

# Mount House Record, Plymouth.

---

---

VOL. VI.

CHRISTMAS 1915.

No. 3.

---

---

## Editorial.

The year 1915 draws to a close, and with it the sixth year of life of the "Mount House Record." Each Editor in turn (and we have had several) groans in spirit as, somewhat exhausted at the end of a strenuous term he (for surely an Editor is always *ex-officio* a male?) is faced by the terrible thought that ere another term begins a fully fledged printed and bound 'Record' must be produced! He faces his task manfully (I won't say unflinchingly) in the hopes that inspiration will come in time to save his reputation—but do his readers realize the effort required to produce this simple record of our doings? I trow not! Nevertheless it is a labour of love, and we think and hope that there are many (certainly including the Editor himself) who would miss the school magazine were it to be discontinued. There have been several changes on the staff since last Christmas, three of the masters having joined the Army while two of the ladies who were with us then are doing war-work now, one in a bank and the other in the post office. Successes have been gained during the past year both in the entrance exams. for Osborne College, and also in scholarships at Bromsgrove and Westminster.

With regard to the last term, perhaps at no other time during the last six years has the headmaster been able to give so good a report of the *general* standard of work throughout the school. The keenest competition possible, though without the slightest rancour, has taken place and in the VIth form especially excitement ran high during the last exam. week.

All details with regard to Football and Scouting will be found elsewhere. Suffice it to say that in spite of many showery Thursdays there have been few half holidays on which the boys have had to remain indoors.

The New Year will soon be upon us, and once more we wish all those who in the past or present have been in any way connected with the School all success and prosperity for the future.

## The Prize-Giving.

The Prize-giving took place on the afternoon of Dec. 14th and luck was against us in the way of weather, but in spite of a driving south-west storm of wind and rain the Gymnasium was well filled with parents and friends of the school, and the spirits of the boys in the gallery were in no way damped by the downpour. The room was gaily decorated with bunting and greenery, and on the platform besides Mr. and Mrs. Machell Cox and the teaching staff were Surgeon General and Mrs. Norman, Col. Lewes and the Rev. Arthur Perowne. Mr. Cox reviewed the work and play and general characteristics of the school throughout the past year, and expressed his satisfaction with the work accomplished and the general spirit shown by the boys in and out of school. He alluded to the necessary changes amongst the staff occasioned by the war, but added that as a whole the teaching strength of the school had never been on a higher level and thanked every member of the staff past and present for their loyalty and support throughout the year. Mrs. Norman graciously distributed the prizes and the Rev. A. S. Perowne and Mr. W. M. Rhodes, proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to her for doing so. Surgeon General Norman proposed and Lieut. Colonel Lewes seconded a vote of confidence in the Headmaster and the proceedings closed with cheers for Mrs. Norman and for the staff on the part of the boys. Then came tea, followed by three songs by the boys "Maidew" "The Butterfly" and the "Fighting Téméraire." These were well sung, tunefully and with expression. After this Mr. Frederick Chester whom we welcomed as an old friend, gave a delightfully humorous entertainment.

The Prize winners were as follows :

Form VI.	Latin.	D'Arcy.
	Maths.	Pode.
	English.	D'Arcy.
	French.	Lewes i.
Form V.	Latin.	Clark i.
	Maths.	Jones
	English	Jones
	French	Clark i.
Form IV.	Latin.	Picken ii (special).
	Maths.	Rimington.
	English.	Rimington.
	French.	Macpherson iii (special).
Form III.	Latin.	Carroll.
	Maths.	Duhan i.
	English.	Duhan i.
	French.	Wimbush ii.
Form II.	1st Prize, Hodge. 2nd Prize, Knowling ii.	
Form I.	Div. I, Norman ii. Div. II, Brown.	

Special Prizes were very kindly presented by Mrs. Lewes, Mrs. J. Clark, Surgeon General Norman and Captain Leest in the following order :

Mrs. Lewes to the "*boy who worked the best throughout the term, knowing that he had no chance of a prize,*" won by Macpherson i. Mrs. Clark for *Singing* (Red House) won by Hodge. Captain Leest for *Reading* (Mount House) won by Lewes i (Honourable Mention, Cocks, Knowling i and Finlaison).

Surgeon General Norman "*to the boy in the Upper School voted by his companions to be the keenest at work and play,*" won by Pode.

## In Memoriam.

Lieut. Christopher William Rickeard 19th London Regiment, killed in action at the battle of Loos on September 25th, 1915. Aged 21 years.

Arthur Garrard Geake, died of pneumonia after a short illness at Sherborne School on December 8th, 1915, aged 14½ years.

We record with sorrow and deep sympathy for their relations the death of the above "old boys" this term.

C. W. Rickeard was the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Rickeard of 10, Queen's Gate, Plymouth. He was with Mr. Cox for some four year at Garfield House and afterwards went to Clifton College and King's College, Cambridge. He joined the 19th London Regiment on the out break of war, and served for some months at the front in France. He was killed when gallantly leading his men in a splendid charge just in front of a German trench. It was a noble end to a singularly stainless and upright life. His housemaster at Clifton wrote of him some years ago. "He is a boy whom any school might feel proud to turn out." A brother officer after his death wrote: "He was never afraid to stand up for what he knew to be right, even under the most trying circumstances and his men respected him for it. His sweetness of disposition and absolute uprightness endeared him to everyone and we feel that we have lost a friend, and beloved old boy of whose life and death we may and do feel justly proud."

Garry Geake was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Geake of Sunnyside Saltash. He was at Mount House for two and a half years and went on to Sherborne two years ago, where he has done exceedingly well, and his sudden death came as a great shock and grief to all who knew him. Possessed of a splendid physique he promised to be an

athlete quite out of the common before he left Mount House and that promise was quickly fulfilled at Sherborne, where he held three School 'records' under 16, and was a 'colt' both in cricket and football, a fine swimmer and promising boxer—but unlike many boys his success in athletics did not monopolize his thoughts to the exclusion of his work — “He was wholly unspoiled by success, modest, generous and affectionate, and in all his work as well as in games cheerful and wholehearted. His influence among his contemporaries and the smaller boys in his house was altogether good and sound, and will endure. By his last illness, in which he made a characteristically splendid fight for life, the beauty of his disposition was brought out in wonderful relief. Amidst all his distressing weariness he never once complained. Without a thought for himself, he was continually thinking of others, full of eagerness to save them trouble, and answering every inquiry for himself with a bright smile of gratitude and affection. Sherborne he loved, but his home he called his “paradise on earth,” it was his inspiration and guiding star throughout his short and innocent life — (*Extract from the Sherburnian Dec. 1915*) His parents must indeed feel proud of such a tribute as this, and we feel that no words of ours can express our sympathy with them in this their great sorrow and loss.

