

THE PENVRO



PEMBROKE DOCK

GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE

GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PEMBROKE DOCK.

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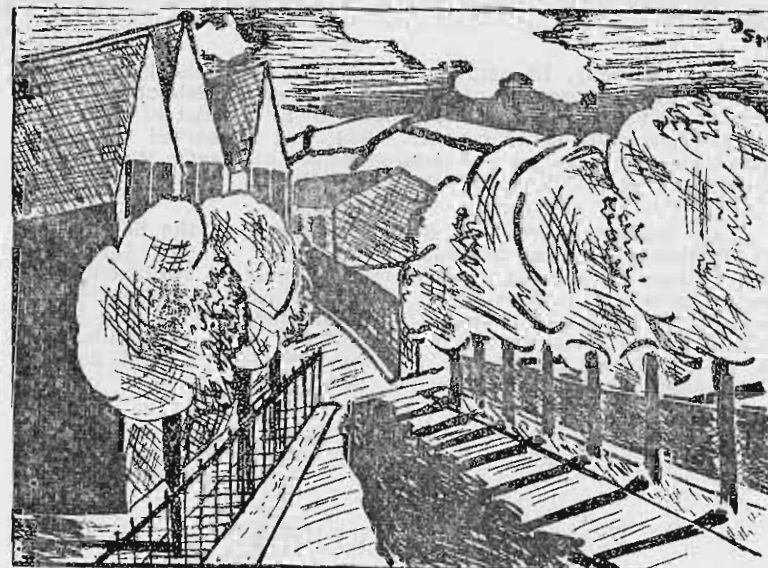
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"ST. JOAN" DECEMBER 1948



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EDITORIAL.

We have to apologise for the late appearance of this number of the "Penfro." The delay was unavoidable, and most of the blame must be placed jointly on George Bernard Shaw and the Central Welsh Board, the former for writing "St. Joan," and the latter for selecting it as a text for the Higher Certificate. If we add that two-thirds of the committee, including all the staff members, were involved in the production, further explanations should be unnecessary.

This is our first opportunity of welcoming our new Headmaster. We have now had long enough to sum each other up, and we hope that our feeling of satisfaction is shared, and that Mr. Mathias and his family are going to be very happy with us here.

There have been many other staff changes since July. To help us out of a difficulty, Mr. Howells returned to the staff part-time until half-term, when Mr. Sheppard arrived to take his place. Unfortunately, Mr. Sheppard could only stay until Christmas. In September we welcomed Miss Pennington and Mr. Lloyd. Each of them has now become so much "one of us" that it seems odd to be mentioning them as newcomers at this stage. At half-term Miss B. Thomas joined the staff temporarily until the end of term, as Miss Jenkins was unable to come until the beginning of the Spring term. We are sure that Miss Jenkins too will soon be quite at home with us.

We have heard recently with great sorrow of the death of two gentlemen who had both given great service to the school.

On Thursday, December 2nd, there died at the home of his daughter, Mr. George Paynter Francis, one of the School Governors. The name of Mr. Francis first appeared in the list of Governors on the magazine cover in July, 1934, and he served the School whole-heartedly until a few months before his death, when serious illness prevented his attendance at meetings.

On December 29th the first Headmaster of the School, Mr. T. R. Dawes, died at his home in London, in his 83rd year. Mr. Dawes left here in 1906 on being appointed headmaster of a grammar school in Yorkshire. He called at the School in the summer of 1947, and seemed then in excellent health, and full of stories of the early days of the School. Two of his pupils, Miss A. M. K. Sinnett and Mr. G. Courtenay Price have sent us some notes about him for this issue of the magazine.

THE BLACKBIRDS

Have you heard a blackbird whistling
Upon a tree top tall ?
When the scent of hawthorn blossom
Drifts o'er the garden wall.

With notes so soft and mellow,
He sings his very best,
To his mate so quietly sitting
On their secret hidden nest.

Four eggs so brightly coloured
Treasure beyond compare,
Deep in their cup of grasses
Nothing to harm them there.

Soon in that nest four hungry mouths
Will open wide for food ;
He and his mate the whole long day
Must feed the hungry brood.

With grub and fly and beetle,
And caterpillar bright,
Until they learn to help themselves,
They'll eat from morn till night.

HAZEL NEWTON, IIF.

MR. T. R. DAWES.

1866 to 1948.

Thomas Richard Dawes was born at Carmarthen on January 7th, 1866. He was the son of a schoolmaster and one of a family of seven. At the age of eight he had the misfortune to lose his father, but his love of reading eventually took him to the Grammar School, thence to London where he matriculated, and afterwards to Aberystwyth College, where he took his B.A. degree in 1887, followed later by his M.A. in French and German.

He became the first headmaster of the new County School at Pembroke Dock in January, 1895. He was a definite "character," quite different from other schoolmasters. I remember him from my earliest childhood. It was in 1902 that he organised the Historical Pageant to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. My first memory of the school was at the old Victoria in Victoria Road, where T.R. was supported by his wife, Miss Ida Perman, Miss Gornall, and J. H. Hallam, with about eighty pupils. The foundation stones of the new buildings (the present ones) were laid in 1897 (I have a very good photograph of the ceremony if any one would like to see it), and shortly after its opening the number of pupils rose to about 120. I was by this time old enough to study T.R. in more detail. He used to slash (and slice!) golf balls from the girls' playground towards the old quarry (the place where some of us used to mitch!), and I have many times run myself stiff in retrieving those balls for him. I learnt from him many things besides lessons, which have been useful to me during my life, and I shall always look back with gratitude on the moulding he gave me in my early life. He was greatly interested in local history and archaeology, and wrote several books, of which probably the best known was "The Flemings in Pembrokeshire"! His interest in local history generally and in Pembroke Castle in particular was such that he restored the Old Priory House at Monkton and went there to live. He told me that it had the best example of a Flemish chimney that he had ever seen.

T.R. left Pembroke Dock in 1906 to become headmaster of the Grammar School at Castleford in Yorkshire, where he stayed until he retired in 1930. I left the old school in 1908, but returned to live at Pembroke Dock again in 1934. During those twenty-eight years T.R. was just a memory, but I understand that during that time he organised very many events and spent some time in France and Germany. My one regret was that I returned to the town too late to meet him again at the opening of the new hall.

In 1947 he came with his daughter to stay at Tenby, and they called on me. A few days afterwards he spent the whole day with me at Bangeston. He looked wonderfully fit and well for his age, and although I had not seen him for forty-one years he was just the same old T.R. Dawes—that same outstanding character, always ready to build a new world, to romance and to ride, to laugh and to have adventures. He had a keen sense of humour and possessed the rare gift of being able to laugh at himself. I shall always



T. R. DAWES

June, 1948

look on that day in 1947 with the greatest pleasure. The old influence was still there. How he enjoyed the countryside—nature was just then at its best—everything he did and said was with enthusiasm, and at the end of the day I felt a better man for having seen him again.

And now another of the few links with fifty years ago has gone, but surely the memory of him will live as long as the Grammar School exists, if only in time by the many excellent verses he wrote.

G. COURTENARY PRICE.

When I entered the Pembroke Dock County School in 1902, I remember a feeling of fear when I first came into direct contact with the headmaster, Mr. T. K. Dawes, who possessed a quick temper.

Looking back I feel that this passion was evidence of a deep sympathy and interest for the welfare of the pupils.

As I recollect those days I can visualise Mr. Dawes with his gown hanging loosely from his shoulders; head bent forward; pince-nez perched on the bridge of his nose; and hands clasped behind him—walking with measured step to and fro across the platform in Room 5, in deep meditation.

Suddenly some sound from the pupils at work in the room, would rouse him and cause him to raise his head and survey the room with a stern look of disapproval on his face.

