plymothian
IN THE BEGINNING . . .

there was the Plymothian, a magazine by the school, for the school. This term we offer you a work which while satisfying the second, lacks in the first part of its truly Democratic concept. Need we say more, except perhaps to repeat that we can print: articles, stories, poetry, drawings, cartoons, lino-cuts and even a number of photographs.

Several events of Autumn ’69 deserve a mention. The fading of the decade saw the opening of the Plymouth College Development Fund. Is the School more appealing than it seems? Lit. & Deb., that bastion of free speech, is dying. If we must go forward into the seventies without it, our loss is a sad one. Perhaps the chronic lack of support witnessed this term is due simply to its image. Who knows, if it changed its name to “Talk-in ’70” the attendance might rocket. If so it is a sad reflection on the commercialised, “trendy”, society in which we live.

In a lighter vein, Andy Wyatt’s production of “Charley’s Aunt” this term to replace the traditional “Christmas Entertainment”, must be wholeheartedly applauded. The play succeeded where the last couple of “Entertainments” failed. It entertained! !

Congratulations must go: to those who gained places at Oxford and Cambridge after the December examinations, especially the six who won awards; to the first fifteen, who found courage in defeat; and finally, to Mr. Veale, who after one term as Housemaster in Mannamead House, remains perfectly sane.

We extend a warm welcome to the four student Masters who join us for a term and wish them good luck with their careers. (What was that about “lambs to the slaughter?”)

We leave you with a final thought. “If all the school property damaged this term was stacked together, we could have one hell of a bonfire!”
SCHOOL OFFICIALS
Autumn Term 1969

Head of School:
I. M. G. Leech

Deputy Head of School:
S. J. Carder

Senior Prefects:
B. C. George
T. J. Mathews
D. G. Parsons
J. C. A. Pearn

Junior Prefects:
M. A. Baxter
R. J. Bond
K. P. Clarke
A. Denton
M. J. Hatfield
P. C. Hemelik
P. J. Isbell
L. K. Kimberley
J. A. Newcombe
R. D. Nicholls
A. H. Overs
J. W. Paton
M. J. Pior
C. J. Randall
P. J. Robins
R. D. Rowe

School Sixth:
S. E. P. Barretto
J. W. Q. Collinson
P. W. R. Elliot
T. N. French
P. J. Milnes
D. A. Moore

School Officials:
Captain of Rugby .................................................. A. H. E. Square
Captain of Shooting ............................................... N. B. Readings
Captain of Fencing ............................................... W. R. Ware
Captain of Squash ............................................... G. P. Lawrence
Captain of Chess ................................................... A. H. E. Square
U.O. Army Section .................................................. K. A. Kendall
Cox'n. Naval Section .............................................. D. A. Moore
W/O R.A.F. Section .................................................. D. A. Moore

‘Plymthian’ Staff:
M. J. Behennah
K. Parish
J. A. Newcombe

D. J. P. McLean
L. A. Moore
MUSIC NOTES

WE welcome to the Music Staff this term Miss S. Weston, who is taking some Piano and Organ pupils in the Main School, as well as taking charge of the Music at the Prep., and Miss A. Woolner, who is teaching the Oboe and the Bassoon.

Next term, the Junior Concert will be held on Saturday, March 7th, and the Senior Concert on Wednesday, March 18th.

The Choir will be rehearsing the Bach Cantata 'A Stronghold Sure', and the Senior Orchestra has already started to rehearse Beethoven's 'Coriolanus' Overture and John Ansell's 'Plymouth Hoe' Overture. All these items will be included in the Summer Concert next May.

J. H. B.

ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL CONCERT

THE Choral and Orchestral Concert, last term, was held in the Big School on the 22nd November. The hall was packed to capacity by many parents and friends, but comparatively few boys.

To start the proceedings the orchestra, conducted by Mr. Bill, played Mozart's German Dance, "The Sleigh Ride". This piece was played well, on the whole, but came apart in places. At times the orchestra was slightly unbalanced, but overall the piece was correctly crisp and light. Next on the programme came three numbers by the choir. J. W. Paton accompanied these on the electronic organ, while Mr. Bill conducted. The three pieces were: "Awake O Lord! And Hasten!" by Bach, "Lo! Star led Chiefs" by Crotch and "The Shepherd's Farewell" by Berlioz. Each of these pieces seemed to be of an enjoyable standard. The choir was apart in places, and the upper voice regions often had trouble pitching their notes. On the other hand the lyrics were clearly and tunefully sung, creating an overall good performance.

Handel's Adagio and Allegro from Organ Concerto in B Flat came next. This involved Paton on the organ and the string section of the orchestra. Both elements playing the work achieved a high standard of musicianship, but were slightly unmatched at times. The Senior Orchestra concluded the first half of the concert by playing the "Occasional Overture" by Handel. The pyrotechnical complexities of the Allegro taxed the present limitations of the orchestra.

During the next half of the evening smaller musical groups were featured. The first of these was the strings led by Mr. E. Lamb, who played Haydn's Serenade from Quartet No. 17 and Minuet. These pieces illustrate yet again the greatly improved standard of string playing in the school. Following these, P. G. S. Lamb accompanied by Miss S. Weston gave an inspired performance of the Praeludium and Allegro by Puganini—Kreisler. This was very well received by the audience.

The next item featured the electronic organ and J. W. Paton. He played "Abide with us" by Bach and the "Giant Fuge". This new sound to Big School was enjoyed by the audience although the organ put technical limitations on the performer. This concert was concluded by the orchestra rendering the Polka from "Schwanda the Bagpiper" by Weinberger.

One of the highlights of the evening was the song "The Old Superb" by Stanford. This work featured R. D. Rowe and a male chorus. Rowe led bravely with a good powerful performance and his solo well matched the chorus.

The concert ended with an address from Mr. Meade-King, and a collection for the Christmas charity.

R. D. S. SCOTT

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IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA...

from "Unity of Nations" by P. J. Milnes, an account of his visit to America in August this year as one of the group of Vth formers from the College participating in the "Experiment in International Living".

"The 'Experiment' is all about one of the significant events of the 20th Century—the search for international understanding, for mutual respect and friendship between peoples of different nations. It is an idea, a dedication to an ideal and an organisation to make it work, an organisation that now exists in forty-six countries on all five Continents."

from a booklet published by the "Experiment In International Living".

Two nations for seven weeks in a year were banded together in a small way by a young member of one nation staying with a member of the other nation in his country for three or four weeks, and then returning the hospitality.

Until about six months ago, America to me was just a large country on the other side of the Atlantic that I had read a great deal about but probably would never see. Then suddenly, through the 'Experiment in International Living', I saw how the American people lived. An American girl came and stayed with my family for four weeks, and then I went and stayed with her family for three weeks. At first I was a bit doubtful about living with an American family, but then I thought how great it would be to find out how the American way of life is different from ours. Since then I have never looked back or regretted my decision, nor, I think, have any of the others who went over to the States.

The thing that impressed me most about America was the friendliness of the people. The first American we spoke to was a customs official. It was late in the day and we were just another of the many groups of aircraft passengers to be dealt with. One would have expected him to be stern-faced and short-tempered, but not a bit of it. All he needed to do was stamp our passports and look at our visas but no, he went out of his way to make us feel welcome. It was like that throughout our stay in America. Everyone was helpful and pleasant to us and eager to make sure that we enjoyed our stay in the United States.

The way of life of the Americans in New Hampshire and Massachusetts was very similar to that in England. The majority of the people I met while I was over there could trace their not too distant ancestors back to England. I was surprised to find how many of the people I met had been to England at sometime in their lives.

One difference that I did notice, however, lies in the way of life of teenage boys. They know that as soon as they come out of college they will be drafted for two years, one of which will probably be spent in Vietnam. I was told by one American boy that you cannot be drafted if you are still at College, or if you are over twenty-eight years of age. He said that some boys try to stay at College reading for a master's degree until they are twenty-eight, so avoiding being drafted by 'Uncle Sam'. You cannot be drafted if you have a criminal record either, so it is easy enough to understand the rising crime rate in America: someone who is due to be drafted commits a minor offence for which he is punished and so escapes the draft as a convicted criminal! I got the impression that the average American teenage boy is out to have a good time while he can, because the shadow of drafting and the threat of being killed in Vietnam looms over him all the time.