## School Notes.

It was felt that an effort must be made again this term to help others if possible by the work of our hands, and it was not long before an outlet for our energies presented itself. “The Professional Classes War Relief Fund” is perhaps not very widely known, but it is doing a fine work, and an appeal came just at the right moment asking for contributions to a Preparatory Schools Stall at a big bazaar to be held in aid of the fund in the Albert Hall in December. Matron entered the lists immediately with a staff of willing helpers, and in a few weeks produced a really beautiful gabled dolls house about three feet high completely furnished with every necessary of existence, not to mention a good many luxuries! For about

three weeks the dolls-house was a constant source of amusement to many people of all sizes; it was of course christened "Mount House," and we think was sure to realize a goodly sum at the bazaar. Other contributions including basket work and jig-saw puzzles calculated to bring in about £2 10 0 in addition were also despatched.

---

We must record the loss of the beautiful virginian creeper on the front of Mount House this last summer. For very many years it has covered the east front entirely and of late it had made good headway round the south side. Owing to structural repairs, it became necessary to remove it in August, and though another has been planted we fear it will be sometime before we see again such autumn glories as have gladdened our eyes in past years.

---

E. J. Pode and E. Payn were prepared for confirmation by the Rev. C. W. H. Sewell and confirmed on Nov. 24th in St. Peter's Church by the Bishop of Exeter.

---

This term has seen the revival of chess amongst some of the boarders. We hope next term that still more chess boards will make their appearance in the school and that it may be possible to arrange a chess tournament.

---

Mrs. Rhodes' Singing-classes this term have been a great, and very welcome innovation. It has never been possible to achieve much in the way of results with only half-hour lessons once a week hitherto, but now that we have a resident music teacher, three singing classes a week and a choir practice on Sunday, there seems every prospect of a "musical revival"! Certainly the three songs sung at the Prize-giving were delightful, they were sung with delicacy and feeling, and showed that no pains had been spared by teacher or pupils. No part-singing was attempted this term but it is thought that before another Christmas comes round we may look forward to more ambitious efforts in this direction.

Before we leave the topic of music we must mention a little private concert at the end of term given by the music pupils and much enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Cox and Miss Wimbush. The boys had made real progress during the

term and were very keen and we feel very hopeful altogether as to the music prospects for 1916, and congratulate Mrs. Rhodes on the results of her first term's work.

---

Miss Pearce's music pupils at the Red House had a delightful and unexpected mark of encouragement from Mrs. James Clark who presented a prize for singing. The two junior forms gave some delightful recitations in the Gym on the last Monday morning, after which they sang the songs they had learnt during the term; and then each boy sang one verse by himself for the prize competition. Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Cox judged, and the prize was awarded to Hodge. Mrs. Rhodes said a few words of encouragement to the boys, and added that later on she was looking forward to having some valuable recruits from the Red House in the Mount House singing class.

---

We have again received a handsome contribution of books for the School Library, and are very grateful to G. B. Yonge for giving them to us.

---

We have been very glad to have news of many old boys of late, and we regret that owing to lack of space it is not possible to publish all the letters we have received; it is always a great pleasure to the Headmaster to hear from old boys, and to pass on the news as far as possible in the "Record."

---

To mention a few old Garfield boys. Eric Aplin (2nd Worcesters) is already a Captain, and reached that rank when he had been in the Army one year. He was invalided from the front in the autumn of 1914 with fever, and was in a home billet during the winter. In the spring he returned to France and was shot through the thigh on Sept. 26th at the battle of Loos, when near Vermelles. He recovered wonderfully, though still lame when we last saw him. He had an extraordinary escape at the same time, being hit in the chest, but he was saved by the contents of his pocket, his cheque book being destroyed. He managed to crawl into a shell hole where he lay with bullet rattling over him for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours before he was brought in.

J. L. Harvey enlisted in the 8th Devons (Buller's Own) in August 1914, he qualified as signaller and became a Lance Corporal. He went to France in August 1915 and was severely wounded on Sept. 25th in the battle of Loos. He was badly wounded in both shoulders but is now convalescent.

---

S. Harvey also enlisted in the 8th Devons and became a signaller and went to France last August. He was reported as "wounded and missing" on Sept 25th at Loos, and grave anxiety is felt on his account as there has been no further news of him, though it is hoped that he may possibly be in German hands.

---

The above brothers were at Garfield House, the third brother T. G. Harvey was also at Mount House, he is in a bank having been unable to get into the Army as he could not pass the medical exam.

---

Owing to long standing trouble with his knees, A. Blight (Garfield and Mount House) was unable to join the Army; he has been working in a munition factory at Birmingham for some months, and after the first fortnight he was given a lathe for turning shells. He works ten hours a day and often seven on Sundays.

---

R. Rolston (Garfield) after successfully completing his first year as a medical student at the London Hospital joined the Public School Corps shortly after war broke out. He is now Lance Corpl. and "somewhere in France." His brother L. Rolston is now training at Berkhamsted in the Inns of Court O.T.C.; previously he was preparing to enter the Indian Police.

---

Lieut. H. W. Woolcombe (Garfield) has been in France for some time with his contingent of Royal Engineers, and seemed very fit when he came up to the school during his Christmas leave. Jack Woolcombe is still at Haileybury.

---

R. Sandercock, (Garfield) after many rejections on account of his sight has recently succeeded in getting into



the 5th Devons—his brother K. Sandercock is training for a land agent at present.

---

2nd Lieut C. L. Teape (Garfield) is in the 9th Devons, but was not allowed to go to the front with the regiment as he was too young. He is now attached to the 11th Devons lecturing and instructing the men on bomb making and throwing. He likes his work and is very fit

---

2nd Lieut V. Ager had a commission in the R. F. A. but he resigned it as his hearing was not up to the work. He is now waiting for a commission in the Mechanical Transport having obtained his full certificate for that work. In the meanwhile he is acting as despatch rider in the R. N. Division.

---

2nd Lieut A. Arundell sent a Xmas greeting from the trenches. Old Altonians will be interested to hear that his elder brother W. R. H. A. Arundell is also a 2nd Lieut in the R. F. A. having come from Canada to join.

---

G. W. Ashby entered Sandhurst in Sept., 1914 and was gazetted to the 2nd Duke of Cornwall's L. I. in April and went to France in May where he was in the trenches until November, when it was thought that he was sent to Serbia, as the last news his people had of him was on Nov. 29th from Toulon. It was a great pleasure to hear of him again, and we wish him a safe return.

---

It is long since we have had news of Hedley Fox. He was at Dulwich for two years after leaving Mount House, when he joined the "Worcester" for training with a view to joining the Bengal Pilot Service ultimately. He got into the R.N.R. however on passing out of the "Worcester" in July 1914, and is now in H.M.S. "Dominion," and hopes shortly to get into the R.N.

