

THE SILURIAN



VOL. XX.

MAY 1969

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THE SILURIAN

VOLUME XX.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRECON BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

PRESIDENT : The Headmaster, Mr. Aneurin Rees, M.Sc.

GENERAL EDITOR : Mr. A. R. Williams.

SPORTS EDITOR : Mr. P. O. J. Rowlands.

TREASURER : Mr. L. C. Moses.

EDITORIAL.

IN an age of phrenetic agitation for freedom of expression it never ceases to amaze us that our own Sixth Formers are so loth to commit themselves in print over anything, unless cajoled into so doing by those whose time could be better spent. Invited at the commencement of the present school year to contribute to this magazine their opinions and suggestions concerning the reform of school and society based on their criticisms of the existing state of affairs inside and outside the School (and even elected into a Committee to do so), they have failed to produce even the essential comment for this page alone. Whereas this has afforded a possibly welcome relief from the semi-satirical sallies of past years, it would have been nice to have something, however revolutionary, activist or iconoclastic, in its place.

AETAS PARENTUM PEIOR AVIS (*Horace*).

IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL.

THE interior of the school was completely re-decorated during the summer vacation and although some of the colour schemes looked at first rather startling they have on the whole proved acceptable and refreshing. Our thanks to the Architect's Department and their contractors for a really thorough job.

LAST September we were delighted to welcome our exchange teacher, Mr. M. W. Nevin, from Colorado Springs, who has for this year undertaken the duties of Mr. Peter Evans as Art Master during the latter's visit to Mr. Nevin's own school.

WE were also pleased to welcome Mrs. Margaret Jinks as a new member of the Maths Department in place of Mr Graham Roblin and hope she will remain with us indefinitely. Miss Eira Lloyd has now become a full time member of our staff, sharing the work in the departments of French and English.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alistair Morgan and R. A. C. Davies on becoming Queen's Scouts and to being chosen to represent County Scouting and Youth Organisation, respectively at the Investiture of H.R.H. Prince Charles as Prince of Wales.

WE very much regret the departure of Mr. J. F. Lee to a new post in Swansea. His wholehearted participation in all aspects of school life and in a short time earned him the affection as well as the respect of students and staff. We wish him every success and happiness in his future career and in his family life.

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Martyn Farr, the most enthusiastic of our resident speliologists, on his discovery of a new and interesting cave on the Llangynidr Mountains.

WE were grateful, during the Autumn term, for the services of Mrs. Stella Powell as the first of the school's Laboratory Assistants. In recent months, Mr John Giles, though no match in glamour, has deputised in his usual thorough way.

THEATRE visits have this year been again enthusiastically supported. In September, Fifth and Sixth Forms much appreciated a performance of Shaw's "The Devil's Disciple" at the Bristol Old Vic. A

small party of Sixth Formers accepted an invitation from the Girls' School to accompany them to see "Much Ado About Nothing" at Stratford in October. Most of the Sixth enjoyed the Welsh Theatre Company's production of Shaw's "Candida" in the Guild Hall at the beginning of December. Both Fifth Forms travelled to Cardiff after school on 16th January to take advantage of the Cardiff Everyman Theatre's presentation of "Macbeth" at the Institute of Science and Technology. As some sort of climax Sixth Form English students visited Birmingham on 16th April for a matinee performance of "Hamlet" in which Richard Chamberlain played the title role.

SIXTH Form Societies have been continued despite occasional climatic calamities and a natural reluctance on the part of younger members to expose their talents before the always critical audience. Debates have been lively ; Paul Stuelb, Anthony Woodcock and Owen Davies have contributed individual programmes on music and hobbies ; the Dean of Brecon and Rev. David Mann have addressed the assembly on religious questions of the day and brought along a stimulating film on Chistian Aid ; Mr. Gerwyn Morgan, Assistant I.T.A. Officer for Wales and West of England, gave a most informative lecture on the operation of Independent Television.

CHESS, 1968-69.

At the beginning of this year, the chess club suffered a great setback, when Mr. Roblin, its organiser for many years, left to take up a similar post in Abergavenny, leaving a vacancy which was kindly filled by Mr. Nevin. However, after an uncertain start, the club has been in full swing during the past three terms, actively supported by ninety members. One of the major events of the first term was a general meeting during which the captain, secretary, treasurer and other officials were elected.

This season the chess team has not played many inter-school matches, but succeeded in reaching the quarter finals of the Welsh Secondary School's Chess Association Tournament, after defeating teams from Abergavenny (5 points to 1), Cyfarthfa (5 points to 1), but finally losing to a strong St. Iltyd's side.

The School also competed in the Victor Freed and Junior Miles Board tournaments at Cardiff High School. The performance of the teams did not come up to expectation, as they achieved only fourth and sixth places in their respective tournaments.

However, several successful internal school competitions were held, and the enthusiasm shown by members of the junior forms leaves us in no doubt that chess will continue to flourish in the future.

R. J. RYAN AND T. L. ROYDS, U6.Sc.

THE MUSIC MAKERS.

THE British film "IF" will have the sympathy of every schoolboy who will doubtless see himself bring machine-guns into the Staff Room and hurling grenades into the Headmaster's study. The film didn't deal with the musical aspects of the rebellious school ; the only sign seen is "Jazz is strictly prohibited in this school," and any would-be Duke Ellington would have to freak out in the games field. A small band of very talented players from the school orchestra played with great zest and noise in an "Old Music Hall" variety show before Christmas. Cat calls and shouting from the audience were all the rage and the pit led rowdiness, disguised in very hairy, unruly mustaches and sideboards. This "harmonious band of frivolous music makers" (just one of the names given to us during the evening) played from 7 p.m. until nearly midnight with frequent refreshments. By this time false mustaches had floated away in a stream of sweat, "Tuba" Lewis had to be revived three times, and "Daddy wouldn't buy me a bow-bow" wasn't sounding itself.

Again, some of the more advanced players went on the Mid-Wales Orchestra course, held in Brecon this year. The general standard of the orchestra was feeble and it tended to lack a certain liveliness and enthusiasm which you would expect in a Youth Orchestra. The standard should be much better this year if a little careful weeding is done and the policy of "quality not quantity" is adopted. The orchestra last year (meeting at Llandrindod) was quite remarkable. The members seemed to thrive on parties until the small hours and still manage to produce a decent sound throughout the day. Many stories are still told of that course when the standard was high and so were the players. This year's course is to be held at Aberystwyth and I highly recommend these courses for aspiring musicians.

The highlight of the School Concert was, perhaps, "Tuba" Lewis's great musical feat when that remarkable virtuoso, resembling his instrument more than anyone else I know, practically disappeared behind the tuba and with great gusto produced a tremendous "Forty Fathoms" in all its profound glory.

Allan Davies, who is very professional in his approach, played two movements from the very beautiful Pergolesi oboe concerto with great musicianship and pride. Other notable soloists included Mark Kenny, P. D. Jones, Donald Abbot and M. Fraser, J. Mcreadie, Owen and John Davies, and a very highly strung Geoffrey Tomlinson.

The concert didn't open with the orchestra's strong point (the best always comes last) but perhaps the great noise in "The Tumblers" hid the mistakes. The orchestra came into its own in "Carmen" and "Rosamunde" and carried the audience off in the final piece, "Scheherezade." It is impossible to include comments on every item, but Mr. Beddows's conducting did much to prevent chaos,

and generally everything started and ended together. I was singing in the choir so that I can vouch only for an extremely melodious and intelligent tenor section, but reliable witnesses tell me that the whole choir was of this standard. Roger Jinks led the brass which are always very strong, but unfortunately the strings don't quite match them in size or sound. Music isn't the tedious, highbrow thing it's often considered to be and I hope more people take greater interest in school music which, in Mr. Beddows's words, is a "laugh."

A. WOODCOCK, VI.B Arts.



SPEECH DAY, 1969.

THE guest speaker at this year's Speech Day ceremony in the hall of the Secondary Modern School was Mr. J. H. Powell, General Manager of the British Steel Corporation's R.T.B. Division at Ebbw Vale. Mrs. Powell presented the prizes and certificates.

In his address Mr. Powell strongly advised students to spend some time outside Wales before settling down in their chosen careers in Wales or elsewhere. This would prevent the development of a narrow outlook and a feeling of complacency.

In the course of his annual report the Headmaster, Mr. Aneurin Rees, was able to tell parents that the School had begun the current year with a record number of 393 pupils, with 83 in the Sixth Form and 56 continuing their studies in the Fifth Form. This year the Headmaster laid particular stress on the important part played by sport in the life of the School and in the formation of character in education in general.

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Head Boy, Alistair Morgan, made a short speech of welcome. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Governors (Mr. J. V. Like) and a vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Mr. E. R. Morgan and seconded by Col. P. F. Miles.

The Musical Interlude, contributed by Mr. Beddows and the steadily increasing and improving School Orchestra, consisted of Rimski Korsakov's "Dance of the Tumblers" and "Get Me to the Church on Time" from "My Fair Lady".

SPECIAL PRIZES for 1968-69.

