

THE QUORNIAN



JULY - 1959
Vol. VI No. 1

THE QUORNIAN

The Magazine of the Rawlins Grammar School, Quorn

VOL. VI, No. 1.

JULY, 1959

Magazine Committee:

KATHERINE RICHLING

DINAH OUSEY

ANITA GUNBY

CYNTHIA WILLETT

IRENE BARRIE

ANN PEBERDY

MISS W. BROWN, *Staff Representative.*

HEADMISTRESS'S LETTER

It is pleasant to have this opportunity of writing a brief note to commend the *Quornian* again to its readers. I trust that they will be many and that it will really be read, not merely skimmed through to look for any funny bits, for in its brief way it tells, I think, a worthwhile story.

One cannot but be aware that the name "Rawlins" is coming to stand for something. People who visit the school speak of it in various ways; they say it is "very alive," that it has got an atmosphere which strangers immediately feel. Those of us, pupils and staff alike, who live and work here, doing our daily and nightly round, which often seems drudgery, cannot often see ourselves as others see us; but if one reads the ensuing pages of what has been done within one normal year, if one reads, for example, how Brenda Broome, an old girl, has won her medal in anatomy in competition with boys from the great schools of England and Scotland, of how Josephine Cook, whom I always think of as a little girl catching a hedgehog on the school field because they were good for gardens, is off to America to study Botany, of how Ann Steele is taking upon her slender shoulders at the age of twenty-one the Domestic Science teaching of a neighbouring grammar school, if one thinks of two Queen's Guides in one year, then surely one is conscious that a worthy tradition is being built up and one must feel some glow of pride and some desire to uphold that tradition, and if one cannot enhance it, at least not to let it down.

Within the school at this moment there are people of very great promise and strong and lively personality who can achieve much if their will and determination match their gifts. But they must not be afraid of hard work, must not be shy of enthusiasm, for the opportunities of school life once cast aside can never be recalled. Their parents, too, must be ambitious for them, urging them on, encouraging them in their moods of depression, showing their love and pride in their achievements.

Next year it is good to know that we shall have a large Lower Sixth for about half of the fifth formers are staying on and we hope that a good number of Form Four will be able to join them. The Old Vicarage will be bursting at its seams! With so many older girls in the school the opportunity is there for further development, in achievement, in leadership, in worthy example. I hope that everyone who reads these pages, young or older, will feel awoken in her some determination, some ambition, to make the finest contribution she can to the school's history.

M.E.S.

PREFECTS AND CAPTAINS, 1959

Head Girl: Janet Mawby

Deputy Head Girl: Ruth Lilley.

Prefects: Janet Amey, Janet Archer, Jennifer Aucott, Sheila Bostock, Joy Brewin, Diana Frost, Geraldine Gamble, Susan Haddelsey, Barbara Haldane, Judith Long, Katherine Richling, Caroline Tharia, Patricia Towell, Ann Warren.

House Captains: Beaumanor, J. Mawby.
Bradgate, A. Warren.
Garendon, J. Archer.
Ulverscroft, J. Geary.

Games Captains: Netball, J. Cooke.
Hockey, J. Archer.
Rounders, J. Archer.
Tennis, J. Mawby.
Athletics, S. Meadows.
Swimming,
Games Secretary, J. Archer.

SCHOOL NOTES

At the end of the Summer term, 1958, we heard with very real regret of the wish of Dr. Hilda Wallace to retire from the Governing Body at the same time as she relinquished her Moral Welfare work in the county. Dr. Wallace's link with the school has been a very close one, for apart from the fact that her knowledge of educational matters and her clarity of outlook has been of great help to the Governing Body and to the Headmistress, her work as Sex Education lecturer has brought her into close contact with the girls of the school, who will long remember her talks and particularly the "question times" that used to follow them. We send her our good wishes and our hopes for better health than she has had lately.

We were delighted at the choice of a Governor to succeed Dr. Wallace, for when we heard of the selection of Mrs. Farnham we felt that we were able to welcome someone who would take a deep personal interest in the school and would understand young girls and also would re-establish for us the link with the Farnham family which has been the school's good fortune throughout its history. We welcome, too, the new Vicar of Woodhouse Eaves, the Rev. R. P. Rankin, as a Foundation Governor and Mr. A. M. Smith, nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the illness of Mr. Roberts, Mr. Smith being particularly welcome as an "old boy."

Finally, the Governing Body heard in the summer with deep sorrow that the Chairman, Colonel W. S. N. Toller, D.S.O., who has held his office with such friendly distinction for so many years and has in his wisdom guided the Governing Body and the Headmistress through some difficult moments, wished to vacate the

Chair. At the summer meeting, therefore, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. O. Pell, J.P., was unanimously elected Chairman, and Lady Martin elected Vice-Chairman. The school will welcome these two people as its friends of long standing, whose genuine interest and willingness to devote their time and experience to the school we well know. By happy coincidence, they are fellow Magistrates. We shall try not to appear before them!

During the year we have again had some staffing changes. After Christmas we welcomed Mrs. A. H. Miller, B.Sc., whose teaching experience has been mainly at Brighouse Girls' Grammar School, Yorkshire, as Senior Chemistry mistress in place of Miss Martin, who left to become deputy head in an independent school in Suffolk. At the same time, Mrs. Crump came to us temporarily to teach junior Art and Needlework in place of Miss Kennedy, who left to be married. At the end of the Summer term we said goodbye to Miss Leigh, who is joining the staff of Boston Girls' High School, and whom we shall greatly miss in the English teaching and as Librarian. Mrs. Webb (Miss Wintle) also left us in the summer to join her husband in Somerset and to take up the post of Music Mistress at Yeovil Grammar School, and Mrs. Coxon (Miss Heaton Smith) similarly left us, going to Gateshead Girls' Grammar School. To all of them we send our good wishes and we hope that they will keep in touch with us.

New members of staff in September will be Miss A. Buswell, B.A., from the staff of Oldershaw High School, Wallasey, who will teach French and English; Mr. G. Berger, L.R.A.M., from the staff of the Ivanhoe School, Ashby, who will teach Music; and Miss S. A. H. Clark, A.T.D., who will assist with junior Art and Needlework. In addition, we are grateful for the temporary help to be given to us by Mrs. Wakefield, junior English, and Mrs. Peckett, junior History and Geography.

During the Summer Term news from old girls reached us.

Josephine Cook, after completing a year's research work at Nottingham University, will take up in September a travelling scholarship to the U.S.A., where she will study towards an M.Sc. in Botany.

Nancy Smith, who has obtained a second class honours degree in Physiology of the University of Bristol, has obtained a medical research post at Warwick, where she will work on coronary thrombosis. Her former tennis "rival" at school, Pat Weller, has, by curious coincidence, also obtained a post in Warwick as Mistress for Physical Education at the new Beachamp High School for Girls. Ann Steele has been appointed Domestic Science mistress at Lutterworth Grammar School and Gillian Geary, Physical Education Mistress at Walsall Grammar School. Ivy Wheldon has been appointed to the Junior School in Mountsorrel and Norma Baker to the Cobden Street Girls' School, Loughborough.

Brenda Broome, reading Veterinary Science at Edinburgh, has had a very successful year. At Easter, she was awarded the silver medal for anatomy, and was the only student to gain a distinction in the anatomy section of the Degree examination; at the end of the Summer Term she was awarded the College Prize as the best student of her year in Chemistry and Pathology.

We learn, too, that Joyce Kelsey, who left school some years ago, has completed her training as a Probation Officer and is now on the probation staff of Nottingham City.

As a result of awards made on the results of last year's G.C.E. examinations, Janet Richards is reading for the degree of B.A. with honours in English at Manchester University; Janet Mawby will go this October to Queen Elizabeth's College, London University, where she will read for the degree of B.Sc. in Nutrition, and Gillian Hardman has begun her training as a Physiotherapist. The other members of last year's Upper Sixth are happily installed in their various Training Colleges, Physical Education and Domestic Science Colleges and Art Schools.