---

2nd Lieut R. Vinter (Garfield) is now in France with the 6th Worcesters. His brother Noel threw up his medical studies to train in the O.T.C. for a commission, but the Dean at St. Bartholomew's persuaded him to return to the hospital as he is not yet 18 and by hard work he will

be able to take his Exam. next October which generally comes at the end of the third year's work, when he hopes to take up medical work in the navy temporarily.

---

Romney Fox is still at the Friends School, Bootham, York.

---

Ronald Fox and Lionel Fox are at Sherborne.

---

T. Lakeman, M. Y. Moggridge, J. Moggridge, G. Clarke, J. D. Harvey, C. W. M. Cox, R. B. Picken and W. H. Picken are at Clifton.

---

G. B. Yonge, and Chisman are at Berkhamsted.

---

G. S. Rees is head of Dover and Editor of the "Dovorian." His brother Lloyd is now at Bedford Grammar School.

---

C. E. Wakeham is at Dover, and is going in for his Army Exam. in February. He got his 1st XI Cap at Cricket, and seems to have had a splendid season being easily top of the batting averages.

---

R. E. S. Ferguson is still at Kelly. He is in the 1st XV at rugger, and won the junior steeple chase in the Easter term. He also won the miscellaneous event at the swimming sports in the summer.

---

G. Radcliffe is doing very well in the Navy and is still on H.M.S. Emperor of India. J. Radcliffe is still at Sherborne, and is something of a performer on the flute, and is in the O.T.C. band. W. Radcliffe an old "Altonian" is still with his regiment in India.

---

W. Brooking passed third out of Woolwich in October of 190 cadets and is now a 2nd Lieut in the Royal Artillery.

---

Our Osborne Cadets are all doing well, M. Norman, G. Marescaux and G. Jones. Marescaux has been made a Cadet Captain. G. Jones has got his 1st term colours at

football, and finished up 6th in the term's order in work, and 2nd in engineering.

Congratulations to K. J. D'Arcy on passing into Osborne; he will be greatly missed by everyone at Mount House next term. He had only one competitor for the honourable title of "father of the school," he and Hodgess being the only two now left who were with Miss Tubbs seven years ago. He has had a most honourable career, and we are very sorry to lose him, though we are glad to think that we shall still have a D'Arcy in the school, who must keep up the family tradition of conscientiousness and hard work.

T. E. E. Cocks plays football for his house at Westminster and is top of his form. He thoroughly enjoys his life there.

The brothers Burke write cheerfully from Castle Knock, where they seem to have quickly settled down, and Elliott has made a good start at Bromsgrove. Loam is at Cheltenham.

The School football colours have been awarded this term to Macpherson i, Norman i, Pode, Smith and Picken ii. Yonge (captain) and Payn (vice-captain) were old choices.

Collections were made for Serbian Flag Day 14/7½, and also for Our Day (amount not known). Lord Roberts Memorial Fund 5/-. Universities Missions Central Africa 7/6 and Church of England Waifs and strays. Scouts Ambulance Fund.

## Football.

v ST. GABRIEL'S CHOIR.

Played Oct. 2nd. Lost 1—4.

In chronicling this result, it is only fair to the School team to say that the old difficulty of applying an age limit to our adversaries once more arose. Instead of their ranks being confined strictly to choir-boys of thirteen and

under, it 'transpired'—as reporters like to say—during the course of the game that their captain and the mainstay of the side was actually fifteen, and the sturdy goalkeeper well over fourteen. Readers of the 'Record' will be aware how many fixtures have had to be dropped in the past owing to similar unpremeditated handicaps. Apart from this we had two absentees, and thus early in the term had wholly failed to discover a capable goalkeeper. Gittings was an experiment on the strength of several sensational 'saves' when he had been first tried a few days before, but he was quite without any experience in getting rid of the ball, and it is no disparagement to him to say that the difference between the teams in this department was just about represented in the result. The surface was rather greasy, when Mount House won the toss and chose to play down the hill first. A supporter of the visitors acted as referee and managed the game very well, though perhaps he was a trifle over-particular in the number of free kicks which he gave to each side for 'foul throw' when there was little transgression apparent. It is unnecessary to follow the game in detail. It was contested very evenly indeed during the first half, though the pace seemed rather slow and neither side had quite settled down. Yonge got in the first shot, but it went straight and low to the goalkeeper, who cleared without difficulty. At the other end Gittings half cleared a shot, and the ball was returned over the cross-bar. Shortly after he missed with a flying kick a shot which fortunately went just wide. Several corners were taken fairly well by Payn. Eventually after twenty minutes give and take play, Lewes—who worked hard, though a little clumsily throughout—scored at close quarters from a good centre from Smith. About five minutes later the visitors equalised from a scrimmage in front of goal, and just before half-time took the lead 2—1 with a fast cross shot from the left wing which cannoned off the post and gave Gittings no chance. Lewes had previously put through again for us from a scrimmage, but was unfortunately ruled offside. In the second half the School went rather to pieces, despite valiant efforts by Payn at centre half. Yonge broke through once or twice, but there was little combination. Pode and Smith got through the opposition

on the wings several times but were slow and failed to centre effectively as a rule. Norman quite justified his trial in the new position of left half. The opposing forwards were rather quicker on the ball this half and our backs had more than enough to do. Both the goals scored in this half should have been saved. There were only two other incidents worth recording. One was a rare mix up just front of our goal, in which nearly every player took part—in many with their heads down in Rucker fashion. This was cleared by us after a fierce tussle. Later on a rather strict ruling of the referee gave us a penalty kick for handling. Payn took the kick, and was certainly unlucky the ball hitting one of the posts with great force and rebounding.

The following represented the School :—

Goal : Gittings

Backs : Wimbush I                      Edwards

Half-backs : Norman I                  Payn                  Radford I

Forwards : Smith, Picken II, Yonge(*capt.*), Lewes, Pode

*v* ST. GABRIEL'S CHOIR.

Played Oct. 30th. Won 3—1.