It is impossible to escape a very real awareness of the violence in American society. You need only to go into a Post Office and see the 'Wanted' posters all over the walls to realise the size of the problem. As everyone knows, all American policemen carry loaded guns at all times when on duty, and if a situation requires the use of firearms, they will shoot without hesitation. Guns are so easy to buy in America that it is hardly surprising that there is such a high murder rate there. In fact, during the three weeks we spent in New Hampshire, five cab-drivers were murdered in Boston, only two hour drive away from our "base" at Keene.

Through the "Experiment in International Living" I learned how the other side of the Atlantic lives. It was something that I could never have found out if I had just gone over and lived in hotels for three weeks. I enjoyed living with an American family; it showed me the difference between the British and the Americans. It was so different from the normal two week package holiday, to Spain or somewhere. I saw, in America, what the normal tourist would not see if he stuck to his tour—the places that only a native would know about. The programme was of immense value and I enjoyed every minute of it.
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th...

189 of us, all experimenters, hurtling at nearly 600 miles an hour towards New York. Late setting off and now late coming down producing a restless, irritated, stateless feeling. From a gangway seat, nothing to see, so far, of New York. This is disappointing because all the photographs one can remember of New York are of marvellous aerial views. Somehow one feels that this is the appropriate way to see New York for the first time and one has thus been cheated (older readers might of course prefer coming up the Hudson in the Q.E.2, but not this underprivileged member of the jet-set).

We wait on the runway for a further thirty minutes (will this city never come?) and then taxi lugubriously towards the main terminal buildings. A voice behind one says with sudden sharp interest on looking at the TWA terminal, "I say, isn't it big?", and one is acutely aware of being among "experimenters" and their kind.

Through the immigration and customs departments which seem as bare and faceless as their counterparts all over the world—and there, at last, is the bus waiting to take us to New York. Ah, New York at last. The excitement mounts. The bus' glazed windows show rows of small houses looking, from this distance pretty much as they do in England—but the roads, oh the roads, how different they are. Great wide convoluted snakes crawling over and under each other and spreading in all directions. They make anything we have seem like snails' trails by comparison. Hundreds and hundreds of cars going God knows where; this at 7.30 in the evening too, when London's rush hour is well nigh over—particularly in the outer suburbs. The first tall buildings—not mammoth skyscrapers but sufficiently tall to start the adrenalin coursting—lit up, sparkling is the best word to describe them really. And suddenly we are at our hotel bang slap in midtown Manhattan, sir. A tatty building with the busy impersonality that made one wit describe it as "more like a sleep factory than a hotel", indeed. after finding the right one out of 1800 rooms spread over 18 floors, bed would have been welcome a retreat. Old televisions (black and white) in a characterless bedroom and a bathroom surely in need of redecoration. So much so that one felt immediately at home.

Next morning (Sunday), clutching our dollars desperately to us, our group of nine wander across 5th Avenue to a cheapish restaurant. We eat our first American meal, and find it surprisingly good. Exit one cliche that all American food is tasteless—it is not. As one looks out from one's hotel bedroom on the 13th floor this first morning in New York, the buildings clamber up to the skies. Grey concrete buildings suiting a grey concrete sky. "This is New York" one thinks (never stops thinking throughout the whole trip like an endless mental exclamation mark), "up, up, up". But later on down in the streets the feeling recedes as the vistas present themselves. Another cliche bites the dust. New York is not claustrophobic. The streets are too wide, the stretch of them too long and straight. There is sky everywhere. Amazingly, one seems to assimilate the tallness of everything instantaneously. So much so that it was not until a companion pointed out that the top of the Pan Am building was hidden in cloud that one had a physical sensation of how high these skyscrapers are.

Our small group set off on our first daylight voyage of exploration. On the way we see posters of the Madison Square Garden Centre with a lean skyscraper next to it. This is Instant New York. The eye travels left and right to see yet more of the things all around. Past the Empire State Building which produces a crick in the neck as one looks up at it. And no wonder since one is endeavouring to look up some 1,472 ft.

We drive on to the Port Authority Bus Terminal, the biggest in the world, located on 40th and 41st streets, eighth and ninth avenues. There we take a Greyhound coach to Keene, New Hampshire, via Boston, where our host families will meet us. There we think to write home, and pick out the postcards of the tallest buildings and longest cars. "This is New York as I imagined it" says a companion from another group. He had been to Wall Street the night before. Down in this old part of the city, such an integral part of it, even the heart of it one thinks, the whole history of America almost overwhelms one. It is impossible not to feel emotional. You can have your Park Avenue and 5th Avenue, your Rockefeller Centre, your Lincoln Centre, even your Central Park; you can have all the places you have seen and I have not; New York for me will always be symbolised by a card showing on and around Wall Street on a Sunday morning. Down by the river, a vast windowless brick wall rears up into the sky. Stamped on it in gigantic letters is the proud slogan:

"New York is New York—is there anywhere else?"

Impossible not to look up and reply: "No sir, there ain't".

E.6
CRUISING WITH BRITISH INDIA

IN August of last year a party from the school experimented in a new venture for the school, departing the country for the Atlantic coast of Africa on an educational cruise. ‘Educational’, does not imply formal studying but education by experience in seeing new peoples and places. We boarded the s.s. Uganda for a fortnight, sailing south with about 900 others towards the Canaries.

It took a day or two to accustom ourselves to the economy of space, endless passageways and routine of ship life and the fact it was almost impossible to be at all alone. Time aboard during travel between the ports of call was divided into a number of periods to prevent overcrowding on utilities such as deck games and background lectures on the places we were to visit. Our first stop was Las Palmas, a lazy, entertaining city during the day. The island itself is more arid than the postcards lead us to believe, but the siesta period spent bathing more than compensated for that.

On to Lanzarote, an outlandish, volcanic island on the edge of the Canaries group. Outlandish because of the incredible physical forms of its interior—a plateau of blackened ash punctured by inert volcanoes whose sides were draped in brilliant ochres, red and browns. This island was the most refreshing of our visits (despite its very dusty and barren nature) due to the lack of commercial exploitation.

Then Madeira—‘the second garden of Eden’, a title richly deserved by this island whose fertility clothes the island two thousand feet up its almost sheer sides. Its atmosphere was one of leisure, content and abundance. Only the persistence and over-zealousness of the shopkeepers marred its image. Many people commented that they’d like to go back some day as we moved off and it was generally agreed to be the best port of call.

On the tenth day we disembarked at Oporto, toured the city, including a visit to a port wine lodge before departing on a 120 mile overland coach trip to Vigo, a little further up the Portuguese and Spanish coast. The journey gave us opportunity for bathing off a scorching Portuguese beach and visiting two small towns, one in Portugal, then across the frontier to Valencia in Spain. From busy Vigo we were bound for Southampton.

Our medium for the round trip of 3,500 miles was of 19,000 tons and specially adapted for this use. It was well equipped but the dormitory accommodation was cramped. The food was more than sufficient but far from exceptional, which on reflection seemed reasonable enough when paired with the overall cost. Our time to begin with was a little too organised, but this was of necessity, and this became non-applicable as we got used to the system.

The atmosphere was free and friendly, friends being easily made and we saw none of the ill-feeling usual somewhere in a cross-section of 900 members of society. Seasick?—the ship had stabilisers which did a great service in ‘a force 8 gale and very heavy swell’ but unfortunately couldn’t spare everyone.

The venture was certainly worthwhile (few wished to leave at the end of the two weeks) and a non-stop holiday. One realised this when one reached the tranquility of home. The trip is worth recommending.

M. GODFREY, 6
Many people talk about “Youth Today” and “Contemporary Youth”. We wondered what the Sixth form at Plymouth College thought. The result, an opinion on each side of the fence, is seen below.