- Jacob Morgan Merit Prize.....Robert Davies and Paul Geehan
Headmaster's Prize and Garnet Morris Prize.....Brian A. Williams
Douglas Mason Music Prize Roger A. Jinks
David Lewis Welsh Prize.....Alan S. Davies

EVENING BY THE SEA

The breeze feels calm,
The soft air cool ;
The sand's lost charm
Has died anew.
Gnats flie out,
Marsh frogs croak ;
Dusk is falling all about.

Cars return
From mountain roads ;
Lamps lights burn
In our abodes.
Sounds of sea,
Sounds of night,
Sounds of marshbirds put to flight.

Moon comes out,
Moths are flying ;
Plane goes over,
Lambs start crying.
Sea beats pebbles—
Pebbles chatter ;
Seagull wakes up, "What's the matter ?"

Group returns
From twilit beach ;
No one stirs
No one turns.
Last as always
To retire—
"Brr ! It's cold. Is there a fire ?"

Sky clouds over,
Moon goes in ;
Fox calls out
"Come home !" to kin.
"Dawn is coming,
Time for rest,"
Seagull calling from her nest.

CUFF.

MR. JACOB MORGAN, M.A.

WE were all sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Jacob Morgan, Headmaster of the school from 1929-1954. He had been ill for a long time but had borne all his suffering with typical optimism, cheerfulness and patience.

Old Boys and those of us who had the privilege of working under him will retain happy memories of him for not only was he a kindly man who did many good deeds without advertising them, but he also had the happy gift of being able to control the school with the lightest of hands in such a way that everyone felt he was a member of a family.

He was a mathematician of distinction and a very able teacher. He was also an enthusiast for outside activities and it is still easy to conjure up the past and see him guarding the goal in a Staff v. Boys. Soccer match or batting and bowling with no little skill in a Staff v. Boys Cricket match. Added to all this he was throughout his life in Brecon a pillar of his chapel and a faithful supporter of all good causes.

All who knew him will remember him with affection and gratitude

J.H.W.

MR. DAVID LEWIS, M.B.E.

Chairman of Breconshire Education Committee from 1952 to 1968

MR. David Lewis entered the Brecon Boys' Grammar School in the fourth year of its existence, when the school was then at Dr. Coke's in Lion Street.

I think it is quite true to say, that Mr. David Lewis was dedicated beyond measure to the development of Education, throughout the County, in the Primary, Secondary and Further Education Fields. He was a man who never spared himself in his devotion to the work of the Education Committee and even after a serious illness he returned quickly to work. His main endeavour always, was to see that everything possible was done to promote Education in his beloved County and at the Welsh Joint Education Committee.

His interests were not merely confined to Education, but included church life, farming, social welfare and community services ; and he was also Chairman of the Welsh Joint Agricultural Committee.

Mr. David Lewis during his sixteen years as Chairman, with the assistance of his committee and official staff, accomplished much in the County's Educational Field.

In Brecon alone, we saw the development of the Penlan Site which resulted in the building of a new Boys' Grammar School ; a new Brecon Secondary Modern School ; the Penlan Playing Fields, and last but not least in the eyes of Mr. David Lewis, the building of Coleg Howell Harris or what is now sometimes called the R.T.I.

E.B.P.

BAND CONCERT, JULY 1968.

A MOST enjoyable concert was given to the School by the Band of the 1st Battalion of the Welch Regiment. The various items were introduced by the Bandmaster, Mr. D. Dawson, and the programme gave individual musicians a chance to show their ability. As the Band had only returned from Hong-Kong a few days before, and instrument and music had barely arrived, Mr. Dawson expressed doubts as to the scope of the programme and the state of the lips of the brass players. However, his fears proved unjustified, as was shown in items such as "A Night at the Opera" (a selection of opera melodies), the Overture "Orpheus in the Underworld" a version of "The Wild Horsemen," for six trumpets, and the most popular item "The Post-Horn Gallop."

The vote of thanks was given by R. Jinks, VI.Sc., who hoped that the school musicians would take heart from this performance.



EISTEDDFOD YR YSGOL.



CYNHALIWD Eisteddfod yr Ysgol unwaith eto ar y Dydd Gwener olaf o Fis Bach. Llywydd y dydd ydoedd Maer Aberhonddu, sef Mr. Mervyn Jenkins. Yn ei araith soniodd am ei adeg ef yn yr ysgol ac, yn enwedig, am yr eisteddfod fel yr oedd. Da ganddo oedd gweled fod yr eisteddfod wedi tyfu mewn maint ac mewn amrywiaeth. Y ddau feirniad eleni eto ydoedd Mr. Tom Richards a Mrs. Ogwen Thomas, y naill, fel arfer, yn llawn arabedd a'r llall yn ddawnus gynnwl.

Gan mai hanner diwrnod o eisteddfod a gafwyd llynedd meddyliodd rhai bod yr eisteddfod bron a chwythu ei phlwc. Dim o'r fath beth! Eleni bu'r diwrnod yn rhy fyr iddi. Cafwyd cystadlu brwd ac amrywiol o'r bore bach a rhaid, gan mor niferus y cystadleuthau, ydoedd brysio'n annifyr tua'r diwedd. Erbyn hyn odid nad oes adran yn yr ysgol na rydd ei chyfraniad i'r wyl ac, efallai, yn y dyfodol agos gwelir helaethu eto yn hytrach na chwtogi ar hyd yr eisteddfod.

Annheg byddai nodi unrhyw enillydd na chystadleuaeth; 'r oedd rhyw arbenigrwydd iddynt i gyd. Uchafbwynt yr eisteddfod yn ddiau ydoedd ceremoni Cadeirio'r Bardd. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf y mae'r ddefod hon wedi magu mwy o apel ac uradas. Roedd cymaint a deg yn cystadlu eleni, y cyfan wedi ysgrifennu cerddi hirfaith a theilwng. Bob blwyddyn ceir beirniadaeth wir orchestol ar y gweithiau barddonol ac mae'n rhaid cydnabod bod hyn yn ychwanegu'n ddirfawr at werth yr eisteddfod.

Cafwyd diwrnod difyr iawn.

THE ART OF COLLEGE GOING.

A number of sixth formers will be leaving school this summer to go to various colleges. I have been asked to advise and comment on these institutions from the point of view of the new comer.

Most colleges organise what is called a Fresher weekend or week, to let the newcomer know what he is letting himself in for. The Union organises your entertainment and generally introduces you to life at college. The first week is taken up with various dances, sing-songs, organised tours of the area, and various films. The student also registers in his department and has a medical check up. A word of warning here to those of you who are slow workers. The Union organises various "fresher" dances to introduce fresher "birds" to fresher "fellers." However, at the end of the first week, the "new" birds are thrown open to all comers, and second and third year boys are not slow to make the most of the chances. Boys in universities in particular should remember that boys outnumber girls by almost two to one. Fortunately, the situation is not so bad for those of you who are going to certain Teacher Training Colleges, where, I believe the situation is approximately reversed.

All colleges are very short of suitable accommodation for their students. Most colleges try to get their "freshers" into hall for at least one year, and this poses a completely new set of problems for the newcomer. If you are lucky enough to get into a Hall of Residence, for your first year, which is strongly advised, the more sensitive newcomer may feel a little lost. The way to get over this is to remember that most of the second and third year boys are also new in Hall, not having been in before. You soon get into the routine, and by the beginning of the second week you feel quite an old hand.

Meals in college are generally well cooked, fairly well varied, and very cheap. The one possible criticism is that they may lean too heavily in the direction of chips with everything, no doubt in response to popular demand. The rooms are clean, comfortable and carefully planned to give the maximum amount of space. Most halls have cooking and cleaning facilities. The first few weeks will enable the student to realise that he is leading a completely different and much more independent life than ever before, and he has to learn to discipline himself properly so that he does not fall too far behind with his work. This is not so much difficult as mountainous and time-consuming, but a student who works fairly hard should be able to keep up.

New students are well advised to consider the number and the nature of the clubs they join. These will be of a bewildering variety. Clubs cater for every range of interest from fencing to rugby, from fishing to mountaineering, motor rallying, ping-pong championships, swimming, sailing, rowing and debating. Debating societies and departmental societies are musts to join. The fresher should beware of extremist societies such as the anarchists. Many new students think that the anarchists must be an exceptionally good drinking

society. It takes time to realise that they really mean what they are saying.

This brings me to another point. When you enter a college, you will automatically join the third largest union in the nation. Students take their local politics seriously. A local university branch of the Students' Union handles close on £50,000 a year in revenue from students' enrolment fees alone. These fees are paid by the County Councils, and are allocated by the union mainly to sports and social activities. The policies of this Union are formed by students as a General Body, and the elected officers of the Union responsible for representing student interests to the administration staff.

Recent, widely publicised campaigning has brought a greater degree of student participation in deciding their own fate. However, this new responsibility must be used wisely by the students. New students should support the Union by attending General Body meetings and voting for the proposals which they think are best. Some sections of students are more politically active than others, and small attendances at these meetings has occasionally led to unnecessary militant action, sometimes against the wishes of the main body of students.

Consequently, going to college is a new and exciting experience. You will be completely independent to run your whole life. Work hard and enjoy yourself to the utmost of your ability and you cannot go far wrong.

RHYS JEFFREY JONES, University College, Swansea.