On this occasion all our opponents were strictly under the stipulated age, except one forward who being only a day or so over 14 was allowed to take part. The surface again was very greasy. The same referee again officiated and managed the game very well though none of the penalty kicks should have been awarded, being in each case for quite unavoidable handling which ought to have been ignored; the result might very easily be effected and the game spoilt by such decisions, but fortunately none of the kicks succeeded in scoring. Mount House played up the field to start with, and the first incident was Pode's missing a good chance when well placed. Then came a penalty against Picken, which very nearly scored, the ball actually striking the upright in such a manner that it rebounded right into touch. Another fast shot travelled over our bar. After about twenty minutes play Yonge passed out to Smith, who drove in a high cross shot from the right which was well out of the goalkeeper's reach (1—0). Pode dodged the backs but failed with an open

goal. Soon after he made amends and scored, the goalkeeper just failing to stop the ball after reaching it. The St. Gabriel's centre now threaded his way through all our backs single-handed, and put through just as Curtis came out to meet him (2—1); several of the defence were at fault and showed hesitation. St. Gabriel's were pressing again at once. Curtis cleared a long shot well, but immediately after wandered too far from his goal to stop a ball which should have been left to go behind; he was bowled over as he kicked, and while he was on the ground a good chance at an open goal went begging. A corner capitably taken by Macpherson i enabled Smith to put across a hot shot which just missed. Norman then brought the score to 3—1 in our favour with a long high shot which the goalkeeper made no attempt to save, either misjudging the flight of the ball or being unsighted by a back. A penalty given against Payn was missed. Directly after from a free kick taken by Payn, Pode should have scored from close in but hit the post.

After half-time St. Gabriel's played a much stronger game. Almost at once the right wing got through dangerously and shot hard but wide. Two corners against us followed, and once the ball trickled slowly across our goal with no forward ready to put it through. Pode led an attack from the left wing but hung on too long and lost the ball. A free kick taken by Norman was thrown away. Yonge was playing a great game, and again and again was nearly through as well as giving his other forwards some well timed passes, but he was not very well supported at this stage; many of the home team seemed to feel the effects of the heavy going and played with less spirit down the hill than in the first half. Norman had another chance with a penalty, which he made a poor show at. It should be mentioned that at half time the St. Gabriel's goalkeeper, who started the game lame, retired and a substitute was allowed who proved very capable. St. Gabriel's were certainly unlucky not to score in this half, but our defence worked hard to keep them out. Payn got through a tremendous lot of work both in attack and defence. Macpherson i was the best of the other backs, among whom there is still hardly enough understanding. Our shooting was distinctly

at fault, Pode to whom most of the openings came being the chief offender. He and Smith worked hard on the wings, but the latter would often do better to centre square instead of shooting at a difficult angle.

The following represented the School :—

Goal : Curtis

Backs : Macpherson I                      Edwards

Half-backs : Norman I,      Payn,      Radford I,

Forwards : Smith, Picken II, Yonge(*capt*), Lewes, Pode,

## Scouting.

Our Scouts need no congratulations, but they may be quietly content to feel that they have passed the term most satisfactorily in the eyes of those who have their progress at heart. They have shown that they appreciate the object of the Scout movement, which is to help boys to train themselves to be good and useful citizens later on, to think of and be ready to assist others in any way they can, to keep their bodies fit and healthy, and to be prepared for service wherever and whenever duty may call them. Duty is our watchword. The principle that underlies the Scout law has, we believe, really appealed to the boys, and we see in Scouting a thoroughly congenial scheme for bringing home all that lies deepest in a Schoolmaster's heart, but is at the same time the hardest to bring to anything like perfection. Let it not be thought we pretend to see more than good men and true men in the making, or that we are oblivious to the fact that many shortcomings discover themselves from time to time. Our boys are but at the starting-point of life; but they are serving under one flag, with a cheery hope that all it stands for may be realised in the time of manhood, and a determination to help each other along as far as they possibly can. It is the greatest encouragement to know that the troop has quietly made a position for itself in the school, and that there is a general desire on the part of the younger boys to find a place in its ranks when qualified in age. We beg that anyone who may be disposed to criticize us will suspend judgment until we have had more time to prove our sincerity of purpose, and

the strength of character which is being steadily developed.

The operations of the term have been mainly in the hands of the Patrol-leaders: Pode, Payn, D'Arcy and Smith—while Lewes has temporarily occupied a very useful post in charge of the Wolf-cubs. It has indeed been a great joy to the Scoutmaster to see the constant and independent calling out of patrols for practice, and the evident willingness of their members to respond—no better testimony could be found to the way in which Scouting commends itself to those concerned. Our troop flag is very precious to us; and with Edwards as Flag-bearer, and Pedrick and Yonge as Flag-guards, it is in good keeping.

Ordinarily a boy can remain a Scout until he is 18, so that, since all our boys are under 14 and the majority some two years or more younger, the chance of reaching the First Class grade is naturally limited with us, though not entirely beyond the ambition of some. But great and keen has been the determination to qualify as Second Class, and a number approaching twenty have been added to the list during the term. Weekly General Meetings and Courts of Honour have been instituted.

Our Thursdays have been singularly unfortunate in the weather department, but we have made the most of our chances. Subjoined is a record of events.

Sept. 23rd, Contemplated outing abandoned owing to weather.

Sept. 30th, March to Fort Austin. Patrol drill and games.

Oct. 4th, Troop marched to Devonport Military Hospital, and joined other Troops in procession on occasion of the funeral of Private T. G. Driver, who had come from service at the Dardanelles as one of the Australian Contingent. He had been a great friend and supporter of Scouts both in England and Australia.

Oct. 7th, Out by train to Plym Bridge. March home.

Oct. 14th, Weather again. Expedition to Shaugh Bridge abandoned.

Oct. 15th, Five passed Tenderfoot tests.

Oct. 16th, Seven passed in First Aid.

Oct. 20th, Eight passed in Scout's pace mile.

Oct. 21st, Weather defied. Double to Mutley Station.



Train to Plym Bridge, Flag-raiding, March home.

Oct. 22nd, Eleven passed Cooking test.

Oct. 24th, Seven passed First Aid.

Oct. 25th, Various tests passed. S.M. sent in annual report.

Oct. 28th, Weather moist as ever. Troop of 30 trained to Shaugh Bridge. River beautiful. White mud not so. Storming game. Marched out by Shaugh Church, and round to station. Home from Mutley in pouring rain.

Nov. 4th. Train to Billacombe. March home by Marsh Mills, past Fort Efford, to far end of Mutley Plain.

Nov. 13th, Saturday. Day specially appointed by Headquarters for "a day's work" throughout the Empire, to provide new Scouts' Motor Ambulance at the Front. Our troop did what was possible, mostly at work provided by Headmaster in garden, field etc., and contributed sum of £1 14 0.

Nov. 18th, March out to Pennycross and beyond. Home by Crown Hill.

Nov. 25th, Practice in grounds for coming inspection. Saluted our Flag. Short march.

Nov. 27th, Several passed cooking test.

Dec. 2nd, Date fixed for Inspection. Persistent rain the whole day. Captain Crowley received in the Gym, where all that was possible was done, including Patrol-drill, Signalling, and Ambulance work. Captain Crowley addressed Troop, and gave us welcome advice, as well as encouragement.

Dec. 9th Incessant rain.

