

# THE PHOENIX

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H. L. HENRY, B.A. Hons.

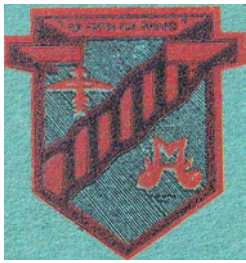
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THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE BARNSBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS  
ISLINGTON, N.7.



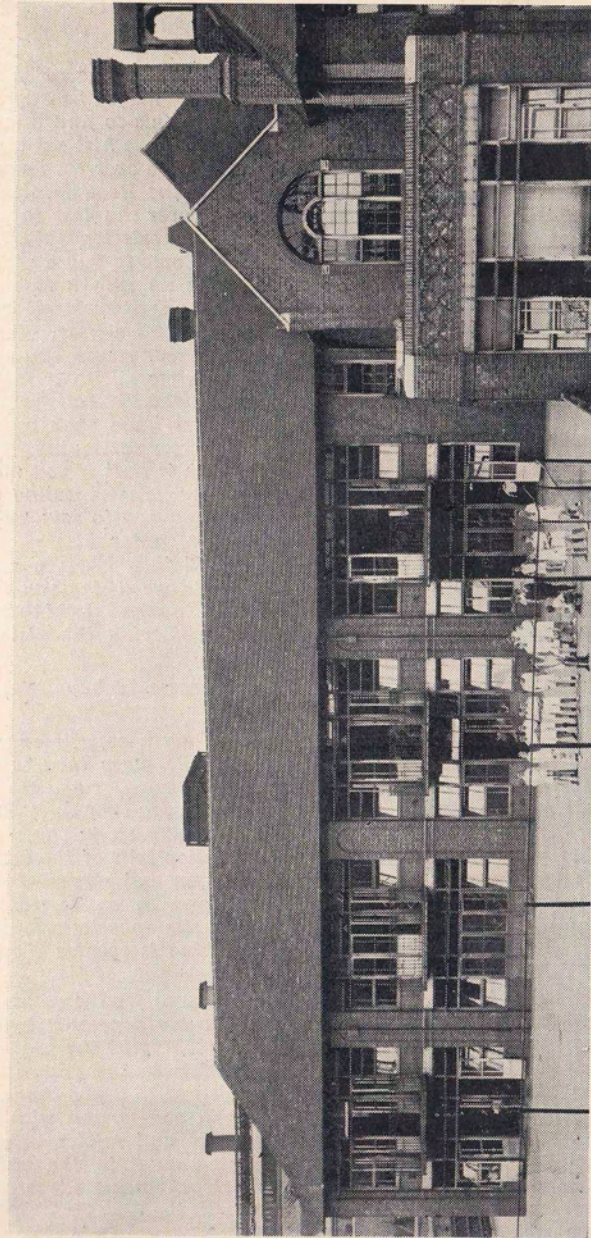
# C O N T E N T S

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SEPTEMBER *Non mihi, non tibi, sed nobis.* 1936

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Barnsbury Central School for Boys.

## FOREWORD

I AM disappointed in Mr. Henry. When he intimated to me that he thought we ought to have a school magazine I agreed and said that I thought it would be difficult to find a more suitable person than himself as editor. I gave him my views on editors: "An editor is a despot who must rule over his domain with an iron hand, and he must not allow the Head Master to come sprawling with uplift and preachment over the first page or two of his magazine." I have an instinct for salesmanship, and I realise that it is unwise to expect young people to buy a magazine the first page or so of which is taken up with a message from that fellow who is delivering an abundance of such messages from the school platform several hundred times a year. Fancy giving out compulsory free medicine all the year round and then expecting your victims to buy a voluntary dose! The editor concurred. Why, then, am I writing this article? I am writing it because I cannot escape. The editor has gone back on his agreement and has told me that I must write something. One of the most important principles of this life is that if you make a dictator you must obey him. It is no use your expecting the dictator to be moved by feelings of generosity and to say: "Well, after all, he made me dictator so I won't order him about." Dictators cannot afford to be generous and they have to order people about. And as furthermore I am always telling you that you must obey the prefects whom you help to make, I think that I must set you a good example myself in obeying the dictator whom I have helped to make.

I hope the magazine will be a great success. I hope that all boys will buy at least one copy.

I hope also that all old scholars will buy a copy if only to look for the signs of decay that always take place in a school after the departure of each generation of leavers. "Ah, the old school is not the place it used to be. Now in my time . . ." It is strange how this general decay has been going on in the world ever since man left written records. Evolution tells of the ascent of man from amœba through countless ages and stages—pithecanthropus—cave man—stone-age man—and so on to modern man. All the evidence, however, points in the opposite direction, to a steady decay through the ages. Nothing is ever as good as it used to be.

But there is a bright side to the picture. You present degenerate pupils of Barnsbury must not be too depressed by the vision of man's glorious past. Instead of looking at the past and thinking what a worm you are, look rather to the future and think what microbes there will be on the earth in a few thousand years' time. You are quite an elephant in comparison with the boys that are to be. So look to the future and rejoice in your present virtues. And since this magazine must in the nature of things grow steadily inferior with each successive number, let this first issue be really great at any rate in the number of copies that are sold.

O. WARDMAN.

## EDITORIAL

As you will by now all be thoroughly aware that your Editor is a self-appointed dictator, you understand that I am going to be dictatorial. Firstly, however, it is necessary to remove a few illusions about dictators. These despots are not people who do as they like, although they have to make other people do what they don't like. The other people obey the dictator, and the dictator has to obey—whom? Why, the dictator also. In other words, he must obey the laws of the game and conform to the accepted rules of his own dictatorship.

And one of the inexorable rules of the dictatorship to which an Editor has to conform is that he must write an editorial. He can't dodge it, if he wants to, so you will have to put up with it.

Dictatorships are in bad repute just now, and yet I seem to remember being repeatedly told that a benevolent despotism is the best form of government. So I take it that it is up to me to mix a due modicum of benevolence with the despotism. So where it is possible I will strew a little of the sugar of benevolence to sweeten up the tyranny.

I regret that I got very little response to my appeal for help in finding a title and motto for our magazine, and exercising my dictatorial powers, I have thrust my own on you. Bearing in mind the benevolent touch, I propose to explain.

If you take up any good classical dictionary you will find a long account of the meaning and legends attached to the word "Phoenix," but the generally accepted meaning is that it is a mythical bird that rises from the ashes of his own combustion, and his own apparent destruction is merely the prelude to a still more glorious resurrection. There is always a spot of symbolism here, both in the classics and certainly in my choice. I hope that this day we have lit such a candle as will never be put out.

The motto means that this magazine, though at present being run by the staff, is not their property, nor do they desire to run it. It is also obvious that because of the time taken up, and the business that has to be done, it cannot be run entirely by you boys. We wish it could. Finally, my motto implies that if Staff and boys pull together, this magazine cannot fail to be a howling success. You will see from this that the Romans were justly proud of their language when one can spill such a bibfull with six words. The obvious adaptability of Latin for telegrams and cables doubtless is the reason why the classical languages are so popular in all Scottish Universities.

I wish to thank all who have contributed to this first number, whether their efforts have been printed or not. I have received matter from practically every form in the school, and I am as grateful for the somewhat soiled scraps of pencilled wallpaper or quarter-sheets of notepaper handed in by the earnest high-brows of the First Year as I am appreciative of the excellently typed material dealing with the more obscure problems of the Cosmos handed in with languid grace by the god-like figures that

drape themselves along the walls at the back of the Hall in Assemblies.

The matter that has not been printed has either been held over for lack of space and will appear in our next issue, or is unsuitable for various reasons. The two chief causes why your matter has been rejected is that it is either too short and scrappy or it is not original.

And here I have to go all dictatorial about originality. In reading this issue you will probably be puzzled as to when an article is or is not original.

Originality lies in the treatment. It is clear that when you read articles in papers or books, hear speeches containing quantities of statistics, or even listen to lessons given in school, that the facts have not been discovered by the writer or speaker. But the way in which these facts have been put together, or presented, and the language in which the facts are enshrined are original. The facts are merely the dry bones of the article—where facts are demanded—the treatment and the language are everything. You can get quite a decent photograph for half-a-crown—to get the same portrait by a good artist may cost a thousand guineas. Think out why this is so, and you will understand what I am trying to make clear.

There are articles demanding facts and these you may have to dig out of half the tomes in the local library—which you may do, and still write an original effort.

