

# Mount House Record, Plymouth.

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## Editorial.

It is strange to reflect that with the completion of the fourth year of the war a generation has arisen which, with a very few exceptions, has never known school under peace conditions, a generation that drinks its tea without sugar, that knows more of 'table fats' than of Devonshire cream, that addresses those in authority without beginning and ending each sentence with 'Sir,' and is far more familiar with labour battalions than with football leagues; it may be doubted even if there are many left who could say with confidence whether once upon a time Plymouth Argyle played 'rugger' or 'soccer,' and whether Devonshire was accounted a first class cricket county! And the end is not yet. In the coming winter very probably our hot baths, and certainly our impositions will be strictly rationed, and we understand that a coupon is now required to break a window. And yet there are compensations, if only we can lay in a store of good humour—the most priceless of all commodities at the moment. Thrown more and more on our own resources we are each of us taking part in the fascinating game of Robinson Crusoe (with the important difference of not playing it alone), and profiting from the necessity that is the mother of invention. One and all, too, have learnt to 'lend a hand' in a practical way undreamt of in the old days. Cricket and football are very far from being dead, but our interest in such things as the fruits of the earth and the supply of fuel has become a very personal one. If we cannot ourselves do all we could wish towards the production of everything essential for carrying on, there are none who may not do more to avoid

waste and damage. We would appeal very urgently to our readers to bear this in mind where books, desks and stationery are concerned, and to endeavour to reduce to a minimum the wear and tear of furniture and premises. This is where we can all help.

Meanwhile the vastly improved outlook on the western front since we last went to press encourages us to hope that we are indeed at last 'getting through the tunnel.'

The past term has been noteworthy for extremely gratifying scholastic successes, of which particulars are given under 'School Notes'; these individual performances stand out as proud records to give us heart at a time when, it is to be feared, the general work has fallen somewhat below our usual standard. Our lower forms tend to become congested, and some of those who are habitually 'backward in coming forward' may note that there is plenty of room now higher up!

Acting under medical orders, Mr. Rhodes, after nearly four years of strenuous work in and out of school here, has been constrained to 'fall out.' By no one will he be missed more than by the Editor, though we trust that he may be brought to reconsider the last line of his valedictory poem. It is pleasant to picture him finding ample occupation among his crops, with added leisure for his books at home. Mount House will not forget Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes, and they will not forget us.

With two members of the staff condemned more or less to 'go easy,' it will readily be understood that the generous assistance given by the Rev. W. Picken, who came in from Looe for three days every week, was a perfect godsend. As an old schoolmaster his help was invaluable, and the boys will all rejoice to see him back after the holidays. The Rev. E. E. M. Cox once more took his annual holiday in ensuring the success of the Sports, and Mr. Lampard gave a whole day to fixing up the obstacles.

The school crops, at the moment of writing, are a credit to all concerned—and that is a very large number—and it must be a source of great satisfaction to them to see such a bountiful return for their labours.

During the forthcoming term an interesting experiment will be introduced in the form of a new system of rewards and punishments, which goes by the somewhat frivolous name of 'Stars and Stripes.' Though an innovation here, it has stood the test of a good many years in a large number of schools, and the principle at any rate is a sound one. The details are too complicated to give here, but the rough idea is that 'stars' are awarded rather liberally for praiseworthy efforts—not at all necessarily confined to the boys at the top—and that 'stripes,' allotted similarly for offences, cancel 'stars.' A certain number of 'stars' to the good entitle the holder of them to a prize, and this is the only way in which prizes can be won. Each individual's record is strictly kept and always available for inspection on a score-sheet as a reminder. If it proves workable, we anticipate that it will find favour with both boys and parents.

### In Memoriam.

Captain Eric Scott Aplin, 3rd Batt. Worcestershire Regiment, born November 18th, 1895, died of wounds received near Passchendaele when fighting against the Germans in France, on March 11th, 1918, aged 22½ years.

Happy memories of Eric Aplin, the youngest son of Colonel and Mrs. Aplin of Clinton Lodge, Budleigh Salterton S. Devon go back to Garfield House days ten and more years ago. He excelled there both in work and games, and even then showed unmistakable signs of that spirit of leadership and initiative which have since made him such a splendid officer. He went from Garfield House, Devonport to King's School, Rochester where he got a three year's Scholarship, and later went on from there to Sandhurst. He passed out from Sandhurst in August 1914 and was appointed to the Worcestershire Regiment and went out to France on Active Service immediately, and was in the retreat of the Aisne. He was three times wounded on

different occasions before receiving his fatal wounds on March 10th of this year from which he died next day. On one occasion in October 1914, he with another 2nd Lieut. and a handful of men found themselves in a trench (from which all the rest of our men had fallen back,) attacked on both front and flank by the Germans. His companion was killed, but Lieut. Aplin retired with his men *carrying with them the body of Lieut. G. Battle*. The pluck and determination required to accomplish this feat may be gauged to a small extent when it is realised that this handful of men had to crawl 300 yards through a ditch carrying the dead officer's body with them, thus enabling him to be buried by his own men that night, instead of being left to the mercy of the Germans.

It is no surprise to us to hear that on all hands Captain Aplin was spoken of in the Army as a splendid soldier, and a born leader to whom his men were devoted, for it was bound to be the case, and it must indeed be a consolation to his parents in their sorrow to know how greatly he was appreciated.

## Characters of the XI.

**MACPHERSON ii \*** (Capt.) A keen but hardly a painstaking player. He ought to be a far better bowler than he is, if he could learn to bowl 'with his head' and not sacrifice everything to pace. He is a good enough bat to make a lot of runs, but he generally throws his wicket away by unsteadiness directly he goes in. At his best he has some capital strokes in front of the wicket; using his wrists and timing the ball well he gets plenty of power into his drive, and stands well at the wicket. Usually a safe field. Rather lacking in judgment sometimes as a captain.

**DUHAN i \*** A very useful all round member of the XI, who will probably give a good account of himself with more coaching. A strong hitter, he generally shows plenty of confidence, but is too fond of keeping the ball in the air. Bowls well on occasions and is untiring, but is often very erratic. A good field.



CARROLL.\* A batsman of real promise, though he has not been a great run getter. He meets the ball with the full face of his bat and has a good idea of forward play; he is learning too something about a cut. A successful change bowler with rather a laboured action; the ball seems to come rather fast from the pitch. A very fair field.

LAMPARD.\* A hard hitter with plenty of confidence, who does not believe in making two bites at a cherry. Played very little this season. A safe but not very active field.

CHILCOTT.\* Unfortunately played still less, and was much miss in bathing.

RADFORD.\* A very hard-hitting bat, who seldom did himself justice because he lacked discretion and did not wait for the right ball to drive; he also plays now with a very crooked bat, and neglects the offside. Gets through a lot of work in the field at long stop and has a hard low throw in, but is sometimes too casual.

LAKE.\* Our most consistent bowler, he usually is accurate and keeps a good length. His last innings showed that he is to be reckoned with as a bat; he has a good clean hit, but he must learn to get over the ball and keep it down. A good field.

MACPHERSON i.\* Coming on well as a batsman; he has hitting power and is less reckless than some. A safe field.

BURNARD.\* Quite a useful wicket-keeper now, so that he has not cultivated his bowling. He shapes well as a bat and has a much more orthodox style than most.

PETTY.\* Watches the ball all the way and plays with a good straight bat, but a little stiff at present. A very keen player, and his alertness in the field is remarkable.

