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THE EAGLE

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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 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.

WORDSWORTH AND THE SHAPE OF ENGLISH POETRY

NOT only is it incontestable, but it is also uncontested that Shakespeare is the greatest of English poets. He overtops the rest more obviously than Dante does the Italians, Goethe the Germans, and Pushkin the Russians. And a poet so placed must, of course, dominate much of the poetry written after him, both by the influence he exerts on other poets (and the better poets they are, the more they will feel his influence), and by his educative power over readers of poetry. Through reading him, we are led to form expectations of poetry, to make certain demands upon the poet, and he must at least take them into account in dealing with us.

About this far-reaching and profound domination of our poetry by Shakespeare there is a question to be asked: Is there any marked general bias in his poetry, a bias that may be reflected in his influence over his successors and over readers of poetry? Or were his qualities so completely central to our literary tradition that they produce no such bias? Was he, in fact, in thought and feeling and style, so much the expression of what is most typical in English poetry that he is not only its best, but its most normal writer?

The main answer must of course be that he is central to our literary tradition; that unless this were so, he could not have held for so long his unique position in it. But it must be added that he is rather a Common Denominator than a Common Factor: that he occupies his position above all because of the quality in him that Dryden called "comprehensiveness", which more modern critics generally find in him, too, though under names such as "universality". Without trying to usurp the sacred functions of Shakespearean criticism, it is difficult to indicate just what this quality means in detail, but it may be safe to point to some of its more obvious aspects. In thought, it is his sheer range that gives him this comprehensiveness. He moves through all the degrees between a homely and racy common sense that has made many of his lines popular proverbs among us, to high philosophic seriousness in *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and many other places. In feeling he has the same astonishing scope; from the heights of tough-minded bare tragedy, to a very English sentimentality and whimsy; from the most refined delicacy of romantic passion to a realistic coarseness that inflicts bewildered pain among less flexible temperaments. And in language he is pre-eminent for his complete command of all the resources of English, formal and informal, literary and colloquial, Romance and Teutonic.

But when the question has been answered on these lines, as it ought to be, it is nevertheless possible to add, not by way of any limitation or denigration, but simply for the sake of complete accuracy, that though Shakespeare's work is so centrally comprehensive in our literature, it has nevertheless some special characteristics of its own. And these, though they are in no sense defects in him, and though no one would wish them to have been different from what they are, are not inevitable characteristics of an English poet, though because they are found in him they are often taken for granted. It is in the prestige which his position lends to these special qualities that he produces a slight bias in English poetry.

The first of these special qualities is one of mind and education. His thought, with all its width and depth (perhaps because of these qualities), was little dependent on system, on books, on formal learning and the traditional disciplines of schools and universities. He had "little Latin and less Greek", as the more learned Jonson put it. And in this respect, at any rate, some meaning can be found in Milton's phrase about "native wood notes wild". Shakespeare's mind is acute, wonderfully balanced, well-stocked with knowledge of all kinds. It is all this and much more, but it happens to be almost untouched by books and academic learning. One would not wish it, of course, to have been touched by them, or any different from what it is. All that can reasonably be urged is that a poet might write well in English whose mind, besides other necessary virtues, had some tinge of books, of formal learning, and even of a University. And insofar as Shakespeare's example discourages this possibility, his influence exerts a slight bias.

The second special quality in him is one of style. It is what his earlier critics, such as Dryden, used to call his "wit", what Coleridge often called his "imagination", and what is nowadays often studied under the name of "imagery". Probably the best brief description of it is Coleridge's: "The wit of Shakespeare is, as it were, like the flourishing of a man's stick, when he is walking, in the full flow of animal spirits." He means, in plainer language, that while Shakespeare has a clear main direction of thought and feeling, which he neither forgets nor deserts—he is going somewhere quite definite—he is able to make, as he goes, side-references and by-thoughts, in a continual play of metaphor which does not distract him or us from the main path, but illuminates it in unexpected ways, adding richness and variety to the journey. Again, one would not wish it to be otherwise. On the contrary, it is one of his greatest qualities. All that can reasonably be suggested is that, despite the brilliance of Shakespeare's example, a poet *might* write well in English without this coruscation of wit and imagery around his main tenor. And so far as this example

has discouraged this possibility, Shakespeare's influence has imposed a bias on the whole course of English poetry.