On the other hand, there are articles which can be entirely original which don't demand facts, but opinions and impressions, and these are altogether original and desirable. What you think about a thing if it really is your own thought and opinion, only you can know, and that is the stuff which I should welcome before all else. Every person's mind has something in it which is unique—entirely his own—the kind of uniqueness that makes a Gainsborough picture sell for a hundred-thousand guineas—and when you give your own opinion on things, making quite sure that it really is yours and not the echo of someone else's—you are creating something fresh—just as the artist does.

As the dictator has to obey the laws of his own dictatorship, so the artist has to obey the laws of his craft or art. The writer, therefore, has to obey the laws of punctuation and grammar—although certain modern writers even revolt against these. They are not without justification in this, but I am afraid we will have to obey these irksome constraints in this magazine—though I have no objection to printing ultra-modern poetry which scorns all such rules. Prose will have to be normal.

But—and I want to make this point very clear—don't let punctuation and grammar—or rather the lack of these silly conventions—stop your writing an article.

Where I have had to reject matter on the ground that it has been quite clearly copied from someone else, I rather think the contributor has let grammar and punctuation bother him, and thought that if he got the matter from an adult writer those things would be all right.

We are not anxious to make our magazine all adult and grown-up and I propose to make this quite clear.

To do this I shall have something to say about magazines, in general and ours in particular. As with the printing of other books, so in the production of school magazines, there is no end. Equally as numerous are the reasons for the appearance of these efforts. The last of such reasons should be for pride or pelf. We are producing this for neither.

We are not seeking to add to the School Fund, for the purpose of providing radio sets for every class-room (see our contributor on "Finland") or silver-plated cuspidors for the Staff Room, nor do we wish to justify the motto, "Sweet are the uses of advertisement."

We are neither desirous of rattling tambourines under the nose of the public, nor blowing trumpets—but we do wish by publishing a school magazine to provide a place where you can see in print those attempts at self-expression which is not available to you in your class-work, where, whatever hidden talent you may have in prose or verse, can be aired and receive due appreciation.

Strangely enough, I have a belief that such an outlet is well worth having, and can be of very definite value; that the matter published should and could be of as great an interest to the adult reader as to the youthful author, and that this is an aim worth going in for.

And now I can get back to my statement, from whence I made this digression, that you don't have to get your matter, or to copy too closely the style of the adult writer in order to write something of value.

Spontaneity and freshness of outlook are something you have got and the adult has lost. You don't think like grown-ups, talk like them, nor write like them—please don't try. You are seeing the world for the first time; say what you really think of it *in your own words*; give us the chance of benefiting by this—and you will be doing something worth while. Tell us what your opinions are about life in your own words, and leave the rest to us—you will be doing something worth much more than meddling with the frozen chunks of language and thought which go for scholarship among adult writers. Erudition is oft but refrigeration—canned language!

You know what clichés are? The adult cannot escape from them—you may find dozens in this article—avoid them—we can't. Look what that sort of thing has done for the language of the lawyer and politician—their writings and speeches are so thick with these petrified masses of choked-up and frozen verbiage that the suspicion inevitably arises as to whether there is any thought behind the camouflage at all. You can see what a pretty pass adult language has got into when the serious statement is made, that speech is given to man to conceal thought.

Spontaneity is the gift of youth—but when speech is clotted by clichés, thought gets heavy and dull, prose becomes prosaic, hardening of the adverb, thickening of the preposition, and total inability to split the infinitive sets in, and real thought sickens and dies.

It is easier and safer to drive a tramcar than an aeroplane—but you don't get to such interesting places, nor is it such fun.

And all this means don't worry about your language, or your punctuation, but let us have your own opinions on what you are interested in, in your own words, and don't copy the language of others, nor steal their thoughts. Criticisms, reminiscences, and confessions, if genuine, are of more interest than second-hand erudition. Don't go in for imitation; let us have creation.

I have tried to give space to all sides of school activities—if one branch has got more space than others; that is because I have got most matter from there. Science seems to be very well represented in this number—even the Foreword from the Headmaster contains a masterly sociological and psychological illustration of the Theory of increasing Entropy—the cause is not far to seek (more clichés!), for the boys who have been of great help to me have been well known as prominent members of the Science Society.

To make our magazine a success, start on your articles for the next number now, and don't bombard us with matter at the last minute. If you don't see your name in this number, stick it at the bottom of an article for the next issue and it will receive a prominent place, always provided that it is full of wit and sparkle, rich with the nutriment of knowledge, tense with interest, topical, of choice diction, and nicety of phrase, spiced with pungent irony, and ablaze with easy humour—even an odd comma or semicolon may be deftly and daringly inserted—in short, some thing of the style you have just been reading—and finally signing it with your name and form. If you all make a habit of this, there can be no doubt of the future and success of "The Phoenix."

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**N.B. The Editor does not hold himself responsible for any opinions expressed by the other Contributors—H.L.H.**

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## NOTES AND NEWS

*The following items of interest, which are reproduced by his permission, have been culled from the Head Master's Annual Report:—*

1. (a) Nine boys sat for the Senior Oxford School Leaving Certificate in December, 1935, and all passed:—  
G. Attfield (5 credits); R. Kingate (1 credit); A. Bailey (2 credits); E. Lee (1 credit); R. Dewin (4 credits); J. O'Brien (2 credits); W. Smith (3 credits); S. Waxman (4 credits); E. Ward (2 credits).
- (b) Two boys won Scholarships to Owen's School:—  
N. Thompson and F. Savastano.
- (c) Four boys obtained Technical Scholarships at the Northern Polytechnic:—  
J. Bussey, A. Atherton, E. Goodall, W. Clinton.
- (d) Four boys obtained Technical Free Place Scholarships at the Northern Polytechnic:—  
L. Hurd, C. Hawke, H. Boothby, T. Hudson.
- (e) M. Shakespeare gained admission to the Nautical Training School, Rotherhithe.
2. NEWS OF OLD SCHOLARS:—
  - (a) Mr. H. A. D. Rudd, a former Barnsbury Scholar, has just been appointed Head Master of St. Albans School, Holborn.
  - (b) Mr. S. Pontin passed the Customs (Preventive Officers) Examination for the Civil Service and was placed 10th on the list.
  - (c) Mr. S. Courtney, who passed 11th on the list as Chartered Accountant, has recently taken up an appointment in the Malay States.
  - (d) Mr. F. Stallwood is a French Master at a London Central School.
  - (e) Mr. R. G. Broadhurst is the Art Master at Battersea Central School.
  - (f) Mr. E. Colkett is the Art Master at Paddington Central School.
  - (g) Mr. J. Ralph, who left Barnsbury in 1933, is now Editor of the "Islington and Holloway Press."
  - (h) Mr. S. W. Collier, having taken the Teachers' Diploma in Pitman's Shorthand, is now an instructor at an L.C.C. Evening Institute.

### 3. EMPLOYMENT:—

Seventy-six boys have been placed in employment during the year, either through the Central Schools' Exchange, through direct approach to the School, or through the efforts of Old Scholars. We wish particularly to place on record our appreciation of the

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work done by the Central Schools' Exchange in the placing of boys. Particulars of placings will be supplied to any parent who makes application to the Head Master.

4. TALKS TO SENIOR BOYS:—

Short addresses were given to the Senior Boys of the School, on matters connected with employment by the following visitors:—

- (a) Mr. H. Berry, Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.
- (b) Mr. G. W. Thompson, Editor of the "Draughtsman."
- (c) Mr. L. Dawes, of Sir Isaac Pitman's Publishing House.

5. VISITORS DURING THE YEAR:—

- Mr. J. G. Ronnevig, from Oslo, Norway.
- Mr. and Mrs. Eggertson, from the United States of America.
- Mr. G. F. Tuine, from Vancouver, Canada.
- Chinese visitors, from Chinese Legation.
- Mr. B. J. McKenna, Director of Education for Queensland.
- Mr. E. A. Ball, Principal of Zonnebloem Training College, Cape Town.
- Mr. G. C. Beazley, Supervisor from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.
- Mr. N. P. Nicholson, from Denmark.
- The Hon. James Smith, W. H. Smith and Sons.
- Mr. J. Barker, W. H. Smith and Sons.
- Mr. A. Rosenstein, from Jerusalem.
- Major Scott, from the Malay States.
- Mr. Lyne, from Brighton Grammar School, Melbourne.
- Miss M. Fisher, Head Mistress, Surrey Square Infants' School.

6. SCHOOL COLOURS:—

Colours have been awarded to:—

*Athletics*: L. Lack, A. Manley.