DUHAN ii. Shows promise as a bat, with plenty of power. Good field.

PICKEN i. Has a good eye but his style of batting is not to be commended. Very quick in the field.

## Cricket Matches.

### V. OLD BOYS.

Played April 30th, 1918. Won by 3 runs.

Owing to our having started the Summer term exceptionally early, this interesting fixture was arranged at very short notice and was much enjoyed. The Past included no fewer than seven naval representatives, and captained as they were by the redoubtable Elliott they threatened to be overwhelmingly too good for a weak Present deprived of Macpherson ii. However in the end the handicap of a 'broomstick' and retiring limit proved quite enough. The wicket was—to say the least of it—unprepared, and none of the players had had a practice game. The bowling of the Old Boys was rather formidable, but the luck seemed against them; a large number of balls that beat the bat only just missed the wicket, and a good many catches went begging. Thanks to some sturdy batting by Chilcott and Lampard the School secured a useful lead of 9 runs on the first innings. In the next innings a stand by Radford and Chilcott for the second wicket realised 30, and with about half an hour left for play the Old Boys were given 67 to win. Plenty of excitement was left in the game, for Jones and extras brought the total up to 53 for three wickets before the former had to retire. Taking every risk, three batsmen in succession ran themselves out. Time was the next to run itself out, with two wickets still to fall and 10 runs to get. Another two overs were agreed on, and actually these last two wickets fell to the last two balls; Lake and Duhan bowled throughout and divided the wickets. The Score:—

#### M. H. S.

Radford, b Elliott	0	b Pode	17
Duhan i, b Pode	0	b Elliott	0
Chilcott, b Curtis	13	run out	9
Petty, b Elliott	1	b Curtis	2
Lampard, c & b Elliott	10	b Curtis	2
Macpherson i, b G. Jones	0	b Curtis	0
Burnard, b Curtis	4	b G. Jones	0
Pieken ii, b Curtis	0	b Curtis	0
Duhan ii, b Curtis	2	b Curtis	8
Price, b Rimington	0	b G. Jones	2
Lake, not out	0	not out	2

## OLD BOYS.

W. Radford, c Chilcott, b Duhan i	0	b Duhan i	1
C. Picken, b Lake	4	b Duhan i	4
G. Jones, b Duhan i	4	retired	21
M. Elliott, st Chilcott, b Duhan i	1	c Macpherson i, b Lake	1
J. Pode, b Lake	3	b Duhan i	7
T. Curtis, b Lake	5	run out	1
I. Burke, b Duhan i	1	run out	0
M. Rimington, b Duhan i	1	run out	1
O. Jones, b Lake	2	not out	2
J. Lewis, not out	1	b Lake	4
C. Croft, b Lake	0	b Lake	0
Extras	7	Extras	23
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	29		65

## BOARDERS v. DAY-BOYS.

Played on 31st May 1918. Boarders won by 84 runs.

This game was arranged on an 'extra half,' the Day boys being without Lampard, and the Boarders without Chilcott. The collapse of the 'visiting team' was quite unexpected; their batting failure began when Carroll run out Duhan i, and Lake's bowling was too much for many of them. Macpherson ii was more erratic but good enough for a weak opposition. Picken's batting was much the best feature of the game and he hit out with some confidence. For the benefit of posterity it may be remarked here that 'Picken i' now denotes Lindsay, Picken. Extras also was in form!

Boarders.		Day Boys.	
Radford i, b Carroll	4	Carroll, b Macpherson ii	4
Burnard, b Cocks	8	Duhan ii, b Lake	0
Macpherson ii, c & b Cocks	8	Duhan i, run out	0
Lake, b Duhan i	1	Cocks, b Lake	3
Macpherson i, b Carroll	14	Courtney, c Lake, b Macpherson ii	4
Picken i, b Carroll	28	Petty, b Lake	0
Price, b Cocks	13	Baily, c Aplin, b Lake	0
Kelly, c & b Cocks	2	Collingwood, b Macpherson ii	1
Aplin, not out	1	Leest, c Picken i, b Macpherson ii	0
Vaughan-Jackson, run out	0	Bolt, not out	4
Thorpe, c Leest, b Carroll	0	Hodge, c Macpherson i, b Lake	0
Extras	25	Extras	4
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	104		20

## DAY BOYS v. BOARDERS.

Played on June 11th 1918. Boarders won by 53 runs.

Each side again were without the same players who were absent in the first match and the Day-boys were badly represented. The play was too poor to merit any detailed account, batting fielding and bowling alike being a very low standard for the most part. The only redeeming feature was a really good display of free hitting by the brothers Macpherson, 'Mac. ii' in particular showing that he has great possibilities at his best. He hit extremely hard and, timing the ball capitally, made nearly all his strokes along the ground. Radford hit equally hard but with a very crooked bat, and had only one stroke to every ball of whatever length. Duhan i bowled rather loosely except in one over, when he sent down three good balls in succession and did the 'hat trick.' The wicket-keeping was deplorable. Score :

## DAY BOYS.

Carroll, b Macpherson ii	1	b Lake	8
Courtney, c & b Macpherson ii	0	b Lake	0
Duhan i, b Macpherson ii	5	not out	5
Duhan ii, l.b.w. Lake	0	not out	2
Petty, b Lake	4		
Bolt, c Macpherson i, b Macpherson ii	10		
Baily, b Lake	0		
Hodge, c Picken i, b Lake	9		
Wallace, c & b Lake	0		
Brown, c Radford, b Lake	0		
Soltan, not out	0		
Extras	10	Extras	6
	39	(2 wkts)	21

## BOARDERS.

Macpherson ii, b Carroll	36
Radford, b Carroll	8
Macpherson i, c Courtney, b Carroll	26
Price, b Duhan i	0
Burnard, b Duhan i	0
Lake, b Duhan i	0
Picken i, b Carroll	6
Kelly, c Brown, b Carroll	0
Aplin, run out	1
Vaughan-Jackson, c Baily, b Duhan i	0
Lewis, not out	0
Extras	15
	92



## v. Mr. Cox's XI.

Lost by 29 runs.

On this occasion our friend the enemy included only four visitors, gaps being filled by an equal number of boys. Of these Petty, both in fielding and batting, showed up best. No handicap was necessary, except that the batsmen after scoring 10 were given the option of continuing with a 'broomstick' or of retiring at 25. The School, batting first, might have made a respectable total if Macpherson ii and Radford had not succumbed very quickly; the former in both innings threw away his wicket recklessly. Duhan hit out confidently, if without much finish and both Carroll and Macpherson i shaped well for a time. Mr. Leeper relying chiefly on rather fast underhands of a subterranean sort was too much for the defence, while some of the 'tail' showed that they hardly appreciated Mr. Freeman's full pitches any more! Against a total of 51 our opponents (who drew lots for the order of going in) did not open too well, losing 3 wickets for 8 runs. Miss Glenday, who opened very quietly, then got the measure of the bowling (not too well managed by the captain) and with Miss White put the result beyond doubt. Mr. Leeper however was in reserve, if he had been needed, while again extras ran up a formidable total. Duhan bowled better than usual but was expensive and Lake might have been used much more. 'Mac ii' bowled a few good balls but was erratic; incidentally he surprised us, or probably himself, by dropping two catches. Score:—