We congratulate Dinah Ousey and Susan Bagshaw on winning two of the valuable book prizes in an Essay Competition organised by the Loughborough Rotary Club.

We also congratulate our first Queen's Guides, Anne James and Valerie Simpson, whose achievement reflects credit not only on themselves but on the school Guides Companies as a whole.

We learn with pleasure that Rosalie Brooks has had the honour of being selected to attend the St. John Ambulance Centenary celebrations in Malta in September, as one of the two girl representatives of the county.

During the year we have had the interesting experience of having two visits from foreign teachers. Miss Saraswathy, a student from the Malayan Teachers' College in Wolverhampton, was with us for a month in the Autumn Term, and Frau Ketterer, who teaches English and History at Freiburg, was with us for a fortnight in May. Such visits give considerable pleasure and interest, especially when, as in the case of Frau Ketterer, the visitor can share something of the home life of the girls.

At the end of the Spring Term we performed our first opera, Gluck's "Orpheus," to very appreciative audiences and many people who had a share in this enterprise must have felt well rewarded for their tremendous efforts.

The end of the Summer Term was remarkable for the series of historical expeditions organised and conducted by Miss Sheldrake. Lincoln, Woburn Abbey, Warwick, Stratford and Southwell Minster were all seen by different sections of the school. The Prefects' Annual Outing was to Cambridge. At the beginning of

the holiday seven members of the Sixth were able to join the Birmingham University Camp at Coniston in the Lake District with Miss Sanderson and Miss Gibson. There, they had a most enjoyable week on the mountains or swimming, canoeing and learning to sail a boat.

Janet Archer, Kathleen Berry and Marion Gamble played for County teams in Hockey and Yvonne Haywood again represented the County in the National Sports.

HOUSE NOTES

BEAUMANOR

So far this year Beaumanor has not been quite as successful as last year due to lack of support by some House members, particularly in the middle school; although much enthusiasm and hard work has been put in by a number of individuals, to whom I am most grateful. Some members would do well to follow their example.

I was pleased to note a trend towards a better display in the sports and swimming sports, functions at which we have not done so well for some years.

The Festival result was somewhat disappointing, mainly I feel through lack of written entries. The trophy invariably goes to the House with most points in written entries.

I would like to thank House Mistresses for their support and wish all the best to my successor.

J.M.

BRADGATE

This year has been considerably more successful for Bradgate. We started well by obtaining first place in the Inter-House Festival. This is the first time for several years that Bradgate has achieved this, and I feel that everyone is to be congratulated on a good performance. A much more enthusiastic effort was made by the Junior and Middle School, but prepared entries from the Senior School were still not adequate in quantity.

On Sports Day, in spite of many individual successes, we only gained third place. Again Yvonne Haywood must be congratulated on winning the Middle School Cup for the second year in succession and also on winning the cup for the most outstanding performance on Sports Day. We have also been quite successful in Hockey and Rounders and I hope we shall achieve as much success in the Tennis matches and Swimming Sports. I should like to thank all House Mistresses and House Officials for their help and support during the year.

A.W.

GARENDON

This year Garendon attained second place in the Inter-House Festival, being narrowly beaten by Bradgate. On the whole the Juniors were keen and enthusiastic but if we are to do as well or better next year there must be more support from the Senior School.

For the second year running we were successful on Sports Day in winning the Cup. This success was due not only to the winners of the events on the day, but also to the people who obtained their standards. We congratulate Joy Goodman and Rosemary Hind who shared the Junior Cup.

Our games results so far have been disappointing, especially from the Junior teams, who should show more fight when hard pressed. But we hope for more success in the Tennis Tournament and in the Swimming Gala, which have yet to be held.

In conclusion, I should like to thank all House officials who have helped in any way to organise the various House activities.

J.M.A.

ULVERS CROFT

This year has not yet proved a very successful one for Ulverscroft. In the Sports and Inter-House Festival we were placed fourth. There was a disappointing lack of written entries from the Middle and Senior School. The Juniors as ever, were enthusiastic.

Although written entries were poor, the standard of Festival Day events was very high.

On the sporting side we were, however, more successful, coming first in the Senior Hockey and second in the Senior Netball. The Tennis, Rounders and Swimming teams have not yet proved their ability, but we are hoping for more success in order to make up ground lost in the Festival. I hope next year that there will be more co-operation in the festival, especially from Middle School and Senior members.

Finally I should like to thank all the House officials and Captains for their support throughout the year.

J.G.

THE GIPSY GIRL

The gypsy girl ran, her dark curls a-flying,
Across the green moor, to the fair;
And under her arm in a basket were lying
Pegs fashioned with infinite care.

Her healthy young face was tanned by the weather,
Her brown eyes did glisten like dew;
For her life had been spent among bracken and heather,
Unimpeded by jacket or shoe.

Hilary Vickers, Form IIa.

HOCKEY

Once again the School hockey teams have had an extremely successful season. The 1st XI lost no matches, but were defeated in the semi-final of the Hockey Tournament by Loughborough High School. The juniors have also done very well and there are several promising young players, but they must learn to fight back when under pressure.

All teams are very grateful to Miss Gibson and Miss Sanderson and we attribute much of our success to their valuable coaching and enthusiasm.

J.M.A.

FIRST XI

G.K. †D. Needham : A very good goalkeeper with excellent kicking ability who always plays best in a difficult situation.

L.B. *S. Meadows : Has fitted in well with other members of the defence and has made considerable progress.

R.B. †R. Lilley : A steady, determined player whose powerful drives result in many forward attacks.

L.H. *R. Worster : Has improved greatly this season and has proved a reliable member of the 1st XI.

C.H. †J. Archer : A determined and reliable captain. I feel that much of the team's fighting spirit has been due to her leadership and example.

R.H. †K. Berry : A fast, hard-working half-back, who realises that her job is to attack as well as defend. K. is an example to any would-be half-back.

L.W. *P. Crafts. At her best a good player, but tends to be rather variable and not to persevere in difficult moments.

L.I. †M. Gamble : A very skilful and determined player. A great number of goals have been scored by Marion herself or by her excellent passes to other forwards.

C.F. *B. Orme. A fast, useful player who distributes the ball well but who must not be afraid to score herself.

R.I. †J. Aucott : Has progressed greatly this season to make a very fast attacking player who combines well with other members of the forward line.

R.W. *A. James : A useful player who passes well but who should try and be more forceful when tackled.

JUNIOR XI

G.K. *A. Spencer : Has good ability and is not afraid to come out to meet the ball.

L.B. R. Samuel : A steady player, but she must try and recover her position more quickly when beaten.

R.B. E. Horspool : A good player on the whole but must try to use more speed.

L.H. *P. Dobson : Has progressed well this season to make a very good and intelligent player.

C.H. Y. Haywood : Is developing into a thoughtful centre-half. She distributes the ball well and is beginning to anticipate the other team's moves.

R.H. J. Shield : A promising player who with continued enthusiasm should play well next season.

L.W. H. Carter : Has progressed well this season but must use more speed when running for the ball.

L.I. P. Crump : A very promising forward who is prepared to help the defence in times of difficulty. Must remember, however, to catch up with the other forwards as her main job is to score goals.

C.F. B. Boldra : Plays well at times but lacks concentration and determination.

R.I. I. Tyler : A very good player who uses the ball well and combines well with other members of the team.

R.W. J. Palmer : Has greatly improved during the season.

TENNIS

This year the Tennis Team has enjoyed more success than last year, winning three out of five matches played, and losing one by only one game. Part of this success is due to more practice and enthusiasm by the team and we should like to thank Miss Sanderson most sincerely for giving up her time to coach both ourselves and other younger players during the dinner hour.