It will be seen that rain figured largely in our doings, but the ardour of the 2nd Plymouth is damp-proof, and the troop is more than ready for fresh efforts next term.

W. M. RHODES. S.M.



## November 11th.

Mr. Cox's birthday celebrations went off as energetically and successfully as usual. He was given some delightful presents from the boys and staff including a coloured print of Napoleon on board the Bellerophon and a very handsome walnut frame specially made for the photograph of his nephew and godson Lieut. J. Owen Iles, 1st South Staffs Regt., who was killed in action at the battle of Loos on 25th Sept. Several other gifts were sent on (by kind permission of the donors) to a bazaar for the P. C. W. R. Fund already mentioned in "School Notes."

The birthday festivities began as usual with tea at 5 o'clock, after which the Company repaired to the Gym., where dumb charades were acted by the staff. "Forbear" was the word chosen each syllable being acted twice over in different ways. Very effective was the scene when the Headmaster marched on his squad of V.T.C. (and a very awkward squad it was) and endeavoured to teach them to "Form Four(s)." Another scene which produced shrieks of laughter from the audience was "bear" with Mr. Rhodes as a very jaunty organ-grinder and Mr. Cox as the performing bear, who gave his master considerable trouble by swarming pillars, climbing on the platform etc. (Mrs. Rhodes' lively jigs on the harmonium in the back ground greatly added to the effect.) So much were their united efforts appreciated by the audience that the organ-grinder collected quite a lot of pennies for his Scouts' Motor Ambulance before taking his departure. The same word was also very effectively acted by Miss Newman and "Scamp" as Old Mother Hubbard and her dog. "Scamp" showed great intelligence and acted his part to perfection; in fact he came nearer to talking than any other member of the troupe! The final scene was most exciting—the execution of a State prisoner in olden days (Mr. Rhodes) accompanied to the block by his weeping relatives and the masked executioner (Mr. Cox) whilst the passing bell was slowly tolled in the background. All is in readiness, the prisoner's eyes are bandaged, he kneels at the block, the axe is raised, the bell tolls, when the prisoner's wife rushes on the scene with a reprieve, and the grim executioner is obliged to *forbear*!

After the charade it was found that like last year the place was again infested with German Spies, but this time there had been timely warning from Scotland Yard, and English Spies were present in large numbers to capture the traitors if possible. The absolute confusion caused by everyone being entitled, for the duration of the game, entirely to disregard the truth was most amusing, and certainly made us all realize that honesty is the most comfortable as well as the best policy! After the Spy Game was over, there was a search through the house for hidden bombs, some of which "Exploded" with the most alarming noise, but no casualties were reported. At 9 p.m. a cheerful but exhausted company retired to bed.

## Ursina.

### I.

The above title is not the name of a fairy Princess, nor the heroine of a story of romance and adventure told in the thrilling words of a poet. It is indeed very different — nay, of the prosiest order; for those who are studying the language of the ancient Romans (Dictionaries may be used if required) will see that, being interpreted, it signifies "Things of or pertaining to a Bear"! It is not even used, here, alas, in the Feminine Singular, but in the dry old neuter plural. This, we fear, will appear very dull to the reader; but — we must be honest — it is the meaning intended for the present purpose.

Well, what of the Bear? He is a very interesting creature; he has endeared himself, under the name of Teddy, to the child of the present day, and very often claims a share of bed; he has assisted early education in the story of the three Bears; he is the emblem of our Russian Ally. Have we not but recently seen him in the Gym, preforming unselfishly for our amusement, and with such a sense of mischief about him that we began to imagine there must be much of the human behind that imposing skin? There is a lot of feeling in his hug, and he knows a good man-cub when he sees him. Have we not seen him in his true nature in that wonderful presentment of animal life, the *Jungle Book*? Lives there a boy who has not read it? There

we find how truly he loves the thankless work of educating wolf-cubs and man-cub, knowing that it brings its own reward, and that some at any rate amongst the number upon whom his honest efforts have been lavished will remember it to their advantage in the later days.

Well, let it be noted that a disciple and would-be follower of the original Bear in the book aforesaid — whose name he has ventured to assume — himself now an old stager, has had his eye upon Mount House School during the past year, "taking notes" all along. "And, faith, he'll print them," for he has a modest desire to make some of his experiencies known in the pages of the Record. He has an advantage over the old Bear of the jungle, in that, in place of merely Wolf-cubs, with one mau-cub taking the lead among them, a fine pack of man-cubs of different temperaments, different powers of intellect, different stores of energy, different ambitions in their young lives, but all looking out with the same hope and confidence to the unknown days before them, has fallen under his charge. Yet, if his advantages are great, he knows well that his responsibilities are still grater, and the hope is strong within him that there may be something here and there in what he writes that may perhaps prove helpful to the cubs that read it.

Let us look back upon the year — and what a year it has been ! Many and great have been the conflicts of the past, huge the upheavals that have swept away sovereignties and nations ; but never before has it been the lot of a rising generation to witness such a struggle of right against wrong pervading the whole earth. Relatives and friends of our pack — every being of the male sex with a spark of righteous pride and patriotism in him — is giving his services in defence of the Fatherland, or, if useless for active service, is honestly doing his bit where he needs must stay, at home. And surely the boys, with the consciousness of all this, have more incentive than other boys have had before them to pass on to the attainment of a vigorous mind and useful manhood, as fit sons of the Empire in their turn.

But to refer to details of the notes, what have we seen at M. H. during the year ? Healthy work, healthy games — and many changes. Last January we noted the Head

Master and his three henchmen Clowers, Rhay and Bodes (Queer names those men-folk have !) ready and eager to instruct the man-cubs in the way they should go, with Osborne and the Public Schools in view. But no, a microbe came along, then others, then more, and more. The number of the cubs was sadly reduced, and forms which once contained some fifteen or so were brought down to two or three. Well do we remember when form III consisted of but two, of which Welley 2 was by far the larger half—for his contour was rotund. The measles, like the Huns, loomed large for the time, but in the end was discomfited. M. H. was not downhearted ; it broke out into song in the Record, and made merry at the expense of the enemy. There is good in everything, and the enforced inaction for the time only resulted in increased activity and mental effort when the old order was restored. The Summer term received a hearty welcome, and the man-cubs showed their true mettle. Hens i surpassed himself ; Looner-Spillingston and Acheboy found more than usual succulent nourishment in their penholders ; there was a gleam in the eye of Fordrad ii denoting grim determination ; and even Pond seemed disposed to make a plunge into himself. So the term sped on, and the day of the sports arrived. Then in truth, were the men-folk all agog. Cricket for the moment gave way — the mind of Olliet the captain had a rest ; the nimble hands of Douleur no longer twitched for catches ; the watchful eyes of Juvenis and Saxon i were no more upon the ball ; stouthearted Jenos, like a hero of old time, nerved himself for the fray. Nor was the Head Master slumbering in his tent. Oft had he, we wot, felt 'up a tree' at other moments of his life, but now might he be seen in the dim recesses of an ancient fir, hanging ropes and bars to try the skill and endurance of the cubs when they threaded the mazes of the obstacle race. But who is this roaming at odd times in the field, now in sable garments, now in white and blue, sage though cheery of eye, bent on adding yet another entanglement for the boys he loves ! Odysseus, surely — for there is something Homeric about him. Oh for a Homer to recount the struggles of that day—or days. for Jupiter Pluvius intervened, and brought the first to an untimely end. An aged bear is unequal to the task, nor can he recall correctly all the names by