Each year some play was presented. Those I remember were: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard II.*, and *Henry V.*, rehearsals for which were taken in the Assembly Hall, now rooms 7 and 8, under the supervision of Mr. Dawes, who took a real interest in dramatic work. The Assembly Hall was also used for the presentation of the play.

Another joy was the singing period, when songs were sung from the *Gaudeamus*, under the direction of Mr. Dawes.

Beside the school activities, Mr. Dawes was interested in adult education, and was successful in the formation of Tutorial Classes for members of the public; these classes were held at the County School.

When the present Assembly Hall was opened, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dawes at the opening ceremony. He surprised me by the keenness of his memory of the old days. I recall a remark he made: that the reward of a schoolmaster's efforts is seen not only while the pupils are at school, but to a greater degree, by the kind of men and women they prove to be in later life in the wider world.

May I, through the "Penfro," express the sympathy of the Old Pupils of the School with Miss Marjorie Dawes in the great loss she has sustained, and also pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Dawes as a true educationist, a man of vision, and a great Welshman.

A. M. K. SINNETT.

ST. JOAN

On December 14th, 15th and 16th, the School Dramatic Society presented Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan," giving a dress rehearsal for the school on the 13th.

A very pleasing feature of this production was the large number of people involved in it, both on and off the stage, and the great keenness and enthusiasm that was shown both before and during the performances. Another very encouraging thing was the splendid way in which the "walkers-on" and the "one-liners" acquitted themselves. It is so often forgotten that these small-part people have more to do than just stand or sit around and look beautiful or distinguished. They must be accepted for what they represent, and there is no doubt that in "St. Joan" they achieved this—they really were courtiers, doctors of law, assessors, soldiers.

There was, too, a very happy intermingling of staff and pupils. This was a real intermingling, for some of our visitors from other schools found difficulty in picking out the staff!

Precedence undoubtedly must be given to Marion Jenkins's portrayal of Joan. This is one of the most exacting parts the contemporary stage can offer, and for a girl with so little dramatic experience, she showed an astonishing range of emotion and purity of speech. She improved with every performance, and if one may be permitted to choose the interpretation of the long speech of sad defiance in the Cathedral at Rheims (at the end of Act V. as the best of the many good things she did, it is perhaps because one felt that at this point the audience had really lost place and century, and had the problem—for or against—there before them.

The success of the play, however, lay as fundamentally in the fine support given by the rest of the cast. Here they are again back on the recollected scene: Mr. Davies as the Inquisitor ("What a memory!" was one comment heard) putting across the longest stage speech known to many and making it vital and interesting to the end; Frank Manning as Cauchon, never a word out of place in many intractable speeches, displaying a fire and weight fully capable of comparison with that of an experienced adult; Gerald Phelps as the Archbishop, equally grave and portentous (not to mention that mediaeval look); Zina Judd, pouting beautifully as the Dauphin, if a shade too well-dressed; Alfred Panton putting the *Vaudeurs* table to constant ill-use; Mr. Cooper, with a fine set of jaw pointing directly towards the bridge at Orleans; Mr. Devereux, as the Earl of Warwick, with a nice cynical turn of phrase, playing for his side even to eternal damnation; Mr. Mathias, as Stogumber, fulminating and rumbling like an English volcano, the Executioner from Cosheston, menacing the prisoner; Toni Sabido promoting, and Megan Sutton interrupting. But our stage is too small for you to see all the cast at once. They did well, there is no doubt of that, whether their names are mentioned individually or not. And the unfeigned pleasure and interest of the audience were their reward. That no part of Shaw's academic and involved argument was lost or gabbled or blurred, that no scene seemed as long as it really was, is a tribute to actors and producer as well.

We were glad to welcome parties from Milford, Narberth, Tasker's, and Carmarthen Grammar Schools, and we include their impressions of the play, together with a criticism by Glenys Preece, who was a prominent member of the School Dramatic Society.

The cast was as follows :—

Robert de Baudricourt—Alfred Panton, Steward—Alan Tilbury, Joan—Marion Jenkins, Bertrand de Poulengy—Derek Davies, Archbishop of Rheims—Gerald Phelps, Mgr. de la Tremouille—William Rees, Court Page—David John, Gilles de Rais—Gillian Davies, Captain La Hire—James Rees, The Dauphin—Zina Judd, Duchesse de la Tremouille—Margaret Perkins, Dunois—K. A. Cooper, Dunois's Page—David Jenkins, Earl of Warwick—A. W. W. Devereux, Chaplain de Stogumber—R. G. Mathias, Bishop of Beauvais—Frank Manning, Warwick's Page—Norman Phillips, Inquisitor—E. G. Davies, D'Estivet—Antonia Sabido, De Courcelles—Megan Sutton, Brother Martin L'Advenu—Neville Smith, Executioner—Keith Elsdon, Executioner's Assistants—Gerard Thomas and David Rees. Other parts were played by Maureen Bermingham, Barbara Davies, Valmai Folland, Elvira Hodge, Mary Phillips, Valerie Phillips, Vernon Davies, John Griffiths, Trevor Gwyther, Tudor Lewis, Peter Nutting, Derek MacCallum, Colin Palmer, Joseph Taylor, John Walters, Peter Williams.

Miss Gibson gave Miss Lewis Davies a lot of quiet but very valuable help with the production, and the stage managing was carried out very efficiently by Mr. Harries, helped in most reliable fashion by William Smith. Mr. Evans was in charge of the lighting, and Miss Hughes took on the onerous duties of business manager. The make-up—no small task with a cast of forty!—was in the hands of Miss Gibson, Miss R. Davies, and Miss Pennington.

We add now some opinions of those who saw the performances.

Shaw's "St. Joan," ambitiously produced by Miss A. R. Lewis Davies, ran successfully for three nights, December 14th, 15th and 16th.

The very strenuous and demanding part of Joan was played by Marion Jenkins. Her range was wide—strong and vigorous as the Maid and Warrior, innocent and unworldly as Joan the Saint.

There was not the great gap that might have been expected between those parts taken by members of the staff and those taken by pupils. Instead it was well acted throughout. Zina Judd as the Dauphin, Frank Manning as the Bishop of Beauvais, and Gerald Phelps as the Archbishop of Rheims were particularly good. Alan Tilbury gave us a very vivid sketch, and the sincerity of Brother Martin, Robert de Beaudricourt, and Captain La Hire overcame any lack of experience.

Wisely, considering the size of the stage, the producer had not attempted any elaborate scenic effects, but the rich velvets and silks of the costumes successfully created the atmosphere of the French medieval court.

The play ran smoothly, with no awkward pauses, and the acting, lighting and grouping were consistently good, if never positively brilliant.

GLENYS PREECE.

Since it was our first visit to Pembroke Dock Grammar School, we had eagerly anticipated the play, and we assure you that our greatest expectations were fulfilled. Everyone enjoyed the play very much, and all the cast deserve the greatest commendation. Of course, Joan was the most outstanding actress, her diction and stage poise being perfect; but several others deserve great praise. The Inquisitor was self-assured and very natural, and the Dauphin's petulance was extremely winning. But Chaplain de Stogumber gave maturity to the performance. It was interesting to hear how different was the enunciation of boys and girls, the boys seeming more stage conscious. The plain background was most effective, since it did not distract the attention of the audience from the players, and the performers were shown in relief. In almost every scene, the stage arrangement was well-balanced, and this reflects the skill of the producer.

We were glad to receive the invitation to attend the play, and although we had to come a long way, we all deemed it worth the journey.

W. JEAN SINNETT,

HELEN JOHN,

Tasker's High School.

On behalf of the thirty pupils and staff of Narberth Grammar School who travelled to Pembroke Dock last Wednesday evening, we wish to congratulate you on your interpretation of Shaw's play "St. Joan." Many of our sixth formers enjoyed the performance since the Central Welsh Board considers it a great favourite.