J.M.

ROUNDERS

Despite the short season in which the first team have only played five matches so far, we have remained unbeaten. The juniors have also played very well, losing only one match against Market Harborough, but they should learn not to be discouraged when faced with seemingly strong opposition.

In the rounders tournament neither team did as well as was hoped. The junior team reached the semi-final but were beaten by Humphrey Perkins, and the first team were beaten by the Wygeston 2-1.

Enthusiasm in the junior school is very high and there has been keen inter-form rivalry to decide the winner of the junior tournament.

Once again our thanks go to Miss Gibson for her continued help and guidance in coaching the teams.

SENIORS

R. Lilley. A good fast bowler but she should vary her balls more. Ruth has a powerful hit, but she must try to concentrate more so that her hitting becomes more reliable.

D. Needham. A very agile backstop whose accurate throws are a great advantage. Her batting has improved greatly towards the end of the season.

R. Worster. She co-operates well with the backstop, but should try to improve her throwing. Her hitting is variable.

M. Gamble. An excellent fielder. Her batting is very powerful and she has scored a great number of rounders.

J. Archer. A very sound and determined player. J's fielding and batting are very good.

P. Crafts. On occasions she fields very well but should try to be more alert. She began the season by hitting well, but has deteriorated since.

D. Symon. Her fielding is quite good but she should use her hands more and should try to improve her batting.

C. Topliss. Her fielding and throwing have been very good throughout the season and her hitting has steadily improved.

A. Spencer. Her throwing is good, but should try to be quicker when fielding. She is a very strong hitter.

FIREWORKS

Dazzling, crackling, leaping, jumping,
Filling all the world with beauty.

First a low, expectant hush,
Then a sudden startling whizz,
Followed by a burst of glory
That illuminates the sky.
All the trees and houses lighted
In a weird and ghostly light.
Then once more the speaking darkness
Seems to fill the empty void.

Children's voices break the silence,
Shrill, exclaiming, wonder-filled.
Then another star-trailed meteor
Leaps in glory through the sky;
And their faces, too, are lighted,
Tense, expectant, filled with joy,
Seeing all the worldly beauty
Of this wild and glorious scene,
Never thinking, never sensing
Wicked things akin to these.
These bring beauty, wonder, glory :
They bring ruin, grief and pain.

Virginia Branston, Form III.

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was held on a Thursday evening this year, on May 14th. The weather was very pleasant, and quite the best we have had on Sports Day for some years. Garendon was the winning House, scoring 265. Beaumanor gained 246½, Bradgate 239 and Ulverscroft 207½. The Victrix Ludorum was Susan Meadows. The Middle School champion is Yvonne Haywood, who also gained the Christine West Cup for the best individual performance. Two juniors tied for the Junior Championship—T. Goodman and R. Hinds. The cups and certificates were presented by Miss Mounteney, a well-loved visitor. We should like to thank Miss Gibson, Miss Sanderson and other members of the Staff for all their hard work both before and on the day. The standard of the performances seemed to be improving in all sections of the School, and we hope this progress will be maintained during 1960.

S.M.

2nd & 3rd QUORN GUIDE COMPANIES

This year, owing to the great enthusiasm at the School, our numbers have grown so large that we have had to form another company, the 3rd Quorn, which was registered at Commonwealth Headquarters in February. We are very pleased to have Miss Dennis as Lieutenant. Anne James is now company leader to the 2nd Quorn Guides (32 members), which has Bird patrols—Thrush, Swallow, Bluetit, Chaffinch and Kingfisher. Lesley Reid and Valerie Simpson are company leaders to the 3rd Quorn (38 members), which has flower patrols—White Rose, Daffodil, Fuchsia, Poppy, Primrose.

We have been very successful this year with Proficiency Badges. We have 2 Athlete, 4 Campers, 11 Child Nurse, 8 Cook, 8 First Aid, 2 Gymnast, 4 Homemaker, 1 Horsewoman, 2 Minstrel, 3 Needlwomen, 2 Pioneer, 10 Thrift and 1 Little House Emblem. We have 10 Second Class Guides, Christine Preston, Gillian Yendall and Judith Hickling have gained their First Class Badges and Anne James, Valerie Simpson, Lesley Reid and Shirley Welch their All-Round Cords. Anne James and Valerie Simpson are to be warmly congratulated on gaining the highest guiding honour of all, the Queen's Guide Badge. They are the first School Guides and the first Guides in the Division to achieve this distinction.

During August we had an enjoyable camp at Otterton, near Sidmouth in South Devon. Twenty-six Guides camped with several of the 1st Kenilworth Guides. This year we are having our own camp at Ashby Folville.

During the Autumn Term we took part in a district bazaar at Woodhouse Eaves, and a Rummage Sale in Quorn. In May we had a Spring Fair which was organised by the parents' social committee. In October and June we held parents' meetings for the presentation of our Queen's Guides' Badges by Miss Hazlerigg, our county commissioner.

In April we took part in the St. George's Day Parade in Loughborough. Susan Waterfield, Carole Woodward, Valerie Adams, Gillian Yendall, Shirley Tory and Pauline Henley formed our two colour parties.

We must congratulate Lesley Reid on getting as far as the short list for a place at the Icelandic International Camp.

We all heartily thank Miss Morris and Miss Dennis, without whose valuable help we should not be able to achieve our high standard and we shall always be in their debt for the value their knowledge is to us.

G.M.Y.

HOME THOUGHTS FROM QUORN

Oh, to be in Anstey, now that Winter's there
And whoever lives in Anstey finds, upon the branches bare,
That round and round like a twisted vine
Are the sheets and socks from the washing line,
While the cats emit a mournful miaow
In Anstey — now !

And after wind, when snowstorms follow,
And sore throats make it hard to swallow,
See, where the stranded cars lie on their sides
Deep in the drifts, with frost-encrusted cover;
While boys and girls—shouting along their slides—
Enjoy the fun; and wish it ne'er were over,
Though some with chilblains groan aloud and suffer
And wish that they were tougher !
And though the snow piles high and hopes soar, too,
Of days from school, the 'bus will still get through
To Rawlins school, where we must sadly go—
Far duller than a frolic in the snow !

C. Willett, Form IV.

BALLOONING

It was a perfect day for ballooning — clear and sunny with a nice breeze blowing from the south-east.

Oswald Fleazer and Professor Patterson (known as Patters) stood in the garden, surveying their apparatus, which was tethered to an apple tree. Inside the basket were four little picnic chairs, a rug, piles of sandbags and a cardboard box containing mackintoshes and sou-westers in case of rain. Pretty soon the Professor's nephew, Philip, came into the garden with a large picnic basket. When the balloon had been inflated, they got into their places and cast off, and "Belinda" rose into the air.

For the first half-hour they all watched the patchwork of the countryside below, but presently Patters sat down and began to concentrate on a problem, while Philip opened a book on the winter habits of slugs and snails. Oswald settled back in his chair, and soon, lulled to sleep by the gentle swaying of "Belinda," they all dozed off.

They had slept for about an hour when Philip woke up and noticed a salty smell in the air. He got up and, to his great dismay saw that the wind had changed and they were over the Solent. He woke the others, who were very cross, as they had wanted to be home in time for a Bach recital on the radio.

"We'll be over the Isle of Wight in a minute," said Oswald.

Suddenly a great gust of wind struck the balloon and jolted them off their seats, leaving them sitting a little dazed on the floor of the basket. As they sat recovering their breath, they noticed that water was seeping through the bottom of the basket. Oswald shot up.

"Heavens! We're on the sea! Quick! Throw out the sandbags!" he shouted.

They threw out the sandbags and the balloon rose up and floated peacefully towards the Isle of Wight. After recovering their breath, they let some gas out of the balloon and landed eventually on the beach at Sandown, much to the surprise of the holiday-makers.