which the heroes were known. But well does he remember the conqueror in the games, wearer of triple chaplet — laurel myrtle, and parsley ; for did he not receive from the hands of a fair lady three cups, wondrous and marvellously chased, for sports, boxing, and gymnastics ? Jenos was he called (though it looks not altogether right, after all !), and great was his victory. Yet did Olliet the valiant press him hard, nor succumbed until the day was well-nigh spent. Floreant ambo.

Now must we discard these fights, and speak more soberly of the term just past. It was a good one all round — good for work, good for health, good for everything. Why was this ? Perchance because there was much rain to freshen us, and make us more careful to keep our powder dry ! Perchance because the staff contained more of the wise and gentle sex than of the male and foolish ! If so, we may see how good may come to some even from such an evil as war. But the real reason lay in the boys ; for their good side was uppermost, and they competed keenly in work as in athletic contests — they put their heart into what they did. Oh the joy to the teacher, when the taught show that they believe in him, and see that their first duty lies in doing good work from day to day, looking forward with him to the time when their own effort or want of effort in these days will have made or marred their career ! But forgive old Bruin for thus moralising. After all, there were other agencies which tended largely to rouse all that is good in a man-cub. Was not music being swiftly revived, which had lain dormant in many for a period, and proving its educational value now as in the days of the Greeks of old ? The Soul of the Man-cub is uplifted by the power of Song, and increased vitality is felt throughout the School. We bow, then, in gratitude to the uplifter. She shall be known as Ursa for the time.

There is another force which must not be forgotten — a force which is gathering strength, and is calculated to put the breath of life into the flabbiest of boys. This is Scouting, and notes upon what the Troop has done will be found upon another page. Ah, the memory of boys smartly falling in from their wild play, and marching mile after mile in self-imposed order, under the command of him who for a brief period had to answer to the name of

Toad! This toad indeed hath a jewel in his head, and has proved his value right well to the Troop. And all the time the working power is growing in the School. It is a grand sight for the Ancient, as he toils along in the rear, to see the Cubs ahead of him putting into practice, as they march two or four abreast, the golden rule upon which so much depends—the rule of willing obedience. He knows that the boyish spirit is being trained naturally; and in the right direction; and the boy is father of the man.

The Bear is oft amused at occasional shortcomings in the ranks; but he foresees that the time is at hand when one particular Scout, who is short of stature, will see to his shoelace before starting, will be able to march in step with the rest, will not drop his staff at critical moments, nor have to be repacked and put strait by a kindly patrol-leader. In like measure will his work improve. He shall be called Blackeye.

Football went with a swing, led by a gallant Captain, who is fast learning to put energy into his work as well.

But for the length of these notes, we would tell of the H. M.'s birthday, when, after Charades in the Gym, Spies and Clues and Bombs kept all upon the go; of the wondrous Doll's House evolved before astonished eyes for the Albert Hall Sale by the practical genius of the ever-active Matron. We would tell, moreover, of the last grand show in the Gym, when fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts and cousins came, in spite of weather, to see successful Man-cubs receive their prizes from the hands of another fair lady, to hear the tuneful efforts of the Singing Class, and applaud the Entertainer. But time is up, and the reader now can rest. The figure I. will be seen at the head of this effusion; but whether or not more shall appear hereafter will depend upon the Editor, and the space between the covers of the Record. In conclusion the Bear offers his best wishes for all happiness possible in the New Year to Country, Home, and School.

BALOO.

## List of Old Boys Serving.

*From Mount House and Garfield House.*

### NAVY.

- Lieut. H. Pawsey  
 Sub-Lieut. E. I. Pawsey  
 Lieut. J. C. Maclean, H.M.S. "Lord Clive"  
 Sub-Lieut. H. B. Day  
 Midshipman Sir J. S. Page Wood, mentioned in despatches  
 Midshipman D. A. C. Birch, H.M.S. "Invincible"  
 Midshipman H. Fox, R.N.R., H.M.S. "Dominion"  
 Midshipman J. R. le G. Pullen, H.M.S. "Monmouth," killed in action  
 Midshipman J. A. Froude, H.M.S. "Cressy," killed in action  
 Midshipman G. P. M. Radcliffe, H.M.S. "Emperor of India"  
 Cadet W. P. Bennett, Dartmouth College  
 Cadet J. Milton, Osborne College  
 Cadet N. Norman, Osborne College  
 Cadet G. Marescaux, Osborne College  
 Cadet R. Brooke, Osborne College  
 Cadet G. O. Jones, Osborne College  
 Cadet K. J. D'Arcy, Osborne College

### ARMY.

- A. Arundell, 2nd Lieut Royal Field Artillery  
 E. Aplin, Captain 2nd Worcesters  
 V. Ager, Despatch Rider R.N. Division, temporary  
 G. Ashby, 2nd Lieut Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry  
 L. Brooking, 2nd Lieut Royal Artillery  
 G. Foster Bone, 2nd Lieut Royal Flying Corps  
 J. Clarke, Cadet, Military College, Wellington, India.  
 R. H. Dawe, 2nd Lieut 5th Devons  
 H. Eldred, 5th Devons  
 J. M. B. Homfray  
 H. W. A. Hamblin, 2nd Lieut Army Service Corps  
 J. L. Harvey, Lance-Corpl 8th Devons  
 S. Harvey, 8th Devons, wounded and missing  
 R. M. Jerram, 2nd Lieut 6th Hampshires  
 C. R. Pawsey, Lieut Royal Worcester Rgt., mentioned in dispatches  
 J. F. W. Pawsey, Royal Fusiliers  
 C. W. Rickeard, Lieut 19th London Regt., killed in action  
 R. Rolston, Lance-Corpl. Public Schools Batt.  
 L. Rolston, Inns of Court O.T.C.  
 R. Sandercock, 5th Devons  
 C. E. Teape, 2nd Lieut 9th Devons  
 R. Vinter, 6th Entrenching Batt. Worcestershire Regt.  
 H. W. Woolcombe, Lieut Devon Fortress Royal Engineers
- MOUNT HOUSE MASTERS SERVING.
- T. J. Bowers, 2nd Lieut 13th Shirwood Foresters  
 W. H. Brodie, Reserve of Officers Indian Army attached to  
 1/2 Goorkhas  
 Rev. C. E. De la Bère, 24th Field Ambulance  
 V. H. Clay, 2nd Lieut 2nd Wilts Regt.  
 H. E. Stewart, South African Medical Corps

Miss Tubbs regrets being unable to let us have a list this year



of "Old Altonians" serving with the Forces owing to their numbers, but we are always pleased to insert news of old Altonians in the "Record" when possible.