PENLAN Y.F.C. REPORT, 1968-69.

Club Leaders : Dr. W. Williams and Mr. I. Bowen.

Chairman : A. J. Thomas. Vice-Chairman : G. D. M. Watkins.

Treasurer : S. R. Davies.

With the unusually high intake of the Lower Sixth Biologists, the membership of the club has again received a boost, enabling it to enter many of the winter competitions. A team consisting of R. G. Thomas, A. J. Thomas and G. D. M. Watkins received the Talgarth Cup, while others team each did well in the various prizes and reading competitions.

Club meetings throughout the year have been well attended and we are grateful to Mr. Whittingham for lending the many films. A highlight of the year was the talk given by Mr. Newman, the Chief Warden of the Breconshire section of Beacons National Park and we were able to report to him some progress in the wild-bird nest-box scheme.

Last year, the club won the "Cooper Cup" in the County Rally and, of course, we wish the team which will be competing in this year's Rally at Builth, every success.

TERENCE HAMER, Secretary.

CRICKET REPORT, 1968.

Captain : R. Wallace. Master-in-charge : Mr. D. Davies.

MAINLY because of the poor weather, the School 1st XI was able to play only six matches out of the fourteen arranged last season. Two were won, 1 was drawn and 3 were lost.

The season opened with a good 25 run victory over Merthyr County, but this was followed by a bad performance against Cyfarthfa. The School gave a poor batting display in this game and were bowled out for 28 runs. The School side then suffered two defeats against strong opposition, namely West Mon. and Ystalyfera. Against West Mon. the margin of defeat was six wickets, while against Ystalyfera the team did well to score 75 before losing by 54 runs. The season ended on a brighter note with a closely fought draw with Tredegar and the traditional victory over the staff.

Although the overall record may not seem very impressive, it should be remembered that eight of the previous year's team had left and for the most part the team consisted of players who had had no experience of 1st XI cricket.

The batting of the school team was not as strong or reliable as in previous years and it was in this department that the side failed most. The bowling, also, although enthusiastic, was not always as accurate as it should have been. This was particularly true against Ystalyfera, where our opposition scored 129 runs in hour and a half. In the Staff Match, however, A. J. Price had the best performance by a school bowler for a number of years, taking 9 wickets for 20 runs.

Two players, C. Jones and R. Wallace, appeared regularly for the County team, while B. A. Williams, R. Thomas and A. Sussex also played for the County.

The under 15's, under the captaincy of John Cooke, played some promising cricket, and out of the three matches they played 2 were drawn and one was lost. The defeat was against Ystalyfera and both draws were against Merthyr County.

Colours : B. A. Williams, W. P. Salen, J. J. Morgan, C. M. Jones, R. G. Thomas. Re-award : R. Wallace.

M. BERNARD CHERMAT

THIS year the French department has had the assistance of M Bernard Chermat and we count ourselves fortunate to have had someone so enthusiastic and thorough in a year when new examination regulations at "O" Level make the ability to converse easily and readily more important than ever. We hope that M. Chermat has been happy with us and that he has found the Welsh people as homely and friendly as those of his native Brittany. We are very grateful to him for all the help he has given us and we assure him of our very best wishes for future success.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

GREETINGS once again from the centre of developing England (sorry, —Britain!). Birmingham University is now starting on a program of planned, and we hope, controlled, educational change. We can welcome here only the lively and intelligent student, who will take an interest in the changing climate of educational reform.

My own subject (Metallurgy) is not such an off-beat, specialist subject. The course attempts to develop the scientific mind while at the same time leaving open the choice between research and management.

Once again I must express my amazement at the small number of students from Brecon at the University, and, again, hope that this deplorable state of affairs will soon change.

D. G. MORRIS.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY.

WARWICK is a university simply begging people to come along and DO something. Nobody particularly minds what you do—the administrative authorities are far from being petty, interfering bureaucrats and leave the students to their own affairs. Because the university is young (four years old) and small (1500 students), anyone coming here should be prepared to get involved in its activities. The social life is generally good and there seems to be a strong community feeling among students, something which larger universities must lack. Discos and dances are quite lively though often financial liabilities. The Union is supposed to be suing a well-known pop group for failing to appear at a dance! Most sports are catered for, but men outnumber women by about three to two. The Rugby Club manages two teams and the Soccer Club three. Inertly awaiting the start of the tennis season, I was once asked to make up the number in the Lacross team! I had to refuse, though.

Though Warwick University is in the postal district of Coventry it is actually situated in non-industrial Warwickshire near Kenilworth, Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa. The buildings are few as yet but the university has the largest site in Britain; nevertheless, its rural setting is not all spoilt by the building operations going on at present. Coventry is a good centre for travelling. It is served by the 100 mile per hour rail service to Euston and Manchester, while it isn't difficult to motor back down to Brecon.

My first year studies are devoted to a joint course in Economics and Politics but I intend to switch at the end of the year to Economics with Public Policy. I have found politics extremely interesting but I have little time for the tricky political philosophy when I am trying

to study maths. and econometrics which is an entirely different kettle of fish. The Economics Department is very advanced ; the importance of mathematical ability is stressed although an 'O' level pass is sufficient for entry to a course. There is also a very strong School of Business Studies and a Department of Industrial Relations which has some very useful connections on both sides of industry.

Despite the one or two shortcomings of the University, I have absolutely no regrets about coming to Warwick to read Economics, and I hope we shall see more Brecon students at Warwick in the near future.

ROBERT DAVIES.

BEDE COLLEGE, DURHAM.

THE College of the Venerable Bede is a Church of England Training College, founded in the distant days of 1841. The College has at present about 500 students of whom more than 400 are resident either in the college buildings or hostels, or in college lodgings within the city of Durham. There are nearly a hundred day students, who come in from their homes in County Durham or Newcastle. Since 1919 the College has included students reading for degrees, though close links with the University go back further than this, and in 1947 the college became a constituent college of the University. At the moment there are about 100 undergraduates, other than B.Ed.'s, and graduates reading for diplomas or undertaking research.

The remaining students (just over 400 at present, but the number is likely to rise again over the next few years) are engaged in courses of training lasting three years, two years or one year, and leading to the Ministry of Education's Teacher's Certificate, or a small number undertaking the B.Ed. degree over a period of four years.

Both within and outside the college the number and variety of student activities is very great, ranging from dramatic, literary, film and choral societies to all the usual sports clubs. The Rugby and Boat Clubs seem to be among the most successful and popular. A recent addition to the sports clubs has been the Modern Pentathlon Club, which, this year, has met with truly remarkable success in defeating Oxford and Cambridge teams. Golf is available on the course adjacent to one of our hostels, and parties make regular expeditions at week-ends for rock-climbing and hiking in the nearby counties of Cumberland and Northumberland.

The college community has perhaps suffered a little through its great expansion over a short period of time, but with access to all the activities of the University as a whole, the opportunities academically and socially are great.

MICHAEL GRIFFITHS.

BARRY TRAINING COLLEGE

At present I am in my first year, and the only boy from Brecon in this stronghold of the feminine species.

During the years that this college has been open to boys, incidentally, only four other Brecon boys have been here, but I understand that several more are expected here next year. For any boy thinking of applying to this Rugby fortress, there are excellent facilities for every activity. The college has its own swimming pool, although the sea is not very far away and we have a wonderful view of the Bristol Channel. Jenner Park for football and athletics is just along the road, and the social life in the College is now reaching its peak.

I am pursuing a course of Mathematics with Physical Education and Science my subsidiary subjects.

The staff of the mathematics department are most helpful and there is a very happy atmosphere throughout the college.

During my stay here I have so far passed several swimming examinations including life saving and will be patrolling the beach of Barry this summer with the College Life Guards Corps. I have been a regular member of the 2nd XV with several appearances for the 1st XV.

Instead of holding rag week this year the college students held a charity week to help people less fortunate than ourselves, and are happy to say we made a great many friends outside the college. These we visit for social evenings.

In conclusion I should like to wish all those who will be taking their examinations every success, and anyone thinking of going to college would do well to put Barry high on their list. If at some time you would like any further information regarding student life here, I would be only too pleased to hear from you.

My best wishes to you all, both staff and and pupils.

B. A. WILLIAMS.

DEGREE RESULTS.

Alan D. Griffiths	Class I	Pure Mathematics (Aber).
Robert Bendle	Class IIA	Economics (Swansea)
Michael J. Jones	Class IIB	Physics (Swansea)
Mark Jones	Class IIB	Microbiology (Cardiff)
Roy Jones	Class III	Law (Aber.)
Peter Moon	Class IIA	Law (Aber.)
Robert Griffiths	Class III	Geography (Swansea)

URDD ACTIVITIES, 1968-69

THIS year Urdd membership continues to be as high as ever. 66 boys paid a shilling each at the beginning of the year to become full members of Urdd Gobaith Cymru, a movement for the young people of Wales. As members they are entitled to enter Urdd Summer Camps at Llangrannog and Glanllyn and to take part in any Urdd Eisteddfod. The membership sum of £3 6s. od. also helps towards the costs of Urdd publications such as "Mynd", "Hamdden" and "Cymru'r Plant."