After a quick snack of cockles and mussels, and a cup of tea, they began to wonder how to get back again. At last Oswald said: "Jack Lagros! You know my old friend Jack Lagros? He lives somewhere near here. I'm almost sure I've got his address in my pocket-book."

He fumbled about in his pocket and pulled out his old notebook and scrabbled through its grubby pages.

"Ah! Here it is! J. Lagros, 48, Newport Road, Sandown," he announced proudly.

They inquired where Newport Road was and were soon knocking at the door of number forty-eight. Presently an old gentleman opened the door and exclaimed in delight: "Oswald, old chap! How nice to see you! But what are you doing here?"

Oswald introduced Patters and Philip, and then explained their predicament.

"Well, come in! Come in!" said Jack.

They all had tea and toast and, borrowing some of Jack's pyjamas, they went to bed early.

The next morning, after breakfast, Jack telephoned a friend of his who had a lorry. Sam said he would take them and "Belinda" home, provided they paid for petrol, and the ferry fare, and, of course, a little over. So at nine o'clock that night they reached their homes, and I expect they had a jolly good rest.

Sandra Lucas, Form IIa.

TRIOLET

School exams which we dread
Are here once again.
We revise in our bed,
School exams which we dread
Make us wish we were dead,
Crying in vain,
"School exams which we dread
Are here once again!"

Jane Suffolk, Form III.

"ORPHEUS"

On March 17th and 18th the School presented its first attempt at an opera. The project was bound to be pronounced "too ambitious", and indeed, there was not much choice among the operatic repertoire for a school of our size with limited talent, but the time came when it was possible to consider a slightly modified version of Gluck's "Orpheus", with its three leading rôles and Chorus. The work grew till at length nearly everybody seemed to be concerned in it. Mrs. Diggle's part in clothing 42 people was not to be overlooked. Miss Milner had, early on in her acquaintance with us, to tackle some formidable requirements of stage décor and lighting, which she arranged with simplicity and effectiveness. Mr. Lowe was tireless in his help with the staging, and cheerfully constructed a tomb or a lyre to Miss Milner's design.

The curtains (working properly this time) parted first to disclose the choir, mainly of girls from the Middle School, in beautiful Greek costumes of blue and grey, grouped about a life-size tomb of 'alabaster'. The blue colouring was hazily repeated in muslin drapery above, an effect which had only been obtained by remorselessly repeated switchings and shadings of lights over two successive week-ends. The opening chorus introduced us at once to music of great beauty. Everyone admired the strewing ceremony, which showed even the most light-hearted girls with faces and gestures of improving sorrow and solemnity. The best part of that act was perhaps Carolyn Allen's lovely, unforced singing of *Orpheus'* arias, but it also included the entry of Amor, the god of Love, and some courageous singing by a very young performer, Mavis Bilton. The second act had cost us a great struggle to get the Chorus to sound *Furious*. Helped by three leading contortionists from Form III, it did succeed in being quite dramatic and was particularly well supported here by the orchestra. The opening of the third act was a more difficult proposition for the orchestra, in that it was to produce the atmosphere in which *Blessed Spirits* might be imagined to move. Seven dancers (several of whom we remember as fairies in "Endymion") sustained their parts in the ethereal ballet until joined by the Chorus in modified dress which now made them look like scarved Indian beauties of a paler tone. Now came a moment of real beauty when they sang with a Bach-like lift of

feeling (forgetful of all ghostliness, but one gladly sacrificed that shade of subtlety) their chorus, "By thy music's magic charmed", restoring Eurydice to her husband. So Valerie Holmes had her opportunity as Eurydice to make the most of expressive movements and appealing voice. We concluded with the triumphant chorus, "The god of Love hath prevailed", when Amor mounted, rather precariously, but without mishap, a set of steps, and once more held aloft his torch amid the muslin for the final curtain.

The music of even this short opera could not, of course, be mastered without a great deal of intensive and energetic work on the part of our Music Mistress, who could, however, rely on the help of Mr. Pinkett and his assistants and, as we must especially mention, Miss Elaine Hare, who accompanied at the piano. While aware of shortcomings, our audiences were very appreciative of any moments of satisfaction and pleasure the production was able to create, and among the feelings which remain are certainly those of gratefulness to Miss Wintle (as she then was) for making us more familiar with music of such rare beauty, music we shall want to hear again and again.

W.B.

SCHOOL EXPEDITIONS

Ballet.

On Thursday, January 29th, a party of fourth-formers visited Leicester to see the ballet company from London at the De Montfort Hall. We saw the Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy, from the "Nutcracker Suite", the 3rd Act of "Swan Lake", "Harlequinade", part of "Giselle" and the death scene from "Romeo and Juliet".

Science.

The day before the last of the Summer Term, a party of senior girls, studying science, went to Nottingham, where a day of lectures and exhibitions had been arranged in connection with the junior section of the British Association. Our girls chose to study a biological subject — the sense of direction in animals. They also saw three films of which the last, "The Rival World," was especially interesting.

Historical Expeditions.

At the end of the Summer Term various expeditions were arranged to places of historical interest. The first year visited Warwick Castle, where they were delighted to see many beautiful peacocks which spread their tails for their benefit. The afternoon was spent in Stratford-on-Avon and we had a pleasant river trip before a storm broke. The second year visited Southwell and learned a great deal from one of the minster staff, who kindly showed them the many beauties of the minster. Newstead Abbey and its lovely gardens made a very pleasant afternoon. The third year visited two magnificent houses in Derbyshire, Chatsworth and Hardwick. The fourth and fifth years in two groups visited Woburn Abbey where, after touring the abbey, many of them proceeded (Staff included!) to lose themselves in the maze, and to desport themselves on the putting green without noticeable success—again Staff included!

It is hoped that in addition to having an enjoyable day away from School, the girls did learn something of the glories of our historic buildings, and will visit others in their own time.

B.S.

Easter in Paris.

At Easter, four members of the Upper VI went to a course at the Lycée LaKanal, in Paris, organised by the Anglo-French Society of Birmingham. Katherine Richling rounded off the course by winning the second prize for prose composition.

Prefects Outing.

This year the prefects chose to go with Miss Oughton to Cambridge, and the three Lower Sixth prefects surprised us by breaking into verse on the way home, in honour of the day :

We boarded the bus at nine o'clock,
Along with the rest of the tasseled flock,
Separated from the élite,
We sat along the hindmost seat.

Much to our glee a wireless was found,
But when it was on we heard not a sound;
Our first stop was Leicester at 9-18,
To gather Miss Oughton into our limousine.
Despite the distractions we decided to read—
As exams. were near, we felt the need;
We arrived at 11-45,
Having had a very enjoyable drive.

We ate our dinner beneath a lime-tree,
Then we set out the sights for to see.
We visited Pembroke, Emmanuel and Clare
And saw the historic buildings there.

Also at Peterhouse, Trinity and Queen's
We duly admired the famous scenes.
Then we hired a punt, and were soon afloat,
Three paddles we had for a very full boat.

We twisted and turned, hit bridge and bank,
But finally got going before we sank.
We majestically glided along the Backs,
But we shipped so much water we needed our macs.

Drifting along beneath sunny skies,
It seemed like Venice with the Bridge of Sighs.
We raced the others back to the weir,
But they arrived first with one length clear.

Next we decided we wanted our tea,
So we ordered cakes enough for three.
All too soon we were forced to depart
From Cambridge's beauty, splendour and art,
But with much to remember; and all agreed
We had spent an enjoyable day indeed.

THE NEGLECTED MILL

Tall and gaunt is the water-mill,
Its warping timbers black with age;
The slatted wheel that's never still,
Churns the water in white-capped rage.
Like a thousand gems the water falls,
Into a crystal pool below;
And then along the moss-grown walls,
To join the current and the flow.
The wheel still turns with creak and groan,
Thrashing the waters of the rill;
Stark, black, aged and alone,
The tarred and sombre water-mill.