It was particularly pleasant for us to watch the manner in which the members of staff co-operated with the pupils in portraying several of the leading parts. It would interest us to know if the Archbishop of Rheims and the Bishop of Beauvais are really as dignified and serious in class especially in the absence of a member of staff! Did your boys consider it beneath their dignity to play the role of the Dauphin?

Your performance set a fine example to many other schools in Pembrokeshire. At present we are dashing hither and thither in last minute preparations for our end of term service which generally takes the form of a nativity play and carol singing in the parish church. This year we are attempting most of the "Messiah."

While we wish to compliment the producer and St. Joan in particular, we who have taken part in school activities would like to express our thanks to the many boys and girls who must have been busy behind the scenes but who have no public thanks and could take no bow.

Thank you once more. We hope to visit you again on another occasion. We extend our good wishes to all at Pembroke Dock Grammar School for a pleasant New Year.

SHEILA DAVIES.

JEAN PROUT,

Narberth Grammar School.

ST. JOAN

In the month of bleak December,
Treacherous and dark December,
Sixty schoolgirls from Carmarthen
Fortified with "kwells" and lemons,
Filled with joyful expectation
(And with sandwiches and biscuits!)
Travelled thirty miles in coaches
Down to Pembrokeshire one evening.
Shaw's "St. Joan" was their objective,
Played by skilled, well-chosen actors,
By a cast composed of pupils
Old and young, staff and headmaster,
Giving pleasure and amusement.

Most sincere was Joan's performance
Of a part long and exacting;
Warwick, suave and sneering, pleased them,
Acting well with ease and polish,
And the Inquisitor, the grave one,
And the handsome bastard Durois.
Watching with intense enjoyment
And with critical approval,
Then they saw the Dauphin cringing,
Looking petulant and pallid,
Saw the dignified Archbishop
Clad in robes of richest purple,
Heard the flippant tones of Bluebeard,
The repentance of Stogumber,
And the protests of the assessors.

When the actors took their curtain
With applause from all the audience,
No-one clapped more vigorously
Than the sixty from Carmarthen,
From the pleasant vale of Towy,
All of whom now send you greetings
And thank you for your invitation.

QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
Carmarthen.

ALONE IN THE CASTLE.

The gates are shut, the night grows cold,
Alone in the castle I wait;
The ghost will walk to-night, I'm told,
But that won't be till late.

I think I see a form at last,
And clanking chains I hear,
Will the apparition go straight past,
Or will it linger near?

I was so brave a while ago,
Ghosts I didn't fear.
It's coming near, what shall I do?
Oh! to be out of here!

The ghastly form comes gliding near;
My lips are parched and dry.
Has ever mortal felt such fear
As on that night had I?

At last the ghoul passed out of sight,
And I felt free once more;
I would not pass another night
Inside that castle door.

VALMAI FOLLAND, IIIA.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE.

Minnie Davies—English, History, French. Vilma Phillips—English, History, Geography. Marian Davies—English, History, French. Norma Shears—English, History, Geography. Nancy Willcocks—Chemistry, Biology, Physics (subsidiary). Josephine Yates—English, History, French (subsidiary). F. G. Lovering—Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry. P. F. Maynard—English, Latin, French. D. E. J. Williams—English, History, Geography (subsidiary).

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Maureen Ballard (3c. 5p.), Christine Copeman (3v.g., 6c., L. and W.M.), Barbara Davies (2v.g., 7c., L. and W.M.), Betty Fawcett (3c., 2p.), Marjorie Kenniford (4v.g., 5c., L. and W.M.), Peggy Leslie (7c., 3p.), Marion Phillips (8c., 2p.), June Strachan (2c., 3p.), Sheila Turner (6c., 1p., L. and W.M.), K. D. Bowskill (2v.g., 6c., 1p.), J. A. Griffiths (2 v.g., 4c., 1p.), D. J. Harries (4c., 3p.), J. H. T. Lewis (6c., 3p.), W. R. Lewis (3c., 4p.), D. W. Lovering (4c., 2p.), D. J. E. Macken (5c., 1p.), F. J. Manning (1v.g., 6c., 2p.), M. P. Nutting (5c., 4p.), A. J. Panton (7c., 2p., L. and W.M.), J. A. Rees (6c., 2p.), N. F. Smith (1 v.g., 5c., 1p.), W. G. Smith (7c., 2p., L. and W.M.), J. N. Taylor (5c., 2p.), D. F. Thomas (2 v.g., 5c., 1p., L. and W.M.), Linda Barker (2c., 5p.), Gillian Davies (2v.g., 6c., L. and W.M.), Margaret Hannam (1v.g., 6c., 1p., L. and W.M.), Marion Jenkins (1v.g., 5c., 1p.), Margaret Prout (2v.g., 3c., 5p.), Nesta Rosen (8c., 2p., L.M.), June Saunders (3c., 3p.), Violet Voyle (6c., 2p., L. and W.M.), K. D. Elsdon (1v.g., 6c., 1p.), W. I. Hughes (1v.g., 6c., 2p.), W. G. James (2v.g., 7c., L. and W.M.), D. G. Jones (5c., 2p.), B. C. Palmer (5c., 2p.), Elizabeth Evans (3c., 4p.), Vernice Evans (1v.g., 4c., 1p.), Patricia Jefferies (3c., 3p.), Margaret Perkins (1v.g., 2c., 5p.), W. R. Arthur (3c., 3p.), R. T. Eynon (3c., 4p.), T. J. Gwyther (6 v.g., 2c., 1p., L. and W.M.), J. W. H. Morris (1v.g., 7c., L. and W.M.), R. L. Robinson (2c., 6p.), D. J. Taylor (4c., 4p.), J. E. Walters (2c., 5p.).

SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATE.

Jeannette Greenwood—Arithmetic (c.), Cookery (c.), Megan Sutton—English Language (v.g.), English Literature (c.), Mary Williams—Chemistry (c.). G. T. Brown—English Language (c.), Physics (c.). J. H. Griffiths—Woodwork (v.g.), Practical Plane and Solid Geometry (c.). F. G. Lovering—English Language (v.g.), English Literature (c.). D. S. Morgan—English Language (p.). W. B. Rees—Woodwork (v.g.).

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.

Maureen Bermingham—Book-keeping, Typewriting. Marion Davies—English, French, Shorthand, Betty Griffiths—Typewriting. Mavis Sutcliffe—Typewriting. Pauline Tucker—Shorthand, Book-keeping, Typewriting. M. Green—Book-keeping. K. Gwyther—Book-keeping.

PRIZE DAY.

Teh Prize-Giving was held on Friday, December 3rd, in St. Andrew's Church.

We were glad to welcome as our guest speaker, Dr. William Thomas, H.M. Chief Inspector of Schools for Wales. In a most interesting speech, delivered in a friendly and intimate manner, Dr. Thomas spoke of the great progress made in science, and of the men and women who had been responsible for this progress. He pointed out, however, that we cannot have real progress if we neglect the spiritual side of life.

It was very pleasing to have Miss Morwyth Rees to distribute the prizes, a task which she performed in her usual gracious manner. Miss Rees has had a very close association with the School for many years.

Mr. Mathias, in his report on the year 1947-8, paid tribute to the work of Mr. Cottrell, and spoke of the good work done by the School during that year, a year of great difficulties which had been successfully overcome. Looking to the future, he deplored the modern tendency towards very big schools. He felt that five hundred was the optimum number of pupils. The greater the numbers the smaller the opportunity for the staff to gain real personal knowledge of their pupils.

The proceedings opened with a hymn, and during the afternoon the school choir sang four pieces—"Brother James's Air," "Hark, hark the Lark," "Greeting," and "Nymphs and Shepherds." After the usual votes of thanks the proceedings ended with the singing of "Jerusalem" and the two National Anthems.