A LACK of discipline is the basic fault that I can see in the youth of today. Lack of discipline and an inability to transmit discipline. There is an ever increasing tendency in the youth of today to be ‘anti’—anti-apartheid, anti-war in Vietnam... anti-establishment. I am sure, though, out of this mass there are very few with convictions, with the intelligence to weigh up both sides of the argument, and to argue their cause successfully. There are definitely a few who could do this, but the rest are just following those meagre few like sheep; they have a lack of discipline, they are driven on by an imagination of doing the right thing. But they are ruining themselves, by their own methods, they are alienating themselves from nearly every other sector of society, something that by mere definition must be wrong. Let the youth of today remember when they are beating up policemen and burning the stars and stripes that one day it will be they who are administering civil authority and they making economic and other negotiations with U.S. for their own good. I am sure in twenty or thirty years time our generation will be the first to complain at the precedent they set when the youth of tomorrow start rioting, so let the youth stop and look at their methods of disagreements, and their responsibilities to society.

D. A. MOORE, 6

THE phrase ‘contemporary youth’ insinuates a group of long-haired, lethargic revolutionaries who have no respect for authority or the wishes of other people—and do nothing for the good of the state, society or the queen!

Unbelievable as it may seem, people are individuals, even young people, who have their own thoughts, their own ideas and their own minds. It is impossible to congregate under one name the thousands of different, individual young people of today. Rather it is better to consider each person as a separate being—such as he is. One cannot judge someone by looking at his friends.

Disregarding the young person who does do something for the benefit of society, as it seems everyone does when discussing ‘contemporary youth’, one is perhaps left with a group of people for whom the only remedy appears to be ‘a good spell in the army’? But weren’t older people young once? and didn’t they ever do anything to shock or surprise their parents? Or perhaps they were all straight-laced, conforming good-boys. Perhaps people are just afraid of someone who has something they lack—freedom.

The generation gap will never be bridged, because a parent can never control the mind of his child. His influence over his offspring may have little effect if/when the child is allowed to think for himself. Young people today are not trying to put right the older generation’s mistakes, but are trying to live their own lives. No one intends to upset anyone. They just want to be free and to be themselves. You don’t have to approve of something to accept it—so why not just accept people for what they are? A person with long-hair is immediately rejected from society without being given a chance to prove himself. I am sure that no one grows his hair, for example, to offend or to rebel against the ‘system’. Perhaps it keeps him warm in the winter or perhaps he just likes long hair! (In answer to a statement in another Plymouthian that quote: “when long hair is dirty unkempt and untidy, the question of health and hygiene enters in” unoquote, all I can say is I haven’t noticed!).

With young people of today there is no class distinction or discrimination of any kind—racial or otherwise—‘anything goes’, young people can and do learn from the older generation, and the older generation can learn from the younger generation—although they are not prepared to admit this.

Contemporary youth is contemporary youth! Take it or leave it—most people leave it.

R. CROCKER, 6
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TRACY .................................................. THE CUFF LINKS

Stockists of:
THIS year saw a departure from the usual form of Christmas Entertainment. It was nice to know that, for once, the producer of a school play was a pupil, A. J. Wyatt. He went a fair way to achieving a realistic atmosphere—the scenery, like the musical introductions, proving particularly effective. In spite of this, however, the players found it too difficult to enact convincingly an episode from what must have been a most conceited era. They were not helped in this by the audience (on the second night, at least), which seemed determined to sit stolidly, like a band of sulking children!

M. J. Pior waved aside corsets and lipstick to give us a very beefy ‘Aunt’: his hankering after cigars and champagne gave weight to the belief that he was really a transvestite ‘Billy Bunter’ grabbed from some other production: he was very convincing, and the protests he made to accomplices and audience alike were magnificent. His only fault was perhaps an inevitable one—his cool reception of Kitty and Amy. Again, boys played these female parts, with mixed success: despite their enthusiasm, these two ‘luscious, delectable young ladies’ entered (to the audience’s delight) more like a pair of old hags just retiring from careers as unsuccessful prostitutes. Now we were laughing because they were really boys, and the gist of their words was often lost: is there some undisclosed reason for barring females from the plays we stage?
R. Rowe and I. D. Henderson played the youthful, frolicking undergraduates; neither could find the resources necessary to play such self-confident and bragging young gentlemen: the latter, however, made attempts to fling himself into the drama by diving across the stage when making an entrance. C. Ellis and D. A. Moore excelled as the frustrated professional men. Their energetic attempts to show just who was the more conceited were highly amusing. Moore's appearance added to this—top-heavy with huge side-whiskers and a slim body, he bore a remarkable similarity to a caricature of some politician in an old volume of 'Punch'. K. Stanbury was quite convincing as a tall, snare and delicate lady from Brazil. He was ably assisted by N. W. Gray who, being hardly more than half his size and garbed in rather a scraggy outfit, looked endearing as an orphan.

The play certainly succeeded in raising guffaws and titters, but reactions often must have been slightly forced and artificial. Why should the Christmas Entertainment NATURALLY mean amusement? Full marks to the producer for a courageous and constructive attempt to bring us something MORE than satisfactory, but our hierarchy should be thoroughly shaken in the next ten months to ensure a production in which considerably more than one sixtieth of the school is featured.

P.
RUSH HOUR IN THE CITY . . .

AS one pushes, fights one's way through a crowd, one feels that one is a solitary fish trying to swim in the opposite direction to the shoal and not succeeding. In a rush hour politeness is almost non-existent. It virtually boils down to survival of the fittest, especially on a Friday evening.

One confronts many people on a tube train, businessmen trying hard to maintain an air of sophistication while being crushed; bad tempered mothers with four screaming children in four different places; and finally office girls remaining totally indifferent to it all.

At Christmas it is an endurance test trying to escape from Harrods in the rush hour, people swarming in trying to buy a last Christmas present, remaining oblivious of it all, and their surroundings.

A tramp with an accordion stands about forty yards from Harrods grinding out music that no one hears. The evening papers are rapidly sold and the contents eagerly devoured. The public lavatories are as crowded as a cattle truck, they also smell like one, a continuous stream of people going in and out.

The men from the factory knock off and the smoke from the factory curls lazily skywards to vanish in seconds. A cigarette butt is dropped in haste and a tramp leisurely stoops to claim it for his own.

Taxis roar up to a double yellow line and hastily move off again four or five people crushed inside, all tired and dejected from a day's work in the city.

A policeman turns a blind eye to a van parked on a double yellow line. If he booked it, it would mean extra work, extra time and he is tired and wants to go home.

Some of the engines roar like wild beasts, the exhaust fumes are inescapable and one gets used to them eventually. Drizzle begins to filter out of the cold, grey clouds; it too seems to have acquired the dirt of the city.

A blushing bride caught in the rush hour, about to go on her honeymoon, is trying desperately to avoid stares from inquisitive onlookers, and flicks an imaginary speck of dust from her dress. The car moves on and she feels at ease once again.

The more one lives in London the more one gets used to the ritual of a British rush hour.

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THE MISTS OF TIME . . .

AN ethereal mist hung over the old, old stones of the monument, giving a ghost-like air to the gentle but cold wind which lapped around the massive piece of Stone-Age art.

A young onlooker watched the ever-changing shape of the edifice as the mist nestled close around it, bringing a new arm from its body to wrap tight around the stones and then pull itself closer to the monument.

An old man stood with his back to the relic looking towards the valley which lay beside the hill on which he was standing. Down in the valley was his childhood, playing, all alone in the mist. In the valley were memories—of adventures, of games, of picnics, of rare visits to the seaside, and memories of mist, which he recalled more than any of the others. These memories stayed in his mind, like a pertinacious ghost. Engulfed in this same mist was a small boy, wearing ragged clothes and with bare feet. The old man was no more: the young onlooker disappeared; the monument was the same. The boy played tag with the mist, running until he was exhausted. He lay down in the grass and recovered his breath. Then he stood up and looked down into the valley.

The mist swirled around until he could not be seen. Then the mist cleared, and the old man walked slowly home.