At the beginning of the Easter Term, twenty boys collected £13 for the Urdd. Individual collections of over £2 were made by three of these boys, namely, Derek Davies and Gareth Parfitt of Form 1B, and Robert Thomas of Form 4A.

The County Urdd Eisteddfod was held in the Penlan Schools this year. The recitation party from Forms 3 gained third place and Phillip Watkins gained first prizes in two solo competitions. Phillip represented Breconshire in the National Urdd Eisteddfod, held in Aberystwyth at the end of May, and to everyone's delight won both the under 15 and the under 19 solo competitions.

In the Urdd Constitution it is written that Wales is a country with a wealth of history, literature and music. It is the basis of our Welsh culture. Loyalty to Wales, one of the aims of the Urdd movement, means being aware of our heritage and doing what we can to preserve and enrich it for future generations.

This, we feel, is what we try to fulfil in the school

ERYL EDWARDS.

BIOLOGY COURSE.

DURING the last week of Easter Term, eight members of the L.VI.Sc attended a Biology Course held in the library of Brecon Secondary Modern School. Talks were given in the morning by lecturers from Cardiff University College about Breconshire and its wildlife. In the afternoon the students were taken on field sessions to various locations in the county to illustrate features of the countryside and to explore wildlife of rivers and canals. Trips were also made to the Brynmawr Sewage Works and Talybont Reservoir. Although the course did not touch on 'A' level work it was found to be very interesting and students learnt a lot about Breconshire.

M. I. PROUD, VI.B.Sc.

Captain : M. R. Thomas. Master-in-charge : Mr. Wyatt.

School Sports.

When the School meeting eventually took place the weather was very pleasant. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mervyn Jenkins, presented the trophies to the winning houses ; that is to say, the Intermediate Trophy to Theo and the remainder to Vaughan—an excellent effort. Vaughan have not won the Aggregate Cup since the School was established at Penlan and Martin Thomas must be very proud of the performance of his team.

Mr. R. Davies, the President of the Old Boy's Association, presented the "Victor Ludorum" awards to Alan Jones (V), Minor, Philip Byrd (G), Junior, Giacomo Brugnoli (T) Intermediate, and Gareth Prothero (G), Senior. Brugnoli has been Victor of his age group since he came into the school five years ago, a remarkably consistent performance. Other consistently successful athletes on the day were Owain Morgan in the Junior section and Richard Wyke among the Seniors

Worthy of mention among the performances—shrouded in metric mystery as they are—are the times of G. Prothero in the Steeplechase (5 mins. 4.3 secs.), G. Brugnoli in the Inter 400m. (54 secs.), and R. Wyke in the Senior 100m. and 200m. (11 secs. and 23.5 secs), and a fine leap by Philip Byrd in the Junior Triple Jump (10.39 m.)

County Sports.

At the Brecon and Radnor Schools' Championships the School team won only one trophy, the Junior Cup. The number of "firsts" gained was well up to standard, but the lower placings were often too low to score. The performances in the lower Junior section were particularly disappointing. This lack of depth, plus a dropped baton in the Middle Relay, led to the loss of the Aggregate Trophy by a mere seven points. Nevertheless, it was a good day for some and the representation in the Counties' team for the National Championships is again substantial : Junior, K. Bowley (400 m and Relay), W. O. Morgan (Hurdles), R. Golesworthy (Javelin), D. M. T. Jones (Discus); Middle, G. Brugnoli (200 m., 400 m. and Relay), R. Powell (Relay), J. Evans (800 m.); Senior, R. Wyke (100 m. and Relay), G. Protheroe (Steeplechase).

Gareth Protheroe also won the 1500m. but was not put forward for selection for that event.

The captain of the winning Junior team was W. O. Morgan.

Those present paid a silent tribute to the late President of the Counties' Schools' A.A.A., Councillor T. Rowley Jones, who died on the day before the meeting.

School Colours were awarded to M. R. Thomas, R. Wyke, G. Prothero, G. Brugnoli (re-awards), J. W. H. Evans and R. Powell.



RUGBY FOOTBALL, 1968-69

1st Fifteen.

Captain : A. J. Price. Vice-Captain : S. R. Davies.

Fixture Secretary : Mr. Morris Master-in-charge : Mr. Wyatt

The absence of older and more experienced players—only two survived from the 1965-66 Under Fifteens—left the First Fifteen rather at the mercy of opposing teams. This goes a long way towards explaining the frequency of defeats. It does not, however, account the wide margin of defeat ; the reason here is lack of team training and physical fitness. Many of the players gave of their best at all times and the laxity of their colleagues was thus all the more obvious. If the example of Adrian Price had been followed by all the players, the writer would be searching for words of praise, instead of trying to soften criticism.

That the team was by no means devoid of talent was proved by victories which, though infrequent, were deserved. Most notable was the defeat of Lycee Voltaire, Paris, at the end of the season.

If, as seems likely, the pack is little changed next year, the story will be a happier one than the following record tells of this season.

Record : P.21 ; W.5 ; L. 15. Points for 118 ; against 320.

Colours : A. J. Price (re-award).

2nd Fifteen.

Captain : P. Moyle. Master-in-charge : Mr. Wyatt.

To criticise the Seconds would be unfair. What talent there was soon became diluted as players won promotion. The task facing those who remained was just too much for them, hard as they tried. The record does not really do justice to the efforts of the players.

Record : P. 15 ; W.1 ; Lost 14. points for 53 ; against 299.

Under 15 Fifteen.

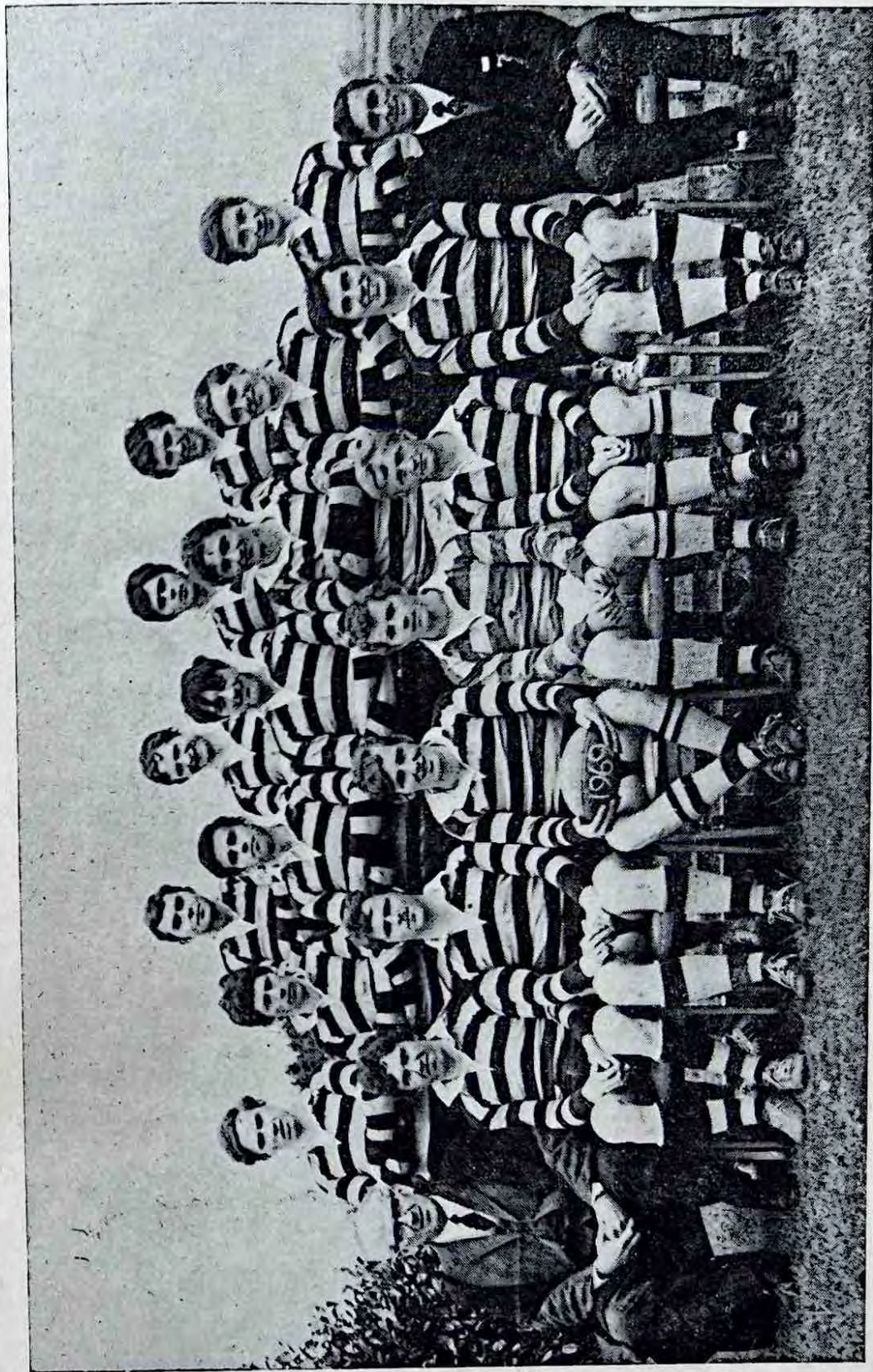
Captain : R. J. East. Vice-Captain : C. P. Williams

Master-in-charge : Mr. Rowlands.