PRIZE LIST.

IIF.—1, E. A. Maynard; 2, Valmai Folland, and the Poetry Prize; 3, D. S. Tucker. Poetry Prize, Hazel Newton. IIW.—1, Gwen Evans, and the Needlework Prize; 2, Mary Jenkins. IIB.—1, W. R. J. Collings; 2, Kathleen Lockett. Art—Shirley Hogben. Woodwork—E. D. Morgan. Welsh (given by Mr. J. R. Williams)—Mary James.

IIIA.—1, R. G. J. Whitlam, and the Art Prize; 2, B. J. Burke; 3, Margaret Nicholls, and the Welsh Prize, given by Mr. J. R. Williams. IIIB.—1, P. V. Preece; 2, R. W. Haggard. IIIC.—1, Frances Rixon. Woodwork—D. L. Phillips. Needlework and Cookery—Valerie Roch.

IIV.—1, Phyllis John; 2, Pamela Davies, and the Art Prize. IVS.—1, K. D. Catherall; 2, T. P. Williams. IVB.—1, Thelma Williams. Woodwork—W. R. Evans. Needlework—Mary John. Cookery—Janet Rees.

V9.—1, Marjorie Kenniford, and the Art Prize; 2, K. D. Bowskill, and the Woodwork Prize (given by Mrs. David in memory of her father, Mr. W. N. Grieve, J.P.), and the Science Prize (given by Mr. J. H. Garnett). French Prize (given by Mrs. Nora Davies)—Barbara Davies.

VR.—1, W. G. James; 2, Gillian Davies, and W. J. Hughes. Needlework Prize—Hilda Hughes. The Williams Prize for Cookery, given by Miss B. Williams—Hilda Hughes.

VIO.—1, T. J. Gwyther, and the Science Prize, given by Mr. J. H. Garnett; 2, J. W. H. Morris.

VM.—1, Pauline Tucker.

Lr. VI. Arts.—1, Zina Judd. Lr. VI. Science—1, J. C. Maynard.

Ur. VI.—1 (given by Mr. F. O. Sudbury)—Minnie Davies; 2 (given by Mrs. Powell Rees)—Vilma Phillips. Extra Form Prizes—Marian Davies and Norma Shears. Special Prizes—Ivy Garlick and Glenys Preece.

Chairman of Governors' Prize for Service to the School—Antonia Sabido and P. F. Maynard.

South Pembrokeshire Rechabites Cup for Athletic Sports—Picton.

Rowland Rees Cup for the Champion House in all games—Picton.

EPINAL, 1948.

Now that our delightful holiday in France is receding slowly into the past, what are the impressions which stand out in greatest relief? We could fill a whole volume with the many interesting (sometimes comic) things we did and saw, heard and felt—but what can we say in one brief article?

The outstanding impression is of a country of wonderful and varied charms, peopled by a nation equally charming. Lying close to the borders of both Germany and Switzerland, the Vosges possesses many of the best features of both countries. On clear days, we could see the blue line of the distant Black Forest or catch a glimpse, from one or other of the very high passes, of The Juras. We treasure memories of breath-taking scenes which were Switzerland minus the summer snow: attractive chalets, cattle with tinkling bells, the largest bell being proudly worn by the Queen of the herd; of robbers' castles or peaceful convents crazily perched over 3,500 feet above sea level, twice as high as our highest Welsh mountain road; slopes densely wooded to the very top with oaks, hazels or firs; villages nestling peacefully far down below in deep valleys bathed in summer sunshine; memories of the blue line of the Vosges on a clear day; still, crystal lakes set in emerald; the wonderfully exquisite tracery of Strasbourg Cathedral, built on the site of ancient Druid worship; beautiful half-timbered houses at Keyzersburg, set amidst the vine country; the Route Nationale bordered by fruit trees, planted, so they say, by order of Napoleon; storks perched in ungainly fashion on their huge nests. These are but a few of the many memories of loveliness that come crowding to our minds.

My impression of the people themselves? Here I had to shed many pre-conceived notions. I found a people kindly, prudent, hard working, of clear and swift intelligence, very ready of speech, who have made a conversation a delightful art, a people witty rather than humorous, who take pleasure in good living—a term which includes everything from excellent food excellently cooked up to an intelligent interest in literature, music and art. "Artistic" is perhaps the word which sums up for me French culture, even in these difficult days when beautifully embroidered linens, delicate crystal glass and exquisite china are beyond the purchasing power of the average French purse.

France today has two faces: a land of strange contrasts. The superficial tourist sees well-filled shops, elegant restaurants where delicious food is served without restriction of price or quality. The butchers' shops, scrupulously clean, make one's mouth water.

so wide is the range of meats offered—delicious cooked hams, an almost endless variety of meats cooked and uncooked. The market offers a wealth of fresh fruits and vegetables—bananas in plenty, grapes, melons, pears, everything in fact for which we have longed in austerity Britain.

Yet behind the well-filled shops, the keen observer reads the story of a people who are passing through days far more difficult than anything we have experienced. It is impossible in a brief article to analyse the economic and political reasons for such a situation, but in France to-day food takes more than three-quarters of the pay packet of a working man. Meat at 6/- to 8/- per lb., hand-embroidered sheets at £50 per pair; sweets at 6d. each are not for the average household but possible only to those who have grown rich on an unrestricted black-market. The poorer people are forced to sell their sugar "tickets," to buy skimmed milk, while the cream goes for black-market butter, and to do their shopping with even more of the characteristic carefulness of the French housewife, trotting off to market with her ample shopping bag. Fruit or vegetables with the least suspicion of over-ripeness or unsoundness are rejected and the Frenchwoman's superb genius at cooking hides the fight she has to put up to make both ends meet.

My holiday with kindly French folk helped me to understand much that had previously puzzled me. I understood as never before their courage in the face of terrible suffering. It was a common sight to see a peasant farmer slowly building a new house during his brief leisure, close by the burnt-out ruins of the old. I saw whole towns ruthlessly wiped out by the Germans as they were forced to retreat eastwards; heard harrowing stories of the experiences of men and women of the Resistance and of the concentration camps—and was proud to call many of them my friends.

France to-day is tired and dispirited after three great wars which she did not seek. Political intrigues have torn a people who take their politics far more seriously than the average Britisher. The absence of team games in the school curriculum, plus the importance attached to abstract philosophic thought rather than practical citizenship have left the nation dispirited, disillusioned, divided. Less politics and more football might teach the young French boys the lesson of "give and take" which, in spite of our differences of opinion, works so admirably in our own political world.

I am no prophet and dare not, therefore, forecast the trend of events in France, but three weeks of enjoyable holiday has made me realise how much France still has to offer to the civilised world; in music, poetry and art, in the theatre and film world, in the art of rich and gracious living. France to-day needs a great spiritual leader, one great enough to surmount the very real differences which divide and tear a country great in natural resources, great in courage and endurance, great in intellectual thought and in artistic power.

NORA E. DAVIES.

THE CHRISTMAS BELLS.

The Christmas bells are ringing
 Their well-loved message bringing.
 They ring from countries far and near,
 For all their merry chimes to hear.
 They sweetly Christmas morning
 Their friendly carols play,
 While far-off people listen,
 It is a glorious day.

The hoar-frost white is glistening,
 The busy people listening,
 While bells their welcome message sound,
 Joy and Happiness abound.
 At last the chimes are dying,
 The evening now has come,
 The sunset starts to redden,
 So welcome, welcome home.

Ruth Cole, IIB.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

Owing to various other activities only three meetings were held in the winter term. The first meeting consisted of impromptu speeches by pupils and members of the staff, the highlight being a speech by Miss R. Davies on "The New Look."