## Letters from Old Masters & Old Boys.

Mr. Clay writes from France in November—

I have been out here now for six weeks, and I am in the best of health although we have had continuous rain for the last month. The men are keeping quite fit, although they have been in water up to their knees while they have been in the trenches, and they are most cheerful and bright. We have plenty of insects etc. in the trenches, slugs, caterpillars by the dozen, glow-worms, and dozens of rats and mice, and when we were in the trenches this week we had a cat with us. We are in billets now for about two days before we go into the trenches again. There are two of us in this farm house, which is a very old one. Our bedroom is very small, being about 9 ft square and is only 5 ft high, so we are continually bumping our heads on the ceiling. The bed too corresponds with the room, and is only 4 ft 9 inches long. The French people are very kind to us here and will do anything for us. I think what struck me most on arriving in France were: the windows: the dirtiness of the streets and houses, and the peculiar carts. You would see very big carts being drawn along by four horses and yet the carts would have only two wheels, other carts had two wheels and a very small one in front, on the same principle as the dustmen's hand carts in towns. In this district cows (not oxen) are used very much for ploughing and hauling carts along. I saw one cart being taken along by a horse and a cow side by side.

When we came out of the trenches the time before last I saw a Swallow flying along by the water, and it looked awfully out of place at this time of year. We just missed seeing the King here; we came out of the trenches and into the billets, by which the King passed, the day afterwards.

We get the London papers a day old out here. they come by the Mail, and we usually get them about 5 p.m. The small German shells are, as I dare say you know, called whizzbangs because they burst almost as soon as you hear the whizz or hiss of it going through the air. The larger shells make an awful noise, and you can hear them coming when they are some way off. Some make the noise of a goods train going by, and others the noise of a railway engine running along at full speed all by itself. Our Artillery is splendid and has a huge superiority over the Germans, and as for ammunition we have it in abundance. Our battalion did splendidly in the Loos affair, and the Divisional General came down especially to our billets to praise the men on their work.

Mr. Clay writes again in December :—

“At the end of last month we had a pretty busy time as we had about eight mines exploded in front of our trenches. I daresay that you saw about it in Sir John French's dispatches. One mine which we sent up was a huge one, and had 6,000 lbs of gun cotton under it. It made a huge crater 60 ft deep, and 100 by 250 ft. We had an officer killed 200 yards away by a sandbag weighing 40—50 lbs, which was hurled through the air by a mine, and hit him on the neck. We spent about twenty four days of last month in the trenches, and we came out of that section for good on Dec. 1st, and we are now out for a rest after being in the trenches for the last 14 months without any rest. We are doing strict training as in peace time, and we are re-organizing the battalion for the next move. There are heaps of rumours about this Division, commonly called 'the Fighting Division.' Some say we are going to a warmer climate, some say we are going to have our winter quarters at home, and others say that we are going to leave the new armies that have lately come out here. We have had all sorts of weather; some days the canal was frozen over with thick ice, and at other times we had water up to our knees in the trenches. One afternoon I saw 38 aeroplanes fly over to do some bombing behind the German lines. It was on a cold frosty day and they looked lovely coming over in line. The last two days we were in the trenches I went out wiring in front of our lines, where the Germans were only 95 yds away. When the Germans sent up starlights we had to stand stone still, and as long as we stood still we could not be spotted; we had a machine gun turned on us twice, but we managed to carry out our work without any casualties. I hope to get leave for home at the end of this month, as we are getting it as far as possible every three months. We captured three Germans the last time we were in the trenches and they told us that they were going to send up some mines and this proved to be true. We have been having very rough and wet weather, but we are now situated in a little hamlet in a hollow in the downs, which remind me very much of some of the best parts of Salisbury Plain. I am very pleased to hear how well the Scouts have got on. Please give my best wishes to the staff and boys, and I wish you all a Happy Xmas and successful New Year which may see the end of hostilities.

Extract from a letter describing the marvellous escape of an old Altonian (Norman Clarke) who took part in the great retreat in Serbia a few weeks ago :—

“His news was stirring, and it seems nothing short of a miracle that he came through alive—five days and nights retreating, no sleep, very little food, and at the end of that a forced march of ten miles without a halt to get into Salonika, where they arrived absolutely exhausted. To help the retreat he and twenty men were left on a ridge of a mountain to cover the retreat of his Brigade. They got surrounded on three sides and no chance of help with an advancing reinforced lot of Bulgars—they had a hand to hand tussle and this little band of twenty-one cut their way through. He and

only five men escaping unhurt. A similar party of another Brigade were left behind to cover the retreat of that Brigade and were surrounded, only one man escaped and reports that the officer and the nineteen men all had their throats cut. This is Norman's first serious encounter and all the officers of his battalion were utterly surprised he came out alive."

G. O. Jones writes from Osborne:—

It is simply ripping here and I am enjoying myself no end. The time seems to go so quickly. I have been made to sing twice on Sundays but generally I have managed to escape. I still play soccer and I have played hockey once so far. I play in my old place outside left. Sometimes at the beginning of the term our 1st 15 played against Sherborne, and Geake was playing but I did not get a chance to speak to him because as there was an areoplane flying immediately overhead and manœuvering to land I went over to watch it and when I came back after the finish of the match Geake had disappeared. I am sure the areoplane was going to land because she went away and then returned flying very low, then as she came over the fields she dived and would have landed had not an Exmouth (2nd term) dashed across in the way. As it was she just righted in time, flew away just clearing some trees and alighted in a field close by. We were just able to see the top of her upper plane. We have got a billiard table in our reading room. There are three rooms and two of them have tables. Each boy subscribed to make £5. On wet days we have boxing matches and I was boxing once but I was beaten.