## M. H. S.

Carroll, b Rev. H. H. Leeper	6	not out	3
Macpherson ii, b Paymaster Hosken	0	b Mr. Freeman	0
Radford, b Rev. H. H. Leeper	0	b Rev. H. H. Leeper	2
Macpherson i, b Rev. H. H. Leeper	6	not out	5
Duhan i, b Rev. H. H. Leeper	15		
Picken i, c Miss Glenday, b Rev. H. H. Leeper	2		
Burnard, b Mr. Freeman	4		
Lake, b Mr. Freeman	0		
Price, b Mr. Freeman	4		
Courtney, b Mr. Freeman	2		
Duhan ii, not out	4		
Extras	8	Extras	1
	51	(2 wkts)	11

## MR. COX'S XI.

Fleet Paymaster A. L. B. Hosken, b Macpherson ii	0
Miss Geake, b Duhan i	0
Miss Glenday, retired	25
Fleet Paymaster H. O. Jones, b Duhan i	4
Miss White, b Lake	9
Petty, b Duhan i	4
Mr. H. R. Freeman, b Lake	1
Dymott, not out	4
Thorpe, b Macpherson ii	1
Rev. H. H. Leeper, b Carroll	13
Baily, b Carroll	0
Extras	19
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	80

## v. THE PARENTS.

Played on July 3rd 1918. Won by an innings and 8 runs.

This match took place in beautiful weather, and the result was very gratifying to the School, if a little flattering to them. The combination captained by Mr. Burnard looked rather alarming, and they were asked to handicap themselves considerably; 'broomsticks' for everybody, all to take a turn at bowling in strict rotation, and the batting order drawn for. Even so some of the bowling was quite good enough to dismiss the boys for a small total, and at the beginning with four of the best wickets down for 11 things looked pretty bad for them. Most of the later batsmen played with the confidence of inexperience, Burnard and Petty being the only two who had any regard for a straight bat. The success which Lake met with probably surprised him as much as everybody else; his hitting was clean and hard, and though most of his strokes were both pulls and in the air they found the short boundary many times. The stand made after 8 wickets had fallen for 50 nearly doubled the score, and Lake made exactly half the runs while he was in. Mr. Lampard in the four overs allotted to him claimed three victims for one run, and always had the batsmen in difficulties; most of the wickets fell to good balls.

Encouraged by success the School both bowled and fielded better than previously this season, except Macpherson ii who tried to bowl too fast and was very erratic in his length. It was Lake's day out, and in the two innings

he secured 9 wickets for 22 runs; Carroll proved a most useful change, and his 5 wickets cost only 11 runs. Mr. Lampard, Mr. Petty and Mr. Hosken did some hard clean hitting, but they were unable to pull the match out of the fire and shortly before time the Parents were all out for a second time. The boys received hearty congratulations from their generous opponents. A special word of praise is perhaps due to Petty for his great activity in the field, and several catches (including that of Courtney, playing substitute for the Parents) were made in good style.

## Score :—

## M. H. S.

Duhan i, b Mr. Lampard	1
Carroll, b Col. Rundall	3
Macpherson ii, b Mr. Lampard	0
Macpherson i, c Courtney, b Rev. H. J. Petty	4
Radford, b Capt. Bolt	6
Lampard, c Mr. Burnard, b Dr. Lindsey	9
Petty, b Mr. Burnard	4
Lake, b Rev. H. J. Petty	30
Duhan ii, c Flt. Pym Jones, b Dr. Lindsey	0
Burnard, b Mr. Lampard	11
Picken i, not out	4
Extras	26
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	98

## PARENTS.

Eng-Capt. C. W. Bolt, b Duhan i	0 b Lake	2
Flt. Paymaster Hosken, b Duhan i	7 not out	9
Flt. Paymaster Pym, c Macpherson i, b 'Mac' ii	1 b Carroll	0
Dr. Lindsey, b Macpherson ii	0 absent	0
Flt. Paymaster Jones, c Radford, b Duhan i	0 b Carroll	1
Col. Rundall, b Carroll	5 b Lake	0
Rev. H. J. Petty, b Lake	9 b Lake	13
Mr. Burnard, lbw, b Lake	0 c Picken i, b Lake	6
Mr. Freeman, b Carroll	2 b Lake	0
Mr. Lampard, not out	7 c Burnard, b Lake	14
Courtney (sub) b Carroll	0 c Duhan i, b Lake	0
Extras	5 Extras	9
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	36	54

## The Sports.

Our regular reporter having gone on strike, the present writer has consented to do his best only on the understanding that he starts by letting another cat out of the editorial bag; readers will perhaps sympathise with the difficulties of his task when they learn that he is endeavouring to chronicle the crowded events of July 11th. just *three months* after they took place! There is however a very carefully filled in programme available so the facts will be accurate enough; and if his memory is at fault in the picturesque details the journalist pleads to be forgiven.

We had had such a long spell of fine weather that it seemed due to break about the date we had selected, and indeed we were lucky to sandwich the sports nicely in between two wet days. As in 1917 it had been decided to begin at 4-30, so that those who were in need of a substantial tea might fortify themselves beforehand. Our arrangements for the most part **worked** like clockwork and possibly the boys themselves did not regret the one unfortunate miscalculation. The heats last year had been mostly disposed of before the visitors arrived; this year we really started at the advertised hour, and consequently finished very late. Even then, so expeditiously did events follow one another that we should have been pretty well up to time, if it had not been for the stiffness of the obstacle race at the end. In other respects one and all were out to enjoy themselves and succeeded to the full without any mishap to mar the proceedings.

The competition for the cup was extremely keen, with Duhan i and the two 'Macs' in great form, it should be noted moreover that neither of the jumps went to either of this trio, and as a matter of fact the long legged Bardo who came here with a great reputation as an athlete would probably have been a very serious rival if an unfortunate strain had not put him almost out of the running (and entirely out of the jumping.) Chilcott too with his well-known gameness was much missed.

The official programme gives the names of the judges—Mr. Spender, Mr. Hosken, Mr. Lampard, Mr. Burnard



and Mr. Rhodes—with the headmaster as starter and the Rev. E. E. M. Cox as referee. As a point to his credit, the chronicler remembers that the first named was prevented from being present. To have Mrs. Carroll to distribute the prizes was a very happy finish to the proceedings. And we did not omit to give three cheers for the old Mount House athlete G. W. Ashby (who gives his name to the Challenge Cup) on the announcement that he had won the distinction of the Military Cross.

Details chiefly culled from our document, are as follows:

EVENT 1. *Throwing the Cricket Ball.* As anticipated Duhan i secured 2 points towards the Ashby Cup, with a throw of 59 yards. Mackpherson ii obtained 1 point by just beating the standard of 55 yards. Bardo who was third looked capable of more.

[At this stage the strike ended and our reporter made amends by sending in his 'copy' as follows]

Event 2 (*High Jump Open.*) This was probably the best contested event on the whole programme, and resulted in Price clearing exactly the same height as Norman i jumped last year, namely 3 ft. 10½ ins, closely followed by the brothers Macpherson with 3ft. 10 ins. whilst Duhan i cleared 3 ft. 9 ins.

EVENTS 3 & 5 *Crab Race (under 10)* Won by Challinor whilst Rundall beat his victor in the heats and secured 2nd. place.

EVENT 4 *Crab Race (under 8)* 1st. Weekes; 2nd. Insall.

EVENT 6 *High Jump (under 12.) Handicap.* Aplin and Courtney contested this event from scratch, with the result that the former cleared 3ft 8in, beating his last year's effort by an inch, whilst the latter jumped 3ft 7in.