Of all the School Rugby teams this was the most willing to stay after school to train. It is this, rather than exceptional individual talent, which accounts for their excellent record this season, for the training led to good team spirit and team work which brought success.

The number of boys available in the age group was small and so, when illness or injury struck, some very ingenious positional changes had to be made. Fortunately the team was versatile as well as enthusiastic. Ronald Watkins, for example, played on various occasions as prop, hooker, wing forward, scrum half, fly half, centre and full back.

The most satisfying results were the defeats of Afon Taf (11-0)



1st FIFTEEN : Back Row—N. Pickering, M. R. Thomas, T. Merrick, R. P. Williams
 Middle Row—S. Bowering, J. Rogers, R. Evans, R. James, G. Brugnoli, J. Hutchinson, G. Prothero
 Front Row : Mr. A. Rees, D. Price, S. R. Davies, A. Price (Capt.), P. C. Morgan, C. Davies, H. Williams, Mr. A. Wyatt

and Christ College (12-6) and the "double" over Belmont Abbey. The solitary defeat came in the return match with Afon Taf (5-17).

Record : P.16 ; W.15 ; L.1. Points for, 253 ; against, 55.

Under 14 Fifteen.

Captain : J. M. T. Andrew. Vice-Captain : D. M. T. Jones.

Master-in-charge : Mr. Rowlands.

The story begun last year was continued this season. This team still relies too much on a small group of players. Furthermore, very few of the team deigned to train until almost the end of the season. Those who did put some effort into training improved greatly despite their lack of weight and show considerable potential.

There were, of course, bright spots, among them the defeat of Afon Taf (14-13), Abergavenny (10-8) and Vaynor and Penderyn (20-8) and a great fight back against Christ College when a huge defeat seemed likely.

Record : P.13 ; W.7 ; L.6. Points for, 163 ; against, 156.

Under 13 Fifteen.

Captain : P. W. V. Thomas. Vice-Captain : J. Owens.

Master in charge : Mr. Morris and Mr. Wyatt.

"The Thirteens" were fortunate in having a large number of third year players in their team this season. When this occurs, it lends valuable experience—as witness also the present Under Fifteen team.

The season proved highly successful and the defence in particular must feel pleased at conceding only twenty four points and keeping defeat at bay all season. The attack was also effective as the tally of points scored will testify.

Barring accident this side should prove formidable in the years to come, as it has weight and mobility, though perhaps it could do with more real pace in the three-quarters.

Record : P.14 ; W.10 ; D. 4. Points for 240 ; against 24.

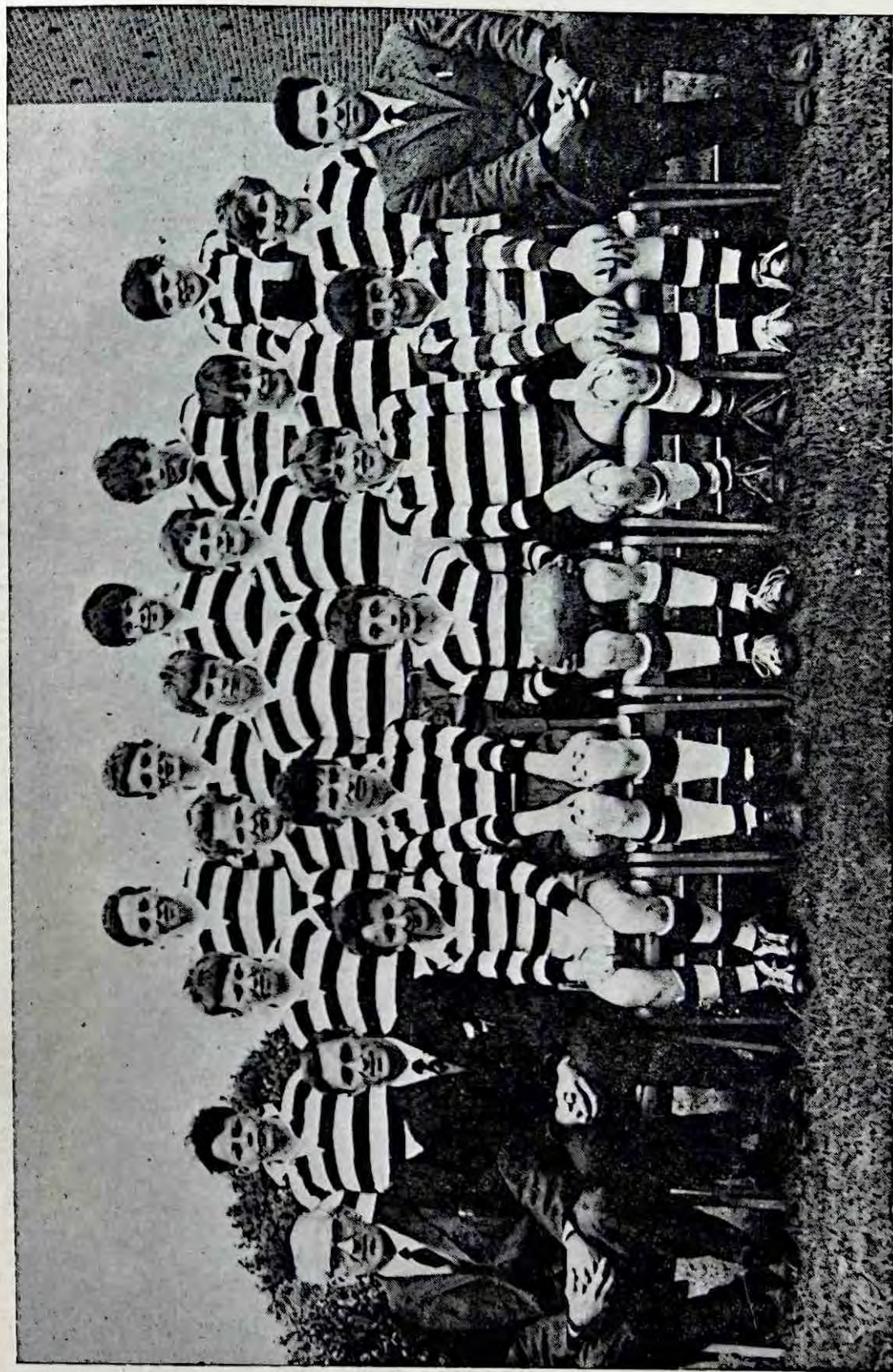
Under 12 Fifteen.

Two entertaining games were played this season. In the first, against the Under 13 reserves, the Under Twelves did well to win 3-0. This was followed by a victory over Vaynor and Penderyn by 6 points to nil. The captain was Robert Brown.

Seven-a-Side Competitions.

In the Brecon R.F.C. Easter Monday Tournament a combined School/Youth VII did very well to reach the final of the Youth Section, losing to Ludlow G.S., the 1968 winners.

On 3rd May, the Brecon Club organised an Under Fifteen tournament. The School entered two teams, both of which did well to reach the semi-finals, only to lose to two good sides, Maesydderwen and Afon Taf 'A', who went on to play an excellent final.



Under 13 FIFTEEN : Back Row—A. Price, O. Morgan, S. Roderick, C. Williams, I. Adams
 Middle Row : S. Anthony, G. Evans, D. Isaac, E. Davies, K. Francis, D. Holmes, P. Younger
 Front Row : Mr. A. Rees, Mr. A. Wyatt, B. Jeffreys, J. Watkins, P. Thomas (Capt.), J. Owens, G. J. Price, Mr. Morris



Under 15 FIFTEEN : Back Row—C. P. Williams, J. Cooke, I. Morris, K. Thomas
Middle Row : N. Weale, S. Price, P. Kedde, R. Watkins, I. Hill, H. Rees, G. Morris, H. Morgan
Front Row: Mr. A. Rees, P. Jones, H. Davies, R. East (Capt.), M. Murphy, A. Turford, Mr. Rowlands

BAD WEATHER.

Oh, the weather's very bad.
It's the worst we've ever had.
We have ice and frost and snow,
Freezing drifts that will not go
Yet, still the snow keeps falling.
It's really quite appalling.

Oh, the weather's very bad.
It's the worst we've ever had.
The country's a sea of mud.
The rivers are in flood
And, still the rain keeps falling.
It's really quite appalling.

Oh, the weather's very bad.
It's the worst we've ever had.
Thick fog is slowly whirling,
Close to my window curling
Yet, still that fog-horn's calling,
It's really quite appalling.

Oh, the weather's very bad.
It's the worst we've ever had.
I can stand no more heat.
I am burnt from head to my feet
Yet, still that sun is blazing
It's really quite amazing.

P. J. YOUNGER, IIIa.

CROSS COUNTRY 1969.

OWING to bad weather conditions at the start of the year the school Cross Country event was delayed. The County Cross Country Championships were therefore upon us rather quickly and gave little time for preparation. Thus teams were picked on the basis of last year's performances.