G. S. Rees writes from Dover College:—

As I expect you know, we are very martial in Dover College at present, they catch so many spies about the place that it has been necessary to make Dover a closed town, and no-one is allowed in or out without a pass or a registration card. Anyone at all keen on aircraft of any description would be in his element here, as aeroplanes and waterplanes are continually buzzing round, and the airships, though they can hardly be said to buzz, yet roll about in the sky and purr apologetically as they go. We haven't suffered much from Zeppelins, one peaceful citizen had some cabbages destroyed a few months ago, but made up for the loss by putting a fence round the hole and charging threepence to go in and pick up relics! Only once have we had any excitement of this nature during term, and then it was mostly noise and nothing much to look at, but last holidays I hear there was a regular firework display, which ended in the intruder being thoroughly squashed, and collapsing into the sea. Anyhow, Dover is the only place which can claim to have actually brought a zeppelin down, though it may be full of spies!

I wonder whether it would be possible to have copies of the Record sent to one on payment of a yearly subscription, or something of the sort. Perhaps if several of the old boys took it up it would be worth while. Personally I have always missed seeing the Record, and all news of Mount House cannot help being interesting.

Mr Brodie writes from Debra Doon Cantonments, India :—

You will see from the address that I have got a transfer. I am now in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. If I am lucky I may get the offer of a pukka commission out here—however nothing is definite as yet. Another good thing about it is that my chances of going on field service are ever so much easier. I really think that with a ordinary amount of luck I ought to go somewhere with a draft in a couple of months.

This (Debra Doon) is a very, very different place from Multan. It is about 3000 feet up, and instead of seeing nothing but sand and date palms we live in the midst of all kinds of greenery—grass and trees of every kind. There is one extraordinarily handsome plant here, I am afraid I don't know its name, it is about the size of a laurel bush, and has leaves about the same shape but five or six times as large, most of which are a light green but quite a lot are very vivid scarlet. You can imagine what a sight a hedge of them would be in bright sunlight. There are also heaps of birds here, and one goes out to shoot pea fowl as one would pheasants at home, though of course the usual bag is only one or two. They are jolly good to eat. It is very cold here in the mornings and at night, and even at mid-day it is not as warm as a really good July day at home. I am talking, of course, about this time of year only.

I play a good deal of football here. The Goorkhas are very keen on the game and play quite well. My other means of getting exercise and recreation are golf, tennis and riding. I think last time I wrote to you I told you about a Sikh religious service. I have seen something much more extraordinary here. The Gurkhas are Hindus and celebrate a feast called the Dassera. At night I watched them preparing their own weird dances and music round a huge fire, but the chief ceremony occurred the next morning. This was the sacrifice of a bullock to some or other of their Gods. The unfortunate animal is tied up to a post and prepared for sacrifice by having his head decorated with marigolds and other forms of ornament. After that it must be ascertained whether he is a welcome sacrifice to the god, if he shivers he is, if not another bullock should be procured. This doesn't offer the animal as sporting a chance as it sounds, for a priest throws cold water over him until he does shiver. He is then sacrificed by having his head cut off with a khukri. If the head comes off at one blow it is a sign of good luck for the ensuing year—and if the striker bungles the business he is sprinkled with blood and generally has a pretty bad time. When I saw it the fellow struck a pretty shrewed blow and the head came clean off. After this numerous goats were brought in the arena for private sacrifice in the same way. Soon the whole place was becoming a shambles, and we cleared off and left them to it. They seem bloodthirsty people, and I would sooner watch them exercising their skill on the fat necks of Germans than on unfortunate goats. However in the main they are very cheery, humorous fellows, and quite easy to get on with.

I expect you will get this letter about New Year's Day, so I take this opportunity of wishing you and the School the very best of luck for 1916.

G. B. Yonge writes from Berkhamsted School :—

I wonder if you have heard that all lights have to be shaded or put out here an hour after sunset till an hour before sunrise, it is a horrid nuisance, we have had to put up curtains in the prefect's room and the dining hall. All the rest of the house is in darkness including the dormitories, so the boys have to go to bed in the dark, it does not effect me because I always have worked up till 10 o'clock that is an hour after the other boys have gone to bed and in consequence if I had put on the light it would have woken them up I went over to Mill Hill School on Wednesday acting as touch judge to the rugger match. We were beaten 40 to 0 points but it was a good game considering it was our first school match. The corps has been reorganised this term, instead of having one company consisting of four platoons commanded by an officer we now have two companies consisting of 3 platoons each and a sergeant in command of each of them, then there are two officers to each company first and second in command and then Major Parsons in command of the whole battallion.

Elliott writes from Bromsgrove :—

I expect you would like to hear a little about this school, which in parts is very old, one house, School House, being built a good time before Queen Elizabeth's reign. Some of the studies are very old also, but much of the school has been restored and rebuilt. But the older parts are much more picturesque. We have a beautiful chapel here and a very fine Library. I am in the upper IV modern. There is an O.T.C. consisting of about 90 boys. We have had several field-days which are extremely tiring and need a good deal of energy. We have a very curious custom in this House. On Sunday nights every boy in the house goes up to shake hands with the Headmaster and says "good night." We play Rugby Football here which I found rather difficult to pick up at first. We have had six matches and only lost one. How is the football going on at Mount House? I hope the team is doing well. There are about 130 boys here so we have a fair amount to choose from for a team, but not a good enough team to play our nearest neighbours Cheltenham or Shrewsbury. We have our sports next term and always manage to keep fairly fit, as, every day except Wednesdays and Saturdays which are half holidays, we have to do a run of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles. We have a miniature Rifle Range which is about 40 yards in length. The whole of the grounds are about 70 acres. We do not do "Gym" here but Physical Drill. Of course we have military drill in the O.T.C. I found the military drill which I learnt at Mount House very useful when I started here. I hope I shall be able to come to see you at Christmas. Please remember me to Mrs. Cox, Miss Wimbush, Matron and Mr. Rhodes.

T. E. E. Cocks writes from Westminster :—

Here we get up at 6-45 in the morning—have morning prep from 7-15 to 8—breakfast at 8—have a service for a quarter of an hour in the Abbey at 9-30 (on Saints' Days it is from 9 to 9-45, on

which occasions the King's scholars, usually designated as K.S.S., wear surplices and sit in the choir stalls)—morning school from 9-45 to 12-45—midday meal from 1-15 to 1-45—parade or games from 1-45 to 3-30—afternoon school from 3-30 to 4-30—and then we all assemble in the large room called up-school and have a short service in Latin—go up to Library from 5 to 6—tea at 6—evening preparation from 7 to 8-45—prayers—bed at 8-55—junior lights out at 9-15. On Wednesdays and Saturdays we have half-holidays, and fairly often, about once a week, the headmaster, Dr. Gow, gives an extra one. I was top of my form under Shell, for the first month, at the half-term, and at the end of the second month. At half-term I received some Maundy pence for being top, and I believe I shall get some more at the end of the term. There are five houses here. College (where all the resident K.S.S. reside), Ashburnham, Grant's, Rigand's, Home Boarders. I play left half for College in the first eleven. Buchanan, who used to be at Mount House, is here as a day boarder.