S. T. CREWE, IA
A GURBLEFLUMPH IN A PUBLIC BUS . . .

A Gurbleflumph in a public bus
Is worse than a hippopotamus.
He jumps on all the vacant seats
And then his hairy chest he beats.
He leaps up and down the length of the bus
And the passengers make such a fuss.
When a Gurbleflumph rides on a one-man bus
The noise he makes is continuous.
He cracks his nuts in the ticket machine
And the driver wishes he never had seen
A Gurbleflumph with his clumsy feet,
Jumping around near his driving seat.

M. WHEELER

Take away my freedom
But you'll never take my soul
Steal it from me bit by bit
Or seize my body whole
Rule me with an iron rod
Burn my eyes with coal
Force the freedom out of me
But you'll never take my soul.

L. MOORE
A DEATH . . .

They crucified him
Stuck him on wood
And nailed him against the sky
Which moved so slowly
Behind the hill.
The sky was faultlessly blue
For we would not have our saviour's body
Hung in cloud
On a day when
We all had to see him
So clearly.
And when darkness fell
It missed his body
So we could still see him
From our windows that night.
The moon
Was sunk behind his head
Giving us the halo
We had always wanted.
His face was bowed
To death
Who had at last
Entered in upon his immortality.
His body was thrown awkwardly
Across the wood
He had once learnt
To fashion
And his hands,
To love.

I do not want to look any closer
For I am frightened
Up here alone,
With him hanging so still
As if he is really dead
And darkness so deep behind me
Lying thick over the hill
Which I have to climb down
If I am ever to leave.
He is dead
For this evening
And there is no pain left for him to feel
Only the nails
Feel pain
As his body grows heavier
With man pulling at his heels
And pleading with him to speak
Again.

D. T. CHARLESTON 6
6th NOVEMBER 1969 . . .

Couldn't get to sleep tonight—
Turned on the light—
And had to write—
A poem—
To you—

Your Image
Suspended—motionless
In the mists of evening,
Trapped in the spider's silver web
Calls me closer to your side
—As day changes to night
Life passes into warm oblivion.
Slowly, sofly
Sleep draws ever nearer,
Even dearer now
To my passive mind
Than yesterday's daydreams.

MOORE 6
ABORTIONED SON . . .

There and existing
yet not alive or born,
incubating in the silky, warmed womb,
which rejects and does not want you.
Quietly you crouch
between a realm known and one unknown,
ever to be touched by the life
and death phenomena.
Pass on lonely child,
a judgement by your mother-body,
who almighty above you stands
has sentenced and condemned.
She, gross and flesh
has been arm-twisted by . . .
a pressure of economy
of social goodtimes
and vanity.
For better or for worse she has not learned
to love you, so will not carry you.
Never shall you feel the gentle, midwife hand,
Pass on little child
across your shortcut.
Never will you:
  mutilate or be mutilated
  ridicule or be ridiculed
  respect or be respected
  laugh of peace
cry of grief
  sing
  create . . .

Laugh, still forming child,
accidentally come-by
to be purposefully cut-off.
The leaf laden wind carries on two sides of a wall.

. . . to the content and comfort of suburban homelife
or
. . . the misery of an aching belly and no bed.
Two-thirds hunger, you will not,
while one-third grudgingly overeat,
again you shall not.

Never can you:
  be a soldier
  be a proleteriat
  be a prostitute
  be a leader
  be a wo-man
  be retarded
  be royal.

Life has by-passed you
pass on. M. GODFREY 6
TALES OF SNOBBERY AND PRIDE . . .

I. VINCENT RAT IS BEATEN

Although he disliked violence and bigotry,
Vincent Rat thought things had gone too far,
When, returning from a weekend for two in London,
With British Rail, three days late, he found . . .
That the Joneses had had erected in their back garden:
A plastic replica of Mantovani in glowing Fleshnicolour!

Enraged and envious beyond all telling, Vince seizing his wife:
And squeezed—yes squeezed her into a Cheddar Cheese.
That'll fix it, thought Vince . . . but he was wrong.

The following Sabbath, the Joneses had two thousand pairs:
Of Army-Surplus bed socks delivered, yes, delivered to their door.

By now Vincent had worked up a titanic frenzy of hate and disbelief
And would have clipped, yes clipped, his pet lama—Felix . . .
Into a beetroot, if he hadn't been stopped by his wife,
Who had recovered from a Cheddar Cheese.

Now Vince smoulders in his bed socks every day,
And is an alcoholic . . . Sometimes you just can't win.
II. VINCE FIGHTS BACK VALIANTLY

After the soul-destroying episode with the bed socks, Vince decided to fight back by sabotaging his unsuspecting neighbour's navels.

Creeping into the Joneses' bower one night, he was disturbed by a falling Polishman, in a delightfully preposterous costume. The Joneses awoke, but Vince escaped by the skin of his teat nail.

The following Full Moon, Vince, aided by the local Fourierist, Butch Pimple, raided the Joneses' house.

Together they set fire to the two thousand pairs of bed socks (including the ones the Joneses were wearing).

After this fantastic display of self-competence; Vince went home and swallowed the entire contents of George Orwell's Animal Farm, with a glass of tepid water.

Happy and content beyond belief Vince watched the hated, and abhored, bed socks burn in the night.


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RUGBY FOOTBALL 1969 . . .

1st XV

Many distinguished players have graced the 1st XV and many have told me that their best rugby was played at school with a team they knew thoroughly and with friends they had known for years. Their record is always a sobering thought when one embarks on a new season. Every match is a test match with the opposition thinking this is the one to win. The pressure on players and coach is considerable and makes a successful season all the more enjoyable especially when the side was as good as this one and their style of play so entertaining.

The pack was magnificent—ig. strong, fast and all likely three-quarters. We have not seen a better prop than P. J. Robins—a first class footballer and a good pack leader. C. Tucker did an excellent job as hooker and M. Scanes showed his strength and speed throughout the term. A. Square was a superb loose forward and played with such determination and at such pace that it will be impossible to replace him—a rare compliment at Plymouth College. N. Tamblyn was the most improved forward on show—a rugged, very determined loose forward of great strength and outstanding line out ability.

The elected captain, J. C. A. Pearn was frequently injured but it is a great compliment to his ability that the team played its best rugby when he was in form. His judgement of pace, his timing, passing and tackling were of the highest class and created the most sophisticated link between forwards and backs.
His absence necessitated frequent reshuffling of the back row with A. Denton—a first-class wing forward playing well on the wing and B. C. George—the most constructive wing forward in Devon—doing a noble job at fly half. M. A. Baxter was a great footballer; a number 8 of outstanding ability. I. A. Newcombe was excellent at scrum half and he will remember best the pleasure he obtained from his captaincy of the 1st XV and the vociferous support he gave to all and sundry. His performance was typical of the team's—full of guts and character. I. M. G. Leech proved once again that he is the best full back in the area and is to be congratulated on being selected to play for the West of England against London schools in January.

It sounds as if we had no three-quarters. I hasten to add that W. R. Ware is a very good centre and these are rare birds. O'Gara is going to be. P. Isbell kicked superbly and young Narayisingh had a most impressive first term in attack and defence. P. R. Solomon scored five tries in two games and is a much improved player.

How does one summarise this? There is no question that the success of the team was founded on ability and on the hours of time they spent on the practice field. There is no substitute for this formula. Ability, practice and character made them into a team it was a great pleasure to coach and it made one very proud to see them play so magnificently against the O.P.M.'s. To come back after defeat at the hands of a very good Tiffin's side on our London tour at half term and win every game since then gives one great hope for the future of the young men in this side and for Plymouth College.

My thanks go once more to all the members of staff who produce players for the 1st XV, to Mr. Robertson for the care and time he puts into the preparation of pitches and to the many parents who support us in all weathers.