EVENT 7. *Long Jump (open).* The jumping in this event was far below the usual standard, and Radford was the only competitor to reach the standard, with a jump of 11ft 10in. Macpherson ii was second with a jump of 11ft 5in, which however failed to secure a point for the Cup. Duhan i was only credited with 11ft 3½in, but it is only fair to state that he jumped over 12ft at one of his attempts, but unfortunately fouled the 'take-off' line.

EVENT 8 & 11. Both the *Heats and Final of 100 yds (open)* produced some close finishes. Duhan i and Macpherson ii

actually ran a dead heat in the final, which had to be run off in order to settle the Cup points. The superior stamina of the former probably enabled him to finally secure the first place, whilst the long-legged Bardo and Macpherson ii ran well for the 3rd and 4th places.

EVENTS 9 & 12. *The Heats & Final of 100 yds (under 11)* produced some interesting racing. The final was won by Hodge, whilst Brown, who was 2nd to Rundall in his heat, showed more speed in the final and was placed 2nd, when Cunningham also beat Rundall for the 3rd place.

EVENTS 10 & 13. *The Heats of 100 yds (under 9)* were won by Fergusson and Lindsey, who also gained the 1st and 2nd places in the *Final*.

EVENT 14. *Tongs Race*. *Final*.—The heats of this event which had been run off on a previous day, seemed to show that much perseverance and skill was needed in picking up and carrying a tennis ball between two cricket stumps, without crossing them like a pair of scissors, but the final proved that Duhan i had profited by his previous experience, as he succeeded in carrying his ball the length of the course without a single slip, and thereby easily won the event. Norman and Petty eventually came in 2nd & 3rd.

EVENT 15. *Hobble Race*. 1st Barker-Mill; 2nd Dales.

EVENT 16. *Quarter Mile (open)*. Great interest was attached to this event, because the result would finally determine the winner of the coveted Challenge Cup. At this stage of the programme Duhan i was leading with 5 points, whilst Macpherson ii was running him very close with  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . The race was strenuously contested, and produced a very close finish between the 1st four. Macpherson ii just beat his brother for the first place, and Carroll was narrowly defeated by Duhan i for the next two positions. Macpherson ii thereby secured the title of *Victor Ludorum* with a total of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  points, whilst Duhan i ran him very close with 7 points.

EVENTS 17 & 20. *220 yds (Red House) Handicap*. The winners of the first heat were Rowse and Dales, who also were similarly placed in the final, whilst Ferguson, who had been beaten by Moon ii in his heat, reversed the positions and obtained the 3rd place.

EVENTS 18 & 21. *The Heats for the 220 yds (Mount*

*House*) *Handicap* secured the large number of 47 entries. The handicapping proved excellent, and produced very close finishes throughout. Bardo (1 yd) won his heat and also the final; Perowne (5 yds) likewise won his heat and came in next; Hancock (12 yds), who seems a promising runner, was deservedly placed 3rd.

EVENT 19, *The Nut-gathering* (*under* 10) was won by Moon ii, while Challinor and Rundall were 2nd and 3rd.

EVENT 24 again provided a similar and popular competition for the young visitors, the winners being Patty Travers and Dorothy Cocks.

EVENT 22. *Blindfold Pairing off*. This new event may be best described by the following instructions taken from the programme:—The Blindfold partners, starting from opposite sides of the field, have to find each other. Each proceeds in silence, but whenever he comes in contact with anyone he stands still and shouts his rallying cry (a letter of the Alphabet). He may shout only as long as he stands still and is touching someone. As soon as a pair meet, they lie down and continue to shout their letter.

It was evident that previous practice had been smartly taken advantage of, as it was surprising to see how quickly the winning pair, Duhan ii and Macpherson ii, discovered each other, and how speedily they were followed by Macpherson i and Picken i.

EVENT 23. *The Relay Race* was won by the "Blue" Team, consisting of Duhan i, Norman, Courtney and Collingwood, who made a good start, and retained their advantage throughout. The "Red" Team, made up of Macpherson i, Picken i, Baily and Lanvon i, was 2nd.

EVENT 26. *All fours race* (*Red House*). This event was easily won by Woolcombe, with Dales and Ferguson gaining the next places.

EVENTS 25 & 27. *The Obstacle Race* was, as usual the most popular event on the programme. Among the new features was one which made great demands on the determination as well as the agility of the competitors. A tarpaulin had been folded and laced up to form a long bag with open ends securely pegged down. It was so arranged as to sag loosely over the parallel bars, with a spar in

between to hold it down, leaving just room to wriggle over, under, and over again.

The monkey-puzzle proved even more difficult than usual, and in the 2nd and 3rd heats only two boys succeeded in passing it. Macpherson ii, Duhan i and Lampard each won their heats, and were placed as above in the final, whilst Courtney gained the 4th place.

*The Tug of War*, between 12 Boarders and 12 Day Boys and Daily Boarders, was somewhat surprisingly won by the former, who were victorious in the first 2 pulls. Later events proved that the strength of the Boarders' team lay in the 2nd six boys, as in further contests the first 6 Day Boys routed the first 6 Boarders in 2 pulls, whilst the second 6 Day Boys were in turn defeated in 2 pulls by their opponents.

## School Notes.

It is pleasant to begin 'School Notes' with the record of three Scholarships and two Cadetships at the R. N. College Osborne this term to the credit of Mount House boys.

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A. H. J. Cocks (for some time past Head of the School) has distinguished himself by coming out at the head of the Challenge roll of Westminster Scholars, following in his brother's footsteps who was second on the roll two years ago. C. J. Price heads the list of Scholars at Broomsgrove School with a £60 Scholarship for four years although he is still a year under age. Colin G. Clark has won the distinction of being on the roll of Winchester Scholars, and now awaits his turn for election, being 16th. on the roll. He left Mount House last Christmas and has been receiving private tuition at home during the last six months. He, like Price took his scholarship exam. a year younger than usual, so is safe to become a Collegger as soon as a vacancy occurs. Both our Osborne Candidates were succesful this time in spite of bad luck in the matter of health during their last



term, Lampard indulging in chicken pox at an inconvenient moment, and Chilcott's serious illness at the beginning of term causing us all much anxiety. However the summer in Scotland completely set him up and he was able to start fair with his fellow cadets in September.

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Cadet Captain G. O. Jones finished his career at Dartmouth College at the end of April with great distinction, passing out 2nd out of 91 Cadets and winning the prize for seamanship. He has now gone to sea. We hear excellent accounts of his brother O. O. Jones at Osborne. Also of M. J. Remington.

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It was a great pleasure to be able to arrange a gathering of old boys for a cricket match at the beginning of term and to welcome so many old friends. Elliott who has won both his cricket and football colours at Broomsgrove was Captain of the Old Boys xi, particulars of which will be found elsewhere.

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Lieut. J. B. Homfray R.A. who was seriously wounded last autumn was awarded the Military Cross amongst the King's birthday honours.

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Lieut. G. Ashby D.C.L.I. was awarded the Military Cross amongst the King's birthday honours whilst serving on the Salonika front.

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2nd. Lieut. K.C.B. Woodman R.A.F. was slightly wounded in France in June, but was flying again within a week. Very shortly afterwards he was reported "missing" engine trouble having necessitated his bringing down his machine behind the German lines, where he is now a prisoner.

