

better as a team than ever before. We can, however, look forward to completing the job next year, as we shall have seven of this year's side still in residence.

The Second XI, under the able leadership of R. G. E. B. Watson and J. G. Quinton, had a good season, ending up joint second in the Second XI League.

As in previous seasons, the Third XI was used more as a medium for giving games to all who wanted them, but could not play regularly or command a regular place in the First or Second XI, rather than as a match-winning machine. Notwithstanding, the Third XI in several of its many shapes and forms achieved some excellent wins, and provided excellent hockey for those who played. M. W. S. Barlow's work as Third XI Secretary was much appreciated.

During the Easter Vacation, a touring side went to Ireland for a week, spending three days in Belfast and four in Dublin. As seems unavoidable on our hockey tours, our results were very disappointing on paper—one draw and four lost games! However, the trip was in every other way a great success, and it was with a strong feeling of nostalgia that we sailed for home.

This year we have again had one Blue in our Club—W. B. Peeling—who also distinguished himself by gaining a Welsh cap. He is to be congratulated on such a success in his first year. Finally, as always, we owe much to our President, whose tireless support has meant a great deal.

First XI colours were awarded to M. H. Dehn, D. R. Peters, W. B. Peeling, C. P. R. Nottidge, A. J. Tombling, C. J. Denham Davis, D. C. M. Waddell and G. A. McCaw.

At the final meeting the following were elected officers for the season 1952-3:

Captain: R. CRABTREE. *Secretary:* C. J. DENHAM DAVIS.

THE JOHNIAN SOCIETY

THE President, Professor Sir Frank Engledow, C.M.G., was in the Chair at the Annual Dinner, which was once more held at the Café Royal on the day of the University Rugger match. A large gathering of Johnians was marked by an unusual number of present members of the College, both Fellows and undergraduates, as well as by the red blazers of the 1951 May crew, who were guests of the Society.

At the brief Annual General Meeting before the Dinner, Mr J. M. Wordie, C.B.E., was elected President for 1952. The following appointments were also made: Professor N. B. Jopson and Dr Glyn

Daniel as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, two new posts, and Messrs P. J. Hobson, M. W. Stephens, J. S. Wordie, G. B. G. Lawson and J. C. Ratcliff as members of the Committee.

Proposing the toast of "The College" in a speech rich with apt agricultural simile, the President described changes in the constitution made by the Committee: membership had dwindled since the war, and, firmly convinced of the value to both of close contact between the College and the Society, they had decided on measures to revivify the Society and to ensure a steady flow of young Johnians into it. His suggestion that the next dinner should be held in College as an experiment was welcomed enthusiastically. The Master replied to the toast, and reviewed the various notable events in the College during the previous year.

Later in the evening the President was heartily supported by all present in expressing the Society's gratitude to Mr E. W. R. Peterson for his twenty-eight years of service as Honorary Secretary, and he presented him with a silver salver from the Committee and past Presidents of the Society to mark the occasion of his retirement.

On Saturday, 15 December, following a sherry party to Lord Tedder, a group of Johnians on Merseyside dined at the University Club, Liverpool. The Dinner was organized by H. S. Magnay, 1922-5 (14 Sir Thomas Street, Liverpool 1). D. R. Seaborne Davies, 1925-8, Professor of Law and Public Orator at the University, Liverpool, proposed the toast of "The College" and Dr G. E. Daniel, Steward of the College, replied.

D. N. B.

THE LADY MARGARET BOAT CLUB

President—to Lent Term 1952: THE LATE MASTER. *Easter Term 1952:* THE MASTER. *First Boat Captain:* R. F. A. SHARPLEY. *Secretary:* N. B. M. CLACK. *Second Boat Captain:* J. S. M. JONES. *Junior Treasurer:* P. PRESTT. *Acting Secretaries:* J. A. N. WALLIS, P. PRESTT.

THE LATE MASTER

IT was with deep regret that we learnt of the death in February of the late Master, Mr E. A. Benians, who had been President of the Club since 1934. Although he never actually rowed in the First Boat he was awarded his First May Colours in 1948, and never missed an opportunity of supporting the Club, whether on race Days or at Bump Suppers. His after-dinner speeches from the chair were perfect examples of apt and fitting comment, and the gentle humour which he brought to them will be remembered for ever.