As expected we retained the Roy Price Trophy in the Junior Section with Howell Rees 5th, Giacomo Brugnoli 7th, and Geoff Hughes 8th. Peter Thomas, who competes in the same section for 3 more years, ran well to finish 9th. These boys travelled to Newtown for "the National" on 1st March.

Our senior boys were not so successful, although we finished 3rd in the section with Gareth Prothero 3rd, Colin Davies 14th, Adrian Price 16th and Cedric Jones 17th. At the National, H. Rees finished as our best Junior and G. Prothero come 10th in the senior section.

To round off the season we held our School Championships with the results as follows :—Junior, 1, P. Thomas ; 2, M. Wyatt ; 3, C. Williams. Middle, 1, H. Rees ; 2, K. Bowley ; 3, R. East. Senior, 1, G. Prothero ; 2, C. Davies ; 3, R. Wallace.

The final House positions were : 1, Gam, 2, Vaughan, 3, Siddons, 4, Theo.

OLD BOYS IN SPORT.

WE hear that Tony Farr has appeared at scrum half for Cross Keys this year. Ian Miles has become a centre and has played regularly for Cardiff College of Education. David Powell was captain of the Brecon Youth XV and was named "Player of the Year" at the Club dinner.

Brian Willaims has reverted to prop for Barry College of Education Seconds, but appears in the centre for the 1st XV.

Peter Jones played for Breconshire in the Welsh Counties' Rugby Championship.

We hoped to see the name of Gerald Williams in the Cambridge XV to play Oxford, but this was not to be. Nevertheless he did well to play for most of the season. Better luck next year.

Of our more medical types, Tim Powell and Berwyn Jones continue to represent Cardiff Medicals and Keith Evans seems to spend much of his life travelling huge distances to play for Bristol Meds.

SOCCER REPORT.

Captain : R. Wallace. Master-in-charge : Mr. J. Lee.

THIS season was a disappointing one both from the point of view of matches played and results attained. Only 3 matches were played of which one was drawn and two lost. However, Wednesday afternoon games invariably found the soccer field overcrowded and due to the efforts of Mr. Lee coaching sessions were started after school, although these met with only temporary success. The first game played by the school team was at Presteigne in November and in a hard fought game an under strength school team went down 3-2. At the end of the Christmas term the school team played a strong Old Boys' team and suffered a heavy defeat. However, the school were again unable to field the strongest side and the seven goal difference was not a true reflection of the standard of 1st XI soccer. In the return with the Old Boys at the end of the Easter term, the school once again played strong opponents. After coming back from losing 3-1 the school were robbed of their first win by a last minute goal.

Finally, we must thank Mr. Lee for his efforts on and off the soccer field.

Record : P.3 ; W.0 ; D.1 ; L.2. Goals for 9 ; against 17.

Under 15 Eleven.

Captain : A. Beddows. Master-in-charge : Mr. E. Humphreys.

THIS was a very poor season for the Under Fifteens, suffering three very severe defeats at the hands of Kington, Ty Mawr and Brecon Secondary Modern School. However, there was one inspiring aspect towards the end of the season with a 1-0 win over Brecon Secondary Modern School in the return match. The side have undoubtedly a certain amount of potential but they will have to show more determination and endeavour if they are to achieve any great success in the future. Mr. Humphreys worked very hard throughout the season and his efforts deserved far more success.

Record : P.4 ; W.1 ; L.3. Goals for 4 ; against 29.

Ryland Wallace reached the final trial of the Welsh Schools' F.A., a considerable achievement.

THE LAST OUTING.

It was five o'clock on a Monday morning. Jack and Sid, employees of Chatham Borough Council, were busy carrying out their daily routine. It was the day they usually gave "Martha" the steam roller a vigorous rub down, and extra shine before her daily chores which started at six-fifteen.

The telephone was ringing in the office and Jack went inside to answer it as the works clerk had not arrived at work. It was the Divisional Surveyor ringing to tell them that Martha would cease carrying out duties for the council. She would be replaced by a new "Marshall 144" diesel-engined roller. Both men were very down-hearted by the news ; they were very proud of "Martha."

During the next week, "Martha" carried out her duties to perfection, as good as the day she first joined the Council in 1917. On the Friday evening when Jack and Sid returned to the Council depot, a newspaper man was waiting for them. He asked if he could do a "write-up" in the local paper, about Martha. He also put forward the suggestion that "Martha" could take part in the local universities' "Rag" the following week.

Jack and Sid were very proud and pleased with the idea, and would ask for permission from the Roads and Bridges Department. The answer was "yes," and they said it would be her last outing, before she retired.

In the days before the procession Jack and Sid touched up "Martha's" paint work, and polished all the brass fittings until they could see their faces in her. She really looked magnificent.

The day before the Rag arrived, the Mayor officially opened the procession on the steps of the new Town Hall. The Mayor led the procession in his new Rolls Royce "Silver Shadow" ; following behind was a large open-sided articulated trailer driven by a student of the university.

As the procession proceeded to the bridge over the canal the driver of the trailer cut in front of the mayor's car, the mayor's chauffeur swerved to avoid the trailer, and, in doing so, smashed through the wall into the canal.

Amid the confusion and crowds of people, Sid and Jack brought "Martha" to the scene, Sid hitched a chain onto her scuttle, while Jack waded into the canal and hitched the other end of the chain to the mayor's car. With full steam, "Martha" gave a great tug on the chain and pulled the mayor's car up the bank and on to the road. Both the Mayor and his chauffeur were unhurt and were none the worse for their accident.

It was found the town's main water and electricity supply has been cut off because of the accident. A tanker and maintenance men were called to the scene, but found that their electric water-pump would be of no use. Sid had an idea to prevent the water supply from going into the canal. He attached a long belt from "Martha's" fly-

wheel to the one on the water pump ; meanwhile Jack fitted tubing from the burst pipe to the tanker Sid turned the lever to start "Martha's" flywheel, the plan worked, and the water from the broken pipe started going into the tanker.

Next day the newspapers were full of the story, and one of the headlines was : "Martha the Steam Roller Rescues Mayor—Saves Town's Water Supply on Last Outing." There was also a picture of Jack and Sid standing by the side of "Martha."

"Martha" had become a household name to the families of Chatham. After the incident she was given a permanent place in the local museum with a plaque commemorating her great achievements.

GARETH HALL, 2a.



MUSHROOMS.

Nestling deep and pearly white,
Almost hidden out of sight,
Some big, some small and always round,
Mushrooms we at last have found.

In the grass now wet with dew,
Overnight they grew and grew,
Precious, rare and very tasty.
Pick with care and not too hasty.

We rose early in the dawn,
Quietly dressed and crossed the lawn,
Jumped the stile and ran along ;
Birds began their morning song.

What excitement filled our breasts,
As we searched for snowy crests,
Little dreaming they would be,
Oh ! So difficult to see.

But now success, we shout with glee,
Look for more beneath that big oak tree,
There and there and there *and* there,
Mind your feet ! Oh, do take care.

We fill our baskets, start to run,
Shouting in the morning sun ;
Tired, delighted and so hungry,
Hope mum's pleased and not too angry.

Crispy bacon, sizzling hot,
Gorgeous mushrooms—what a lot !
Joy on joy—no sign of sorrow.
Please, mum, can we go tomorrow ?

MARK LLOYD, 1A.

SIXTH FORM HISTORY COURSE.

ONCE again Breconshire Education Committee provided the senior staff and sixth form with a marathon of lectures and fieldwork.

This Olympian gathering was held for five days in all, the mornings being given over to four lectures, with a break at approximately 11 a.m.

Ystradgynlais and Builth Schools dined at the venue, but the delightful cuisine of the Secondary Modern Canteen was not to be sampled by Brecon Boys' Grammar—for them it was a matter of "back to the Borgias."

The fieldwork of the afternoons entailed visits to such familiar locations as the Mountain Centre and the Elan Valley, places which bring back to the professional sixth-former as opposed to the transient members of that body, memories of force nine gales and suggestions made by Professor Bowen as to what Birmingham Corporation could do with the Claerwen Dam.

Faithful Overalls, Ltd., and Headings, Ltd., both part of the Brecon industrial complex were inspected with something bordering on interest.

The lectures this year were truly scintillating. Professor Bowen, that trusted veteran performer, never failed to stimulate thought, even amongst new-comers to history-geography courses. The five hours of lectures and approximately 20 hours of field work conducted by this savant must be an all-time record.

For those who managed to remain on the right side of oblivion or did not find solace in some sordid publication, many of the lectures provided a surprising amount of enlightenment, but much valuable information fell on unhearing ears. However, in all fairness to our pupils, considering that they were not studying all the "course" in question for "A" level (Early 20th Century Politics and Contemporary Wales), they did show an unprecedented amount of enthusiasm.

The organisation of this course left something to be desired, the lectures being held in the library of the Secondary Modern School, which furnished too many distractions for too many pupils.

The "cooked meal" (I am quoting from the Education Department hand-out) which we were promised at Llanidloes, turned out to be a salad, the ham of which was the only thing cooked, but, regrettably, of a dubious origin.