The second meeting took the form of a debate, the subject being: "That existing stocks of atom bombs should be abolished and no further manufacture of them should be sanctioned." Members of the Arts and Science VIth spoke and an interesting debate ensued.

The third and last meeting took the form of a Brains' Trust. The Trust consisted of three people from the Arts VIth and three from the Science VIth, each section led by a member of the staff. The Arts section were privileged to have our new Headmaster as their leader, whilst the Science section was led by Mr. Harries. The Quiz Mistress was Miss R. Davies. The questions were very varied and the meeting was most interesting.

SCIENCE SOCIETY.

Two meetings of the Science Society were held in the Winter term.

The first, held on October 7th, was a cinema show, when a most interesting film on food production and distribution was witnessed. Sir John Boyd Orr, the greatest authority on food, emphasized various important points on growing food.

The second was on Thursday, November 11th, when G. Brown of the Sixth Form, gave a very interesting talk on "Mendelism" or "Heredity." We were given an explicit account of the work of P. J. Mendel and others in this fascinating sphere of research, supplemented with examples relating to modern agriculture. On this occasion, it was gratifying to see a fair number of pupils present, and we are looking forward to many more interesting talks in the Spring term.

MUSIC SOCIETY.

No meetings of the Music Society were held in the Winter term due to the fact that a number of pupils were attending choir practices for the two Schools' Music Festivals held on December 1st at Pembroke Dock, and on December 8th at Haverfordwest. At the Pembroke Dock Festival, the choir sang with choirs representing other schools in the district, being conducted by Mr. Evans. The following week, at the final Festival at Haverfordwest, the choir formed part of the Pembroke Dock contingent; there, they sang with the Milford Haven choir under the baton of Mr. Gerallt

Evans, the County Music Organiser. On Prize Day, the choir performed four of the pieces which they sang at the Festivals. At each of these functions the standard of performance was very high and that is all the more creditable when we consider the difficulty of the songs. It is hoped that meetings of the Music Society will be resumed in the Spring term.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

There were three meetings of the society last term. At the first "The Stolen Prince" was read. This is a Chinese comedy, and the cast was taken from all parts of the School. Three weeks later Mr. Devereux and Mr. Cooper performed an amusing little duologue called "Moonshine." The action of this takes place in America during Prohibition. There was only one more meeting, at which members of the IIIrd. Form read "The Princess and the Woodcutter." This was the last meeting, as the members of the society were fully occupied with the production of "St. Joan."

FILMS.

During the Autumn term a weekly series of films were shown after school using our own projection apparatus.

These films were of a scientific nature and were intended to stimulate a wider interest in science generally. A keen select band of boys and girls attended regularly.

Films included ones on "Food Production," "Modern Coal Mining," "Pruning, Grafting and Budding of Trees," "Recognition of Birds."

It is hoped to continue the series during the Spring term.

CARRIMANE

The breeze swept softly through the tinted trees,
A lark sang sweetly in an azure sky,
'Twas just the kind of evening that did please
A lover and his lass who wandered by.

A trout shot silent through the silver stream;
A tom-tit twittered in a copse near by,
I saw the moon through hazel bushes gleam
And cawing rooks as homeward they did fly.

The sea-gulls cried above the rocky shore
And scudding ships passed swift and silently.
And still entrancing nature yields its store
Of wealth unfathomed to humanity.

And as the shadows darkened more and more,
And things were silhouetted 'gainst the sky,
I smelt the scent of flowers by the shore
And then I knew at last that night was nigh.

And all that night I slept and dreamed a dream,
Till dawn once more peeped forth again
And I arose and from my casement leaned,
And gazed across the Loch of Carrimane.

GILLIAN DAVIES, VI.

SCHOOL NOTES.

At the beginning of the Winter term there were 435 pupils in school, 235 girls and 200 boys. There are in addition two student teachers, Margaret Hannam and Sylvia Pain.

The prefects are :—

Tudor—Nancy Willcocks (senior), Antonia Sabido, Megan Sutton, Peggy Leslie, J. C. Maynard (senior), G. T. Brown, F. Manning, H. S. Davies.

Picton—Minnie Davies, Mary Phillips, Maureen Bermingham, Zina Judd, J. Griffiths, K. Elsdon, C. Palmer, P. Nutting.

Glyndwr—Claire Thomas, Marion Jenkins, Gillian Davies, Marjorie Kenniford, D. S. Morgan, A. T. Richards, W. B. Rees, G. Phelps.

Valerie Phillips and Mary Delves were prefects until they left in December. Their places were taken by Maureen Bermingham and Peggy Leslie.

Eight members of last year's VIth Form went to college at the beginning of last term, five to universities and three to training colleges. Glenys Preece is at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, Ivy Garlick at Newnham College, Cambridge, Marian Davies at Aberystwyth, Norma Shears at Swansea, and Peter Maynard at Exeter, while Jeannette Greenwood is at Swansea Training College, Josie Yates at Homerton, and Mary Williams at the Training College of Domestic Arts, Cardiff.

F. G. Lovering and David Williams have both begun their military service, Lovering in the Royal Corps of Signals and Williams in the Royal Air Force. The remaining member of the Upper VI., Ivy Scourfield, has elected to go in for agriculture, and is helping her father on his farm.

Among those who have left to take up employment of various kinds are Elsie Evans, Barbara Owen, Mavis Sutcliffe, Nancy Johns, Pat English, Sylvia Watson, Auriol Perfect, Betty Griffiths, Lynn George, D. J. Taylor, W. J. James, Dennis Thomas, Arthur Evans and Ivor Williams.

We congratulate Tony Venning on passing the Army Trades examination. He has now left for Harrogate to begin his training.

Congratulations also to Mary Delves on passing the Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Council.

Last summer we arranged a second exchange with our linked schools in Epinal. This year the party, which consisted of more girls than boys, was accompanied by Miss M. Le Fur and Miss Gannay. The party arrived on the evening of July 21st. The following afternoon they were given an official welcome at the school, the visitors being entertained to a tea at which the Governors and staff were present, as well as their hosts. That same evening, Thursday, July 22nd, our visitors attended the Leavers' Party. This was a very enjoyable function, which was organised once again by Mr. Greenwood. The following Thursday our Guests and their hosts went on a trip round the coast, visiting Angle, Freshwater West, St. Govan's, the Stack Rocks, and Bosherton. The party left for Epinal on Tuesday, August 10th, our pupils being accompanied by Mrs. Nora Davies and Miss Hughes.

There was an innovation at the final assembly of the Summer term. Form IIIc., under the direction of Mr. Cooper, performed a most amusing mime. The hard work they had put into its preparation was amply rewarded, as it was thoroughly enjoyed.

In the middle of the Winter term rugby football was introduced for the first time, and a number of fixtures have been arranged for this term. The soccer team will complete the season, but next winter only rugby will be played.

Another innovation since September is the introduction of "birthday celebrations." This means that we celebrate every few weeks the birthday of some great man or woman by a short talk during prayers. At the first of these on November 11th, Mr. Rees spoke about Martin Luther. On November 22nd Mr. Evans spoke about Purcell, and Mr. Mathias sang one of his songs. This term we have had a talk, on January 11th, by Mr. Cooper, on Augustus John.

The Christmas parties were held this year during the week ending December 10th, and were as enjoyable as ever. Owing to the large numbers in school we held four parties.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Graham Tregidon. He was selected to play in the West Wales rugby trial at Pontardulais on January 1st, and as a result of this match was picked to play for West Wales against Mid-Glamorgan on January 22nd.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Edgar Thomas for the gift to the library of a book about Joan of Arc—"The Lass from Lorraine" by M. C. Scott Moncrieff.