*Cricket*: E. Lee, L. Lack.

*Football*: E. Lee, L. Fontana, A. Manley.

*Swimming*: None awarded.

Of those who gained colours last year—D. Barrett (Swimming) and L. Lack (Football) are still in the School.

L. Lack and A. Manley have now gained colours in three sections—Football, Cricket, and Athletics.

## THE OLD BARNSBURIAN ASSOCIATION

*In answer to a letter addressed to the Secretary of the above Association, the following communication has been received by the Editor:—*

President: Dr. O. Wardman.

Hon. Sec.: W. Vickers.

Committee: J. Massey, J. Harris, R. H. Stripe, L. Biderman,  
E. Higgins, A. Partridge.

18th June, 1936.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter addressed to the Secretary has been forwarded to me, and I write to you now on behalf of the Old Barnsburian Association.

I must thank you for this opportunity of introducing this club through the medium of your magazine to the boys at present attending the school.

Since the Annual General Meeting, of September last, and the re-organisation of the club, rapid strides have been made. Not so long ago the club attendance on Friday evenings was about six, but now, I am pleased to say, we have a record number of between thirty and forty there regularly.

This speaks for itself, the regularity with which old scholars are attending (not to mention the numbers) shows the growing popularity of the club.

You may ask the reason for this sudden change; the answer is simple. We are getting more attractions to offer members now, and will have still more with the collaboration and support of present and especially of new members.

During the past twelve months we have seen very few of the boys just leaving the school, their support being very poor, but we sincerely hope to see such boys in the near future, the success and progress of any club depending largely upon its new members. With such support we will be able to put this club upon a sound footing, with all the sports, pastimes, and attractions that a first rate club can offer.

At present there are Billiards, Darts, Table Tennis, Dancing, etc., upon Friday evenings, and Tennis during the season, upon Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, and Saturday afternoons. Our intention for the future is to organise Rambling, Football, Swimming and Cricket sections. Whist Drives, Regular Dances, Social Evenings, and Suppers are to be included in our winter programme.

All these things are at present being discussed, and with the enthusiasm and support of present boys of the school, the Old Barnsburian Association cannot help being a successful and well-known club.

Yours very sincerely,

RAYMOND H. STRIPE.

## EMPLOYMENT

*Congratulations And Best Wishes to the following boys, who have obtained employment during the last six months:*

- J. SMITH has accepted a post in the Offices of the National Insurance Committee Offices.
- A. SAUNDERS has obtained a post as Junior Clerk.
- T. BEALE decided to go into the Printing profession.
- A. HULL will meet many Barnsburians at the firm in which he has gained employment—the Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co., Ltd., King's Cross.
- P. COOK, a technically-minded boy who has entered Callenders Cable Co.
- E. BAILEY. His Oxford Certificate helped him to find employment with the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Co., Ltd.
- W. CHAMBERS left abruptly to find employment in a Stationers' Business.
- J. AMES completed his full course and sought a career in a Shipping Office.
- E. LEE, another of the Oxford Examination boys, is in an Insurance Office.
- F. ROFFEY, a very competent Head Prefect while at school, has taken to salesmanship at Covent Garden.
- R. HEADLEY. A boy who is useful with his hands, Headley has commenced an apprenticeship.
- K. DINES enjoys life in a Warehouse
- R. KINGATE. Another of our boys to find employment in the London and Manchester Insurance Co.
- J. O'BRIEN. Insurance firms are popular with the Oxford Boys. O'Brien is in one.
- H. WOOD has commenced his career in an Accountants' Office.
- S. WAXMAN. Successfully passing the Oxford, he has taken up Accountancy.
- R. DEWIN has gone to cheer up Rantzau in an Insurance Office.
- A. FIDDES, like Wood, has started in an Accountant's Office.
- H. BENSTOCK is puzzling over Statistics in a Company Office.
- W. WARD is hard at work in a shipping office.
- A. HOY. Yet another of our boys in the London and Manchester Insurance Office.
- A. HILLIER and C. WILTSHIRE have both started in the laboratory of University College Hospital.
- S. RYDEN and A. MURRAY are busy learning the trade with a diamond setting and silversmith firm.

*Continued on page 32.*

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## THE SCHOOL JOURNEY TO FINLAND AND RUSSIA. EASTER, 1936.

On Wednesday, the 8th of April, a party of sixteen boys left King's Cross Station upon what may turn out to be the greatest event in their lives. At Hull, we embarked upon a somewhat small steamship. We were given excellent 1st class cabins and although we were pleased with our compartments we were even more pleased to discover that there was a party of girls on board. We did not, however, allow this to interfere with our studies or the writing of our diaries. Our crossing, according to the captain, was very calm, but to us it seemed pretty rough. We were very glad to see Copenhagen come into view although it was here that the party of Sunderland schoolgirls disembarked.

We stayed in Copenhagen for twenty-four hours so that we were able to have a short tour of the town. Some of the boys travelled to Denmark in 1935, so they were able to renew their acquaintance with Mr. Hemmingsen, who so kindly led the party throughout Denmark. At 10 o'clock on the following morning we left Copenhagen for Finland. The Baltic was a great deal rougher than we had expected, with the result that most of the boys were below in their cabins the greater part of the day. Upon the day that we arrived in Finland, the sea was as calm as a mill-pond, thus we were able to regain some of our lost colour, as we had been very pallid during our journey through the Baltic. Before we sighted land we passed several small ice-floes; this was interesting to us who had never seen ice in large quantities before. The whole harbour of Helsinki was ice-bound and to reach the dock-side we had to make our way through ice about two feet thick.

There were several news reporters and photographers and a host of various other people of importance.

### Impressions.

#### FINLAND.

The buildings of Finland are extremely modern in their architecture and the workmanship is of a very high class. The majority, including the House of Diet (Houses of Parliament), are built of red granite. This stone is found in large quantities there and is exported to many countries.

The House of Diet is a marvellous construction of granite and marble. This marble was imported from Italy and it is of a fine quality. The floors and walls of the main halls are entirely made of this stone and it is devoid of any carving.

The country houses are usually made of wood; this, of course, is also very plentiful. They are tidy, colourful buildings of the finest workmanship. Electricity is used extensively for lighting purposes, but in general, wood is used for heating. Owing to the scarcity of coal, locomotives are driven by wood fuel.

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The standard of the roads in Finland could be improved. Cobble stones are used as a surface and it is not as comfortable as it could be when riding over them.

Schools in Finland are ultra-modern and there are facilities for every kind of technical and commercial education. Everything is spotlessly clean and in perfect order. Radio is provided in every room, a notable feature, so our English schools do not compare with these Finnish academies.

The tramways are not quite so comfortable as those in London, and, instead of having double-decked trams, they have two separate trams, one pulling the other. There are no male conductors employed by the tramways.

The Finns are very polite and sociable and one quickly makes friends. The litter is conspicuous by its absence, in fact, there is a serious fine for "litter-droppers." Police in Finland, carry truncheons, revolvers and knives. This, however, is unnecessary because the people are very well disciplined.

Traffic, as in most Continental countries, keeps to the right.

#### RUSSIA

Almost the exact opposite can be said about Russia that has been said about Finland. The buildings are old and dilapidated; every building has an overpowering odour which makes one crave for the fresh air. The roads are many times worse than those in Finland; some are merely muddy stretches. The tram-track is decidedly dangerous and is in need of expert repair.

Women are graded as men and are given such jobs as road mending, etc. There is no equality in Russia yet. Whereas a tram driver receives only ninety roubles a month, a good actor will receive over five times this amount.

The windows of the buildings are dirty and some are broken. Those that are missing are replaced by cardboard. The general appearance of the people is slovenly; they need liberal quantities of soap and water and a good scrubbing brush.