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Three years happy association between the School and Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes was alas, broken at the end of this term by their giving up School work in order to live in retirement at their cottage in Sussex. Their keen interest in, and enthusiasm for everything which in any way concerned the welfare of the School will not soon be forgotten, and they will be very greatly missed next term. Two informal presentations were made at the end of term,

when the scouts presented Mr. Rhodes with a useful suit case, and Mrs. Rhodes' music pupils gave her a pretty set of afternoon tea knives. We owe much to Mrs. Rhodes amongst many other activities for her able conduct of the School branch of the National War Savings Association which now represents well over £200 in savings by the boys. For more than two years Mr. Rhodes has been Scoutmaster, the school troop owes a good deal to his never failing keenness. Miss Glenday (Assistant Scout Master) has kindly consented to take over his duties next term in this respect so we feel assured that the "2nd. Plymouths" will continue to go strong and "keep on smiling"

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We have good news of P. and J. Norman, the former a midshipman on board H.M.S. Malaya where his Captain speaks highly of him, the latter is still at Dartmouth where he came out 18th. in seamanship last term and plays for the College at cricket (1st XI.) and for his Term XI. at football and hockey.

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J. Pode has passed out of the "Worcester" training ship with great credit and has gone to sea this term as a Midshipman R.N.R.

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A "Labour Battalion" for work on the land was formed at the beginning of term, which did yeoman service on our allotments, turning up pasture land and planting potatoes and other crops. Our 'Minstrel' has found in their achievement a fitting topic for his lay, so I will leave the task of singing their praises to his poetical pen.

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The Mount House War Savings Association has done some good work through the Summer term, and if the contributions have not been up to the average there are perhaps two reasons for the shortage; first, people are not so rich as they used to be and no boy has come forward to pay in a good round sum such as has often been contributed in the past, secondly, the re-opened weekly 'shop' has taken a good slice out of the boys' pocketmoney.

The number of members has fallen regrettably low, there are now only 51 instead of the 68 of last term, but this is chiefly owing to the rigorous 'combing out' of 'slackers' by command of the Central Committee.

£20 4 6 has been paid in this term; £15 9 6 of this sum coming from Mount House and £4 15 0 from Red House. The total amount paid in since the Association started two years ago is £234 13 6. While hearty congratulations are offered to the members who have contributed to this sum under Mrs. Rhodes's treasuryship it is hoped that many more boys will rally to the help of such a patriotic work and will do all they can to make the Association a great success under Miss Phillips who has kindly taken on the work of Treasurer.

#### RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE.

May	rainfall	·82 ins.
„	average	2·05 ins.
„	temperature	58 degs.
„	„ average	52·6 degs.
June	rainfall	1 29 ins.
„	average	2 13 ins.
„	temperature	61 degs.
„	„ average	59 deg.
July	rainfall ( for 23 days )	3·94 ins.
„	average	2 71 ins.
„	temperature	62·9 degs.
„	„ average	62·9 degs.

### The Last Lay of the Minstrel.

*(A memory of May and June, 1918).*

In the air there was a tremor, in the house there was a sigh,  
 " Mr. Cox has seen the Doctor, and he says that he must try  
 To undo all the mischief of his past activity—

All his labour it must cease

He must rest and take his ease,

And abandon the potatoes." Here's a go!

The tremor went on trembling, and the sighs were multiplied,  
 And the house it made an effort its anxiety to hide.

The Doctor came again, and laid his hand on Mr. Rhodes—  
 That veteran so famous for garden brooms and odes!—

And he said, " Too old you're growing,

You must give up all the mowing ";

So the two heroic workers were laid low !

"O potatoes, dear potatoes we've looked forward to with pride,  
To be boiled and mashed, and toasted with their jackets on, and  
fried,

You *must* be duly nurtured, and your wants *must* be supplied,  
But how can this now possibly be done?

The grass is unco' forward, and, according to its way,  
At night it grows as fast you can cut it in the day,  
And all *at once*. What shall we do? It soon will all be hay!  
The cricket soon will be a farce, 'tis evident. For all  
The only end and object will be to find the ball!

And the sports, with all their ancient reputation and their fun!  
How can boys, howe'er athletic, on a tangled prairie run?  
Not now, as in the olden days, can labourers be found  
To dig and hoe, and cut the grass, and clip the edges round.

'Tis clear our fate is desperate;

Alas, what *can* be done?"

"Ho, women to the rescue. Ho, ladies to the front!  
Our only men have failed us, 'tis you must bear the brunt."  
The message, though not audible, was plainly in the air,  
And surely all that followed then proved well that it was *there*.  
For, well we wot, the answer came with no uncertain sound—  
There were mowers for the cricket field and tillers for the ground

And here and there and everywhere  
The work began forthwith, and ne'er  
Was such an effort seen;

The garden paths were full of boys,  
No fuss, and no unseemly noise,  
As oft before has been;

For work profound and grim was meant,  
On giving fullest measure bent  
They gathered for the fray.

And why this strange enthusiasm,  
With real intent, no passing spasm?  
At call of urgent womankind  
What British youth could lag behind,  
What British heart could stay?

For see, Miss Glenday leads the field!  
A terror she the fork to wield,  
And show the way to work:

And next, Miss Phillips eagerly  
Surveys her ranks—'tis clear to see  
That none their task will shirk:

Miss Geake there has her following  
Who hear the call of Duty ring,  
And arm them for the fight:

And see too, at Miss White's command,  
More boys appearing, on the land  
To work with all their might!



See Price and Leest and Radford, Macpherson i and ii,  
 See Brownlow, Carroll, Petty, Hodge set out their work to do ;  
 See Chilcott, Baily, Jackson (Vaughan), see Aplin, Courtney, Wells  
 Dymott & Lewis. How with pride his manly bosom swells!  
 Burnard and Lake and Picken i, Macnaghten and the Lanyons,  
 With Fox & Martin, Cunningham and Handcock, as companions.  
 See Kelly, Knowling, Picken ii, Duhan ii, Thorpe and Sands,  
 See Bardo, Wallace and Perowne contribute willing hands,  
 While Travers, Leeper, Challinor and Rundall join the fray,  
 Nor Soltan stays, nor Norman, nor ponderous Galloway.

All shoulder fork or spade or rake,  
 A soul-inspiring show they make,  
 Responsive to the call :  
 With solemn mien and serious look,  
 No shilly shallying they'll brook,  
 They mean it one and all.

Not only fork and spade and rake, but shovel, pick and hoe,  
 And wondrous other instruments adorn the splendid show,  
 Barrows of wood and iron, besides that test of thew and bones,  
 The Archimedean-designed receptacle for stones.

So oft they went on duty bent,  
 Alert and full of fire ;  
 What effort could be nobler,  
 What object could be higher ?  
 Hurrah then for Allotments,  
 Hurrah for garden plots !  
 No famine now ; in truth it means  
 Potatoes, turnips, swedes and beans,  
 Of all there shall be lots.

Now turn we to the cricket field, and see how fares the grass.  
 Shall ladies' efforts fill the gap and stem the tide ? Alas,  
 'Tis now or never—miss the chance, and give it but a start.  
 'Twill surely get the upper hand, and break the groundman's  
 heart.

Away ye dismal prophecies, ye doleful thoughts away !  
 The labouring male's ascendancy in truth has had its day.

For hardly had the words gone forth  
 When, east and west and south and north,  
 They came from everywhere :  
 Miss Glenday seized the new machine,  
 Miss White took that which once had been  
 Our pride, and still is all serene,  
 In spite of wear and tear.