R. JONES

Results:

School Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v. Hampton G.S.</td>
<td>Won 40-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. West Buckland</td>
<td>Won 22-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Sutton High School</td>
<td>Won 35-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Shebbear College</td>
<td>Won 0-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Exeter School</td>
<td>Won 50-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Hele's School</td>
<td>Won 3-21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Truro School</td>
<td>Won 0-35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Tiffin's</td>
<td>Lost 3-19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Hampton G.S.</td>
<td>Won 12-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. St. Boniface</td>
<td>Won 19-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Devonport High School</td>
<td>Won 3-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Kelly College</td>
<td>Won 3-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Christian Bro. Coll., Cork</td>
<td>Won 18-6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Club Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v. B.R.N.C. 2nd</td>
<td>Won 6-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Exeter University 3rd</td>
<td>Won 23-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. O.P.M.'s</td>
<td>Won 32-17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total points—for: 361; against: 91.

2nd XV

As the results show, the team played well this season. At times, however, we relied too much on natural talent and skill and lacked that extra determination that leads to great success: more often than not, we managed to fight back, notably in the match against Kelly College.

Penhall at full-back rescued us many times when under pressure, and showed his enthusiasm for the game by running with the backs. The wings, Solomon and Daniel, also enjoyed considerable success, catching well and running hard: they sometimes suffered from indecisive passing from the centres, who found it difficult to reach their full potential. Once again, Bishop outwitted the opposition from behind the scrum and instigated many winning blind-side moves. Noble seemed indefatigable and, with Wainwright, started many of the moves which the second-row took up. Both Carr and Nicholson played with zeal, until their injuries.

Full colours were awarded to: Penhall, Daniel, Solomon, McLean, Bishop, Cropper, Smith, Byrne, Barretto, Noble, Carr, Nicholson. Final colours were awarded to: I. G. Jones, Ingram, Grant, Newcombe, Wainwright.
Results:

- v. Kingsbridge School  ...  Won 19 -  10
- v. Sutton High School  ...  Won 25 -  6
- v. Newton Abbot G.S. 1st XV  Won 14 - 11
- v. Exeter School  ...  Won 34 -  5
- v. Hele's School  ...  Won 25 -  3
- v. Truro School  ...  Won
- v. Kelly College  ...  Won 12 -  8
- v. B.R.N.C. 3rd XV  ...  Lost 15 - 33
- v. Devonport High School  ...  Won 34 -  0
- v. Univ. of Exeter 4th XV  ...  Won 21 - 18
- v. Tavistock School  ...  Lost 3 -  9
- v. O.P.M.'s  ...  Won 20 -  3

Played 12, Won 10, Lost 2. Points—for: 222; against: 106.

D. J. P. M.

3rd XV

This was not such a successful season as we have had in recent years, but the team itself took shape and gained in confidence as the term progressed, and by the end of it had developed into a very useful side.

The forwards seemed to knit together as a unit rather earlier than the backs and played some fine games as a pack, while everybody showed up individually at various times. Kennar, and particularly Hatfield, played extremely well in the line-out, Jess's hooking earned him one match for the 1st XV, Carder, the captain, and Jackson played with much gusto in the loose, Evans was always tidying up loose ends, and Harris at wing forward was perhaps the best of all, tackling voraciously and running well with the ball in attack.

Outside the serum Charleston, after Beadell's injury, finally settled into the outside half position where, by the end of term, he was playing with much poise and determination and to him, perhaps, should go the title of most improved player in the side. Acland ran well on the wing, as did Waddington, the former scoring several good tries and Warren played very soundly at full-back after proving a courageous serum-half for the first part of the term.

A disappointing season, then, results-wise, but some good rugby played and if the luck had run our way on one or two occasions the playing record itself could have been a lot better too.


Final order colours were also awarded to Beadell.

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4th XV

The major problem which faced the team this year was taking their matches seriously. The best rugby came when facing teams that had been trained in rugby skills but on facing "brawnier" teams they were prone to giving up the ghost at the first signs of physical contact.

Results: Played 4, Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 1.

Colts

If this year's Colts have lacked some of the lustre of their predecessors—they have not been short of courage in adversity. They began the season without last year's fly-half (available next term we hope) and the hooker (now at Whitgift). Later they lost two regulars through injury—including Stephen Vosper, one of the best tackling wing forwards in the school. However they battled on even though it has meant playing with three wing forwards 'hidden' somewhere among the three-quarters. The team has been helped by its willingness to take advice and try and put it into practice. The forwards have had greater success here and heeled the ball back in the loose as few forwards have done in recent years. In the line-outs through Nicholson—well supported by Stout and Johnson we have had seventy-five per cent of the ball—while Lovejoy's hooking has given us equal shares at least. The outsides would have been helped by a big thrustful centre but even so they gradually mastered the art of getting it to the wing—albeit somewhat slowly at times. In the opening matches the forwards dominated the scoring but gradually this changed and against Devonport for example, three good tries (following quick heels) were scored by a centre and each of the wings.

This is the half-way stage, and after a break the team should be able to look forward to a reasonably successful "second half" provided they continue to show the same team spirit that has helped them along so far.

The Final Order etc. will be published in the next magazine but the team have asked us to put on record at this stage the award of full Colts colours to S. Vosper.

Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 16</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v. Whitleigh Sec. Modern (A)</td>
<td>Lost 5 - 16</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 15</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v. Bishop Vaughan School (A)</td>
<td>Won 68 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. West Buckland School (H)</td>
<td>Won 23 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Sutton High School (H)</td>
<td>Won 36 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Shebbear College (H)</td>
<td>Won 25 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Plymouth Public S.S. (H)</td>
<td>Won 13 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Crownhill S.M.S. (H)</td>
<td>Won 23 - 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Truro School (H)</td>
<td>Lost 12 - 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. St. Boniface College (H)</td>
<td>Lost 3 - 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Kelly College (H)</td>
<td>Won 9 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Tavistock School (H)</td>
<td>Won 40 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Sutton High School (H)</td>
<td>Won 42 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Kings Tamerton S.M.S. (H)</td>
<td>Won 30 - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Devonport High School (H)</td>
<td>Won 16 - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Tavistock School (H)</td>
<td>Won 24 - 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


SHOOTING 1969 . . .

At last the shooting team is beginning to prove itself. Unfortunately, as in previous seasons, it has not shown itself when it truly matters. With an excellent score of 783 points against Berkhamstead School under their belts, a few of the junior members of the team seemed to suffer from competition nerves on the big day, for a score of 783 would have easily put us in the first ten. As it was, we were placed 36th out of 133 and only failed to qualify for the shoot-off by 9 points.

The average scores this term must have been, overall, the best ever. Square, Eliot, Adair, Stanbury and Hatfield all averaged well over 96/100. We shall all now look forward to next term and the Country Life competition when we can prove that we have one of the best shooting teams the school has ever produced.

Our thanks go to Mr. Eliot and Mr. Smith for their time and interest.


A. H. E. S.
SQUASH NOTES...

The Squash court has been in regular use this term by junior and senior members of the school. The squash team has played two matches this term, both against our old rivals Kelly. The first match was at home in which we lost 2-3. The other match was away in which we won an exciting match 2-1. I. M. Leech played a good game but lost narrowly in five sets.

It is hoped next term to play against Plymouth Squash Club and we have two fixtures against Totnes.

I would like to thank Mr. Collison for his support and coaching.

The following have played: W. R. Ware (Capt.), I. M. Leech, S. J. Carder, A. H. E. Square and C. Wall.

W. R. W.

FENCING...

This being the team's term for training there was only time available for one match. This was against West Buckland whose team turned out to be more experienced than our own. The number of smaller boys participating on Mondays has increased considerably and we hope to form a Junior team soon. Five boys took part in the Devon County Individual Championship in which J. D. Hicks attained fifth place.

We are looking forward to a successful season next term. The following have represented the school this term: N. Readings, J. Hicks, D. Jess, M. Bushby, K. Newton, T. Darlington.

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DALE'S HOUSE

The past term has been one filled with hope but alas there has been little success especially on the rugger field.

The senior house rugby competition ended when we were beaten by Palmer's. The team put up a great fight against a far more experienced side, and I would like to thank the lads for their grit and determination.

Up to date in the junior competitions, we have been rather unfortunate. The Under 15's have lost both their matches and the Under 15's have lost one and won the other.