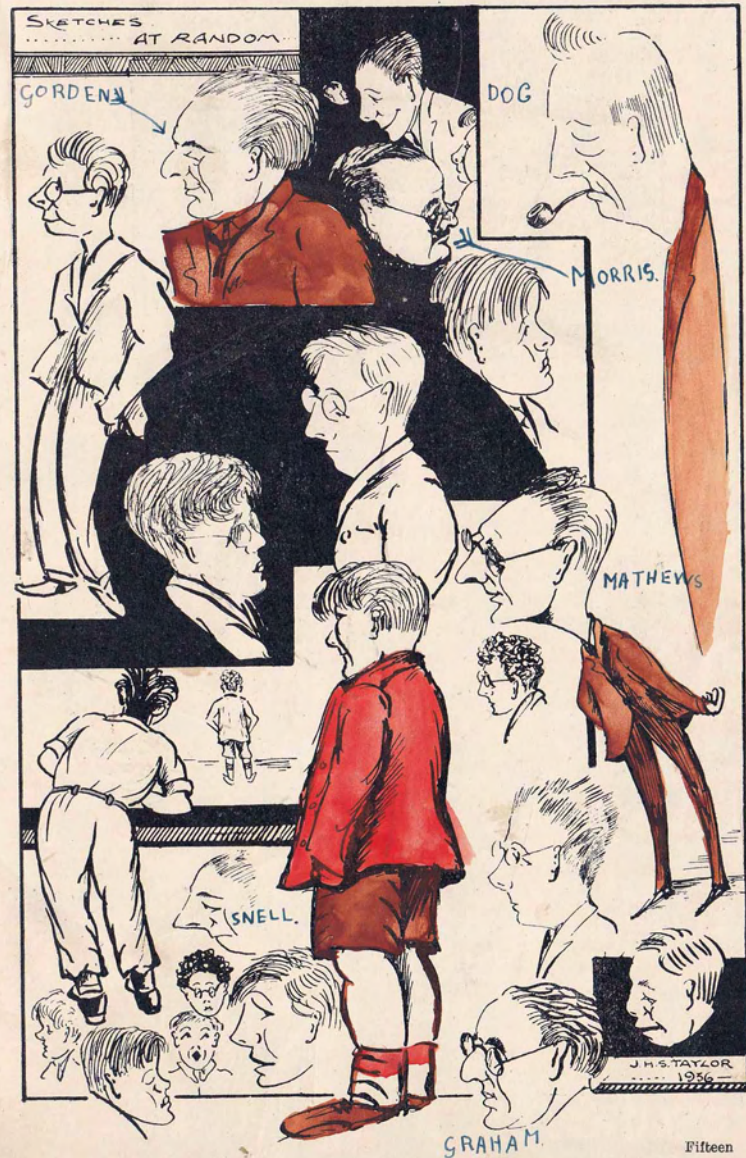
The factories are unhygienic; so are the schools.

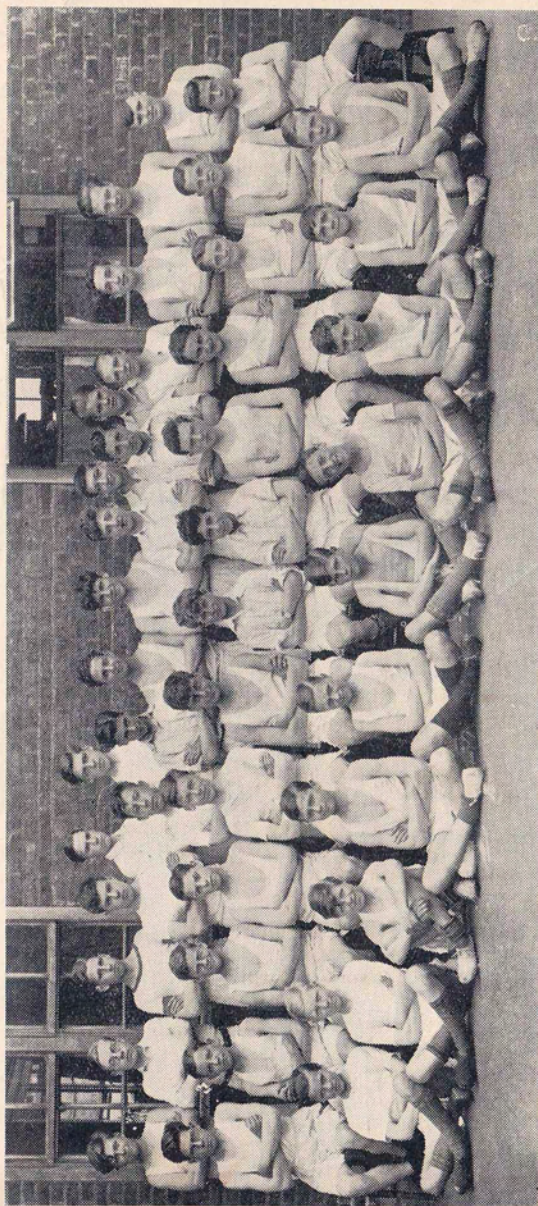
The whole town of Leningrad is like one gigantic slum.

Soldiers are very frequently seen, in fact it would be safe to say that out of every ten people six are soldiers. These soldiers are dressed in long, grey, coarse great-coats and they are all armed.

It is true that only a few years ago Russia was in a very low state of education and that gigantic steps have been taken in the way of educating the people. Nevertheless, they are steadily progressing in their ways.

P. KNIGHT.  
R. E. PEARCE (5th Year).





*Athletic Team.*

## INTERNATIONAL HONOURS



L. M. LACK IVA.

After playing three trials in different parts of the country, Slough, Walsall and Kettering, I was successful and was chosen to play for England against Wales in the international match at Aberdare. From that day onwards followed days of hard training and suspense. On the day before the match, we (Mr. Mansfield and I) travelled to Wales, and met the other members of the team. The following morning we were shown round the town, and taken for a charabanc

ride through the Breaknock Beacons and arrived back for dinner. After dinner we rested awhile, and then changed in readiness for the match, and then were driven to the ground. Nervous moments followed while photographs were taken, and whilst being introduced to the Welsh team. At last we were allowed to go on to the pitch, where we formed two lines while the National Anthem was played.

Our captain, Thompson of Dearne Valley, tossed for ends with the Welsh captain. We won the toss and chose to kick with the wind. After a strenuous first half we were leading by the only goal scored. The second half was a riot of goals; we added five to our total, in which I was fortunate enough to score, whilst the Welsh boys replied with two.

After the match we had a cold shower, and then were driven to a college for tea. Then, after a magnificent tea, came the proud moment; the Mayor of Cardiff presented the international caps to both teams. The caps were of red velvet, with gold braiding and gold tassels and lined with silk.

At eight that evening, we were taken to a cinema where seats had been reserved for both teams. That night we celebrated our victory in the hotel. Next morning, one by one, our team departed back to their homes, in all parts of the country, taking with us, our international caps, something we will remember and be proud of for the rest of our lives.

L. M. LACK IVA.

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## PIONEERS

By H. Gordon, Vice-President of L.S.A.

Editors are very determined specimens of the race. They also are armed to the teeth with blue pencils. Therefore on this Thursday, 19th July, 1936, I compose myself to write for the Barnsbury Magazine, but with a composure fringed by fear that what I write will doubtless be rejected, or "improved" out of all recognition. Thus does an Editor make schoolboys of us all.

I have just read hundreds of news sheets about supplementary estimates for the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Four columns of an evening paper gave information about the spending of £188,163,700 on defending this country for this year against my enemies. I didn't know I had so many enemies. Did you?

Having finished these four columns I went on to the fifth, and there was just a little paragraph saying, "Bread will go up ½d. per four pound loaf, making the price 8d. in London on Monday."

So we spend more money in order to preserve less life. Some people, like myself, think this is all wrong. We always see a very close connection between war and preparations of a war-like nature on the one hand, and poverty and dear food on the other. We wish to spend much more on the joy of living and much less on the preservation of it.

We therefore feel that each school should have its band of Pioneers.

What is a Pioneer? A Pioneer is a member of a School Branch of the League of Nations Union. He is also a person who is in advance of his fellows. These, if they are wise, follow after him. The particular pioneers I have in mind are so much in advance of their fellows, that they are already being looked upon by many people as dangerous. You remember Socrates was so "dangerous" that they put him to death in Athens. Galileo was a most dangerous man. So was St. Paul. So is every great reformer. So is every great teacher.

You see, a great teacher *may* succeed in getting his scholars to think for themselves. Suppose his scholars thought this, "Why must my father work harder now for the same amount of bread? Doesn't he work hard enough already? What do we want more Soldiers and Sailors for? Whom are we going to fight?"

Now a boy who thought like that would be a pioneer. And I should like to see him in the League of Nations Union. Of course there are people who say the League of Nations Union is out of date and useless. If that is so, then most of the cleverest people in this country are useless, because most of them are members of the L.N.U.—great scientists, poets, writers, preachers, proud to be members of the L.N.U.

