* with no coats on!" How true!

SEA SCOUTS. A Group Council order has reduced our numbers to eight, but we are still carrying on under Admiral Inky and Cap'n Kidd. The new kayak should be ready for launching in a month, and then, when the old "Heathen" has been repaired, we will decide which is to be the "Puffin" and which the "Penguin." Now the evenings are becoming lighter, we are going to hold our meetings on Monday evenings, and we hope to have better programmes. G.B.C.

'A' SECTION. The patrol competition has, this term, been every bit as keen as the previous one: Owls were first with 96 points, Otters second, 93 points, and Peewits third with 86 points. During the term we have had several hikes and at the meetings many tests have been passed. Great strides have been made in 1st and 2nd class work; two of our scouts now need only one or two tests for 1st class.

Next term we hope to have several camps and we are all looking forward to these with great keenness, especially our P.-Ls. who expect great results from their patrols.

BEAVERS. This term has been quite successful though attendances have not been too good, owing mainly to the weather and the blackout. A few more recruits have joined so that now there are only one or two vacancies. Badge work has progressed much the same as usual, Handyman, Public Healthman and Fireman being among those obtained.

Our A.S.M., Donald Drake has now joined the R.A.F., and we wish him success in his new life.

We are hoping to hold a camp at the new I.H.Q. camp site at Bradley Woods this Easter, for the purpose of felling trees.

"A" Section have challenged us to a soccer match and we have counter-challenged them to a rugby match, but as these games have not yet been played the results cannot be published till next term. R.L.F.

CUB NOTES

CUBS. Only one meeting has been missed this term and that was when snow and lack of heating were too much for the hardiest Cubs—but this does not mean that there has been a full attendance for all the meetings, for unfortunately there are still some Cubs who put their own pleasure before their duty to the Pack.

As usual we always seem to have been busy each week with little tangible to report. There have been some welcome additions, but not nearly enough, to First and Second Stars, and four Badges have been won.

We are very glad to welcome Tenderpads Pickles, Smith, Oats, Crowther and Sykes to the Pack, and we were also very grateful to the Scouts who helped in the latter part of the term—if we could be assured of this assistance regularly the Pack would benefit considerably. Congratulations go to Whitely and the Blacks for winning the Wood Bone Trophy in a close competition.

Next term, with its longer and warmer evenings, is the last term for Meetings, and we look forward to a record attendance and corresponding record achievement. Don't forget the Pack Competition takes place next term, the one time when we compete with other Packs in the district—so learn up your stuff!

Good Hunting! AKELA.

JUNIOR SCHOOL. There is little to report this term, which has been an uneventful one: one House Match was played, in which Heath beat School by an odd goal. Pickles, J. D., and Halstead, T. L., leave us this term; we were pleased to welcome Strawson, J. R., at half-term.

During Warship Week we worked very hard and succeeded in raising £100. At the end of term Pollit, M., was 1st in *Transitus*, Howarth, D. A., in Ia, and Rushworth, C. W., in Ib. Pollit, M., was awarded 1st prize for his model house made in paper from a scale plan; many excellent models were shown, and *Transitus* is to be congratulated on its effort. The health of the School, for this time of the year, has been very good, and everyone appears to be thriving despite certain restrictions due to the war.

If parents have old clothes connected with the school outfit, or articles which have become too small for their boy, I should be grateful to receive them for the second-hand store. This also applies to books, when the boy leaves or goes up into the Senior School; supplies of this kind are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, and I should be most grateful to receive anything which will help the parents of new boys. M.S.M.

DOES HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

In a political address: "Now, we are only too well aware of the way these people are carrying on, and that they are creeping steadily towards our very neighbours: at the present moment, they are moderate in their outrages, since they do not wish them to be brought into the open; but when, gentlemen, they perceive that you—although you are informed—intend in no way to restrain them, then there will be no holding them. Gentlemen! You, alone of all we Greeks, are not in a state of emergency: you keep them from your own frontier not by any show of tangible military preparedness, but by flouting a *potential* output and man-power. You, alone of all we Greeks, are people who allow a Power like this to wax double before crushing it."—THUCYDIDES (written 420 B.C.?).

Concerning war: This is the most unfortunate state of the war, for everyone claims successes as his own, while setbacks are blamed on single men.—TACITUS Agricola (98 A.D.?).