The house league side has played exceptionally well, even when depleted in numbers they have come out near the top.

Towards the end of term we enjoyed some thrilling basketball matches. The junior sides were both beaten fairly early in the competition, but the seniors had a terrific match with Thompson's only to be beaten by one basket.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Parker and Messrs. Hook, Fisher and Coles, who joined the house this term, and I am sure their efforts will be rewarded with greater success in the near future.

M.A.B.

CHAYTOR'S HOUSE

After Mr. Veale's departure to Thompson's last term we are pleased to welcome Mr. Martin who takes over the reins as senior house master and are sure that under his guidance the house can look forward to continued success. We also welcome one new master, Mr. Allan, to the fold.

This term, a strong junior element in the house has had the greatest success. The Under 15 basketball team was unlucky to be knocked out in the semi-final of their competition, but the Under 15's scored a tremendous victory by winning their age group and more than made up for any disappointment with such a splendid effort. The Under 15's have also played with determination in the junior house matches under the keen guidance of T Nicholson before the unfortunate injury to his ankle, and have stood themselves in good stead for the completion of the competition next term.

The senior rugger team, lacking two of its strongest players, including its captain, played well against a much more powerful side in the first round of the house 'tournament' and at least succeeded in squashing part of the opposition's pride by unexpectedly scoring the first try of the match through sheer determination. The depleted team put up a great co-operative effort which rarely flagged and which harassed the opposition to the end. P. Milnes deserves special mention for organising the house league—a difficult and thankless job at the best of times—particularly since at times this term it has been difficult merely to raise a full team!

Finally, a word of congratulations to the members of the house who have played such an important part in the Christmas presentation of "Charley's Aunt". Only a lot of work can give rise to such enjoyable performances and thanks are due to all who have worked for Chaytor's house this term... in all fields of activity.

A.J.G.W.

PALMER'S HOUSE

The opening paragraph of the Palmer's House Notes in recent years has sadly and repeatedly recorded the fact that in the house rugby competition "the seniors lost in the first round". This year, however, we can happily ignore tradition by recording that not only did the seniors reach the second round for the first time in 'living' memory, but also that they fielded the best team from the day-boy houses. George, Scanes, Isbell and Jess Smith played for the 1st XV and we had well over our fair share of representatives in the other teams.

The House League team, though not the most successful in the league competition, enjoyed the distinction of being one of the few teams regularly able to field fifteen players. The ruthless efficiency of the captain, Kelway, helps to explain this phenomenon, but he has been well supported by the players. Some seniors have given invaluable assistance in coaching the Colts and Under 13's and indeed as many as six at a time have come out after school to help. The Colts so far have won one match and lost one. The Under 13's were unlucky to lose to Sargant's but were well beaten by College. They will do better next term.

The Autumn term has never been Palmer's best for sport, but this is compensated by its performance in other fields. It is remarkable to note that one-third of all the form prize-winners on Speech Day and one-third of the Oxbridge candidates this term were from Palmer's House. Palmer's also supplied nearly half the senior prefects.

Our thanks to Mr. Walock, George, Stevens, and the other seniors for their support and enthusiasm. Good luck for the rest of the year.

SIMON CARDER
College House . . .

The term was fairly successful, as usual. The House Rugby teams all acquitted themselves well. The Under 13 and Colts teams have won all their matches so far and must both have a very good chance of winning their respective competitions. The Senior side did well to draw the House Final with Thompsons. The Basketball was not so successful, though the Under 13 and Under 15's did reach the finals, however the Senior side were beaten in the first round.

It was refreshing to see many of the House playing in the orchestra and also in the choir. Also those who took part in the successful Christmas production should be congratulated on a magnificent effort. Thank you to Alfie Cropper for reading the lesson in the Carol Service. No one person has been singled out for praise, as the whole house has pulled its weight this term.

We would like to thank Matthews and Spence for their contributions to the House over the years and wish them the best of luck in the future. Our thanks also to Messrs. Collinson, Vincent, Trevena, Dockray, for their help and encouragement throughout the term.

C. T.

Sargent's House . . .

This term we welcome Mr. Cleaves as a new housemaster and hope he will enjoy his stay with us. At the beginning of the term A. Denton was appointed head of the house and captain of the House Rugger XV.

In the House match sphere the House has finished on equal terms—winning three and losing three.

At Senior level we were successful against Chaycor in the preliminary round but we were well beaten by College House in the semi-final. Byer's departure for Bath University shortly before the match was unfortunate—but we wish him well there.

At Under 15 level both games were lost. Against Palmer's we took a good lead—but an injury to Tribe upset the balance of our defence and led to our defeat. In round two against Dale's-Moore, the captain, was missing with an eye injury—but his presence would have only cut down the measure of our defeat. Jenkins on the right wing however scored the best try of the match.

At Under 13 level—the team being looked after by Mr. Cleaves—we have had two successes. Against Palmer's we were perhaps somewhat fortunate in that a mistake in the last minute gave Portsmouth—the captain—a chance of scoring under the posts. It was a very exciting game—between two sides of equal strength. In round two we were successful against Dale's by a small margin. We now have to face three stronger teams. However, so far in addition to Portsmouth-Bagwell, Metcalf, Mears and Masters have all helped with the team's success.

Pride of place goes to the Senior House League which has been the strongest for some years. We lost twice to Thompson's but otherwise held our own when at full strength. Nicholls, Wall, Spear and Martin, P. R. all caught the eye in a team captained by Williams, O. T.

This term we say goodbye to P. J. Biscombe and T. V. Biscombe—and thank them for their help in house activities in the past and wish them good luck in their future.

A. D.

Thompson's House . . .

This term saw the retirement of Mr. Radford as housemaster and the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Veale. The change over had remarkably few difficulties and I think it is safe to say that they have settled into the boarding house routine very well. The beginning of the term also saw the advent of a boarding house tutor in the shape of Mr. Arthur; we all wish them well for the future.

Once again the house enjoyed its usual amount of success both on and off the sports field. The main feature of the term was the success of the senior house rugby team; after having a comfortable victory over Palmer's House, they were set back by one or two injuries but they managed to hold College House against some quite heavy odds, and retained the trophy for the fourth year in succession. All the team played with spirit of some sort, and in the course produced some entertaining. If not particularly conventional, rugby. This seemed to encourage the other members of the house, for the Home League team managed to win the House League Trophy pretty convincingly. However the junior teams, although on paper they seem to have strong sides, have not been particularly successful, but the competitions are only half completed, so there is no need to give up hope yet.

Of the other events this term, the Colts and Seniors once again won the basketball competition, and there was the usual number of boys from the house taking part in the Christmas entertainment.

To sum up I can safely say that Thompson's House have enjoyed yet another moderate term.
THE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY. This term has seen the Lit. and Deb. Society sink further into the Doldrums. Unless more support is forthcoming at the beginning of next term this, the 81st session of the oldest society in the school, will be the last. Several debates have either had to be postponed or cancelled through lack of support and an unwillingness of people to come forward and speak. The programme was as follows:

(i) Soccer should be played at this school instead of Rugby. Lost 13-6.
(ii) An attempt to abolish the monarchy. Lost 5-4.
(iii) A balloon debate was won by Dr. John (of squatting fame).

Plymouth College has rejoined the Inter Schools Debating Society. There have been two debates, one on Censorship, the other on Marriage—both were great successes.

THE STAMP CLUB. Attendances are still down and the club lacks a patron since the departure of Mr. I’Anson. The usual swopplng sessions and quizes were held and P. N. Ward and Warren both gave illustrated lectures during the course of the term.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY. This term has seen a welcome increase in the number of regular attenders and some weeks there has barely been room for everyone to pursue their activities. Our big problem is trying to provide the various requirements of materials and advice. Seniors who would be willing to assist with the organisation would be welcome.

THE CYCLING CLUB. The club has been well supported this term and the influx of keen first-formers is encouraging. This term has seen four club runs made possible largely by the enthusiasm shown by the hard core of the Senior Section. A team is preparing to enter the South West England Schoolboys’ Championship, under the supervision of M. R. Moore.