It is much braver to work for peace than it is to go to war. Any fool can fight. I once saw a picture of an English heavy-weight champion playing the piano—by turning a handle. The

poor fellow couldn't even sign his name. Some people thought he couldn't fight, but he was champion, nevertheless. In my view any fool can drop bombs from a great height on a defenceless crowd of women, old men and children. I can see nothing brave in it. I cannot understand the young fellow who could be so little of a gentleman as to do it. I *can* imagine a very ignorant person doing it, but to a man of imagination and education I should think it impossible.

I, and those who think with me, have often wondered just this. What would be the strength of four hundred well-educated scholars determined to keep the peace? How could you measure the power of four hundred pioneers? Just imagine the enormous influence of Barnsbury Central School and its old scholars if, with united pull, they worked for peace.

It is not difficult to imagine how they would begin. Most people think that the only way to begin anything is to buy a new uniform. I have known many scouts who think they are only scouts when they are in uniform. Others in other movements think you must have special shirts and special "bags." The pioneers I am thinking of, pay a great deal more attention to learning their job than they do to wearing any uniform. That is how they begin—by learning their job.

A well-known headmaster the other day, made this announcement. "If two boys in this school want to fight, come to me and I will make the necessary arrangements." That was true League of Nation's spirit. First of all make up your mind whom you want to fight, and why you want to fight him and then go and talk it over with someone more powerful than you who has no interest in the quarrel. I can understand people fighting to make bread cheaper, but I cannot understand anyone fighting when they know it will make bread and everything else dearer. Can you? Then the Headmaster said, "But if you start fighting without my permission, then I will punish you for disorder." That was also true League spirit.

The King who told the Barons just these two things was very much hated by all the fighting men—those who got their living by fighting—but not only by the ordinary men and women who just wanted to enjoy life.

That is why the League of Nations is hated by many people to-day—why all the great reformers have always been hated—because they talk peace, work for peace, bring in peace, and make life worth living. These are the really brave people, the Galileos, the Christs and all the rest of them—the true pioneers.

How can Barnsbury Central get its group of Pioneers? Just ask some member of the Staff to write to the League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1, and they will tell you.

H. G.

(N.B.—The Editor, in thanking Mr. Gordon for his article, wishes to say that he will be always deeply gratified to receive any further work from his pen—nor will he ever feel the slightest temptation to reject, "improve," or become furiously anti-pacific with blue pencils or other armaments.)

## BARNSBURY CENTRAL SCIENCE SOCIETY

President: Dr. O. Wardman.

Chairman: Mr. R. G. Zissell.

In September, 1935, a Science Society was formed from the IVth and Vth years. Certain members were elected to form a committee with Mr. Zissell as chairman. The original committee was:—

*Vth Year.*—G. Attfield, R. Dewin, S. Waxman, A. Hoy, E. Couzens, A. Simmonds, L. Skinner, G. Wilson, and later E. Bailey.

*IVth Year.*—S. Appleton, D. Barrett, R. Johnson, R. Headley.

Lectures were given by different masters and boys on various scientific topics. Our programme for the session 1935-1936 was arranged for alternate Friday evenings at 4, and was as follows:— Nov. 1st, Mr. Henry on "Occultism." Nov. 15th, "Motors," by E. Ward; "Diving," by P. Gilroy; "Aviation," by R. Dewin; "Dreams," by G. Attfield. Jan. 10th, "Ships," by H. J. Fairey; "Colour," by G. Attfield; "Civilisation," by S. Waxman. Jan. 24th, "The Modern Camera," by Mr. Aylard. Feb. 7th, "A Winter Sky," by Mr. Teare. Feb. 21st, "Sound Science," by Mr. Mathews. Mar. 6th, "The 'Crust' on which we Live," by Mr. Lock. Mar. 20th, "Leonardo da Vinci—Artist and Scientist," by Mr. Taylor. April 3rd, a *Conversazione* was arranged by members, and interesting demonstrations were given. The masters took a lot of trouble in preparing their lectures and they were very interesting. The Science Society is looking forward eagerly to another series of talks.

Various scientific visits were arranged by the Society as follows:—Two parties visited the United Dairies' Depot in Stroud Green Road; two parties visited Messrs. Cossor Valve Factory at Highbury; one party visited St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

A Science Society reading room was opened in the lunch hour

on Wednesdays, and magazines of scientific interest were purchased from a small donation given by members wishing to use the reading room. The present committee, which consists of G. Attfield, W. Smith, R. Johnson, S. Appleton, A. Hare, D. Barrett, R. Ashworth, hope that the present IVth year will support the Science Society during the next session.

S. APPLETON, VA.

## MODERN ATOMIC DISCOVERIES

The picture of the atom as a miniature solar-system—the nucleus corresponding to the sun, and circulating electrons to the planets—is fairly well-known at the present day. Therefore I propose giving a brief summary of it, and then going on to the more recent and lesser-known developments.

The hydrogen atom has the simplest structure, being composed of only 2 particles, the nucleus and 1 electron revolving round it. This nucleus of the hydrogen atom is called a proton and has a positive charge of 1 unit, and a mass of 1 unit (the mass of a body is the amount of matter it possesses). It will be well to note here that like charges repel, i.e., positive (+) repels positive, and negative (−) repels negative, and unlike charges attract. The electron has a negative charge of 1 unit; thus the positive charge of the proton and the negative charge of the electron cancel one another, and the charge on the atom as a whole is neutral. It will also be seen that the positive proton will attract the negative electron, and it is this attraction that prevents the electron flying off from its orbit at a tangent, just as the force of gravitation holds the earth in its path round the sun. Practically all the mass of the hydrogen atom is concentrated in the nuclear proton, the mass of the electron being negligible. As a matter of fact the mass of the proton is about 1,840 times that of the electron, but for practical purposes the electron is best treated as if it had no mass at all.

The structure of the helium atom is a little more complicated, but it will serve to illustrate the manner in which all the other atoms are built up. The nucleus of the helium atom consists of 4 protons (total charge +4; total mass 4) and 2 electrons (total charge −2; total mass 0), giving a nucleus with a total mass of 4, and a total charge of +2; but the charge on the atom as a whole is neutral, therefore there are 2 revolving electrons whose negative charge cancels that of the nucleus. The nuclei of all the other atoms are composed of protons and electrons combined; the nucleus of the heaviest element uranium, is composed of 238 protons (+) and 146 electrons (−). This gives a total positive charge of 92. There are therefore 92 electrons revolving round the nucleus.

Now, having acquired an elementary conception of the atom, we have to introduce some complications. As well as protons and electrons we come across the following terms:—Neutron, positron, deuteron, triton, negative proton, and neutrino. As yet there is no experimental evidence which gives any indication that either the neutrino or the negative proton exists: we shall have something more to say about this later on.

The introduction of these new names may be somewhat confusing at first, but does not constitute any really serious barrier to the layman's understanding of the atom: as long as he can preserve his mental picture of a miniature solar-system he will not be faced by any grave difficulty of comprehension. Therefore let us tabulate our knowledge, and then it will be seen that matters are not as complicated as they might seem at

first sight. The following are the particles (real or imaginary) already mentioned, with their chief characteristics:—

Note:— $m$  stands for mass, and  $c$  for charge.

<i>Positron</i> (positive electron)— $m=0$ : $c=+1$	
<i>Proton</i> — $m=1$ : $c=+1$	<i>Neutrino</i> — $m=0$ : $c=0$ or $m=1$ : $c=0$ .
<i>Neutron</i> — $m=1$ : $c=0$	<i>Negative Proton</i> — $m=1$ : $c+1$ : $-1$
<i>Deuteron</i> — $m=2$ : $c=+1$	<i>Triton</i> — $m=3$ : $c=+1$
<i>Electron</i> — $m=0$ : $c=1$	

One thing that has puzzled scientists for some time is the atomic weights of the elements. The atomic weight of an atom is its weight relative to hydrogen, taking the weight of hydrogen as 1; or relative to oxygen, taking oxygen as 16, which makes hydrogen 1.008. At the present time atomic weights are usually calculated by the latter method, as it is more convenient. If the nuclei of atoms are composed of protons and electrons, remembering that the mass of the electron is negligible, the atomic weights should be multiples of hydrogen, that is they should be whole numbers. But they are not. The reason is this: all the atoms of one element are not of the same atomic weight. For instance, the atomic weight of neon is 20.18, and it has been discovered that in a given quantity of neon, 90 per cent. of the atoms are of atomic weight 20, and 10 per cent. of atomic weight 22. It follows from this that the chemical properties of an element do not depend upon its atomic weight, what they depend upon is the *charge on the nucleus*. Elements which are chemically similar, but whose nuclei are of different masses and equal charges are called isotopes. Hydrogen, for example, has three isotopes. The nucleus of ordinary hydrogen has a mass of 1, and a charge of +1. Then there are two different nuclei of heavy hydrogen, the deuteron or diplon ( $m=2$ :  $c=+1$ ), and second the triplon or triton ( $m=3$ :  $c=+1$ ). Helium also has three isotopes, the nuclei of which are as follows:—Ordinary helium ( $m=4$ :  $c=+2$ ), heavy helium ( $m=5$ :  $c=+2$ ), third form ( $m=3$ :  $c=+2$ ). When two deuterons collide they may produce this new helium nucleus of mass 3, or they may produce the triton (hydrogen nucleus, mass 3). You will notice that although the masses of the three hydrogen nuclei vary, the charge remains +1 in each case. The same for helium, the charge is always +2.