THE JOHNIAN SOCIETY

THE Society was lucky this year in being allowed to meet for the Annual Dinner in the charming and dignified setting of the Armourer's Hall. In proposing the toast of The College, Mr Brian Tunstall spoke movingly of the important place it occupied in the hearts of all Johnians; he presented to the College, on behalf of a number of old L.M.B.C. men, a picture of the original Lady Margaret rowing at the head of the river in 1829, and asked that it be held in memory of the late Master. The present Master, who took the chair as President of the Society for 1952, replied to the toast and gave members an account of the College's continuing prosperity.

Later in the evening the Master presented the Marshall Hall cup to Mr Arthur Beard, winner of the golf competition, and he reminded members that modesty about their golfing ability should not deter them from competing and enjoying a cheerful Saturday in September on the College's own course at Sunningdale.

At the Annual General Meeting Sir John Cockcroft was elected President for 1953.

A number of Johnians working in London met for an informal lunch recently, and hope to make it a regular fixture when they have found a suitable and inexpensive meeting-place.

D. N. B.

PRESENTATION TO THE COLLEGE GARDENER

ON 9 January 1953 a silver dish was presented to Mr R. E. Thoday, College Gardener, by the Master on behalf of "The Master, Fellows and Scholars" of the College. The presentation was made in recognition of the many awards which have been made for fruit grown at the College Garden while he has been in charge, and in particular of the award made by the Royal Horticultural Society of its Silver (Hogg) Medal in 1950.



THIRTY YEARS OF TUTORIAL POLICY*

by C. W. GUILLEBAUD

WHEN it was intimated to me that I had been selected for the honour of replying to the Toast of the College at the Dinner of the Johnian Society, I cast about in my mind as to what I should say, and it occurred to me that it might be appropriate if I were to give a sort of lightning sketch of some aspects of the development of the College as seen through the eyes of a Tutor during the last thirty years or so.

I came up to St John's in 1909; was made a Tutor in 1926 and became Senior Tutor in 1952 in succession to our present Master, Mr J. M. Wordie, who had held the office of Senior Tutor since 1933.

Going back to 1913, just before World War I, the junior members of this College numbered 274—undergraduates, B.A.s and Research Students.

During World War I the College was almost deserted—in fact in 1916 there were only 33 undergraduates in residence.

The post-war bulge carried us to a peak of 450 in 1920-1. Thereafter numbers declined gradually to 370 in 1926-7.

During the next two years, however, they increased by as many as 80 to about 450 and kept at approximately that level for the whole of the ten years prior to 1939. This expansion, and then stabilization of numbers at a figure about 180 in excess of the pre-World War I student population, was a matter of deliberate tutorial policy, largely under the influence of the then Senior Tutor, our late Master, Mr E. A. Benians.

* This article contains, with some additions and subtractions, the substance of a speech delivered at the Annual Dinner of the Johnian Society on 18 December 1954, the first occasion on which this Dinner had been held in the College.

World War I affected us in three main ways. To begin with, it increased the desire of many parents to send their sons to the Universities. It woke people up to the advantages of higher education. Secondly, it led to a greatly enhanced interest in the scientific subjects—our expansion in numbers was greatest in the Natural Sciences (the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was itself a product of World War I). Thirdly, it stimulated the Central Government and the Local Education Authorities to increase the number and value of their grants to students wishing to enter Universities.

One result of this was that we were able to pick and choose freely amongst our applicants. Now the moment a College finds itself in this position it is able to attract to itself a much larger number of the more desirable type of applicant. When we found that there was a continuous pressure of applications, and that we were turning down quite good boys, and that we could increase our numbers without in any way lowering our standards of admission, we did so up to a maximum of 450. The figure of 450 was the number of men that we reckoned we could have in residence while still having only two Halls each night—it was in a sense a physical bottle-neck. The other main limiting factor was, of course, the number whom we could teach; but we were also increasing the number of our Fellows in this inter-war period and could cope with a larger body of undergraduates.

I have referred to the expansion of the system of public grants. But it is important to remember that finance was still a very real restriction on entry to the University in the inter-war period—there was nothing like the present system of supplementation of College and other awards.

I well remember a meeting sometime in the early 1930's at which we were debating whether to give an Exhibition to a boy who had been placed in the Exhibition Class. Someone remarked: "It would not be much good giving him an Exhibition of £40; why, his father is a locomotive engine driver, he couldn't afford to send his son up on £40 a year." But Udny Yule, who was there, said: "All the same, I think we should give it him. Why, if the worst came to the worst he could always come up *in loco parentis*." We gave him the Exhibition and he did come up, having managed to collect the necessary funds from other sources.

In World War II, unlike World War I, the University was kept going on a considerable, though of course reduced scale. Our numbers at St John's never fell below 241, and they averaged 273 for the six years of war. They were mostly made up of scientists, engineers and medicals, with only a small number of arts men.