At first in strenuous work they vied,  
 And, charging through the rough, they tried  
 To beat all records, till there cried

A distant voice, " O spare  
 My poor machines, they will not last,  
 Be merciful—not *quite* so fast,  
 'Tis more than they can bear."

They heard, and now behold them stride, with measured tread  
 and keen,  
 And no such persevering work before was ever seen ;  
 Well did Miss Geake perform her part, most wonderful to see,  
 And Miss Sewell added fuel  
 To the fire of energy.

Nor was the ardour limited in gardening to those  
 Whose names have here been given—there was one in whom  
 it rose

To well nigh unrecorded heights, as far as history goes.  
 Low did she stoop to conquer all the ills that will beset us  
 When we rear the infant cabbages and cultivate the lettuce.  
 She sowed them, and she pricked them, she kept them moist  
 and warm,  
 And sleepless nights she suffered for the slugs that ever swarm;  
 With watering pot she wandered up and down the garden drive,  
 Nor spared she any labour to keep her pets alive,  
 Now triumphant she rejoices in their growing glory, while  
 The grateful little darlings look up at her and smile !

Be it noted too how Ellis  
 Put her labour into it,  
 How Cook she left her jellies  
 In the work to do her bit,  
 How many a willing maiden  
 From the kitchen regions came,  
 And, with various weapons laden,  
 Entered keenly in the game.  
 With shears and hook, in hand they took  
 The cropping of the banks ;  
 When work was o'er they did it, nor  
 Expected any thanks,  
 See now, in desert places,  
 'Neath bushes broad and high,  
 Sweet flowers show their faces,  
 And cheer the passer-by.

Our mind is eased, our soul appeased,  
 And now we sing with joy ;  
 And naught remains of sighs or pains  
 To trouble or annoy :

For, thanks to all the ladies fair  
 Who rendered service everywhere,  
 And still have energy to spare,  
 Our anxious moments cease.

The future, once as black as night,  
 Spreads out before us clear and bright :  
 The field a thing of beauty now,  
 The plots with vegetables glow,  
 We breathe again in peace.

Then live through all the ages long  
The subject of this little song,

Our ladies' noble help--  
How, by their energy inspired,  
To aid his Country's cause they fired  
The British Lion's whelp!

Let each and every boy that gave  
His right good work, the crops to save,  
Remember those that led him on  
Through toilsome days to victory won!

Ye wielders of the cricket bat,  
Ye doers of the trick called "Hat,"  
With chivalry salute the Fair,  
Who heeded not themselves to spare,  
To mow the turf for fun:

Ye victors in the sports athletic  
Forget not ye the force magnetic  
That kept the level true!

And he who in the coming days  
Shall read these humble lines that raise--

Some visions of the past,  
Let him forgive the faults that marred  
The efforts of a modest bard  
In this his Lay--the last.

W. M. R.

## Scouting.

The retiring S.M. need not make a lengthy report. He desires at this outset to acknowledge with many thanks the assistance which he has received on all sides during the period of his official administration, and to offer his heartiest good wishes for the work ahead, when the Troop will have greater opportunities of expansion under a S.M. who can, and does, show them the way so well.

At the customary election on the first Wednesday Price, Macpherson i, Radford, Carroll and Macpherson ii were leaders on the list, and they were appointed P.L.'s of Jackals, Kangaroos, Otters, Hawks and Owls, respectively; while in due course Leest, Brownlow, Baily, Chilcott and Duhan i were installed as seconds.

Our numbers have been more than maintained, for Cunningham, Foot, Galloway, Hancock, Mastin and Bardo have been admitted, and only three left us at Easter. But there is

no strength in mere numbers without the real spirit behind them, and we trust that the measures we have recently taken to establish right ideas upon this subject will have shaken up the good stuff in the Troop, and made it stronger than ever.

We are now losing Price, Carroll, Chilcott, Duhan i and ii, Courtney and Galloway. While we wish to all of these God-speed in their new labours, we must acknowledge our special indebtedness to the first named, who has done us yeoman's service in maintaining the steady sense of duty which we have so much at heart.

On the last Thursday, July 18th, the Troop was inspected by the District Commissioner, Captain Crowley, who was accompanied by Captain Burtram. Various evolutions by Patrols, a competition in Ambulance, testing in Signalling, and a Relay Flag Race were the chief items of the programme suggested by the Inspector, who afterwards addressed the Scouts, and expressed his appreciation of what he had seen.

The Patrol Competition has resulted in a triumph for the Owls, who compiled 525 marks, against Kangaroos 458, Jackals 440, Otters 424, and Hawks 347. So the Owls rise again to a position of responsibility; and, as there is nothing like responsibility to bring out all that is good in man or boy, we fully expect to hear that Mac. ii, like Henry V., has proved equal to the occasion. There will be special need next term for one and all to do their duty.

W. M. RHODES.

## Scouting Expeditions.

The summer term is always all too short for the many activities that are to be crowded into it, and Scouting expeditions naturally are rather left for the other two terms so there are only six outings to record, apart from a heated afternoon during which, by means of relays of scouts, we carried soot and so on to the Whiteford Woods allotment.

The troop is getting much better at quiet and careful scouting, and now indulges in a free fight only occasionally. We have found the plan of capture by means of catching "tails," that is scarves tucked into the belt behind, a great help as it means pretty close stalking. There is a good deal of keenness amongst the younger scouts, which is hopeful for the future, and they are now sticking to their orders better, and not allowing their keenness to run away with



them. The leaders also are getting a better idea of how to place their patrols and to use every man to best advantage. Price, Macpherson i, and Carroll, especially have done good work in this way. Tracking is still our weak point, and as it is really one of the most useful and interesting things we can do, we must give it serious attention in the future.

MAY 2nd. The Otters went out to beyond the Cemetery, and from there tried to make their way home without being captured by the rest of the troop, who were advancing in extended order. They were all taken, thanks to some good work by the rest; they kept on the move rather too much, and certainly ought not to have gone by very much the same route, they ought all to have tried different points.

MAY 23rd For the first time for many weeks we played flag-raiding with excellent results. There was a good deal less noise, though some scouts still forget, and shout when they get excited, which of course gives things away completely. There were some noble efforts at camouflage, but the best way to avoid being seen is often to stand absolutely still for some time, or drop flat, and stay there, even in nettles! Also, if you're discovered near the enemies' base, it is no good going on, go right back and begin again. Explanations of the tactics used, illustrated by sketch maps, were sent in, and were very well done

MAY 30th. We tried a new game, on a larger scale than usual. The Kangaroos, Otters and Hawks guarded the chimney road; the Jackals, from Egg Buckland, and the Owls, from out by the Cemetery, tried to unite their forces by way of the road. The Jackals, under Price made a good advance by the northern end of the road, and if the whole patrol had come that way, would have got through, as the defenders were too slow in sending outposts to that end of the road, so leaving an opening; otherwise the defence was well planned. The Owls moved in a body, which was unwise, under the circumstances, and their leader quite lost his head at the end; but the game on the whole was most successful, and notable for some good individual scouting by younger members.

JUNE 6th. We began by a leaf collection, some good sheets were sent in, especially by Price, Norman, Hodge, and Brown, but many were spoilt by carelessness; leaves should always be pressed for a day or two first, as they keep much better and look neater.

The ambushing which followed was good practice, evidently badly needed. Some very fair attempts at out-flanking were spoilt by talking; a loud whisper carries much further than one would think, which should be remembered. We are still too fond of walking noisily down the middle of the road. Small scouts, beware!