Now a word about the neutrino and negative proton whose real existence is said to be doubtful. What leads scientists to theorise as to their existence? First the negative proton. The argument for its possible existence is this:—The opposite of the electron, the positron is rare; why then may there not exist the opposite of the proton, the negative proton. When we come to the neutrino a difficulty arises, for the name neutrino is used to denote two different things. They both have no charge, but one corresponds to the electron or positron, the other to the proton or neutron. The argument for its existence is that corresponding to the proton (+) there is the neutron, so corresponding to the positron (+) there may be a neutrino. The other particle denoted by the name neutrino has the same properties as the neutron. But it is not built up in the same way as the

neutron. You will remember that we said that the proton was an elementary particle, and that the neutron was composed of a proton and an electron. It has been found that positrons are constituents of the nuclei of atoms, and their function being difficult to understand, it has been suggested that combined with the neutron, it forms the proton. Then according to this a proton would be composed of:—1 positron+1 electron+1 positron +a particle of dead matter of mass 1, that is a neutrino. This gives the structure of neutrons and protons as follows:—

1 Neutron ( $m=1$ :  $c=0$ )=1 Electron+1 Proton.  
1 Proton ( $m=1$ :  $c=+1$ )=2 Positrons=1 Electron+1 Neutrino.

From this 1 neutron would be composed of:—

1 Electron+2 Positrons+1 Electron+1 Neutrino.

That is, the neutron is composed of 5 particles. If this is true, then the neutrino is an indivisible particle, and this necessitates revising our ideas of charged bodies. For it was thought that there were only two kinds of electricity: positive and negative, and any body that had a neutral charge, possessed equal charges of positive and negative electricity which cancelled each other. But if the neutrino really exists we must admit that there is such stuff as "dead" matter. But don't let this worry you; all this theorising about the neutrino is highly imaginative.

G. ATTFIELD (5th Year).

## THE EVOLUTION OF FLYING

The first flying machine made by man was in the form of a bird. The wings consisted of feathers and it was propelled by the pilot who vigorously moved his feet in order to make the wings move in the same manner as those of a bird. The inventor, Lillenthal, made his first flight in 1894, when he found that he could propel himself a distance of about 100 yards. In 1896, Lillenthal met his death whilst gliding down a small incline.

It was the efforts of this great man that inspired the Wright Bros. Another pioneer ranking as high as Lillenthal was Percy Pilcher. This man made a flight of 250 yards in the year of 1897, in a glider towed by a piece of fishing cord. Like Lillenthal, Pilcher crashed while giving a demonstration in 1899. In 1896, the Wright Bros. heard of the research work of Lillenthal so that they started making and demonstrating planes of their own design and construction. Their efforts were crowned with success for in 1902, they flew a distance of 600 yards. Thus flying was gradually progressing. It was the Great War of 1914 that did most for the advancement of flying. Many different types of aircraft were invented during the war and even now, some of the original designs have been retained for the construction of modern aircraft. Thus, if aeroplane design and construction continues to advance in the way that it has been doing, the type of aircraft of the future cannot possibly be predicted. It is amazing when one considers that in 1900 the only method of entering the upper atmosphere was by balloon. The balloons of this time were very unsafe and unreliable.

R. E. PEARCE (5th Year).

## FRESH-WATER FISH OF THE BRITISH ISLES

The Barbel is a greenish-grey fish. Its pectoral, ventral, anal and tail fins are of a red hue, whilst the dorsal is uniform in colour with the remainder of its body. From the lip hang four beards, or barbels, hence the name. It abounds in the Trent and Thames, and is one of the gamest fish in existence, for it will fight to the end, and has caused more than one angler to return home with a shattered top-joint to his rod. The barbel is found mostly on the river-bed, where it feeds on worms and insect larvæ. The Bleak is a very lively little fish, and can be seen in almost any river in England. It can easily be recognised by its habit of leaping from the water and swimming in shoals, and displaying its gleaming silvery scales, which, by the way, were not long ago used in the manufacture of artificial pearls. In the days of Izaak Walton, "whipping" for bleak was a popular pastime among boys, but, nowadays it is considered too small for sport.

There are three varieties of British Bream. Firstly, the Common Bream, of a green-brown colour, is extremely broad, with a large tail-fin. It feeds on insect larvæ, and is very large, the record weight of a bream caught in Great Britain being 12 lbs. 12½ ozs.

The Silver Bream, the colour its name suggests, is smaller than the common variety and is not quite so broad in proportion. It is very voracious, and a nuisance to anglers on account of this.

The Pomeranian Bream has all the characteristics of the Silver Bream except that the pectoral, ventral and anal fins are red. This fact has led to many arguments between scientists as to whether it is a hybrid between bream and roach or not. As yet this is a matter of divided opinion.

The Bull-Head or Miller's Thumb, so called because of its flat head, is a pretty little fish of chocolate-brown hue, and splashed with light brown markings.

There are several kinds of Carp. The common variety is broad and thick, yellow-brown, with barbels from its lips. It lives a long time—sometimes hundreds of years—and is difficult to catch. The record for the British Isles is 26 lbs.

The Crucian Carp has no barbels, its colour is slightly more metallic than that of the aforementioned, is smaller, and very rare.

The Mirror Carp is darker, and not built on such massive lines as the others: it has rows of shining scales on its side and back, and is a very beautiful fish.

The eels are as much salt-water fish as fresh-water ones, for in the spawning season they go downriver to the sea, at which time they are beautifully coloured, their silver stomachs showing in contrast to their dark backs. After they have

spawned and returned to the rivers, they become broad of nose and of a very dowdy brown colour.

The Gudgeon is very much like the Barbel, except that it has only two beards, and is much smaller. It is a ground-loving fish, feeds on gentles, small worms and larvæ, especially blood-worms, and instinctively swims to where there is a movement in the water to obtain them. These fish are good bait for Pike and Perch.

The Loach, like the Gudgeon, is a bottom-loving fish. It has four barbels, and is, on the average, 5½ inches long. Colour, grey-green.

The Minnow is the most well-known of all British fish, and the best Pike-bait available. It is very lively, and is of brown-silver hue.

The Perch is a most magnificent fish. It is green, with black bars across its width, an extremely high dorsal with ventral, anal, and caudal fins of red. It is very courageous and when hooked will fight to the end.

Pike are the largest of British fresh-water fish. Like the Carp, they often live for hundreds of years. Their bodies are long and narrow, and they possess tapering and wicked-looking jaws, lined with equally wicked-looking and tapering teeth. They feed on other fish, frogs, and water rats, and it is recorded that one seized the arm of, and pulled in the water, a girl of sixteen.

The Roach is blue-silver on top, and silver on the under part, with red fins. It affords much sport to Londoners, who seem to pursue this fish in particular. Since the war they have become even more keen, on account of the very killing hemp bait introduced by the Belgians at that time. The British Isles recorded roach, a specimen fish caught in a private Derbyshire water in August, 1932, weighed 5 lbs. 11½ ozs.

The Rudd strongly resembles the Roach, except that it is bigger, has a red eye, and has not such brilliantly red fins. The British Isles record for this fish is one of 4½ lbs. taken near Norwich, in 1933.

Salmon, like eels, go down to the sea every year to spawn. Female salmon differ from males in the fact that during the spawning season they are steel blue on top, speckled with black on top, whilst the males are dark-brown and speckled with a lighter orange, and have a slightly hooked lower jaw.