After the war there was another big expansion in the membership of the College, the post-war peak of our numbers being 653 in the

year 1949-50. Since then there has been a gradual decrease, and for this year, 1954, we are 580; and we have six Tutors to look after them.

Just by way of contrast, I might give some comparative figures for ourselves and Trinity:

	St John's	Trinity	Whole University
1913	274	672	3700
1938	454	710	5500
1954	580	736	7300

I turn now to say something about the causes of this latest increase in the size of the College, about its impact on the College, and finally, about our present position.

The growth in our numbers is a direct result of the new policy of State and County Scholarships, which means that any boy with good brains can (if he is accepted) come up to Cambridge and have the whole of his education financed for him. All his College and University fees are paid for him and he can get a maintenance allowance up to £288 a year.

The one important exception to this comprises the sons of middle-class and professional men, in respect of whom a means test operates with real harshness; so that, taking into account present-day costs and the level of income tax, a considerable number of them cannot come up to the University even if they could win public or University awards.

The removal, though with this one important exception, of the financial barrier which had hitherto prevailed, has brought with it a tremendous pressure on entry to Cambridge. They nearly all want to come here or to Oxford. Today we could fill the College to at least double the present size with men of really good type—and this certainly was not true on that scale for the inter-war period. If I am asked who these men are and where do they come from, I would reply that they are either men who pre-war could not or would not have gone up to a University at all, or who would have gone to one of the provincial Universities. The latter I know are feeling the draught as to quality. Their loss is, to some extent, our gain; on the other hand, I feel that we have more to give.

The most immediate impact of this change has been on our admissions policy itself. We have had to fix a quota for every subject, based largely on the number we feel we can teach.

What we do tutorially is to let applications accumulate, and then in the spring, eighteen months before the normal date of leaving school (18+), we deal with a batch of perhaps twenty applicants in, e.g., History, accept say four or five (more or fewer according to the subject) and refuse most of the remainder outright, letting a few wait

over to be considered later in competition with a second batch of applicants whom we deal with similarly in the Michaelmas Term; and so with all the other subjects.

We regulate our admission of commoners by age-groups, taking as many as we can accept from each age-group, and then moving on to consider those coming within the next younger group. Thus the men whom we will be considering next term for entry in 1956, belong to the age-group of those born between 1 August 1937 and 31 July 1938. We only rarely, and in exceptional circumstances, allow someone who has applied too late, or to whom we have refused a place in his proper age-group, to compete for a place in the next (younger) group. Nor do we permit a man whom we have refused for 1956, to be a candidate for 1958 after his National Service. We also do not take men coming out of the Forces unless we have already accepted them before they started on their Service.

At this point I might say something about our policy with regard to National Service. We strongly recommend men to do their Service before they come into residence.* But except in the case of law, economics, theology, moral sciences, and archaeology and anthropology (all non-school subjects), where we normally *require* them to do their National Service first, we allow men the option to decide for themselves. This is not without its inconvenience for the College as it leads to uncertain fluctuations in numbers from year to year; but this matter is one in which individual circumstances can vary so much that we think it better not to lay down binding conditions. It follows, and this can be of great importance for the man concerned, that if we have accepted a man to come into residence after his National Service and he is then rejected on medical grounds, we can always give him a place so that he can come up straight away.

In the current year, 1954-5, out of a freshman entry of 167 men liable for National Service, 85 came up straight from school, while 82 came up after having completed two years of National Service.

Reverting to our admissions policy, I would add that we hardly ever interview. We go on the results of the General Certificate of Education and on the Headmaster's recommendation—principally the latter, and it is remarkable how rarely we consider we have been let down. Where we can find the combination, we go for character, *and* ability *and* personality, including the capacity to play games. If a boy seems only to have ability without personality we usually tell him he must win his place by getting an award in our Entrance Scholarship Examination—we won't take him outright as a commoner. In general we do not use the Scholarship Examination as a

* I append at the end of the article a copy of a circular on this subject which we usually send to men when we accept them.

means of picking commoners, nor do we hold an Entrance Examination of our own, nor do we (save in exceptional circumstances) lay down specific educational requirements such as so many passes at Advanced Level in the G.C.E.

Our endeavour is not to fill the College with men of any one type, but to get a wide and representative cross-section of the schoolboy population, drawn from every sort of school, large and small, day-boy or boarding, from all over the country. All we want to feel assured of is that individually they are good.