Fieldwork on the Wednesday was supposed to terminate with our return to Brecon at 6-30 p.m., at which time a very hungry complement of pupils and staff was pouring into the two cafes in Rhayader and demanding fish and chips; whilst others slipped off to more salubrious surroundings.

Pupils do not mind returning late, or having to purchase a meal for themselves, but they do like to be informed as to the facts of such excursions.

NOT MY CUP OF TEA.

AERONAUTICS is not my cup of tea. If someone had said to me, you are going flying in a balloon today, I would have laughed my head off. It was just an ordinary Monday morning; it was raining as it mostly does on Monday mornings just to add to the unpleasantness of going to work after an enjoyable weekend in the country.

I had just started down the road to the bus stop, when I remembered that I had forgotten my hat. So I walked back up the road to the house because my watch only showed five past eight and the bus did not leave the stop until half past eight. But when I got back home, the clock showed half past eight, I immediately dashed down the road to the bus stop. I reached it in time to see the bus disappear round the corner. Seeing it was raining and I hadn't my hat I began to walk back up the road, when out of the blue or grey, as it was very cloudy, came a car. It sped towards me, and screeched to a halt, and out jumped my friend Curly.

Curly and I were at school together, and I knew him to be a bit of a "crackpot" inventor. He asked me if I would like a lift. As it was raining and there was no other bus, I said I would. As we drove down the road he asked me if I would come to his house for a drink. I decided to accept, and while we were having a drink, he told me he was very interested in the weather, and that out in the back yard was a weather balloon. Curly never was one for beating about the bush and he asked me straight out, would I like to come with him in it. My first reply was, Aeronautics are not my cup of tea, and besides I thought weather balloons are unmanned. He said most were but he was working on his own, not for the Meteorological Office, and he could not afford all the intricate instruments. He told me that my job would be to watch the height and control the ballast.

I thought for a long time about it. It would be fun to sail above the clouds, but balloonists are rather left to the elements, and say it would crash or something, but then I could not let Curly down.

I agreed, the date was set for Saturday. It was a fine day that Saturday morning, as we made ready for the ascent. The basket was rather a flimsy one, inside were all kinds of meteorological instruments such as, things for measuring the wind and such. Also there was a little black box, Curly lowered his voice to whisper and said that it was a secret machine for telling what the weather would be like, it was his own invention and he said it might be possible to tell the weather to come accurately. We got into the basket and I threw out one of the sandbags and let go the line. We rose up steadily, leaving the houses and fields below us. I threw out a few more sandbags and we rose, to about two thousand feet.

Curly had told me to wear a thick coat, I could not see the need for one on such a lovely day, but I was glad for it was mighty cold

up there. We found out equilibrium at two thousand and fifty feet. We drifted with the wind and Curly took all the readings from the black box. I then let out some gas and we landed within two miles west of Curley's house. We took the readings to his house after deflating the balloon.

Curly worked out the weather to come for that part of the country. The weather was fairly damp and the long range forecast had predicted rain for a month. But Curly worked it out to be sun and quite a long spell of sun at that. He drew up a chart and sent it to the Meteorological Office. When it turned out that Curly was right, they said, take another test, so we did, but not in a balloon. When this turned out to be successful again, the Home Office sent down a man to see the black box. He said that the government would use it as a weapon if there was a war. It would prove very valuable in case of war.

Curly did not like this, he had made it purely for a peace time aid and not for a weapon of war. He asked us if we would test the weather once before he took the box away.

We went up in the balloon, the wind was blowing out to sea and we began to drift out over the sea. I began to get frightened, and in my fright I grabbed the red rip cord, which had torn a panel out of the balloon. We began to lose height, then suddenly the wind changed direction and began to blow us back to shore. But we would never make it so we jettisoned everything except the black box, but we would have to crash into the sea, so we, with heavy hearts dropped the black box into the sea. This had been heavy and without it we made it to the shore safely. Afterwards Curly said maybe it was a good thing. The Navy searched for it for weeks but never found it, because Curly said he could not remember where we had dropped it. But I think he knew all the time.

IRVING PARRY, III.

HERR HABER.

THIS year again we were favoured with the invaluable assistance of a native of Germany. Herr Bernd Haber spent the school year in Brecon, helping out in the German Departments of the Grammar Schools. Herr Haber was very enterprising in his ideas, and a keen sportsman, and I am sure that everyone enjoyed lessons with him. We all hope that he enjoyed his stay here, and has profited from it and we wish him every success in the future.

I CAN TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

SIR GERALD's hammer came down with a crash, as a judge commanding silence in the court prior to giving sentence, and announced that the Chinese vase had been sold, to the gentleman with the round shoulders, for twenty five pounds. I looked around the crowded auction room, furtively, to see public reaction to this blatant insult to my person, but there was none, just, a few, quiet smiles here and and there, and I remembered how I'd come to be in the local town's auction rooms at all.

Last Saturday I had been writing letters and had glanced up at the calendar on the mantelpiece to see what the date was. On suddenly noticing the 25th encircled in red ink, I had frowned in consternation. Obviously, this day was important—had been singled out from the rest of the month with pretention, in fact, but why? I had not done it and the 25th signified nothing to me. The number returned my stare triumphantly. Well, I had to admit, it had me beaten. Diary, I thought, and dashed upstairs to get the little black book. In a moment, all was explained: it my was wife's birthday on the 25th. Typically, I had forgotten. Perhaps, I mused, she guessed that I should forget and this was her subtle way of reminding me.

Throwing all thoughts of completing my letter to the winds, I decided that, as the 25th was only a week away, I had better start thinking of a suitable present to buy her. Perfume, cosmetics, a new handbag? Oh, no! How unoriginal! Besides, I could not imagine myself going into a department store and choosing a handbag without profuse blushing and much embarrassment on my part.

My eyes wandered round the room and come to rest on a gaudy Chinese jar, which we used as a receptacle for potted plants. Now, there was a thought. Ruth was interested in antiques (I shuddered to think that the Chinese jar could be classed as an antique). Perhaps she would like another jar to make a pair.

It was really because I could not think of a better idea that I chose to go ahead with what seemed like a "wild Mao-jar chase." After making enquiries among my friends to ask if they knew of anyone who wanted to dispose of a Chinese jar. I thought this was quite conceivable), for a number of days, I was almost giving up hope of finding another in time, when my great uncle George contacted me. He had, he said, seen in the local auctioneer's sale notices that there would, next Thursday, be a sale of "antique furnishings and effects." By discreet enquiry, Uncle George had discovered that the objects were from Mrs. Sankey-Barker's—a wealthy widow who drank too much. It was rumoured that, for one reason and another (one being drink), she had lost rather a lot of money recently, and this, gurgled Uncle George, happy to be the centre of interest, was why she had had to sell some of her antiques.

"So that's why it didn't say in the notice from where the stuff was coming from," I said.

"Ah," breathed Uncle George with a deep sigh of satisfaction.

"Ah, but I found that out for yer, didn't I?"

"You did, indeed," I replied, and poured him another whiskey.

"However," his face fell a little, "you didn't say anything about a vase."

"I was coming to that," said Uncle George, trying to sound hurt.

"I had a peep in the auction room yesterday, I did, and I saw one—

one of them what yer looking for."

Realisation—"The Chinese jar?"

"Yes."

"What colour was it?"

"Don't know."

"Think," I prompted, emptying the remaining contents of the bottle into his glass. He thought. Slowly came the reply. "It were blue. Yes, it were blue, with bits of greeny stuff in the centre of that picture thing on it's side, and a gold rim."

"Mm," I considered. "But for the gold rim and the 'greeny stuff,' it sounds like mine. When's the sale?"

"Day after tomorrow—Thursday," came the reply.

"Will you be there?" I asked.

"Course not," he coughed from the effects of too much whiskey.

"Catch me going to a thing like that. Got more sense 'as to go outside in this weather if I can help it."

"Yes," I agreed, gazing at the empty whiskey bottle. "Well, you ought to be warm enough on your way back, anyway."

Consequently, Thursday afternoon, at two o'clock, saw me in Merridew Estate Agents and Auctioneers', auction rooms. I had not been to an auction since my mother had taken me to one, as a child—a rather unfortunate experience: I shut myself in a wardrobe and the doors jammed. They had to taken off their hinges before I could be freed, and my mother had to pay for the damage incurred. At first I felt strangely excited—I felt so exhilarated by this comparatively new experience that, rashly, I bid ten shillings for one or two pieces of furniture, but unfortunately the bidding went on and I was left, with my meagre ten shillings, far behind some of the prices settled for. However, as the afternoon drew on, I became hot and thirsty and was greatly displeased to discover that there was no break for tea. I saw no one I recognised, and began to feel bored.

Then, at half-past five, the auctioneer stepped down from the platform. I began to ferret around in my catalogue, wondering if I'd fallen asleep on my feet, missed bidding for the Chinese jar, and the sale was over. Fortunately, or unfortunately (I was past wondering, even, which) we had only reached Lot 134, and I looked up again to see what was happening.

A big, blustering fellow, dressed in tweeds, whom I recognised to be Sir Gerald Merridew, the head of the firm, bounded up the steps

and onto the rostrum. "Right!" he bellowed and banged his little hammer on a nearby wardrobe. "Lot 135—upright piano with," he stressed, "candelabra on the sides. Whether they're stuck on with "Bostik" or just plain screwed on, we're not here to debate," he went on," but unquestionably a fine instrument." Some wit struck a note on the "fine instrument" and a flat, tinny sound rent the air. There were a few surreptitious giggles, and then the bidding commenced.