The Sticklebacks, of which there are four varieties, having 3, 7, 10 or 15 spines respectively, are, in spite of their small size, very aggressive. During the breeding time, when they assume a red colouring and hence are called "red throats," they will, with spines erect, attack other fish much larger than themselves. The dark, chocolate-brown tench, found in sluggish rivers, where it has its home amongst the weed, is commonly supposed to possess the power of healing other fish by touching their wounds with the mucus or slime with which their backs are covered. The

biggest Tench on record for the British Isles, is one of 7 lbs. caught in 1933, near Norwich.

The Trout, with his magnificent red and brown-speckled back is a gallant, and game fighter. It feeds on minnow, worms and flies.

The Lock Leven Trout, which originated in this particular place is of a steel-blue colour, with black specks, and is not nearly such a handsome fish as the Common Brown Trout.

The Rainbow Trout, however, surpasses all in its beauty. It has mauve sides, running into a light red, and speckled as the common Trout. It is not a native of England, for though found in various rivers it was originally brought over from California, and unfortunately, does not breed here. E. FITT IIIA

### SPRING IN THE AQUARIUM

We had recently collected a handful of water weed from a pond at Totteridge, but . . . .

Well, when one considers that the first instrument that contained the elementary principles of the compound microscope appeared in the early part of the seventeenth century, it is not surprising that Aristotle believed in the spontaneous generation of life.

Peering into the school aquarium a boy was heard to exclaim, "That piece of stick seems to be alive."

Surely not a stick insect? No, but the chrysalis of a may-fly, and before long the insect was seen to be emerging from its pupal skin.

Alas, in our eagerness, we left a net on the aquarium overnight and in the morning the insect had fallen back drowned in the water in which it had finally developed. Probably it had spent two years in the larva and pupa stage at the bottom of a pond before coming to our aquarium.

"What are these, minute fishes?" They looked like fishes, but on closer examination we found them to be baby newts, little more than a quarter of an inch long, just emerged from their hiding place in the leaves of a pond weed which had been dexterously twisted round the eggs by the female newt.

In a comparatively short time we saw the simple gills become more branched and the fore-limbs develop from mere knobs. Then as the four front toes became more distinct the hind limbs made their appearance. (In the tadpole of a frog the hind legs develop first.)

We had hoped to see the gills diminish in size as the lungs acquired their full proportions, but boys with sticklebacks could not be kept at bay any longer, and the coming of the stickleback meant the disappearance of the young newts.

This is not surprising when one of this species of fish has the reputation of devouring, in five hours, seventy-four young dace a quarter of an inch long!

R. G. Z.

### THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ISLINGTON

The following is an attempt to give a few facts about the history of the Borough of Islington. The Borough of Finsbury may be mentioned, but it is unavoidable because of the proximity of these two boroughs.

Relics have been found which suggest that the Romans had camps at Barnsbury and on Highbury Hill. These two places were on high ground and gave an excellent view of the surrounding districts. It was the soldiers from these camps, who fought Queen Boadicea at Battle Bridge, now King's Cross.

Islington, because of its height, was a favourite resort of Londoners, and its population was soon augmented when medicinal springs were discovered at Sadlers Wells. Its position on the Great North Road, the stage-coach route to the North, also helped its development. The Angel Inn was a halt for stage-coaches. This inn gained its name by a story that a vision of the Virgin image was seen there.

When Islington was a small cluster of houses around Islington Green, it was famous for its dairy produce. The pasture was excellent, and nearly all the residents were farmers, or farm-labourers.

As roads were improved and made safer, Londoners came and settled in Islington, and the boundaries were extended. These Londoners were fond of pleasure, and sports were often held at the Angel. It is from these festivities that this district became known as "Merrie Islington." The chief sport was archery, and soon Islington was famed for its fine archers. One day a careless archer shot an arrow through a milkmaid's hat, and the maiden was so thankful for her escape that she was determined to mark the spot, if she could. She was able to, because she had married a rich man, and she built a school for boys, with the Brewer's Company as its governors. Her name was Dame Alice Owen.

A prominent landmark in Islington is the New River, which was built in the reign of James I, to supply London with water. The New River Company was formed by Hugh Myddelton, to carry out the scheme. Streams were to be tapped at Chadwell, 20 miles from the Metropolis, and the water carried in channels to London, but work was suspended owing to lack of funds, which was soon rectified by a grant from the King, however. For his services Hugh Myddelton gained a knighthood, and his statue can be seen at Islington Green. Nowadays, the greater part of this river flows underground, but it can still be seen at Clissold Park, and Canonbury.

There are several names in this borough which have some historical connection. There is the Canonbury Tower, which was originally the manor house of Canonbury. Famous men such as Francis Bacon and Oliver Goldsmith, lodged in this Tower. The Queen's Head in Essex Road (Lower Street) reminds us of the original Queen's Head Tavern which used to be frequented by Sir Walter Raleigh. On the slope of Highgate Hill is Whitting-

ton's Stone, on which Dick Whittington was supposed to have sat, when he heard Bow Bells. Further up the hill is the house of Nell Gwynn, the favourite of King Charles. Another name is Ring Cross, which was the name of the junction made at Lower Holloway by Liverpool Road (or Back Street).

Charles Lamb, the great essayist, once lived in Islington, in Colebrooke Row. The father of the present Chamberlains, Neville and Sir Austen, the great Joseph Chamberlain, also lived in Islington. He lived in Highbury Place, overlooking the Highbury Fields, and it might have been in that very house that he was inspired with the idea of a united British Commonwealth.

S. E. APPLETON (5th Year).

### CES LINGUISTES DE BARNSBURY

"Quel est le passé composé de ce verbe?" Si vous n'avez jamais entendu cette question vous n'avez jamais assisté à une leçon de français à l'école centrale de Barnsbury. Pendant cette leçon regardez soigneusement les visages des élèves et vous y verrez un air de joie inexprimable quand le professeur commence à leur poser ces questions si intéressantes. "Fait-il beau aujourd'hui?" Quelle question! Il fait naturellement beau, nous avons une heure et demie de français ce matin!

Pourquoi les élèves aiment-ils si bien ces leçons? Les professeurs de français sont-ils si aimables? Ces leçons sont-elles si intéressantes? Est-ce qu'on peut lire les "bloods" sans aucun risque de punition, une retenue ou une mauvaise note? Ou enfin est-ce qu'on a une profonde admiration pour les Mallets, petits et grands, ce M. Mallet au nez pointu qui prend tellement soin de ses jolies fleurs, ce petit Robert qui est plus jeune que sa soeur, et cette barbe vénérable du grand-père, assis dans son fauteuil à St. Cloud? En tout cas espérons que ce goût divin pour le français existera toujours à Barnsbury. Ainsi soit-il!

#### *Quelques Anecdotes.*

1. Un de mes amis allait tous les jours à la cité pour ses affaires. Il avait coutume de mettre une pièce de cinquante centimes dans le chapeau d'un aveugle qui, assis au coin d'une certaine rue, demandait l'aumône aux passants. Un matin, mon ami fut très surpris d'entendre l'aveugle lui dire. "Monsieur, votre mouchoir sort de votre poche et vous allez le perdre!" Un imposteur, oui, mais quelle reconnaissance!

2. Le mendiant: Ma bonne dame, vous n'avez pas une paire de souliers à me donner, s'il vous plaît? Les miens sont tout usés, ils prennent l'eau.

Madame: Mais, mon ami, il y a huit jours, exactement, je vous en ai donné une paire!

Le mendiant: Oh! pardon, c'est vrai . . . Excusez-moi.

Madame: Qu'en avez-vous fait?

Le mendiant: Ma bonne dame . . . Ils étaient trop bons pour moi . . . Je les ai vendus. S. S.

### IN LIGHTER VEIN

#### MAXIMS.

- (1) Mankind can be divided into two parts: the first express themselves badly, the second misunderstand them.
- (2) Literature is a concert performed by the blind for the benefit of the deaf and dumb.
- (3) Avoid the foolish—they are dangerous; for dynamite only explodes once; folly daily.
- (4) Satire is wisdom that has gone sour and bad-tempered.
- (5) The statement, "To-day is the 9th of July" was yesterday untrue and to-morrow will also be a lie. So it is with most so-called truths.
- (6) Many actors are so gifted, that even in real life they appear genuine.
- (7) Mothers are the invention of necessity. So are teachers—they take their place on week-days.
- (8) If everyone said only what he knew to be certain fact, there would be no more newspapers—nor prophets.
- (9) The first duty of an editor and his greatest virtue—to keep his mouth shut.
- (10) With frightfulness empires may be overthrown—but brutality will never sharpen a pencil.
- (11) All men are brothers—hence the everlasting squabbling.
- (12) Listen to everybody's advice, and follow no-one's. Not even this advice.
- (13) The punctual are for ever cursed—they have to wait for the unpunctual.
- (14) There are sciences, whose total intellectual content consists of the history of their mistakes—chiefly medical sciences, of course.