Frances Long, Form II.

SPEECH DAYS

This year the system of separate Junior and Senior Speech Days was reluctantly adopted. The day chosen for the Senior gathering was December 4th, when the guest of honour was Professor F. A. Vick, the eminent physicist from the University College of North Staffs.

Miss Sawdon recalled that it was ten years since her first Speech Day at the School. "I came in 1948," she said, "to a little school of 204 girls, of whom only 4 were to be in the Sixth and 22 in the Fifth. I once reckoned up that every girl of those 26 was in some team or other—whether she could play games or not; so you will realise that we didn't win many matches! A local farmer used to cut the field at three guineas a time. It didn't get cut very often. We had one lab.—the present Art room—and one Science teacher, Miss Oughton, whose first job was to roll up her sleeves and scrape the accumulated slime off the one sink. For the war years, and the uncertain period that followed when no-one quite knew what would happen to the School, had made it a very shabby place indeed. All the paint was chocolate-brown. Art used to go on in Room 7, with no equipment at all, and no sink. School dinners were in the Hall—we had to wipe the floor before we started gym—and the dinners were cooked in Room 5. At break, when the kitchen staff left, the Domestic Science mistress moved in, for that was our only provision for cooking. The library, which used to be in Room X, had fewer than 200 books. I know the English section only had 12 for I counted them whilst waiting for my interview. Indeed, it is almost true to say that the School had only two material things of any value—a grand piano and a set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. But it had one intangible asset—the spirit of the School—the most important thing of all."

Miss Sawdon then turned from her amusing reminiscences to more serious reflections on what she had learnt from ten years at Rawlins. She had found that the success of a girl's school career

was on the whole decided not by her mental gifts, nor the relative efficiency of the school she attended, but the quality of her home. A girl might have the highest intelligence, and excellent training, but if the influence of the home was not right she was rarely able to go far. The poor home had little to do with lack of money—it was the careless home, where parents did not see the danger of their own laxity, and wondered, when it was too late, why their girls did not do well at school. "You can't daydream," said Miss Sawdon, "about Tommy Steele and Elvis Presley, and expect to be very interested in Palmerston or Disraeli; or flip over the pages of glossy magazines and cheap fiction and expect to enjoy great literature; or chloroform your brains with hours and hours of television and still be able to follow the reasoning of Maths. and Science. In short you can't have it both ways."

At the other extreme there could be the over-anxious home, with parents who were too worried, too fussy, setting impossible targets, always pulling up the tender plants to see how the roots were growing. But fortunate was the girl from a home where wise discipline, reasonable restraints and an easy confidence between parent and child prevailed, and where spiritual values counted for more than material possessions.

Colonel Toller then introduced Professor Vick, who, before presenting the prizes, gave an address. As had been anticipated, we received from Professor Vick a wise and judicious estimate of the contribution which modern science has made and is yet to make to human welfare. He described science as "an imaginative venture of the human mind, seeking for truth in a world of mystery." It was not the only way, and was not capable of solving every problem. To some, indeed, it was the unique solution, but it was possible to apply scientific methods wrongly and inappropriately and Professor Vick gave an amusing example of an efficiency test that was applied to an orchestral concert, with absurd results. In the interests of truth, therefore, education should involve both the Arts and the Sciences. Old methods might not be adequate to new problems, and we must learn above all to think for ourselves instead of merely relying on what had been thought and done in the past.

After the presentation of prizes a vote of thanks to Professor Vick was proposed by Mr. Pell and seconded by the Head Girl.

In the course of the programme the School sang in unison Bach's "Come, let us all, this day" and the Senior Choir were heard again in Purcell's "Sound the Trumpet."

The Junior Prizegiving took place on May 28th, 1959, when the address was given and the prizes presented by Mrs. D. Moseley, who showed a kind interest in the school. The programme included three songs by the Junior School, and after the main part of the proceedings there was verse speaking, followed by an exhibition of dancing.

FROM THE MOUSE-HOUSE

The word "mice" strikes many people with terror and makes others recoil in disgust. But people who have come into contact with mice will assure you that they are lovable and easy to work with. There are some exceptions as in most animal species, but the majority are good-natured and friendly.

Mice can be of many different colours. We have a brown one, a blue-grey, a blue-grey and white, some cream and white and, of course, the very common white ones. They are kept in cages of many shapes and sizes, the bottoms of which are covered in sawdust. From the lab. come bulks of wood-wool for their nests.

At the moment we are trying out a new kind of food, concentrated mouse-food. This is in pellets which are economical and result in cleaner cages and less waste. The mice have water to drink. The containers are either the empty jars of cold cream which various people have supplied or the ink bottle and tube which has been fitted up in the labs. Besides their pellets the mice like greenstuff such as dandelions.

The object of keeping the mice is to see what different colours we can breed. We hope to get a new stock soon and start afresh with other strains.

I. Patrick, Form IVa.

THE ROAD TO DUBLIN FAIR

The trees were wearing the finest green,
The scent of blossom filled the air;
The small birds sang their roundelay,
On the road to Dublin Fair.

We saw two gypsies in the meadows,
They were indeed a happy pair;
Told our fortune for a penny,
On the road to Dublin Fair.

As we crossed the wooden bridge,
We stopped a while to stand and stare;
The colourful kingfisher flashed us a greeting,
On the road to Dublin Fair.

The sound of the roundabouts reached our ears,
And gaily we ran with never a care
For all the beauty we left behind
On the road to Dublin Fair.

Susan Whadcock, Form 1.

A LETTER FROM GERMANY TO "THE QUORNIAN"

Dear Friends,

This springtime, one of my long-cherished dreams came true: I had the chance to go to England. In February, our Ministry of Education in Stuttgart (Baden-Württemberg) sent the tempting invitation of the Educational Interchange Council in London for an England-course (study stay) for German Grammar School teachers. With an energetic "now or never" I tried to become one of the "selected herd" who should be sent across the Channel on an exploration trip to that mysterious isle at the fringe of Europe. Since more than twenty years I have been teaching my German pupils about Great Britain, her people, her language, economics and literature, philosophy and religion. I tried to understand Priestley's, Galsworthy's, and Barker's cleverly elaborated essays about the English character, schools, favourite pastimes, and so on. But all this has become like stale bread; it was only knowledge of the intellect—theory—without being seasoned by the savoury flavour of the vivid experience of the heart. It had almost become unbearable to repeat other people's experiences and opinions without testing them by my own observations and judgments based on a personal encounter with this country and its inhabitants. Therefore, when this offer mentioned above came, I accepted it like a shot and I was determined to remove all obstacles, especially the objections brought forth from the part of my own school here in Freiburg. But I succeeded in convincing my headmistress and my colleagues of the real necessity and the good results that this course might have for the benefit of our own school. So everybody helped me to make adequate arrangements for an extra leave of twenty-three days to go to England.

Now I may admit that I had some moments of discouragement and even uneasiness the nearer the day of my departure came. I was not frightened about the prospect of doing some sight-seeing in London or the stay at an Adult Residential College with the so-called introductory course. I had only to open my eyes and ears and let myself be passively imbued with the wonders of awe-inspiring sights and useful speeches about the English educational system or other aspects of English life and culture. But in a certain way I was thrilled with the idea of being sent to an English school as a guest-teacher, to stand on my own feet, and to get along there—would it not be like being thrown into a river, the currents and whirlpools being completely unknown to me? How would "they" accept me—the English colleagues and the girls? If I myself were "a failure," that means, if I could not find the right words, or if I were awkward in adapting myself to the habits and regulations of an English school which is in many ways so different from our German schools?