The Social Service Fund continues to function and at the end of the Winter term we made the following gifts to charity:—St. Dunstan's, £2 2s.; National Children's Home, £2 2s.; National Institution for the Blind, £2 2s.; Save Europe Now, £2 2s.; The Treloar Homes, £2 2s.

As the School Sports were held much earlier than usual last summer, it was decided to organise a Gymnastic Display during the last week of term. This was held on Thursday, July 22nd, and was a most pleasant function. In addition to the gymnastic display, we had a sack race, an egg and spoon race, an obstacle race, and a three-legged race, together with a display of jumping, discus-throwing, and javelin-throwing by the pupils who competed in these events at the Inter-School Sports at Milford Haven. There is no doubt at all that the display of various gymnastic exercises by both boys and girls was most impressive, and reflects very great credit on Mr. Howells and Miss Eynon, who had spent a long time in preparing for it. It must not be forgotten that practically all the preparation had been done out of school hours. Both boys and girls gave displays of marching and of various physical exercises, with and without apparatus. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, in many ways more interesting than the sports.

AUTUMN LEAVES.

Brown and yellow, rust and red,
Autumn leaves fall, to make a bed
Of softness, where two children lay,
Aye, many years ago this day.

They fall unto the earth below,
And then the wind begins to blow,
And takes the leaves far, far away,
Where autumn skies no more are grey.

The leaves are brown and they must fall,
To answer Mother Nature's call,
For they are old, their work is done,
Down they're falling one by one.

Autumn leaves, yellow, brown and red,
Upon the ground are lying dead,
And yet some more come fluttering down,
A silence reigns o'er all the town.

DIANA JONES, Va.

OLD PUPILS' NOTES.

We include at the end of these notes a few paragraphs by the secretary of the Old Pupils' Association, to which we call the attention of all those who are likely to be leaving in the next few months. It is very desirable that all old pupils should keep in close touch with the association, and thus keep up their connection with the School.

Congratulations to John Gray on successfully completing his first year at the Cardiff Medical School last July. As a result of his good work he shared the Dr. Price Prize with another student.

We also offer our congratulations to Mrs. Mary Holmes (nee Taylor), who was appointed Headmistress of Pennar Girls' School, in succession to Miss A. M. K. Sinnett.

Audrey Finch completed her course at Matlock Training College last July, and has been teaching at Milford Central School since September.

D. F. Hordley is now a qualified teacher and was appointed to Pennar Girls' School in October.

June Parcell was recently appointed to a post in the County Welfare Department in Hereford.

Ivor MacIaren called in school towards the end of October. He served in the R.A.F. during the war, and spent a long time abroad, serving in Japan and in Palestine. He has been since March in the Hants County Police, and is stationed at Aldershot.

At the beginning of December we had a visit from Alec Carpenter. He is now serving as a regular in the R.A.S.C., and was then just back from Greece, having completed his tour of overseas duties. We were amazed to find that he had reached the rank of Warrant Officer. This is remarkable progress, and we congratulate him heartily on his rapid promotion.

Kenneth Carr, whose marriage we record later in these notes, was on the staff of the Naval Electrical School (H.M.S. Collingwood), teaching officers radio and radar, when he wrote at the end of October. He holds an honours degree of the University of Wales, and has a commission in the Navy. He now hopes to go to the University next October to take a teachers' training certificate.

It is pleasant to hear occasionally from old pupils who were here in what may be called the distant past. Such a letter arrived from Mr. Leonard H. Leach, once of Cosheston, who now lives at Llantwit Major. He was at school from 1914 to 1917.

Fred Hughes has been at the Technical College, Cardiff, since last October. He is preparing for the B.Sc. (Engineering) degree of the University of London.

We received a Christmas card this year from Eric Thomas, of Neyland, sent from the British Embassy at Buenos Aires in Argentina. He is in charge of the Air Attache's office at the embassy.

Brian Sherlock has just been demobilised after two years' service in the Army Education Corps, in which he served for fifteen months in Egypt and reached the rank of sergeant. He hopes to return to University College, Exeter, for the Spring term.

We congratulate these old pupils on their marriages:—
July 23rd.—Instr./Lt. Kenneth G. Carr, R.N., to Lilian Winifred Evans.

July 27th.—Peter Huyshe to Marion Preece (both old pupils).
 August 3rd.—Doreen Powis to Oliver Enoch Davies.
 August 7th.—Ivy Mutter to Lloyd Lomborg.
 August 10th.—John A. Gay Thomas, B.Sc., to Margaret Florence Bell, B.A.
 August 14th.—Jean Ross to Ronald Percy Currell.
 August 21st.—Richard Palmer Morgan to Brenda M. Evans.
 November 16th.—Eleanor Bramwell (Billie) Evans, to Dr. David Ellis Pugh.

We add now the notes from the Secretary of the O.P.A.:—

The Old Pupils Association held its annual Re-Union Dance on Boxing Night. Over two hundred people danced to the music of Charles Oliver and his Band. The dance was one of the most successful in the long history of our Re-Union Dances.

The Old Pupils were glad to see Mr. and Mrs. Mathias as well as many members of the staff present at the dance.

It does not appear to be generally known that Old Pupils require no formal invitation for attendance at these Re-Unions. The Sixth Form Pupils are also welcomed.

It is hoped that more and more Old Pupils will rally round the committee in their efforts to make the Old Pupils' Association a success.

This year two Old Pupils' Clubs have been formed.

A Badminton Club was the first venture and already Friday evening has become the evening of the week for many enthusiasts. There is a very fine spirit prevailing and this adds to the enjoyment.

The Club Secretary is Mr. N. Nash, 8, Park Street. Mr. D. Hordley is the Chairman, and Miss B. George the treasurer.

The committee and members greatly appreciate the interest taken in the club by the Headmaster.

The second venture was the formation of a Hockey Club. Already a number of matches have been played and the team improves with every game. The club is fortunate to have as its captain Mr. A. W. W. Devereux who has set a great example to the players both in skill and sportsmanship.

It is hoped that many Old Pupils will take an interest in the Club.

The Secretary is Miss B. George, 36, Argyle Street. The Chairman is Mr. N. Nash, and the Treasurer Mr. D. Hordley.

It is hoped that the Old Pupils will soon have their own Cricket Club and there are many Old Boys who have expressed a desire to join such a club.

A Dramatic Society is also contemplated.

The joint secretaries of the Old Pupils' Association are Mr. E. B. George, 36, Argyle Street, and Mr. G. E. A. Macken, 3, Apley Terrace.

SCHOOL SPORTS.

"Every man shift for all the rest and let no man take care for himself."—The Tempest.

CRICKET.

After the last issue of the "Penfro," the School cricket team played two matches, winning one and losing one. The team had a fairly good season considering the stiff opposition encountered, twelve matches being played, of which five were won and seven lost.

The results were as follows:—

July 10th.—Milford G.S. (home). Won 50-40. (Manning 14; N. Smith 4 for 14).
 July 21st.—Old Boys (home). Lost 98-74 (D. Williams 22; P. Maynard 15; A. Richards 3 for 27).

The team was selected from the following:—A. W. W. Devereux, D. Williams* (capt.), D. Hayward, P. Maynard, J. Griffiths*, S. Mathias, G. Lovering, J. Maynard, H. Mackay, P. Collins, A. Richards, N. Smith, F. Manning, A. Skone, D. Rendall, A. Evans, E. Griggs.

* Old colours.

At the end of the season, colours were awarded to A. Richards, N. Smith, D. Hayward.

AVERAGES.

BATTING.

	No. of Innings.	Times Not Out.	Total Runs.	Highest Score.	Average.
F. Manning	4	1	39	14	13.
J. Griffiths	12	0	104	22	8.67
A. W. W. Devereux	7	0	54	20	7.7
D. Williams	12	0	83	22	6.93
G. Lovering	8	1	29	9	4.14
S. Mathias	9	0	36	23	4.