THE BRIDGE CLUB. The members of the club are grateful for the assistance of Mr. Allen who is helping to prepare a team to enter the Daily Mail Schools’ Cup.

THE BIOLOGY SOCIETY. The first term of the new school year has been devoted to slide making and six different techniques were investigated. Although starting the term with twenty-four members the numbers dwindled as the term progressed. Once again our thanks go to Mr. Jeffrey whose assistance was invaluable.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION. An encouraging term with a wide variety of topics having been discussed. We also held a joint meeting with the Christian Union of Plymouth High and are grateful for the hospitality shown to us.

THE RECORD LENDING SOCIETY. Another successful term for the society in spite of the departure of Hemelik, the founder member. Once more we are indebted to Mr. Trevena for his patronage.
COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS...

"Crabbed age and youth cannot live together,
Youth is full of pleasance, age is full of care."

We, in the Community Service Volunteers Group, have learnt that this is not true. In our visiting of the old, we are certainly finding a great deal of pleasure and learning much from the old people's courage and humour. From the peals of laughter that echo down the dingy passages of the flats, they, too, are deriving some pleasure from our visiting, which seems to disprove the quotation.

The Community Service Group, which was formed this term, is an amalgamation of the Scouts, who have been visiting the Spastics for several years, and of a smaller group of boys, who had visited old people. This term we have enlarged the group to 20 boys, and we hope to have more volunteers next term.

Every week some boys have gone off to visit the Spastics, while others have gone out decorating. As far as the latter is concerned, we have gained invaluable experience from trial and error. Visiting of old people is one of the most important sides of our work. In this different age, it is very frightening to find old people, who, on cold days, have neither food nor warmth, and in several cases these people might not see another human being for two or three days. What is most horrifying is the loneliness of these old people—the pervading feeling that they have been left to die. One feels very helpless in these circumstances, but because we are young, they are less suspicious of us, and consequently they are quick to form real friendships with us. In future much of the emphasis in our visiting will be that two boys will adopt two or three old people, so that they can get to know them well.

The rewards for our work are sometimes long in coming, but when the old people welcome you with real affection, it is a very gratifying experience. In several cases we have been able to be of positive assistance to old people—the prompt action of one boy saved the life of an old lady, who was lying unconscious in her flat; and in the case of one old man who had been moved by the Welfare Department, and dumped into a new flat, five boys from the Community Service Volunteers were able to make his flat habitable. This old man spends nearly all his time in bed because he has lost a leg. But even with this great hardship to bear—he is tremendously cheerful. To hear this old man, curled up in a double-bed, like a mouse, with a dirty face appearing above the sheets, and say "I am so much luckier than many other people," is a very humbling experience. We have, in effect, adopted the old man—and it is really warming to see the way he has responded to our attention, a man who would otherwise have been forgotten.

We would like to thank Mr. Monsen of Virginia House for all his help, and also Mr. Greaves. At the moment we feel we have just scratched on the surface of the problem, but it is blatantly obvious to us how much the community has neglected old people. However, "it is better to light one small candle than curse the darkness."
ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

The first few weeks of the term were mainly taken up with elementary training of the 27 new recruits, the biggest entry ever. Field Day was spent by the Advanced at sea. The Naval Proficiency spent the morning at the Trevol shooting range, using S.M.G.'s and S.L.R.'s. The New Entry spent the morning at Jupiter Point doing power-boat work. In the afternoon the New Entry went to the Seamanship School, while the Proficiency watched a Recruiting film. In the second half of the term, the New Entry eventually spent an afternoon on the moors, after the exercise had been postponed twice. The last weeks of term were taken up with exams. Our thanks to Lieutenant Jeffery for his valuable help this term.

L/S KENDALL

ARMY SECTION

New Proficiency Company

Once the initial teething troubles have been overcome, i.e. general discipline and turnout, this company could become one of the best the Army Section has had.

Much of the credit is due to the invaluable help of the instructors, Cpls. Wall and Triscott.

Field Day was spent doing an orienteering exercise over Dartmoor.

Much of the term has been spent introducing elementary weapon training and map reading.

M. J. H.

Old Proficiency Company

The past term has been spent preparing and revising for the A.P.C. exam. This was taken on December 2nd at school. Even though some cadets seemed to forget everything they had been taught, moderate success was achieved, gaining 16 passes and 2 credits.

Field Day was spent on the moors in a joint exercise with the other army sections. The company will now switch up and cadets will join other companies.

P. J. I. (Sgt.)

Technical Section

Most of the term has been spent preparing the signals for their classification examination, which was taken on December 2nd.

Field Day was spent on the moors with the other sections in a joint exercise. In this exercise the R.E. section were responsible for the ‘bridge’ that was built. We welcome Mr. Fishar to the section as officer in charge.

A. W. (Sgt.)

Advanced Infantry Section

With the classification exam at the end of term, most of the time was devoted to preparation for it. Six passes were obtained by: Noble, Darlington, Punch, Soper, Gill and Wall. After retaking the map reading Triscott also passed.

In future it is hoped that the A.I. will be able to participate in various sporting activities, taking the emphasis off theoretical work.

B. C. G. (S/Sgt.)

A. H. E. S. (U.O.)

ROYAL AIR FORCE SECTION

The Christmas Term means two things in the R.A.F. Section, a new intake of recruits and almost 100% classroom work for the Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency cadets. The recruits intake was exceptionally good this term. They realized from the start the two prime objects of the C.C.F.—discipline and leadership. Turn out on the parade ground was extremely good from the start, although they were slow to pick up drill, but improved after half-term due to A/Sgt. Williams’ keen perseverance. The recruits were given a lot of experience in leadership including two moorland exercises and one in Central Park. There is some very promising N.C.O. material in the making. The classroom work of the Advanced Proficiency and Proficiency culminated in the exams at the end of term. The Advanced paper was reported to be quite straightforward and it seems that quite a lot of hard work was put into revision. The Proficiency paper on the other hand was very difficult, but it is hoped the results will prove otherwise. Field Day consisted of trips to R.A.F. Mount Batten and R.A.F. St. Mawgan. The Mount Batten trip was very rushed due to the coinciding of the trip with the visit of an Admiral. The trip was well rounded off with a journey round the dockyard in one of the R.A.F.‘s launches. St. Mawgan did not however receive such good words from the cadets as did Mount Batten.

This term we welcome the arrival into the section of F/O Fellows after the departure of P/O Lees to foreign lands, to whom we are much indebted.

D. A. MOORE (Sgt.)
This term saw the beginning of the first full year of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group. The changeover from Scouts to Dukes has been smooth, if not unnoticed, and it is true that to all appearances the change has been in name alone. The members, however, have already benefited from a scheme which allows for greater variety in programme and more freedom in its organisation.

The first year have been studying several topics including mapping and camping, photography, pioneering, canoeing and scooter maintenance. They have also tackled two initiative tests. The second year brought a very successful ambulance course to a fitting end when only one of the group failed to obtain the St. John's certificate for first aid.

The third year have been following their Duke of Edinburgh's 'pursuits' and passing the physical efficiency tests. Of the senior members some were involved in social service and some became instructors for the first year.

Scott, aided by Cropper, is well on the way to reorganising the stores. A doubtful sausage deprived us of Mr. Fell's presence for much of the term, but thankfully he will be back in active service with Messrs. Moll and Vincent for the rest of the year.

The rumour that S. J. Carder has left at last is true.

SIMON CARDER
OLD PLYMOTHIAN AND MANNA MEDIAN SECTION . . .

Officers of the Club:

President: S. K. Stout
Deputy President: B. A. L. Johnson
Honorary Treasurer: J. Harvey, Ryecroft, Glenburn Close, Plymouth.
Joint Honorary Secretaries:
R. G. H. Creber, 1 Queen Anne Terrace, Tavistock Road, Plymouth.
P. R. Newnham, 1 Queen Anne Terrace, Tavistock Road, Plymouth.