Still in London and then in Western House I looked on that sheet of paper containing the curriculum of my personal programme, and I read the name of the school where I should go: "Rawlins Grammar School" in Quorn, and on the 24th of April I

boarded the train at Leamington Spa for Loughborough. When I arrived there a wonderful thing happened : my compartment of the train just stopped where Miss Sawdon and Miss Veasey were standing with searching eyes along the train in order to pick me out of the "many passengers." From this very moment on all my fears and doubts melted away like snow in the sun. It was rather like meeting friends than strange people, and I felt myself safe. This feeling grew stronger when Miss Sawdon showed me around the School whose cosiness of the old and new buildings, refreshing lawns, trees and spring flowers, not to forget the nice meal which was served for me in the lunch-hall, made me feel at home.

Dear friends, it is no exaggeration saying that this hilarious harmony deepened every day I spent with you at your school, with the Veaseys in Syston, who accepted me as a member of their family, and with all the other people—members of the staff and parents of the pupils who invited me for delightful treats of a material and spiritual kind. I enjoyed everything: the trip from Syston to Quorn in the school bus, through the golden haze of the morning in an English spring; the sincere devotion of the morning service; it was a real pleasure being present at lessons of English or History listening to Miss Sawdon's painstaking and profound interpretation of Henry IV centring on Falstaff, and Miss Brown's lessons on English Poetry, which she brought to the hearts and minds not only by elaborated interpretation but by fascinating reading. Miss Sheldrake's and Miss Bowser's History lessons were so instructive for me that I hardly need any further preparation for my lessons on those particular chapters of English history. I enjoyed the interviews I had with members of your staff about other subjects and topics, such as Domestic Science with Mrs. Diggle, or girl-guiding in England, and on the duties and rights of the school prefects with Janet, the Head Girl. I was really impressed by what I had the chance to see of the artistic achievements in your school (in Music and Gymnastics). I shall never forget the performance of the Nutcracker-suite-ballet. I frankly admit I was every day looking forward to the breaks—coffee hour in the morning and tea-break in the afternoon where we all came together in the Domestic Science room not only for indulging in coffee or tea and cookies, but also for amicable chats. I relished at noon to have lunch with part of the staff and the girls. Dear friends, this feature of English school life was as completely a new experience for me as the ride in the school bus, the morning service, the school uniforms, and so on, and I assure you that I was really amazed about the quality and quantity of those meals, especially considering the little amount of money which is to be paid for it. I should not like to fail mentioning how much I enjoyed the active part in the school life and that I was even a little proud of it; I refer to the friendly gesture to give me the opportunity of doing some teaching. It really was a pleasure for me, and I am especially grateful for that.

But besides having the chance of sharing school life with my English friends, I had another wonderful experience : that of Eng-

lish family life. First of all I was taken care of by such a good family where I felt myself at home in the true sense of the word. In addition to that, upon my arrival at Quorn, Miss Sawdon presented me a schedule brimful with invitations from the part of members of the staff and pupils to their homes. A detailed enumeration of all the friendly and generous entertainments I had been offered, a real English tea with so wonderful and lively chats, or being taken on rides through the lovely countryside, or going with a family to an eventful theatre performance, all this would be too much here. But I may mention that this personal touch with so many families has revealed to me two features of the English people which were not yet known to me to this degree : hospitality and love of music and dramatic art.

May I conclude my letter to "The Quornian" with the expression of my deepest gratitude to all people who made my stay there such a happy success that will always let me feel one of yours.

Very sincerely yours,

Martha Ketterer.

GLORY IN THE NIGHT SKY

Darkness falls,
The crowd stands motionless, waiting, awestruck.
The wheels of fire go whizzing on their pins,
Tongues of golden flame leap from their brilliant fountains.
They vanish—whoosh ! into the dark night sky,
Trailing galaxies of stars.
Stars of dazzling colours tumble earthwards,
Crimson, yellow, green and silver stars
Lighting up the velvet sky with their fiery glow.
One wonders what the watchers think of,
As they gaze with starry eyes—
Of satellites, or space ships, or of flying meteorites ?
Long after the showers of golden, flashing sparks have ceased
to fall,
The acrid smells of soot and sulphur linger on the cold night
air.

Margaret Clark, Form III.

MUSIC NOTES

Our School orchestra is still growing in strength. We are lucky to have the valuable help of Mr. Pinkett and Mr. Neale, who come in weekly and patiently bear with our scrapings and squeakings. A number of our orchestra were chosen to go to Essen in the summer of 1958 with the County Youth Orchestra. The Essener Jugend Symphonie Orchester then paid us a visit in the Autumn term.

During the Autumn term the Senior School Choir was chosen to take part in a De Montfort Hall broadcast concert, and at Speech Day they sang one of the songs included in that programme. The

Choir and Orchestra took part in the annual Carol Service. At the Junior Speech Day in the Summer term the Junior Choir contributed several items.

The orchestra, as a result of its expansion, especially in the woodwind and brass sections, now occupies almost the same amount of room on public occasions as the rest of the School. In March, the "Military," as the wind section is familiarly referred to, entered in the County Music Festival. It being our first attempt, and a last-minute entry at that, we were not so successful as we had hoped, but we may have greater success next year.

The Record Club is also flourishing. Each week various people bring records, so we are able to hear a very wide selection. We are grateful to Miss Leigh for presiding.

The greatest musical achievement of the year was our first attempt at a School opera. "Orpheus and Eurydice," by Gluck, was enjoyed by all who took part in it and, we hope, by those who attended the performances. We have been fortunate indeed to have Mrs. Webb to help us in our pursuit of music. We are very sorry that she is leaving, but we hope our new music teacher will continue to advance our progress.

V.R.

FROM MY FRENCH DIARY, 1958

Friday, July 18th :

At 9.50 the London express drew in and we quickly found our reserved places. Exactly nine minutes later we were waving to Miss Oughton, who had come to see us off, and the train pulled out of Leicester Station. It was quite hot when we arrived at St. Pancras at 11.15 a.m. The boat train "Golden Arrow" left London at 12.30 and in three hours we were boarding the cross-channel steamer, the "Côte d'Azur." The boat left Folkestone harbour at 4.10 and at 5.20 p.m. we were climbing into the Paris train "Flèche d'Or." We arrived in Paris after a four-hour journey through the French countryside. The bus, to take us to the Lycée, which was to be our home for three days, was late and it was 10.0 when we left the Gare du Nord. It was strange but very exciting to travel on the right-hand side of the road and to see the people sitting at the pavement cafés. As we crossed Paris we saw many of the famous places which we were to visit later.

We arrived at the Lycée Michelet at 10.30 p.m. and after we had been given our rooms we had a meal, but many of us were too tired to eat much. It was about midnight before anybody went to sleep.

Saturday, July 19th :

Our first continental breakfast consisted of hot coffee and rolls, butter and "confiture" or jam, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

At 9.15 a coach arrived at the Lycée to take us on a tour of Paris. We saw the Louvre, Notre Dame, the position of the Bastille, the Statue of the Republic, L'Opéra and La Madeleine. We were

taken along the famous boulevard, Champs Elysées, and we stopped to walk around L'Arc de Triomphe. Under this monument was a continually burning flame in memory of soldiers killed in the war. We then continued our journey to Les Invalides. Inside this great building we saw Napoleon's tomb, and the tombs of his family and other military leaders.

After we had bought postcards, we were taken back to the Lycée for lunch.

In the afternoon we visited the Louvre. We travelled by the complicated underground, the Metro. At the Louvre we had to leave our cameras outside. We saw many statues and paintings including the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo. There were many Egyptian monuments and sphinxes.

We spent an hour in the Garden of the Tuileries close by, before we returned to the Lycée for dinner. After dinner we explored the gardens until it was 9.30 and time to be in the dormitory.