There is then, in the abstract, the possibility of a kind of poetry in English differing from the Shakespearean in two ways: in having some tinge of books, of formal learning, and in using a style less loaded with imagery. How far these two qualities are connected, it is more difficult to say. At first sight there seems no necessary relation between them. But some connection, even if an accidental one, is established by our educational tradition. Until quite recently, education in the formal sense was inseparable from the study of the classics, and of some of the more classical modern languages, such as French and Italian. An acquaintance with books and formal learning usually involved some measure of acquaintance with these languages; and it was almost impossible to have this acquaintance, without getting from it the general feeling for a style of poetry much plainer than Shakespeare's, relying much less on imagery, much more on a careful exactness of word and phrase, a style spare rather than exuberant, with overtones and resonances rather intellectual and abstract than emotional and concrete.

Wherever the chances of educational opportunity have produced well-educated poets, we find this combination of formal learning with a hankering after a "classical" style. In Ben Jonson, in Milton and Dryden, Thomson and Wordsworth. The poets of the Romantic period to some extent turned their backs on this endeavour to achieve a plainer style of poetry, and at the same time turned away from the more traditional kinds of formal learning, but by the middle of the last century the older influences exerted themselves again, nowhere more clearly than in Matthew Arnold, most of whose critical work revolves round the problems of a possible "classicism" in English poetry. That, after all, is precisely the significance of his most ample and systematic piece of criticism, *On Translating Homer*: the problem on which it turns is exactly that of a plain style, also "grand", in English.

The shape of English poetry, then, is something like a mountain with one pre-eminent peak, but by geological principle saddle-backed, with a lesser peak which *ought* to exist, and which many poets have sought to make exist. There is no question about the poet of the major peak—it is Shakespeare; but about the lesser peak, there is much greater difficulty in deciding who should stand on it.

For a long time it was occupied by Milton, but there can be no doubt that modern criticism has deposed him, and that his place is vacant. There are, moreover, many reasons for believing that it is useless to try to put him back on it: that his place in English poetry

can never be quite the same as it was before the controversies of the last few years. The chief of them is this: that though there may have been a slight element of literary "hooliganism" in recent attacks on Milton, a tinge of unholy exhilaration in their manner, the substance of them was nothing new. Even when the dominant literary fashions were running wholly in his favour, his admirers found it hard not to grudge their admiration, not to qualify it by petty reservations and back-handed praise. It is enough to read Johnson's comments on *Paradise Lost* to see how half-hearted was his response to Milton; and the faintness of the praise becomes even clearer if it is compared with his criticism of Shakespeare in the *Life*. He approves Milton, but on principle rather than in practice, and the approval is extorted from the head, because *Paradise Lost* could not be denied to be a "classical" epic very nearly successful in putting flesh around the dry ossature of Aristotle, Boileau, and the rest of the classical theorists. Shakespeare, on the other hand, he enjoys from the heart, despite all kinds of principles which ought to have told against him. And that is the really awkward thing about Milton. One can admire his achievement, praise some parts of it, enjoy some perhaps, but in the end the whole fails to make a coherent impression on the reader, even the most sympathetic. He is, as Keats said, a "beautiful and grand curiosity".

The beauty and grandeur are certainly there, and it would be very wrong to depreciate them. Indeed, sometimes—in the opening lines of *Lycidas*, for example—Milton comes nearer than any other English poet to the sonorous simplicity of Virgilian classicism. But the curiosity is there too. And it is probably rooted in the fact that even in his own age he was something of a monster, an abnormality. A Puritan in matter, he was a Cavalier in manner; for those who agreed with him in his choice of subject cared very little for classical poetry, and those who liked the classical poetry cared nothing for the Puritan subject. He straddled, with almost perverse dexterity, the diverging tastes of his own time, and failed to represent either. Of his own party and opinions, Bunyan was the supreme and natural expression, and has been received as such into the main tradition of English literature. Milton represented nobody but himself, and that was not quite enough: it very rarely is. He was an oddity: a remarkable one, in many ways an admirable and astonishing one, but none the less an oddity. And it is not surprising that the history of his later fame is here and there touched with the pure bizarre. There is, for example, a locomotive that plies regularly between Cambridge and Liverpool Street that is called "John Milton": it is a blackly formidable Pacific, and is not, in its own way, wholly unlike *Paradise Lost*. And *Paradise Lost* is the last known book to have been bound

in the tanned hide of a murderer, not much more than a century ago: bizarre is surely not too strong a word for the taste that combined an interest in the contents with a liking for this particular mode of external decoration.