The task of selection is often a very difficult one, especially in borderline cases. Both *A* and *B* may be thoroughly good and desirable candidates for admission, with not much to choose between them in their several ways; we would much like to have them both, but we can only allow ourselves one of them and the other has perforce to go elsewhere.

All sorts of considerations can influence the decision in the case of any given application—the factor of heredity; past, and possible future, relations with the Head or Housemaster concerned; College connections where they exist; the question of a future career; and so on.

Every method of selection is fallible, and we certainly do make mistakes; but we are convinced as a tutorial body that our method works well on the whole, and we do not think any other would be better or indeed as good. My own impression is that in addition to our large public school entry, we are drawing to ourselves a good deal of the cream of the secondary and day schools from all over the country. We are helped in this by the fact that we can offer a large number of Entrance Scholarships and Exhibitions; and by our system of Prize Fellowships, which are a big attraction for the really able boy. Furthermore, our athletic record, our prowess on the river and in ball games, our musical reputation, and other of our many-sided activities, all add to the attraction of this College for boys of different sorts and interests.

I mentioned earlier the different types of schools from which we draw.

In the late inter-war period about half our annual entry came from public boarding schools and half from day and grammar schools. Today the proportions are more like one-third from the public boarding schools, and two-thirds from the smaller boarding schools and the day and grammar schools; which I think is what might be expected as a result of the new educational policy of the Government.

On this I would comment, first, that the absolute number of men from public schools has not declined at all. Secondly, many parents of public schoolboys constitute the new poor—they may be able by

pinching and screwing and drawing on capital to afford the public school, but not by any means always an additional £400 a year for three years at the University; hence there may be some contraction in the supply from this source, especially where the professional class is concerned. Thirdly, a number of parents who used to send their sons to public schools have now to send them to the smaller boarding and day schools, which accordingly draw from a wider range of the population than they used to.

If we were failing to attract good boys from the public schools in adequate numbers, I should not feel at all happy, because they are a very important element in a College. But we *are* getting them, and at the same time are fulfilling what I feel to be a public duty to this new potential source of supply of undergraduates, much of it of first-rate human quality; and in this connection I would recall the saying: "We must educate our masters."

That our policy has not been unsuccessful on the intellectual side is I think a fair deduction from the fact that over a group of seven post-war years, for which I have figures, taking the percentage of men getting first classes in Honours examinations, St John's stood first of all the Colleges in one year; second in three years, and third in a fifth year. The order amongst the Colleges naturally changes constantly from year to year. Our *annus mirabilis* was June 1947, when out of 273 candidates who were entered for Triposes, as many as 65 were placed in Class I, or 26.4 per cent of the total number entered.

On the athletic side, the achievements of the Lady Margaret Boat Club are known to all, and this year we have earned the proud distinction of being able to put up a weather-vane on our boathouse, for that Lady Margaret have been Head of the River in the May Races for five successive years. So far as other sports go—Rugger, Soccer, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, I need merely say that we have a very high place among the Colleges in all of these.

There have been two main physical effects of the increase in numbers: we now have three Halls—at 6.20, 7 and 7.45 p.m., of which the second Hall at 7 is for various reasons much the most popular. We regret the necessity for this, but it is unavoidable if we are to feed our men.

The other effect is on rooms: when the war ended there was an acute shortage of lodgings and we were driven to double up men in College to the maximum amount possible. As the peak of numbers receded, we were able to turn some double rooms back to single; today we have 120 single sets, 118 double sets, and six triple sets—these last being large sets formerly occupied by Fellows. I might add that we always have more applicants for the triple sets than we can cope with. As a result of all this we now have 374 men living in

College and about 200 in lodgings, this latter figure including all the B.A.s and most of the Research Students. We would gladly convert more of the double sets back into singles, but the demand for double sets is still so great that we are holding them for the time being at the level at which supply and demand are evenly balanced.

World War II did one great thing for us, it enabled us to accomplish what we have long wished to do, but which ironically enough only a war could have made possible. We can now bring the great majority of all our freshmen into College for their first year. We keep the single sets rigidly for them. In the second year a man has the choice of doubling up in College with a friend of his own choosing, or of going out into lodgings. The vast majority prefer to double up in College, and so to spend two out of their three years in College. In the third year they go out into lodgings. From the point of view above all of work, doubling up is obviously open to considerable objections, though I think it does have some partially compensating advantages.

In conclusion, I would like to touch briefly on a very important question: I

of outgrowing its own strength?