#### HOW TO BECOME A PACIFIST.

(The following pieces of humour is a translation from the German.)  
Pacifism has now become the fashion in quite the best circles—and many of my contemporaries (since we were raised under the old militarist system) will find great difficulty, in obtaining the degree of mildness necessary to the new cult.

Certain requisites are essential—but none of you will surely be lacking these:

Firstly, you must have a fountain pen. Note well. Your own fountain pen, no other; secondly a small nephew; the nephew doesn't need to be your own, so long as he is small.

Now place in the hand of the nephew the fountain pen—your fountain pen—and say to him: "Bobby, draw for uncle a nice picture. A nice Christmas card, with such lots and lots of snow falling."

You will become amazed to find out how the primitive savage will boil up in you as you watch Bobby stabbing with all his little heart thousands and thousands of snow flakes into the paper, with your fountain pen.

Fasten the snow-scape then on the wall with a drawing pin, and get the dear little fellow from a distance of some three yards to charge the snow-man which he has drawn on his Christmas card and slay him with the pen for a lance. He will do it. Then the dear boy—so changeable is the mind of youth—will soon get bored with the sport, and will put your pen, without screwing in the cap, on to the radiator.

Two possibilities arise here.

Firstly, you leave the pen on the radiator—allow it to dry up and roast beyond all hope of recovery—in which case you have nothing more to learn—you are a finished pacifist.

Or, you are unable to contain yourself, you rescue, and screw on the cap of the pen—in which case you require further testing.

For the second test you require, in addition to the small nephew, a pot of honey.

You then ask in the friendliest manner, as one would do to a dear little nephew, "Bobby, would you be so kind as to pour some of this



honey into my best slippers from this pot, but do it fairly, so that one slipper doesn't get more than the other?"

Will Bobby be so kind? You bet he will! With the greatest of joy! All the honey must not go into the slippers in his zeal—rather get him to save the greater part of the contents of the honey-pot for the piano.

When you have to stand by and see darling little Bobby dripping honey, drop by drop, some between the piano keys, some among the hammers and wires of the inside of the piano—there is little doubt that ultimately you will find yourself reaching out and landing dear Bobby's milk teeth flying all over the place like a broken necklace of pearls shooting from his little mouth.

The whole brutality of your inner nature will become revealed to a horrified world in one stroke

Pacifism is an ideal. Ideals are, as is well known, unattainable here below.

#### HOME-GROWN HOWLERS.

When building a monument, a heavy base must be used.

The centre of gravity of an object is that spot which, when made to fall vertically out of the object's base, will make the object topple over.

Four hundred perished in a single night in the Black Hole of the Calcutta Sweep.

The prodigal son, when he'd spent all his money, became a pig-swine. Then we found the vibration of one second.

Two mangles having two sides of the one equal to two sides of the other are equal in all respects.

Lake Titacaca is 12,000 miles high.

Chile has a temperature.

The chief fish exported from Newfoundland are God, mackerel and lobster.

The word Flood is spelt with a capital letter because it is an important period in English literature.

Q. Name two Scottish patriots.

A. Peter the Hermit and John Wesley.

#### THE REFORM OF JIM.

When Jim first came to this Central School

He thought he'd abide by every rule,

The prefects, too, he would obey

And work his hardest all the day.

But now by fate the story's changed,  
From "cheek" to disorder his actions ranged,  
Bad mentions, too, heaped on his name,  
And made his parents blush with shame.

The Head once called him to his door  
And made him bend and touch the floor,  
Out of his cupboard, took he a stick,  
Two feet long, and a half-inch thick.

The cane fell down, Jim gave a yell,  
Which, so I'm told, rang like a bell;  
"Your work of late has been too poor,  
If it doesn't improve, you'll get some more."

So Jim resolved to try again,  
And set to work with might and main,  
Good mentions soon began to come,  
Till thirty-six was the final sum.

When prize day dawned again next year  
The youngster's face was full of cheer,  
Followed by many envious looks  
He trotted home with his pile of books.

T. HUGHES, III T.

## SPORTS SECTION

Though we have not had so successful a year as in some cases in the past, we have no reason to be ashamed of our record. Some of our former achievements have been so outstanding that trying to live up to them is very difficult. Still let us look at the actual figures.

In *Athletics* we were again 2nd to Acland—so here is a chance for our young sprinters and jumpers to add new laurels!

In *Football*.—All three teams finished third in their respective leagues. To the Junior team goes the honour of bringing home the only real success in this branch—they were runners-up to Tollington in the Louis Lewis Shield.

The season was not too good for cricket, but our central team managed to complete their fixtures and finished third in their league. Our senior team would have finished high up in their league but the programme could not be completed.

Now for *Swimming*! Last season we had a phenomenal time in the Islington Swimming Gala—but this year we managed to get only three honours—Second place in Senior Team Race and Islington Championship and third in Senior Championship.

In individual successes, however, we have done well. Leslie Lack brought to the school the greatest honour we have ever had—an English Cap against Wales. He gives his own impressions on another page. He and Manley gained colours for Cricket, Football and Athletics. Lack has represented Islington, Middlesex, London and England in Football; Islington in Cricket and Islington in Athletics. Manley has done well, too, having gained honours for Islington and Middlesex and Cricket cap for Islington. Young Fontana, who gained Representative Medal for Islington Junior Football, should follow in their footsteps.

In Athletics, H. Phipps gained the highest honour for he travelled with the London Team to Blackpool to compete in the All England championships. Other noteworthy successes were the retaining of the 440 yards Championship Cup in Central School Sports by A. Simmonds, and the breaking of the team race record by Harbour, Hoy, Simmonds and Phipps, in the same meeting.

Louch and Fitt were representative boys in swimming, being chosen for Islington's Team in the All London Championships.

Not enough is made of our House trophies. The winning of his House championship in every branch of sport ought to be the endeavour of every individual boy. In football and cricket finals the attendance of boys even of the competing houses is most disappointing. The House cricket championship was in abeyance last year owing to bad weather, but the other three were well divided: "Red" won the football, "White" the athletics and "Blue" the swimming. If "Green" had won the cricket—well! that would have been a division of the honours!

It is hoped to run a tennis Championship this year. Last year's results are somewhat indefinite, but Alger was generally accepted as the outstanding player. Darts, billiards, table tennis,

and, we hope badminton should provide excellent competitions in our indoor sports' section if we are to judge from the enthusiasm shown for them. Real skill will come later and then competitions will be inaugurated.

#### CENTRAL SCHOOL SPORTS

Rain caused a postponement of the North London Central School Sports from Friday, 26th June, to Tuesday, the 30th. Even then conditions were not too good. In spite of this, many meritorious performances were recorded. As far as Barnsbury is concerned, our boys exceeded our greatest expectations. Although placed second to Acland, we actually had to sacrifice eight points (which would have given us a complete victory) owing to technical mistakes in both Senior and Junior relay races. This was especially galling as the Juniors set up a new record. So there was no 1st place in the competition, no record, and no medals! Special praise goes to the Juniors for gaining so many points in their section with an extra word of commendation to Childs and Lambeth. We were very anxious to retain the 440 yards Cup and Feasey made a really excellent effort, being beaten on the tape in a little over 58 seconds. Lack and Manley, as usual, put in great work in their races and it is rather a pity the disqualification nullified their efforts in the Team race. However, with the younger boys doing so well in their events hopes for the future are high.

J. S. M

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#### EMPLOYMENT

*Continued from Page 12.*

- F. SIMMS, a progressive boy who left to find employment in a solicitor's office.
- A. SIMMONDS. Outstanding at athletics at school, he has accepted a post as Junior Clerk.
- E. BLOWER is seeking new prospects in a Jeweller's Establishment.
- J. HEADLAND, a Technical boy, who has joined the Engineering department of the G.P.O.
- A. HAWKER is working for promotion in a Solicitor's office.
- D. BELL has encountered several Barnsburians in the Law Courts, where he is employed.
- H. BRANNON, since leaving school, has found promotion from Office Junior in a Shipping Office.
- E. WHITEHEAD has obtained a position with the British Thomson-Houston Company, an Engineering firm.
- J. STAPLES has joined the staff of the Danish Bacon Company.

Thirty-two