But if Milton can no longer be allowed to sit on the lesser peak of our poetry, who should, or who can take his place? There is, surely, no possibility save that of Wordsworth—always remembering that we must have a poet not in the “line of wit”, in the imaged, Shakespearean or metaphysical manner, but one who uses a plainer, more direct style. There are, in fact, very few poets who qualify for the position at all. Arnold would no doubt be one, Landor another, and possibly Dryden. And all these (and *a fortiori* other minor candidates) simply lack the sheer stature to hold a place at the head of one major stream of English poetry. They have merits, notable merits, but they remain inevitably in the lower ranks of achievement. Wordsworth alone has—possibly—the stature needed for the position. And he has, what Milton so conspicuously lacks, the ability to exert a powerful influence on the thoughts and feelings of at least some of his readers. There were, in the nineteenth century—one hopes there are still—“Wordsworthians”, in the sense that John Stuart Mill and Hale White were “Wordsworthians”. No one ever heard of a “Miltonian”, for neither the thing nor the word has come into existence.

But has he the special qualities we are looking for—the tincture of formal learning, and the plain style? As to the first, the answer is fairly clear. He was at the College. And while it would be utterly wrong to claim that his Cambridge studies contributed much to his poetry, it would also be wrong to suppose that they contributed nothing. There were, after all, certain educational experiences to which he referred later, which clearly wove themselves in with the main fabric of his thought and feeling. For example, he had to read Euclid, and though the reading of it did not turn him into a geometer, it certainly played a part in his intellectual life, as the passage quoted below shows. And as for the rest, the Greek and Latin and rhetoric, while their direct influence was—fortunately—very small, they must surely have contributed a little to one of his outstanding qualities, his ability to compose an argument, or to arrange a sequence of reflections, in an orderly development, subordinating parts to the whole, and so well that some of the long paragraphs in *The Prelude* have as much shape and force as Burke’s best periods. He was not a bookish poet, then, but there was in his work more than a superficial tincture of books and their influence.

As for the style, the only fair way of judging it is to consider a specimen. I have chosen the following passage for two reasons.

First, it is long enough to show his sheer power of composition, of writing in verse-periods; and second, its content is, while not in any way untypical of him, at least not too closely knit with the subjects and moods that are most powerfully and notoriously his own. It is a passage which, as it were, makes no imperative demands on the imaginative attention, and leaves the reader a little more free to contemplate the style itself. It is from the first book of *The Prelude*, and it serves as summary of the introductory lines, which tell of Wordsworth’s difficulties in choosing his theme, of his many hesitations and retreats, alternations of confidence and doubt. This is it:

But from this awful burthen I full soon
 Take refuge, and beguile myself with trust
 That mellow years will bring a riper mind
 And clearer insight. Thus my days are past
 In contradiction, with no skill to part
 Vague longing that is bred by want of power
 From paramount impulse not to be withstood,
 A timorous capacity from prudence;
 From circumspection infinite delay.
 Humility and modest awe themselves
 Betray me, serving often for a cloak
 To a more subtle selfishness, that now
 Locks all my functions up in blank reserve,
 Now dupes me by an over-anxious eye
 That with a false activity beats off
 Simplicity and self-presented truth.
 Ah! better far than this, to stray about
 Voluptuously through fields and rural walks,
 And ask no record of the hours, given up
 To vacant musing, unreprieved neglect
 Of all things, and deliberate holiday;
 Far better never to have heard the name
 Of zeal and just ambition, than to live
 Thus baffled by a mind that every hour
 Turns recreant to her task, takes heart again,
 Then feels immediately some hollow thought
 Hang like an interdict upon her hopes.
 This is my lot, for either still I find
 Some imperfection in the chosen theme,
 Or see of absolute accomplishment
 Much wanting, so much wanting, in myself,
 That I recoil and droop and seek repose
 In listlessness from vain perplexity,
 Unprofitably travelling towards the grave,
 Like a false steward who hath much received
 And renders nothing back. Was it for this

That one, the fairest of all rivers, lov'd
 To blend his murmurs with my Nurse's song,
 And from his alder shades and rocky falls,
 And from his fords and shallows sent a voice
 That flow'd along my dreams?