Now in the nature of things there can be no clear-cut or positive answer to this. But I can say that most of the indications would seem to show that we are not suffering from the sort of evils one would expect if we were seriously over-expanded in size. We are certainly a long way from being "a mere geographical expression on the map of Cambridge". The undergraduates here are neither an amorphous mass of dissociated individuals, nor are they split up into a number of more or less self-contained cliques. They mix and mingle together with the greatest freedom, and I would say that an outstanding characteristic of the College today is its friendliness—perhaps an even better term would be the homely word, *mateyness*. I believe this to be due partly to the fact that we have nearly 400 men living together at any one time in College; and it is also encouraged by the doubling up of men in rooms. Partly too it is favoured by the fact that we provide a voluntary lunch in Hall, which is very widely patronized and where men come and sit anywhere where there is a vacant place. They are thus continually getting to know new people in the College; and not only men of their own year. Partly, again, it is due to our big Athletic Clubs. A Boat Club which can put ten Eights on the river comprises a very sizeable proportion of the whole College. Also the relations between the Clubs are good. You find the rowing men turning out to cheer the Rugger Club in a Cup Match—and vice versa. Then too there are the numerous societies—musical, dramatic, and many others that flourish in our midst.

But all this does not merely happen of its own accord: it is the result of the actions of individuals and of the influence of personalities. Just as, apart from purely technical considerations, the optimum size of a business depends in large measure upon the personal qualities and capacity of the people at the head of it; so in a College, apart from purely financial considerations, the question of its optimum size is essentially one of personalities. Only in this latter case *everyone* is involved—the undergraduates, the Master, the Fellows, the Tutors, yes, and the College servants.

When Sir Joseph Larmor died he left an unusual bequest to the College—a large sum of money with which to make substantial awards to the four or five men who each year are deemed to be of outstanding merit amongst the undergraduates: those who have made the biggest mark in the College. The Selection Committee consists chiefly of Tutors, on the senior side, and not fewer than four junior members of the College. Each year we have between twenty-five and forty names to consider, and no one who has served on that body could fail to be impressed by the high quality and variety of achievements of the men who are being discussed, as well as the extent of the influence which they can and do exert upon their contemporaries. So long as we can continue to draw men of this kind to the College, and there is no sign that the supply is drying up—quite the contrary—so long we need have no fear for the future of the College.

I hope I have not given the impression that I am merely being complacent. There is plenty of room for criticism, and doubtless many things that could be done better.

But all in all I believe this College to be a healthy and a flourishing society.

APPENDIX

I reproduce here the circular on National Service normally sent to men at the time when we accept them:

Since many boys are in doubt whether it is preferable to do their National Service before or after they come into residence, it may serve a useful purpose to set out some of the arguments, not all of which can be readily appreciated by boys still at school, in favour of their doing their period of Service before they begin their studies at the University.

1. A man is more mature after two years of National Service and, therefore, likely to derive more benefit from his University course than if he went up straight from school. In general, there is much to be said for a break between School and University in view of the great difference in the whole attitude towards teaching and learning in a School and in a University.

2. Experience shows: (a) that the overwhelming majority of men who come into residence after National Service find little difficulty in resuming their studies—it takes them only a short time to pick up the threads again. (b) That very few men who have done their National Service first, regret their decision later; while many of those who have postponed their Service do regret their decision by the time they have reached their third year of residence.

3. It is much more difficult to make arrangements for finding a job (e.g. interviewing Headmasters or other prospective employers) while a man is doing his National Service. The experience of the Cambridge University Appointments Board is quite definite on this point, and it is one of the most important practical reasons in favour of not postponing National Service.

4. The attention of Entrance Scholars, in particular, should be drawn to two important considerations:

(a) The sensible and obvious time for a man to begin his research, if he is going on to post-graduate work, is immediately after he has taken his Degree.

(b) While it is true that a man can obtain deferment to undertake research (subject to an age-limit of 26 years), this may not be desirable on other grounds, and the fact remains that National Service has to be performed before he reaches the age of 26, and that a break of two years might interfere seriously with the progress of his research at a time when his powers may be at their height.

5. A National Serviceman is under obligation to do part-time Service for three and a half years after he has completed his full-time Service. This obligation involves attendance at camp for two weeks annually as well as a certain number of drill hours during the year. A man who has done his National Service before he comes into residence can fulfil the greater part of his obligations for further training with relatively little inconvenience during the three years that he is up at the University. He is likely to find these obligations much more burdensome when he is holding down a job—the fortnight's camp, for example, might absorb a considerable part of his summer holidays.

6. It should be noted that the great majority of grant-awarding bodies make no difficulty in suspending a Scholarship or Grant until a man has completed his period of National Service.