LONDON: J. Webber, 105 Headstone Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
BRISTOL: F. C. Phillips, 89 Coombe Lane, Westbury-on-Tyne.
J. C. Cutler, Lyncross, Strendrew’s Road, Avonmouth.
DURHAM: Jasper Parsons, Grey College, Durham University.
SOUTHAMPTON: G. J. Brown, 424 Winchester Road, Southampton.

COMING EVENTS

January 27th Dine-in at the Clubhouse.
February 14th Valentine's Dance at the Clubhouse.
March 12th Dinner Dance at the Duke of Cornwall.
March 28th Easter Dance at the Clubhouse.
April 7th Official opening of Club Playing Field—O.P.M. Team v. Devon Rugby Union Selected XV—
followed by Social Evening at the Clubhouse.
April 25th Dine-in at the Clubhouse—Wives and Girl friends welcome.
May 27th Motoring Event from Clubhouse.
June 13th President’s evening to commemorate the opening of the Clubhouse.
July 11th Open Day at the School.
July 25th Cricket Club Dance at Clubhouse.
August (date to be arranged) Barbecue in Club Grounds.
September 18th Annual Dinner.
October 30th Chairman’s Wine and Cheese Party.
November 27th Dine-in at Clubhouse.
December 19th Rugger Club Dance at Clubhouse.
December 24th Discotheque at Clubhouse.
December 31st Hockey Club Dance at Clubhouse.

Please note that the Club have now purchased their own discotheque equipment and there will be regular
dances on Wednesday evenings at the Clubhouse to which all sixth formers are invited.

CLUBHOUSE REPORT

This time last year it was reported that the Clubhouse had been substantially improved and this had been
combined with redecoration. This work had been carried out shortly before last Christmas and once again this
year, last minute effort was needed to complete additional improvements to the Clubhouse.

The Old Billiard Room has now been converted into a Lounge which has been of great advantage during the
dances over the Christmas period, as Members have been able to escape the frenzy of the main Club Room! A
complete discotheque unit has also been provided which is being run by a few Members, which will enable dances
to be arranged at short notice. This was used for the first time when we were pleased to receive the School’s
Rugger Teams for their annual dance. The attendance and interest in the Club continues to grow and once again
it is pleasing to see so many recent school leavers meeting their friends at the Club during the vacation periods
of the Colleges and Universities.

The Committee are at present attempting to cater for the interest of all age groups which is not in itself
an easy task, but it is now felt that with the new lounge the Club has taken another stride forward.

It has been pleasing to see more younger Members at the Club. Please remember that a good deal of work
is being done which can eventually be to the advantage of all the boys who leave the School. The progress over
the past year has been beyond all our hopes and there is no doubt that this trend will continue. With still more
support, the facilities can be improved even more quickly than at present.

PAUL DENNING
O.P.M RUGBY

In terms of results this season has so far been no more successful than last, but I am pleased to report a considerable improvement in standard of play, keenness, team spirit and availability of players, even to the extent of having to regrettably leave out some players each week.

This improvement has been brought about partly no doubt, by the fact that we are now playing on our own excellently appointed pitch at the Efford Club, but also because we have had a very welcome injection of talented school leavers join us. The undoubted class of Chris Morgan, last year’s school rugby captain, has been a great asset to the backs and has taken some of the burden off Peter Organ’s shoulders at fly-half, and these two now make a formidable mid-field combination for any opposing team to contend with. Other players from last year’s school teams include Brian Carder (hooker), Paul Shelley (centre) and Jim Swales (prop).

At the time of writing we also look forward to some improvements in our playing record as we hope to have the usual welcome influx of student O.P.M’s during the holiday period. We are always pleased to see them and indeed any O.P.M who would like to play for us. Anyone interested should contact me at school or at home, Telephone: 43958.

D. E. MARTIN

O.P.M CRICKET

The 1969 cricket results followed a very similar pattern to those of the previous season and apart from a successful spell in July and August when the side was strengthened with players on vacation the season can only otherwise be described as mediocre. However, as so often happens, the Cricket Club, Its most impressive performances was left for the strongest opposition, wins being recorded against Yeiverton, Plymouth Corporative Officers and Plymouth Y.M.C.A., while exciting draws were fought against Plymouth and Exeter.

Highest scorers with the bat were: B. Harper, who scored 500 runs with 3 fifties; P. Anthony; K. Adams; R. Oliver; T. J. Stevens; guest batsmen Y. Patel and K. Baker; R. Noble, N. Hale, I. Hoy. The most exciting innings was played by M. Griffiths on Open Day while never forgetting wicket-keeper K. Adams turned opener of late whose aggressive leg-side assaults made opposition bowlers wish that they had not opened the bowling. The most penetrative bowler was K. Pring while the accuracy of P. Walke was a major factor in the side in mid-seasonal resurgence.

Once again the Club is grateful to the Headmaster, Mr. Mercer and the Groundsman for the use of the school pitch and other facilities and would only inform Mr. Robertson that the more we play on this square the more convinced we that it is the easiest batting wicket in the South West.

Owing to the shortage of available workers the proposed square at the Clubhouse grounds at Efford did not materialise as was hoped. Indeed shortage of players has been a headache for a number of years now—so much so in fact that were it not for the invaluable aid of Mr. Stevens, who provided an assortment of players at whatever stage of the week, a team could not have been fielded for most of the early games.

With the apparently insoluble problem in mind perhaps it is not surprising that an amalgamation with another local side was proposed during the season. However, although O.P.M.’s were generally in favour of the proposition the idea was finally rejected by the other Club concerned in general meeting.

Results: Played 25; Won 6; Draws 6; Lost 13.

O.P.M. GOLFSING SOCIETY

The Society had a most enjoyable season in 1969 under the Captaincy of R. Periton, the results of matches being: won two, halved two and lost five.

The Main individual winners were B. J. H. Porter who won the Bowering Bowl and Captain’s Prize, and D. G. F. Porter who won the Match Play Championship.

An interesting fixture list is being prepared for the 1970 season, anyone wishing to play will be very welcome and should contact the Hon. Secretary, B. Porter. Telephone: Plymouth 73679.
PREPARATORY SCHOOL NOTES . . .

These first notes on another school year afford an opportunity, which we cannot overlook, of extending our good wishes to all those who have gone on from the Prep. to the Senior School. It has given us great pleasure to see so many of them returning to Monday House from time to time. They are always welcome.

At the beginning of the Autumn term we welcomed two new members of the staff, Miss S. Weston to teach music and Mr. J. C. Holding to take charge of Physical Education. The influence of both is already beginning to be felt in their respective spheres and the emphasis both lay on basic principles should ensure future successes.

The House Rugby competition was dominated by Buckland House, who won both the Rugby Cup and the new seven-a-side tournament quite comfortably, as indeed they did the first part of the House Handball league. The School XV was probably the youngest side we have had for many years, with several youngsters of promise but few of any great size, and so was almost invariably playing against older and heavier opponents. They did well, therefore, to win two games out of the eight played, to draw against the Widey Technical School team, and to hold other opponents to low scores.

Chess is still very popular in the upper forms of the school, and thirty-five boys, a record number, entered for the Plymouth Chess Congress during the Christmas holidays. The School Chess team have won all their matches so far this season, and have indeed lost only four individual games in all. They have beaten Teignmouth County Primary School, Junior Champions of the Torbay area, in the first round of the National Knock-out Shield for Junior Schools.

The School Council continued its regular meetings, and held two debates during the term, at which discussion was keen and on the whole consistent. The Chairman has been the Head Boy of this year. Chanter.

Other events during the term were the annual Harvest Festival service on October 3rd, at which the address was given by the Headmaster; the service of Lessons and Carols at St. Gabriel's Church on December 12th, conducted by the Rev. C. G. H. Trenear; and two plays, performed by members of the School elocution classes in the Gym-hall on December 15th, and produced by their teacher, Mrs. Hemelryk. We were very pleased once more to have the help of Councillor Smyth at the school firework display on November 10th. He and Mr. Parker, the School Porter and Mr. Hancock, the Groundsman, put on a show which pleased a large crowd of parents and children.

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