Now perhaps the most obvious positive quality here is the controlled rise and fall of the sentences. They are managed with a firmness of line that might be compared with the draughtsmanship underlying the compositions of the great painters. There is freedom and sweep and variety, but there is no looseness anywhere. For example, the phrase about "contradiction" in the fifth line is steadily, but not monotonously expanded through the different kinds of contradiction in the following eleven lines, at first in short antitheses, "timorous capacity, prudence", then in longer and wider definitions, still held in a sequence of formal contrasts. The next "paragraph" is admirably linked together by the repetition of "better far" and "Far better" five lines on—the change of emphasis enforced by the metre makes much of a simple phrase. It is, in fact, for these and a good many other reasons, an admirable piece of composition: it is to be hoped that Wordsworth's Tutor would have been pleased at least by the "rhetoric".

The most obvious negative quality is, for most readers of modernized taste, the absence of images, of metaphors in the Shakespearean manner. The solitary exception is "interdict", which looks a little like the legal imagery common in both Shakespeare and Donne, but it is isolated, and it is in fact the only occasion when Wordsworth used the word. For the rest, the images are gentle, almost commonplace. They draw no attention to themselves, and certainly have no trace of wit or obscurity: *mellow* years, *riper* mind, *bred* by want of power—humility and modest awe *betray* me, *serv*ing often for a *cloak* to a more subtle selfishness, *locks* every function up, *beats off* simplicity, *hollow* thought. These moribund metaphors are the opposite of the Shakespearean coruscation. And the more interesting metaphors are as quietly managed: "recreant" and "baffled", for example, which unobtrusively recall the world of chivalry and knighthood, of "recreant" knights who were unfaithful to their calling, and suffered the ignominy of being *baffled*—of having their arms tied upside down over their tents. In the same way, the "false steward" glancingly summons up one of the best-known proverbial passages in the New Testament.

Indeed, the puzzle is to know how such writing can have the force of poetry at all; and certainly it is a puzzle beyond the capacity of most of the methods of analysis that have been developed in recent years by the admirers of the Shakespearean type of imagery. The

examination of Wordsworthian metaphors leads nowhere, save to the commonly accepted usages and mental habits of mankind; they offer no scope for tracking down curious associations, for the catalytic blendings of thought and feeling that Donne is said to have discovered in the odour of a rose. If the power of Wordsworth's poetry can be analysed at all (and very probably it cannot), it must be by other methods than these. Indeed, it might be added that if the qualities of the plainer, the more classical style, are to be analysed at all, it cannot be by the same methods that have grown out of the study of the opposite, the imaged style.

The only possible starting-point for the analysis of this style is the strong impression that it is characteristically Wordsworthian; the reader who has read any of the other poetry will feel, the more strongly the more of it he has read, that the manner is familiar to him. The next step forwards is often to the assumption that this characteristic manner is nothing more nor less than the imprint of the writer's character, and that the proper way to explore it is biographical. No doubt that is why so much of Wordsworthian criticism takes the form of biography, an examination of his life and beliefs. But it has the effect of running away from the actual text before the critic—it almost makes him seem to have admitted the impossibility of talking about it directly. The only possibility of keeping close to the text, and at the same time giving weight to the biographical side of the work, to the impact of the personality, is to study the actual words used, and above all to see how far they are *personally* used. It is no doubt a tedious procedure, but it has the merit of being faithful to the subjective impression of one reading Wordsworth that he is moving within a powerful, but limited vocabulary—that the same words recur often, gathering strength by the frequency of their use and the interlinking of their contexts. How far this subjective impression can be established objectively will best be shown in a few examples.