Sunday, July 20th :

In the morning we visited that famous monument, the Eiffel Tower. We travelled by Metro, and as it was very hot the Metro was very stuffy. We had only a small walk to the Eiffel Tower and after getting our tickets we were ushered into a large lift, which took us up to the second platform. The people below the Tower seemed only a few inches high! From the second platform we had a wonderful view of Paris. We could see Sacré Coeur in the distance and right up the River Seine. When we had taken some photographs and bought mementos, we descended by way of the lift and returned by Metro to the Lycée for dinner.

In the afternoon we visited Sacré Coeur and Montmartre (the artists' quarter). Sacré Coeur is built like an eastern mosque and when the sun shines on the white stone it looks marvellous. We went inside and saw that a service was being held. We walked around quietly and looked at the beautiful side chapels, statues, and stained glass windows depicting pictures from the Bible.

We then left Sacré Coeur and walked through the streets of Montmartre. Many artists had set up their easels on the pavements. We walked through many streets until we came to Pigalle, the area of Paris night clubs, Folies Bergères, Moulin Rouge and so on.

Before returning to the Lycée we ordered some wonderful iced pineapple juice at a pavement café.

At night we changed our dresses and went into the gardens where we met some French girls and boys. Fortunately they spoke some English!

We went to bed very tired after another very full and interesting day.

Monday, July 21st :

In the morning we visited Ile de la cité, the island in the middle of the River Seine. The first place we visited was the famous church of Notre Dame. Inside were beautiful side chapels, paintings and the rose windows, which are 40 feet across and have never been broken. From Notre Dame we went to Sainte Chapelle, which was built by Louis XIV to house the crown of thorns which was brought from Palestine. The roof of Sainte Chapelle was decorated with blue, embossed with gold fleur de lys, and had twelve huge, magnificent windows. The people of Paris used to gather together in Sainte Chapelle and the King would show them his jewels and treasure.

After leaving Sainte Chapelle we visited the Conciergerie. This was the old prison of Paris and Marie Antoinette and Robespierre were imprisoned there. In the next room to the cell, where the prisoners waited before their execution, were many historic things—the guillotine blade and steps and the tablecloth and last message of Marie Antoinette.

In the afternoon we went by train to Versailles. We walked to the palace of Versailles, which was the home of the Kings of France. We entered the palace by the hall, richly decorated with gilt, and then walked through the rooms of different Gods, the King's and Queen's rooms and the famous Hall of Mirrors. As the heat made the rooms rather stuffy we were glad to go into the beautiful gardens. We saw the sunken orangery planted with all kinds of fruit trees. Hundreds of tons of soil had been taken from the orangery to make the terrace, so that the king could walk on the terrace in a more elevated position than anyone else. In the gardens were masses of beautifully-coloured flowers, fountains, lawns and a big lake.

After walking round the garden for an hour we returned to the Lycée for dinner at 7 o'clock.

At night we packed our suitcases, ready for our journey to Tours early next morning.

Tuesday, July 22nd :

After an early breakfast we all climbed into a coach and were taken to Gare d'Orléans. The two guides we had had in Paris came to the station to see us off.

The journey was quite pleasant, but after a very short time some of us had backache, caused by the wooden seats of the train. We arrived at Tours at 11-40, just two and a half hours after we had left Paris. A coach was waiting at the station to take us to the Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs at St. Cyr, three miles out of Tours.

When we arrived at the Ecole, which was near the River Loire, we were given our rooms and then we had a very nice lunch. The only other party staying there were some French girls from the Pyrenees.

We spent the afternoon unpacking, reading books, enjoying sweets and talking or comparing notes. We had dinner at 7-30 and afterwards explored the grounds of the Ecole. We found that they were not so extensive or well-kept as those at the Lycée. We were all in bed by 10-0, but we were talking long after that time.

Wednesday, July 23rd.

We all decided that as we had a free morning we would go for a walk. We walked up the road, away from the river and St. Cyr. I noticed that the countryside was quite different from the English countryside. The fields were very flat and they had no hedges by the roadside. Vines and fruit trees were growing right beside the roadway. It took us about an hour to reach Fonduettes, which we discovered was only a tiny village. After a short rest we started our return journey and to forget our aching feet we decided to sing. It took us just over half an hour to get back to the Ecole, where we rested on our beds until lunch.

After lunch we went on a tour of Tours. We visited the cathedral and the Roman arena, or rather the circular wall which is all that is left. The cathedral is Gothic and has some beautiful glass windows. Some, which were broken in the war, have been replaced by modern ones. We then visited the Museum gardens and saw a stuffed elephant which belonged to a circus years ago.

After dinner we were taken to see the Château de Chenonceaux floodlit. This château is built over a river and as we stood on the terrace a record telling the history and a pageant was played. At the same time coloured lights flashed on to the château. The pageant finished about 11-30 and it was after midnight when we arrived back at the Ecole.

Thursday, July 24th.

After breakfast we were all given a picnic lunch as we were going to spend the whole day visiting châteaux. The first château we visited was the Château de Chaumont. After climbing up a long, steep drive we entered the courtyard by a drawbridge. The Château de Chaumont was once a fortress and was later converted into a castle. In many of the rooms were tapestries, paintings and stained glass windows but there was not much furniture.

The second château we visited was the Château de Blois. Above the gateway was a gilt statue of Louis XIV on horseback. We had an English-speaking guide at this château. He told us that it was really five in one. We walked up the famous double staircase of Henry III and entered the second floor.

We stopped at a village inn for lunch. We had chops, rolls, hard-boiled eggs, cheese and oranges, all of which we ate with our fingers in primitive style!

After our enjoyable lunch we continued our journey to the Château de Chambord. This is famous for its architecture. On the roof is built a miniature village of towers and turrets. We were told that the Court used to spend most of its time on the roof watching hunts and military manoeuvres in the surrounding countryside.

The last château we visited on Thursday was the Château de Cheverny. This château is inhabited, so we were only allowed to visit five rooms, including the guard room, in which was a chain-mail coat guaranteed ladderproof. All the rooms were beautifully furnished.

We then returned to the école for dinner, after which we walked round the grounds and talked to the friends we had made.

Friday, July 25th.

As we had no planned outing in the morning we decided to walk to Fondettes again, but taking another road, which proved to be very much longer than the first. We walked about six miles that morning and our only reward was blisters.

After lunch we boarded a coach to take us to three châteaux, the last three that we should visit. The first château was at Langeais. From the outside it looked fortress-like, owing to the fact that it was built in a hurry, taking only ten years!

We crossed the drawbridge and waited for a guide to take us around the château. Here they had an English commentary on tape which could be heard in all the rooms. Each room was furnished as it was when the château was used as a fortress and home. We were then taken round the ramparts high above the streets. This was the château I enjoyed most of all.

The second château we visited was the Château d'Azay le Rideau, which is supposed to be the most perfect as it is all one style of architecture and was designed by a woman. In the kitchen were all the old cooking utensils and fire grate about three centuries old. We noticed that many of the plain windows had pieces of coloured glass, which had been taken from ruins of churches.

The third château we stopped at was the Château of Villandry. This is the private house of a Spanish doctor, so we could not go inside. However, we were allowed to see the beautiful gardens, restored to their original styles as in the sixteenth century. In the vegetable garden were only vegetables of the sixteenth century. The gardens were made of bushes cut into various symbols.

We then returned to the école for dinner and afterwards we played table tennis in the gymnasium until bedtime.

Saturday, July 26th.

Our last day in France! Saturday had been left free for us to do last-minute shopping. After breakfast we obtained a bus timetable and decided it would be best to go into Tours in the afternoon. During the morning we did some packing, helped each other to find misplaced books and made notes for our diaries.

When we arrived in Tours we split up into small groups to do our shopping. We walked down the main street and went into the big stores such as "Monoprix" and "Aux dames de France." All three of us in my group managed to buy nearly all our gifts from these shops. We then returned to the large square which was the bus terminus. We arrived back at the école at 5-30 and so we had plenty of time to wash and change in time for dinner.