JUNE 13th. We spent looking for a budding Sherlock Holmes, but rather failed to find one, perhaps he'll develop in the future. The Jackals laid a trail, and at intervals left special signs, which had to be found, carefully examined, and some slight deduction made from them; for instance, in one place the grass and plants were trampled down to show signs of a struggle, in another was a torn up letter, which when pieced together, gave important information, and so on, the signs gradually becoming harder as the trail went on. As it was the first time we had done this, it was not surprising that various signs were not noticed, or else not properly worked out. It needs hard work and much practice to pick up signs, and also to make anything of them. We shall find it a very useful game for our observation.

JULY 2nd. We were very glad to have our S.M. with us again for an expedition, but very sorry indeed that it should be his last. Fortunately it was a glorious day, and we had a splendid afternoon to end up with. We went to the Dewerstone, and began with a game of bomb laying in opposing camps, in which the defence on both sides was better than the attack, except in one part, where the attack, by making good use of cover, succeeded in planting quite a colony of bombs. A scout should look round the side of a rock, not over the top, and in moving amongst low bracken and heather must literally worm himself along, to make the best use of it. The game ended in a draw. After well earned rations we had a natural history expedition, resulting in the discovery of a lizard, a young cuckoo, and various slow worms, ants, caterpillars, and so on, which

were fortunately mostly left behind. The maps of the journey sent in later were good, and the contours of the Dewerstone carefully thought out; important point—the compass direction of the Dewerstone, which was not put far enough to the North.

E. I. GLENDAY, A.S.M.

## Bird Life in our Grounds 1917.

(Continued).

*Magpie.*—At end of March very numerous and noisy—probably the young family of previous season being sent about their business. On April 30th (after my return home from the holidays) I watched a pair very busy all day building at the top of a fir by the play-ground, both birds assisting. The nest was inconveniently placed for inspection but could be easily kept under observation, from the ground, and though the dates of hatching etc. could only be guessed approximately, it was most surprising to find the length of time that it was occupied. My diary reads: 'May 6th. Appear to be finished now and laying.' 'June 7th. Apparently young have been fed in the nest for at least a fortnight. The parents have many battles with another pair in Mount View.' A great many nests were robbed by these birds, and on June 16th. at 6-30 a.m. hearing a great clamour I looked out and saw a magpie holding a small bird from which it was plucking a quantity of white feathers. These fluttered to the ground, while the meal was carried up to the nest. I had reared no chickens myself, so continued to watch to see whose poultry yard was being robbed. Presently the problem was solved, when the other magpie appeared and diving straight into an ivy-covered tree near by fetched out what proved to be a second young sparrow covered with the fowls' feathers of the nest. On June 17th. a magpie sat sunning itself and pressing its feathers on the extreme top of the big cypress for more than half an hour, closely attended by numerous flies (as seen through the glasses.) 'June 26th. Still feeding young in nest, but one reported out in Beechfield yesterday.' The family however continued to be fed in the

nest till the evening of July 8th, when they flew. Even then the young were often scattered about among the neighbouring trees, and not uncommonly seemed to be back in the nest itself, which on July 22nd. an old bird was visiting with a good deal of fuss. Through the autumn the whole family roosted in the trees close by, but not together and if any were in the nest it was only an odd individual or so.

*Blue Tit.*—Only a few scattered observations made. Though plenty were about in the middle of January, they seemed to suffer a good deal and I knew of only three broods reared this year. On May 6th. building materials were being accumulated in boxes 8, 10, 13, and 15; the last however was presently inhabited by bees. On May 16th. box 8 contained 9 eggs completely covered over—not sitting: on May 20th. it had 10 uncovered eggs, and sitting had presumably begun. Box 13 was the first to hatch out on May 27th.

*Coal tit.*—Did not appear to suffer much, and directly thaw came was singing as well as calling in various places. When the fir-cones were bursting in early May, these tits were very busy and noisy. On June 4th I watched one for some time taking fir-cone seeds away for concealment in the bark and ivy of adjoining trees—a somewhat remarkable proceeding at this season, when there should be young to feed. Plenty about in the autumn.

*Great tit.*—Fairly frequent visitor in early spring.

*Marsh tit.*—No records, but perhaps not entirely missing.

*Longtailed tit and Goldcrest.*—None at all seen or heard this year. The absence of goldcrests both in spring and autumn (when usually there is a large immigration) is most noteworthy.

*Starling.*—The roosting flights by the middle of January had changed their direction and gradually got back entirely to the old line to the N.W.; they were never big, but continued till the middle of March. Boxes 1, 6, and 9 were occupied on May 6th; two of them contained four eggs, but at box 6 the bird was on when I examined it. By May 16th all were hatched or just hatching, but they were later than usual and no families had flown by June 7th, though I saw one young bird out on that date. No



second broods this year. The Lodge roof was again unoccupied; as an afterthought I put up a short ladder to overcome the steep gradient, but it was too late and, though it was at once used and frequent visits made, no nesting material was taken in.

*Swallow*.—On April 30th a pair went into the gym. By May 14th two nests had been half completed. In one of these horsehair lining was plentifully used, but it was never finished. Indeed there seemed to be considerable friction between the two pairs of birds; and though the second nest was completed by May 21st, three days later a broken egg was on the floor beneath and another the following day. The nest was then deserted but a third nest was run up very rapidly just beyond it at which both birds assisted, and on June 4th contained two eggs. Extra feathers were still being added on the 6th. The young were hatched on June 20th and flew on July 10th, but were all back roosting and even being fed there next day. After absence in August I returned to find No. 2 nest had been occupied after all for a second brood, two of which still remained in it till Sept. 2nd. Half a dozen or so came in to roost till Sept. 20th. A big flight left a few days before.

*Woodpigeon*.—I surprised a young bird which was perched on the pergola in the kitchen garden on Sept. 4th, and only flew when I was a yard away from it.

*Blackcap*.—Arrived May 5th. Singing all day in Mount View.

*Carrier Crow*.—A pair about behind Mount View all the spring and presumably nested. At the end of October a family of six was about and continued in the grounds for a fortnight.

*Occasional visitors*.—On Sept. 24th a buzzard was soaring overhead in the middle of the afternoon. The severe weather of the early part of the year brought some interesting visitors. On Jan. 16th, after a heavy fall of snow, I saw a flock of 60 to 80 golden plovers fly very low and fast over the trees, passing eastward. On January 27th small flocks of peewits were about; a few days later the frost was harder than ever and they were pitifully tame in our field and in Rowdens (where they fell an easy prey to

the gunner). I passed one among the fowls only 5 yards off without disturbing it. By Feb. 8th black-headed gulls had joined them and were nearly as tame; a dead peewit was picked up on this day. No fieldfares reached us, but redwings were very numerous in the kitchen garden and roosted just over the wall in the evergreens of Mount View. I walked up to one and fed it with worms a yard away. Many were picked up and several brought into the house, but they all succumbed very quickly. At last after a month of hard frost all peewits and redwings left us, in search of somewhere milder further south or west; the thaw came about a week later.

A.H.M.C.

## A Farewell.

They tell us that silence is golden,  
Which is all very well in its way;  
But it's rather too hard on the old'un,  
When he feels he's got something to say.

So, Boys, just once more, for the last time,  
He wishes to say but a word,  
Which will spoil neither study nor pastime,  
Like some which perhaps you have heard.