In line 11, the phrase "blank reserve" carries a good deal of weight, and "blank" looks like a personal, individual use of a not very common word. This impression is borne out by the Concordances. They show that Wordsworth used the word no less than 34 times. Just before him, Cowper used it 8 times, and among his contemporaries it occurs thus: Coleridge 13, Shelley 8, Keats 7. And of more significance than this very crude numerical test (which does not, of course, take into account the relative bulks of these writers' works) is the fact that in Wordsworth "blank" is used in a powerful sense, in several passages central to his poetry, while in the other writers it is used in a simpler, more literal meaning, save for Keats's phrase "blank splendour" from *Hyperion*, and one passage in

Coleridge mentioned below. Typical of the Wordsworth contexts are these:

Fallings from us, vanishings,
Blank misgivings of a Creature
Moving about in worlds not realized.

(*Ode on the Intimations of Immortality*)

In Book I of *The Prelude*, the incident of the stolen boat ends with this description of the boy's guilty fears:

my brain
Worked with a dim and undetermined sense
Of unknown modes of being; o'er my thoughts
There hung a darkness, call it solitude
Or blank desertion.

And in *The Excursion*, the mood of the Solitary Man on his way to America is referred to thus:

And, in this blank and solitude of things,
Upon his spirit, with a fever's strength,
Will conscience prey.

The only use of the word comparable with these is in Coleridge's *Dejection* Ode, in which he describes his own loss of the faculty of perceiving Nature in Wordsworth's manner: "And still I gaze—and with how blank an eye!" He has, probably by instinct, seized upon a typically Wordsworthian word to express this vacancy, this failure of spirit, the negative aspect of these experiences.

Typical of the more positive side of Wordsworth's experience are these three words: "insight" (line 4), "paramount" and "impulse" (line 7). Here are notes on them:

Insight. Used by Wordsworth 15 times, not at all by Cowper, Keats, Shelley, only once in Coleridge's poetry.

It occurs in that odd little poem, so typical of Wordsworth's combination of profundity and *naïveté*, on "Star-gazers in Leicester Square". He sees the night-walkers there paying their pennies to look at the sky, and observes "What an insight must it be!"

Here is a more central passage, showing the relation between "insight" and some of the other key-words in his thought, such as Imagination and "power" (this word he used no less than 600 times—it would be well worth studying his uses of it).

This spiritual love acts not nor can exist
Without Imagination, which in truth

Is but another name for absolute power
And clearest insight, amplitude of mind,
And Reason in her most exalted mood.

The dictionary throws some further light on this word. It was common especially among the theological writers of the seventeenth century, for the power of seeing below the surface of things to their inner essence. But after them it seems to have dropped out of use, for the *O.E.D.* gives two quotations in the early eighteenth century, and then nothing until Wordsworth. It looks very much as if the word had been revived by him, literally brought back into the living language.

Paramount. Not a common word anywhere, but used by Wordsworth 13 times. Twice in Cowper, but in simple ways: "paramount lord", "paramount claims". Not found in the poetry of Coleridge, Keats and Shelley. In Wordsworth it links together a number of important passages. It occurs, for example, in his account of the influence of Euclid on his beliefs:

Though advanced
In these inquiries, with regret I speak,
No farther than the threshold, there I found
Both elevation and composed delight:
With Indian awe and wonder, ignorance pleased
With its own struggles, did I meditate
On the relation those abstractions bear
To Nature's laws, and by what process led,
These immaterial agents bowed their heads
Duly to serve the mind of earth-born man;
From star to star, from kindred sphere to sphere,
From system on to system without end.