Sunday, July 27th.

After an early breakfast we collected our luggage and got into a waiting coach to take us to Tours station. The train soon pulled in and we quickly found our reserved seats. We had been given a similar packed lunch to the one we had when we visited the châteaux. At 9-0 the train pulled out of Tours station en route for Paris, where we arrived at 12-0. On the platform at the Gare d'Orléans were our two guides. They accompanied us to a waiting coach and gave us another packed lunch. We crossed Paris, recalling the places we had visited, arriving at the Gare du Nord with about an hour to spare.

As the train slowly left the station we waved to our guides who had been so helpful and kind to us, and strained to see our last glimpse of Paris. We soon began to feel hungry so we decided to eat our packed lunch.

We had quite an enjoyable journey, although the sun was not shining. We arrived at Boulogne at 4-20 and joined a queue to go through the customs, before we proceeded to the cross-channel steamer "Canterbury." The "Canterbury" left Boulogne at 5-55 p.m. and we docked at Folkestone at 7-40 p.m. At the customs we had to declare all that we had bought, but no-one had to pay customs duty. We had over an hour to wait at St. Pancras because the train did not leave until 11-50 p.m. I remember crossing the Thames bridge just after midnight, but then I must have dropped off to sleep because the next thing I remember was stopping at Kettering. I was still feeling sleepy when the train pulled into Leicester station at 2-30 a.m. on Monday morning.

So ended our wonderful ten days' holiday in France—a holiday that we shall remember for the rest of our lives.

Elizabeth Freer, Form VL.

GYPSIES

Long ago the gypsies came,
To wander o'er the lea;
From Egypt and Rumania,
They sailed across the sea.

Their hair and skins were dark as night,
Their clothes were bright and gay;
In their ears were golden rings,
And they sang along the way.

One would play a fiddle,
And one a tambourine;
And the others danced a merry dance,
Upon the village green.

They would not stay in any place,
But roamed the countryside;
In caravans, by horses drawn,
They travelled far and wide.

And now at nights they gather round
The campfire blazing high;
And the gypsies work and sing their songs,
Under the starlit sky.

The old ones sit upon the steps
To make their flimsy lace;
The flickering firelight glinting
Upon each wrinkled face.

Some make wooden clothes pegs,
To sell another day;
Knocking upon each cottage door,
They pass along the way.

They wander always through the world,
A people proud and free;
And oft around the campfire tell
How they came from o'er the sea.

Carol Murray, Form IIa.

TRIOLET

Just to laze in the sun,
For almost a year,
So that nothing was done;
Just to laze in the sun.
Neither working nor fun,
Sorrow nor cheer;
Just to laze in the sun,
For almost a year.

Susan Goodman, Form III.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Chairman: JANET ARCHER.

Secretary: JUDITH LONG

Treasurer: KATHERINE RICHLING

The S.C.M. is now firmly established in the School, and that the numbers have greatly increased is mainly due to the large number of fourth formers who have joined this year. This has led to the formation of two discussion groups—Senior and Junior—which meet on alternate Mondays.

During the year we have had a number of meetings after school, including very interesting talks by Miss Rattenbury on her work as probation officer for this area, Dr. K. Thompson on the work of B.E.L.R.A., and Rev. B. Underwood on his work as Diocesan Youth Chaplain. In the Autumn term we had an inter-school meeting when a representative was sent from London to speak on Inter-church Aid for Refugees. This we have followed up by sending money to Hong Kong to help the work there. This money was raised by holding a Scottish Dance and by S.C.M. members making and selling sweets and biscuits.

This year there have been a number of outings. In the Autumn term we visited Melbourne Hall in Derbyshire and Breedon Church. In the Spring a few of our members visited Wanlip Church, where some successful brass rubbings were taken. During the Summer term there was a very enjoyable outing to Oxford, where we visited several of the colleges.

None of this enterprising programme would have been possible without the valuable guidance of Miss Bowser. We should like to thank her for all the work she has done to make the S.C.M. a success.

J.C.L., J.M.A.

TRIOLET

Come and look at our meat,
All sinew and fat!
It's not fit to eat,
Come and look at our meat.
Our butcher's a cheat,
'Tis not fit for the cat;
Come and look at our meat,
All sinew and fat!

Hazel Jones, Form III.

OUR VILLAGES

6. Barkby

The first mention of Barkby in history takes us back to 20 years after William of Normandy landed at Hastings. In 1085 at the Christmas Assembly it was decided to carry out a survey of England. A group of royal officers visited Barkby, then known as Barchberi, and the records were so accurate that a similar survey was not made for the next 200 years.

The church records tell us that Francis Foe died here in 1662. He was related to the famous Daniel Defoe. The chief family of Barkby is the Pochins. In the reign of Henry VIII William Pochin was said to be trained to shoot with bow and arrow and spears. From that time to the present day a Pochin has resided in the village. Victor Robert Pochin, Esq., C.B.E., M.A., D.L., J.P., is well-known in the County of Leicester today. He will be 80 years of age this year and he is the last of the Barkby Pochins, being a bachelor. He has no heirs to carry on his name, but the beautiful village of Barkby may itself die in any case, if the Leicester City Council decides to take over.

Barkby remains almost entirely the original old village, with the exception of about a dozen new council houses and a village hall. It has a large church of unusual interest. Most of the architecture is Early English, including the windows, which give a fine display of Early English tracery. In eight windows there are seven different designs in the stonework and two or three have never been reproduced elsewhere. There is one low side window in the chancel which is closed by an original shutter, which is very unusual. A wooden door in the church tower leads to the belfry, where each Sunday a team of young bellringers ring the six bells, one of which dates from before the Reformation. Also in the belfry is a fine set of handbells, which are only used at Christmas, for carol-singing.

Barkby has two hamlets—Barkby Thorpe and Hamilton. Barkby Thorpe has about a dozen houses and Hamilton has only three, for it was destroyed by the Black Death. Someone once described driving from Hamilton to Barkby Hall—"Go past the ancient fields of Hamilton, a now deserted village, past the loveliest cricket ground in Leicestershire, along the pebble drive and past the tumbling cedar branches, and you arrive at that vast Georgian edifice, Barkby Hall."

There is not much amusement in the village except for the Youth Club and the Evergreen Club. For the sporting type there is, of course, a football club and a cricket club. The cricket pitch is noted to be the finest in Leicestershire and every Saturday in summer the villagers see men in white on its smooth green. There is an occasional dance in the village hall.

The main occupation at Barkby is farming of all kinds. Some have mixed farming and others breed sheep or dairy cows. The two industries are the shoe factory and the engineering firm, which used to be an old forge where farmers brought their cart-horses' shoes to be repaired.

There are two shops in the village, one the Post Office and the other a mixed store. They are both situated near the brook which winds in and out, one at each end of the village.

Maureen Marriott, Form II.

TRIOLET

He was out for a duck,
First ball of the match;
It was such rotten luck,
He was out for a duck.
But his bat had got stuck,
Stuck to one patch;
He was out for a duck,
First ball of the match.

Christine Webb, Form III.

MAY

The butterfly weather is here to stay,
For this is the lovely month of May;
And the lark soars up o'er the meadow each day,
And the cuckoo sings in tune

The thrush sits and preens his speckled breast;
The wagtail shakes his piebald crest;
And the wasp comes out in his yellow vest,
With the honey-bee at noon

The roses show their fragrant heads;
The pansies sigh in the flower-beds;
And the creosote smells on the garden sheds,
And time floats on into June

Susanne Horrod, Form II.

M.J. & V.M. SEAL
'VINE COTTAGE'
29 CASTLEDINE STREET
QUORN
LEICS. LE12 8DW
Tel: QUORN 412219