BOWLING.

A. Richards	96	32	3.
N. Smith	105	34	3.1
J. Griffiths	16	3	5.33
S. Mathias	41	7	5.86

The School team were indeed fortunate in receiving a gift of twelve new cricket caps in the School colours from Mr. Rowland Rees, to whom special thanks must again be given.

A word of thanks should also be accorded to the masters who have umpired the games, and also the Kitchen Staff who prepared the teas.

HOCKEY.

The hockey team has been very successful this season, winning five games and losing two, one of which was against a strong team.

The County Hockey Trials were held on October 16th, and Gillian Davies, Zina Judd, Elvira Hodge, Dorothy Shears, and Tonia Sabido were chosen for a further trial. At the next trial on November 6th, Tonia Sabido was chosen to play for the County team.

RESULTS.

October 2nd.—Milford Grammar (home). Lost 2-0.
 October 9th.—Narberth (away). Won 5-0.
 October 23rd.—Tenby (home). Won 3-1.
 November 13th.—Fishguard (home). Won 5-0.
 November 20th.—Tasker's (home). Won 9-1.
 December 4th.—Milford Central (away). Won 9-1.

Staff. Lost 3-2.

The team was chosen from the following:—Tonia Sabido* (capt), Mary Phillips* (vice-capt), Maureen Bermingham, Zina Judd, Megan Sutton, Dorothy Shears, Gillian Davies, June Strachan, Pat Blake, Elvira Hodge, Sheila Turner, Eunice Thomas.

* Old colours.

FOOTBALL.

Although emphasis was placed on Rugby football last term, the School Soccer XI, has done very well to date, winning seven, drawing three and losing only two matches.

The committee was chosen as follows:—J. Griffiths (capt.), D. Hayward (vice), A. Richards (committee member) and A. Panton (secretary).

MATCHES.

September 25th.—Boro' Boys (home). Won 5-1.
October 2nd.—Milford Grammar (home). Lost (1-4).
October 9th.—Narberth Grammar (away). Won 0-3.
October 16th.—Milford Grammar (away). Lost 6-3.
October 30th.—Pembroke Boys (home). Won 3-0.
November 6th.—Boro' Boys (home). Drawn 1-1.
November 13th.—Milford Central (home). Won 10-0.
November 20th.—Tenby Grammar (home). Drawn 1-1.
December 4th.—Fishguard Grammar (away). Won 2-5.
December 11th.—Fishguard Grammar (home). Won 7-1.
December 8th.—Old Boys XI. Drawn 1-1.

The team was chosen from:—J. Griffiths* (capt.), D. Hayward* (vice), A. Richards, R. Palmer*, R. Robinson*, W. Rees, P. Collins, A. Skone, N. Smith, V. Davies, D. Davies, Mathias, D. Jenkins, J. Walters, D. Rendall, G. Tregidon, P. Nutting.

* Old colours.

I would like to add a word of thanks to the members of the staff who so ably helped to control the games, especially Mr. Evans, to whom we often turned for advice and guidance.

I would also like to add a word of thanks to the kitchen staff.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

The Spring term 1949 saw the introduction of rugby football into the school and henceforth it will be the official Winter game for boys. There were several reasons why the changeover from soccer to rugby was necessary, and now that the decision has been made, it remains to be seen whether the standard of rugby in the school can be raised to the high level of the soccer with which we were familiar in the past.

One of the main advantages of the changeover is that boys of outstanding ability will now be recognised for high honours. The school is affiliated to the Welsh Secondary Schools' Rugby Union, to which all the other Grammar Schools in Wales—outside Pembrokeshire—are already affiliated. This Union plays annual international fixtures with the Public and Grammar Schools of Yorkshire, England and France, and we can now look forward to being represented in a Welsh team in the not too distant future.

First and Second fifteens will play every Saturday and our new ground at Bush House will be the venue of the First XV. home games. We opened our fixture list with the two teams home to Haverfordwest Grammar School on January 8th, 1949, and while the First XV. lost as anticipated, by 20 pts. to nil, we were encouraged by the result of the Second XV. game which was drawn with 3 pts. each. This is a very pleasing result when we consider that Haverfordwest Grammar School has been playing rugby for many seasons.

We offer our congratulations to Graham Tregidon, on selection to play in the second of the Welsh Schoolboys trials at Pontardulais on January 22nd. Tregidon played scrum-half in the first trial and as a result of his display on that occasion, was selected for a further trial. We wish him every good luck and hope he will be successful in obtaining his schoolboy "cap."

The School's first captain of rugby is Derek Hayward, who plays at scrum half, and the secretary is D. G. Jones.

CROSSING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

At one o'clock in the morning of the 11th August, 1948, the 2,600 ton French cross-channel passenger boat "Arromanches" was majestically thrusting her sharply tapered bows through the white-crested waves of the English Channel. She was two hours out of Newhaven, on her customary cross-channel run to Dieppe, carrying some 1,500 passengers, comprising mainly exuberant Frenchmen returning from the 19th Olympiad at Wembley, and excited holiday-makers, full, like myself, of glorious expectations of an enjoyable holiday amidst the many splendours of "la belle France." The continuous rhythmical throbbing of her high-powered diesel engines sent a tremor of expectation through my entire body, as the "Arromanches," resplendent in her glossy white paint and highly polished wood-work, raced on like a scenting dog towards the now invisible chalk-cliffs of France. The incessant whirling of her twin propellers tossed in her illuminated wake glittering piles of the whitest foam, which rapidly disappeared in the overwhelming darkness of that August morning. In contrast, commanding an imposing situation above the deck stood the glass-panelled bridge which was now as silent as a morgue, and only a gaunt pin-prick of light on the binnacle betrays the presence of any human life. The many gushing deck hands who had made themselves so conspicuous as reliable porters at Newhaven had now disappeared below-decks and the passengers were left to their own devices.

Clustering in the vicinity of the elegant yellow funnel was a group of happy school children, who like young chickens had congregated around their two school mistresses. Their black and yellow striped scarves, made conspicuous by the brilliant light of an over-head electric light bulb, made it clear that they were pupils of Pembroke Dock County Grammar School, who for some reason or other had exiled themselves from their native county. Theirs was a very happy party indeed. Some of the most hilarious sang, and their sweet voices attracted the attention of several exuberant Frenchmen, who were terribly eager to learn and exchange songs. They sang "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "Chevalier de la table ronde." Around them the other passengers had assumed various amusing positions, some were exhausted and lay fully recumbent in comfortable deck chairs, unaware of the lurching of the majestic "Arromanches" as some furious wave crashed into her invulnerable side, while others in the throes of that desperate malady, sea-sickness, hung precariously over the side of the vessel.

At 1.50 a.m., the welcoming outer harbour light of Dieppe was sighted on the port bow and an hour later the "Arromanches" slid quietly at half speed under its mellow beams into the gentle waters of Dieppe Roads. Proudly and cautiously she advanced through the mass of illuminated fishing boats to her berth along the quay-side. As we passed, the fishermen, dressed in dirty dungarees, extended a hearty welcome to us by a vigorous waving of the hand.

My first impressions of Dieppe as a cross-channel port were rather grim and lugubrious. As we entered the inner harbour we were greeted by the mournful and irritating clanking of a mud-dredger at work. On the earthen quayside stood an antiquated grimy steam crane which belched forth, from a stumpy funnel, into a menacing sky, volumes of the blackest smoke. Some yards from the quay-side loomed up several deserted warehouses with boarded windows, which did not provide a suitable background to a none too prepossessing foreground. The only person who seemed at all interested in the arrival of the "Arromanches" was a solitary policeman who noiselessly patrolled the quayside. Away to the right stood the illuminated wooden Customs shed and the main line railway track to Paris.