I soon discovered that Sir Gerald was much more efficient than the former auctioneer, and we soon arrived at the lot I was interested in—number 150.

"Lot 150," boomed Sir Gerald, "a beautiful pair—well, it was a pair, but I hear the previous owner smashed one while removing it from its stand—of Chinese vases. Should I say one Chinese vase?"

"Yes " shouted a cheeky little boy. Sir Gerald gave him a scathing look and then ignored him. "I've been told," continued Sir Gerald, "that these are quite valuable pieces of china, so I shall start bidding at twenty pounds. Twenty pounds?" A long pause ensued. "Oh, come now ladies and gentlemen. Such a pretty piece, too. Twenty pounds? No? Fifteen then. Fifteen. A real bargain. Here we are then. Come, now. Fifteen. Surely. Yes? Fifteen." After a further ten seconds of nonsense, a lady in a fur coat put up her hand.

"I'm bid fifteen pounds! announced Sir Gerald. Did I sense a tone of relief in his voice? "Twenty. Am I bid twenty?"

My hand shot up. Someone shouted twenty-three, which was accepted, and then I bid twenty-five pounds.

Sir Gerald's hammer came down with a crash, as a judge commanding silence prior to giving sentence, and announced that the Chinese vase had been sold, to the gentleman with the round shoulders for twenty-five pounds. In that split second, I remembered something—some snatch of conversation heard during the past few days, and something I'd seen. What on earth was it? Then a picture flashed across my mind—the picture of a plant pot, with aspidistra protruding from the top, but with no Chinese vase surrounding it. I could not, however, remember the conversation.

I looked round the crowded auction room, furtively, to see public reaction to this blatant insult to my person, but there was none. Just a few, quiet smiles here and there. I suddenly saw Ruth coming towards me.

"Darling, what on earth are you doing here?" she greeted me." "I didn't think auctions were your cup of tea. Betty told me you were here—she saw you go in. You must have been here positively ages—I've been looking for you all afternoon."

I didn't bother to question why she had been looking for me all afternoon.

"What did you do with our Chinese vase?" I demanded.

"Oh, darling, did you want to keep it? I didn't know you were

so attached to the thing. I'm afraid I tired of it and gave it to Mrs. Sankey-Barker, a few days ago, to make up the pair that she wanted.

I wondered if Ruth knew that the only reason that Mrs. Sankey-Barker wanted a pair was, probably, that she realised she would obtain more money than for a single one.

What was to be done? I can either take it or leave it, I thought. I decided, in case Ruth did not know Mrs. Sankey-Barker's motive for wanting the other vase, to leave the vase at the auction rooms and forfeit the twenty-five pounds. It would be worth it to save her birthday from ruin. As it was I did not have a present for her. What on earth could I get?

"Darling, I've been looking for you all afternoon," said Ruth for the second time as I ushered her through the saleroom doors and into the street. "I saw this beautiful dress in Maynard's, and, as it's my birthday, I wondered if——"

I concluded that the question of a birthday present had been decided for me.

D. A. WILLIAMS, Va.

CAREERS CONVENTION.

A large number of advisers from all walks of life was gathered together by Miss Alys Thomas, County Youth Employment Officer. The boys of the fourth, fifth and sixth forms and their parents took full advantage of the opportunity to consult these experts and the whole venture was successful.

Many thanks are due to Miss Thomas for her help here and for her readiness at all times to interview boys requiring advice on future careers.

ROOM TEN.

GONE are the mildewed milk bottles ; gone the mouldering coffee mugs ; gone the variegated wall-paper of Room Ten ; gone indeed is the Upper Sixth Form to the splendid isolation of the mobile classroom.

Instead of the above paraphernalia we now have serried ranks of filing cabinets—three to be honest—and piles of pamphlets devoted to careers.

"Trade" in the new department has been confined in the main to Wednesday afternoons—particularly wet Wednesday afternoons—and to members of the Fifth Form. It is hoped that next year more members of the Middle School and of the Sixth Form will take advantage of the facilities and even the advice available.

Any parents who wish to discuss the future careers of their sons are welcome. They are advised to inform the member of staff concerned beforehand, so that he may make a point of being available.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

THE 19th Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the School on 28th March, when the following officers were elected : President, Mr. R. G. Davies (Crickhowell) ; Vice-President, Mr. H. Prosser-Roberts ; Secretary, Mr. J. Morgan ; Treasurer, Mr. A. R. Williams.

The membership this year is 185, made up of 24 yearly members, 75 five-yearly members and 76 Life Members. I hope that this special year will see an increase in membership. The Annual Dinner next year will be the 21st Dinner and we look forward to that date. It is fitting that Mr. H. Prosser-Roberts will be the President at that function.



President : Mr. R. G. DAVIES.

The Annual Remembrance Day Service was again conducted by Canon Geoffrey Davies and the Association's wreath was laid by Mr. Alvin Miles.

The Association was well represented at the funeral of Mr. Jacob Morgan.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Wellington Hotel on Friday, 11th April, when the guest speaker was Col. I. C. Edwards, C.V.O., O.B.E., T.D.

Mr. Cliff Giles won the 4th Golf Championship at Builth. Mr. Aneurin Williams has again organised the Staff-Old Boys cricket side.

At the School Sports the President presented the Association's prizes to the outstanding athletes in each section. The prize winners

were Alan Jones (Minor, Vaughan), P. Byrd (Junior, Gam), G. Brugnoli (Middle, Theo), and G. Protheroe (Senior, Gam).

CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. Oscar Owen on his installation as Lay Moderator of the Brecon. Radnor and Hereford Presbytery.
Mr. Haydn Owen on the degree of B.A. in Architecture.
Mr. Martin Owen on passing the Final examinations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.
Mr. Eric Ayliffe on appointment as Headmaster of Elmwood High School, Huckbridge, Surrey.
C. C. W. J. Millichap on election as County Alderman.
Mr. Brian Williams of Ffrwdgrech for his National Diploma in Agriculture.
Mr. D. A. Thomas of Talgarth on his Diploma in Physical Education at Carnegie College of Physical Education.
Mr. Andrew Watkins on the award of a Rotary Undergraduate Scholarship.
Mr. Leslie John Gwynne on the award of numerous prizes from the College of Distributive Trades and the Grocers' Institute.
Mr. Vincent Sullivan on appointment as Production Editor with Heart of England newspapers.
Mr. John Price on appointment as Lecturer in German at the University of Saskatoon.
Mr. Curtis Grove on appointment as Headmaster of Olchfa School, Sketty.
Professor William Rees on the presentation to him by the Brecknock Society of a complimentary volume.
Mr. John Llewellyn (Llandrindod) on being awarded the M.A. degree for a thesis on "The History of State Secondary Education in Breconshire."
Mr. Roy Perry on appointment as Borough Treasurer of Brecon.

BIRTHS.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn Davies, a son.
Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn Millward, a daughter, Debra Jacqueline.
Mr. and Mrs. Harley Simpson, a son, Owen Morris.
Mr. and Mrs. Gareth Evans, a son, Huw David.
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hopkins, a daughter, Catherine Mary Elizabeth.
Mr. and Mrs. Islwyn Williams, a son, Gary Martin.
Mr. and Mrs. Brynmor Like, a daughter, Caroline Jane.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Samuel, a daughter, Delyth Ann.
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Williams, a daughter, Jayne.

MARRIAGES.

Mr. Peter Moon and Miss Kathryn Hennessey.
Mr. Martyn Owen and Miss Marjorie Lilian Roberts.

Mr. Alan Bevan and Miss Patricia Anne Davey
Mr. Glyn Evans and Miss Susan Rowlands.
Mr. John Burgess and Miss Patricia Ann Neep.
Mr. Elvet Hamer and Miss Megan Evans.
Mr. Roy Parry and Miss Shama Rowlands.
Mr. Keith Farr and Miss Margaret Moses.
Mr. Barry Jones and Miss Angela May Norbury.
Mr. Gareth Jones and Miss Jane Bennett.
Mr. T. A. P. Carvell and Miss Felicity Margaret Pitman.
Mr. David Plunkett and Miss Elizabeth Louise Allen.
Mr. Morgan Richard Jones and Miss Pauline Joan Busch.
Mr. B. L. Jones and Miss Susan Elizabeth Davies.
Mr. Richard Bastable and Miss Sandra Cotton.

IN MEMORIAM.

Mr. Jacob Morgan, M.A., Headmaster, 1929-1954.
County Councillor David Lewis, M.B.E.
Mr. Brychan Davies.
Mr. Thomas Brenig Williams

CROESO—AROS—FFARWEL.

Croeso ! Croeso !
Croeso i chi
Yn fy nhŷ
I aros.

Aros ! Aros !
Aros gyda fi
Aros yn fy nhŷ
Aros Gyda fi.

Ffarwel ! Ffarwel !
Ffarwel i chi
Rydych chi'n mynd
I ffwrdd o'm ty.

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