With him the last chapter is started,  
He can but look back on the past;  
From the work which he loved he has parted,  
But his memories ever will last.

He knows, though his words be ~~his token~~, *mistake*,  
And his aim be accounted too high,  
The mind of a boy will awaken,  
And see what he meant by and by:

By and by—but God grant that the seeing  
May come ere his School days are done;  
For *Honour* must grow in his being,  
By *Character* greatness is won.

On all this one word breathes a blessing,  
On life, and on work and on play,  
The joys of a future compressing  
In the one little word of today.

"Fare-ye-well." Be ye wise, and remember,  
 When strong in the Spring of your days,  
 'Tis good to make sure that December  
 Shall glory in memory's rays.

Be wise ; make the most of the present,  
 Of wasting a moment beware ;  
 Let the future be gloomy or pleasant,  
 It rests with yourselves how ye "fare."

Our steps in the path we have planted  
 Which Paul and Apollos once trod ;  
 Yet again may achievement be granted,  
 And increase be given by God !

Fare ye well, then. Be strong and be Cheery,  
 Let all that is good in you tell ;  
 Then the outlook will never be dreary,  
 And life will be happy. Farewell !

W. M. R.

## Letters from Old Boys and others.

H. Norman writes from Royal Naval College, Osborne.—I hope everything is getting on all right at Mount House. We are having quite decent weather for cricket. I have managed somehow or other to get into the College 1st XI. I am glad to see by the magazine that Mr. Rhodes, Miss Glenday and the Scouts are doing well. I hope Miss Phillips and Matron are quite all right. I hope the Mount House XI. are going strong this season, but it must be seriously handicapped by the loss of Chilcott, who Jones told me was seriously ill. I hope he is better. Give my heartiest congratulations to Lampard on his victory in Gym.

K. J. D'Arcy writes from R.N. College, Dartmouth.—The heats for the Regatta are now in full swing and cricket also is going strong. The Regatta takes place today week and I hope we will have fine weather for it. Bathing in the river has just started and is much nicer than the baths. We do a good deal of sailing this term and all our seamanship is on the river. I go to sea after Christmas, as I have one more term. About a fortnight ago the Swimming Relay Race took place. Our term came in 2nd. I have been doing a bit of photography this term and have had quite good success. There are not many tennis courts here unfortunately and we can only play about once a week.

P. Cotter writes, I like St. Paul's very much, and have now been there a year. Last term (summer) I was in the Lower Sixth

form for Classics and Maths and the Upper V. for French. I was youngest in the form for Maths and succeeded in getting the first prize. We only have prizes once a year—in the summer. I hope to get a double move in the VIIth for Maths next term which is the top form on the Classical side for Maths and French. The Upper VIIth is the top for Classics. I was top in Classics and 3rd in French. We play "Rugger," here I have only scored one try since I've been here! However I did very well in cricket this year. And my batting was for whole term 12.

G. Aikman writes. I am getting on alright now at Glasgow Academy which is quite a decent school. Only it has too many boys, there are 750 in all. I am expecting to get a prize at the end of this term, as the work is very easy especially the French which is about 5th Form standard. Last term I came out 8th out of 30. In September I shall have to join the O.T.C. which is compulsory when you get into the 3rd Class. At the cricket field which is about 2 miles from the school there is a topping pavilion in which you can have a hot or cold bath also a shower bath. We had our sports yesterday, but I did not go in for anything because there were not many races that I could go in for only open events, owing to the war. I have only played Rugger once but that was a jolly decent game, it is much nicer than soccer. I hope the Kangaroos are getting on all right and I hope they will be top this term.

P. H. Pedrick writes from H.M.S. Worcester, off Greenhithe, Kent.—Christmas leave, it is the first time I have written you. I thought I would wait until I got well under way here and then tell you all about it. As I know you have had a letter from Pode in the Conway these two might compare rather interestingly. This last leave I spent in Glasgow so was unable to see you. This ship is an old four-decker of the sail-and-steam period. We get up at 7 in the morning, wash and parade for inspection at 7-40. At 8 we have mess, and after mess we clear up the ship. My first term I had to sweep the main deck, my second had to look after the poop, and this my third, I have to clean the brasswork round the mainmast. On Mondays and Thursdays we have school from 9 a.m. till 11—break of 10 min. 11-10 till 12. Seamanship from 12-10 till 1. Dinner at 1 p.m. Then school again till 4-30 p.m. from 2 p.m. Mess at 5-30 p.m. Evening school from 7 till 8. On Tuesday is the same routine without evening school. In the summer we have Seamanship in the evening. Supper at 8 and turn in at 8-30 p.m. while we may talk up till 9-30 p.m. lights out. In the summer we turn in 9 p.m. Thursdays is the routine as Tuesday. On Wednesday school finishes at 10-30, Sections from 10-40 till 11-40. After mess we go ashore. Our elevens here are not bad but we do not get much practice. Our football team is quite good though. On Sundays we have mess before divisions, divisions being at 10 a.m., church at 11 a.m. The rest of the day is free till church in the evening at 6. In school we do English, French, Geography, History, Algebra, Arithmetic, Geometry, Trigonometry, Scripture, navigation (Theoretical), Meteorology, etc. while in Seamanship we do all the practical



handling of large ships, down to engineering (marine engines etc.) wireless and gunnery.

Lieut. K. C. B. Woodman, 104th Squadron R.A.F., France. Wounded on June 24th. Writes : Just a line to let you know that I have not forgotten my old School. There is very little that I am allowed to tell you, as you know, Life out here is rather an eye-opener to one who has just come out for the first time, not that we get such a dressing down as the Infantry, because we do not, but it is bad enough. The authorities won't allow me to tell you what kind of work we are doing but we are strafing the Hun all the same, and he does not fail to show his objections. We have had two aerial fights already, and Lieut. Cob, my friend, and I have had the good luck to drive one Hun two seater machine to the ground, for which we are rather bucked. Just good luck. We were five against 7—8 of their machines, and had a great scrap. The weather has prevented us from doing any flying lately, so we are getting a good long rest.

P. B. Wimbush writes from Berkhamsted School.—Last week our O.T.C. was inspected by Lt.-Colonel Pigott, K.R.R.C. and he was very pleased indeed with the work done. I don't know whether I told you that I have an allotment here and am growing potatoes, beans and radishes.

R. A. B. Burke writes from St. Vincent's College, Castleknock, Dublin.—Dear Mr. Cox, As you may guess things are pretty exciting over here since this new Conscription Bill. Everybody is against it, with scarcely any exceptions. They are holding meetings and conferences all over the country to decide what to do about it. Our Bishops held a meeting at Maynooth at the same time as the Mansion House Conference, and only for the M. H. delegates they would never have settled anything.

But to come on to less political affairs. Our Junior Team played against Belocden College today in the final of the Leinster Schools Cup. This is the third time the Final has been replayed. It has been drawn each time, to-day as well. It is hard to tell who will be victorious in the end, the teams are so even. We are also going in for the Hurling Cup this year. I expect you have heard of Hurley. It is a game something the same style as Hockey, only much rougher and far more exciting. This year will be the first time that C'knock have entered for the Cup.

I am leaving this place in June. I intend taking up medicine straight away, and I will get in my Preliminary year at the Technical School in Plymouth before I am of military age! Let us hope the War will be over by then!! My brother is getting on very well at Dartmouth. He is having a tip top time there. Of course he misses not being a Cadet Captain there, as he was at Osborne. It's rather hard lines having to start all over again, isn't it?