Already the "Arromanches" had slid smoothly into her appropriate berth in front of the "Londres," her equally magnificent sister-ship, and was firmly secured to the quayside bollards. For quite a time as I waited my turn to disembark, I watched the excited passengers scurrying down the gangway like rabbits lugging their leadened cases behind them and ultimately disappearing, hesitantly, into the Customs shed.

Fortunately the exacting Customs machine furnished very little difficulty for the innocent charges of Miss Hughes and Mrs. Davies and soon, with valuable assistance from an efficient Cooks' Travel agent, the whole party was comfortably settled in a cosy but dimly-lit carriage of a Paris-bound train eagerly awaiting the commencement of the fourth stage of our long journey to the distant and quaint town of Epinal, nestling among the elegant fir-trees of the Vosges Mountains, where our welcome was being enthusiastically prepared and where we were destined to spend three most enjoyable weeks.

HOWELL S. DAVIES. Upper VI.

SNOWFALL.

When the snow falls white and deep,
And people from their windows peep,
To see the layer of brightest white,
Which has fallen deeply in the night,
When people open doors so wide,
And the cold air rushes from outside,
When men leave to go to work,
The little boys are left to lurk
And play with freezing snow,
Most little girls are afraid to go
Into the deepest of the white,
Which has made great drifts in the night,
And then the children have to go
To school with many cries of woe,
As they walk they never chatter,
And never say what is the matter,
But I know where they want to go
They want to play with the freezing snow,
But soon they reach the great big gate
And start to work and this they hate.

BRIAN COOK, IIIA.

FIRST TERM AT CAMBRIDGE.

Walking along the banks of the Cam from Queen's College to Magdalen, it is possible to forget that there is a modern town of Cambridge, and to be conscious only of the University. It is the university alone that impresses me.

Some of the older colleges are certainly masterpieces of English Architecture, and although I am no connoisseur of this art, I feel that I must mention them. The colleges, which are along the banks of the Cam, are the most impressive. King's College, and particularly its chapel, which inspired Wordsworth to write that well-known sonnet of his, is the most splendid. But John's College with its famous Bridge of Sighs and the well-known courts of Trinity College, show the best of Tudor architecture. My own college, founded in the late Victorian era, exhibits the decorative features of the architecture of that period; nevertheless, whatever it may lack in beauty, it has much more comfort than the earliest founded men's colleges.

This year was an important one in the history of the University, for it saw the admission of women to full membership of that university. This was of great significance; women can now obtain the same degrees as men and have the privilege not only of wearing undergraduate gowns but also the privilege of being caught by the proctors and their "bull-dogs" and fined for any breach of the university rules.

Queen Elizabeth came up in October to receive the degree of Doctor of Civil Law, and was the first woman to receive a degree under the new status. After this the first year women were matriculated, and many photographs were taken as they marched to the Senate House.

There is still one male stronghold left for the women to invade—the Union, an impressive building where excellent debates are held. Among those who took part in these debates last term were Mr. Attlee and Mr. De Valera. The Union is also a social club which the men are guarding as strongly as they can against feminine intrusion. The coming term should, however, bring us the victory.

Every term has its highlights, and last term the celebrations of November 5th and the rag week that followed were the most rowdy. November 5th was celebrated with firework displays, the breaking of street lamps, the overturning of cars, the storming of Newnham, and the putting off of a hand-grenade which broke all the windows of the Senate House. The celebrations degenerated into hooliganism, and even the proctors had no control. Rag week followed, and Cambridge streets were full of cheering throngs and lively processions. I shall not forget the mock execution of the aristocrats at Trinity Main Gate and other similar episodes.

More impressive to me, however, than these noisy displays was the carol service held in King's College Chapel. The atmosphere of the chapel, which was lit by candles, was superb, and the service was magnificent. People begin to queue for this service about two hours beforehand, and this year many had to be turned away. The Chapel is a marvellous building, and this service is imprinted on my memory for ever.

Sport occupies an important place in the lives of most undergraduates. Rowing, is, of course, the most important; but after seeing the bedraggled appearance of my friends after their first attempts, I have hesitated to begin. Rugby, soccer, hockey and squash seem to be the games of this season, and great is the dismay of many at our numerous defeats by Oxford this term.

Societies and clubs are innumerable, and the pamphlets received by freshers at the beginning of term are overwhelming. It is perhaps a good thing that they are rather expensive to join—it meant that I had to be selective. There are societies for every taste and fancy, from the Gliding Club to the learned Archimedean. I find that there is never a moment to spare, and try to do only the things which it would be impossible for me to do elsewhere.

However, work is the most important aspect of university life. It is the primary reason for our going to college, although it is a common saying that work is to be done in one's spare time. I have thoroughly enjoyed my term's work. Such a great deal has been packed into a short eight weeks that it hardly seems credible now. It is so interesting to listen to lectures by people whose books I have read in school, and to find that they too can make mistakes. The individual discussions with the tutor are perhaps the most valuable and helpful part of the work. After a full term's work it was rather distressing to hear my tutor say that a vacation is not a holiday, and that I must expect to do some solid work at home.

I am not, unfortunately, a skilful writer of essays, and what I have written cannot possibly do justice to the very enjoyable and, I trust, profitable term that I have just finished at what is to me the best university of all.

IVY GARLICK.

VISIT TO AN ART GALLERY.

It was a great thrill for me to walk up the steps to the massive entrance of the National Gallery, that noble building which overlooks Trafalgar Square; it was the first art gallery I had ever been in, and my first really good look at painting by the old masters.

The object of this visit was for me to study closely the styles of various artists, and, if possible, to criticise their work. What I expected to see was walls covered with so-called "modern" art; but apart from a few paintings by Picasso (and these were quite normal compared with some of his works) there were no modernistic paintings there. After seeing the works of men like Millais, Rembrandt, Turner, and many others, one can realise the futility of the modern artist's attempt to make an impression on the general public.

I had only to look at the walls around me to see there paintings which, to my mind, have not yet been surpassed. I mention in particular "The Order of Release" by Millais, and "The Laughing Cavalier" by Franz Hals. This type of painting is scornfully called "photographic" by modern artists, but I think it is a style which is simple to understand even by people who are not artistically minded. It reflects the great skill of the artist that he was able to paint such a life-like picture.

Perhaps the greatest thrill of all was when I came across a group of Rembrandt's famous paintings. There were only thirteen of them, but I believe I spent more time over these than I did in the rest of the gallery. The character this artist captures in his paintings is marvellous, especially when he paints old people—a subject which gives wide scope to his ability to paint living portraits. Of the thirteen I will pick out "Portrait of an Old Man" and "Portrait of an Old Woman," as being the ones which attracted me.

I fully realise that I am not yet competent to criticise paintings and find their true meaning, but I do know what I like. All Turner's paintings appeal to me, but none of those by Rubens could hold my interest, for he seemed always to have an abundance of fat, writhing figures in his compositions, whereas Turner dwells more on delicate land and sea scapes. The paintings of Constable and Gainsborough are very much alike in style, but Constable's "Cenotaph" swayed me in his favour.

The few paintings I saw by Augustus John were disappointing, that is, all except his portrait of Madame Suggia, which I thought to be excellent.

I was quite surprised when I saw that a large painting hanging up in the Van Gogh section looked exactly like a painting in my form-room—I always thought the one in our room was the work of an old pupil! The rest of Van Gogh's paintings were interesting but modernistic.

It is often said that when a budding artist enters an art gallery his ambition to be a great artist is weakened, and he has a tendency to say "How can I ever paint as well as that?" But my visit has increased my interest and has made me more determined to be like one of the old masters—hoping that one day one of my paintings will be hanging in a gold frame among the other masterpieces.

B. C. PALMER, VI.