More frequently from the same source I drew
A pleasure quiet and profound, a sense
Of permanent and universal sway,
And paramount belief. . . . (*The Prelude*, Book VI)

In these last few lines, the political and social idea of "paramountcy", feudal overlordship, is transferred to the "universal sway" of natural processes that are permanent, orderly and immutable; and the perception of these processes has the characteristic force on the perceiver, of causing in him "paramount belief". It was a kind of belief that Wordsworth valued the more, because it did not come to him easily, and because he felt a deep need for it. And in human affairs, he valued no less the "paramount impulse, not to be withstood", as a kind of reflection of the governing inevitable power that tops the universe. Thus in the less-known companion sonnet to "Milton,

thou shouldst be living at this hour", in which he laments the lack of great men and minds in revolutionary France, he says:

France, 'tis strange,
Hath brought forth no such souls as we had then.
Perpetual emptiness, unceasing change!
No single volume paramount, no code,
No master spirit, no determined road;
But equally a want of books and men.

(*Great Minds have been Among Us*)

And there is another use of the word, linking it with many of the other key-words of the Wordsworthian system, in Book x of *The Prelude*, where it falls into the description of the critical decision not to take an active part in the French Revolution against the extremists, but to return to England. Despite the fact that he was a foreigner, uneloquent even in English, obscure, he reflected that—

A Spirit thoroughly faithful to itself
Unquenchable, unsleeping, undismay'd,
Was as an instinct among Men, a stream
That gather'd up each petty straggling rill
And vein of water, glad to be roll'd on
In safe obedience, that a mind whose rest
Was where it ought to be, in self-restraint,
In circumspection and simplicity,*
Fell rarely in entire discomfiture
Below its aim, or met with from without
A treachery that defeated it. . . .

Well might my wishes be intense, my thoughts
Strong and perturb'd, not doubting at that time,
Creed which ten shameful years have not annull'd,
But that the virtue of one paramount mind
Would have abash'd those impious crests, have quell'd
Outrage and bloody power. . . .

In this way, then, all the different sides of Wordsworth's experience were brought to bear on the word "paramount": his studies at Cambridge, his perception of "universal sway" in Nature, and his painfully personal reaction to the French Revolution. It is not surprising that the word has, in him, an unusual frequency and a special force.

Impulse. This can be more briefly noted, for it is at once recognized as one of the typically Wordsworthian words: "One impulse from a

* Both words are in the passage from which this examination started. A comparison of the two passages illustrates very well the characteristic eddying recurrence of words and moods in Wordsworth.

vernal wood". He used it 39 times; Cowper 3 times, Keats not at all, Coleridge 10 times, and Shelley 17 times. There is, however, a great difference between the word as Shelley and Coleridge used it and the way Wordsworth used it. For them, it was nearly always "impulse" as opposed to a deliberate reflection, and had no more force than it has in the phrase "to act on impulse". It meant, indeed, nothing more than a random or inexplicable movement *within* the human personality. For Wordsworth, on the other hand, it represented a movement communicated from *outside*, an influence of the universe upon the individual human being. The dictionary again adds some interesting information about the word. Like *insight*, it was common among seventeenth-century theologians, who used it to describe the influence upon man of a good or evil spirit: the *O.E.D.* quotes the title of a book published in 1701, *Discourse of Angels. . . also touching Devils, Apparitions and Impulses*. And again the word seems to drop out of use until it occurs again in Wordsworth, who brought it back into the language, with his own twist to the meaning.

Coleridge uses it only once in this revived sense, again in the *Dejection Ode*, where it refers to the fading of the faculty of perception in himself:

The sounds which oft have raised me, whilst they awed,
And sent my soul abroad,
Might now perhaps their wonted impulse give.

It looks very much as if he had felt it—perhaps knew it—to be a characteristically Wordsworthian word, used in a personal way.

It will be only too clear that this kind of inquiry could be continued at enormous length: it is not at all difficult. But these notes are quite enough to show the kind of quality which takes the place, in Wordsworth's plain style, of the Shakespearean coruscation of wit. It gives the poetry a special power, elevates it above prose, mainly because a number of key-words have, through years of intense reflection and feeling, become as it were the recognized marks and rallying-places of recurring moods. They gather strength from one another, and from their recurrence in powerful and varied contexts, both for the poet and for his reader. And so far as the plain style can be analysed at all, studying them goes some way to show that it has, in its own way, a richness, a perspective of thought and feeling, not inferior to the range and brilliance of the highly imaged style, though of a very different kind. It is a quality that Wordsworth seems to possess pre-eminently, which might well put him in the place which used to belong to Milton—that of chief representative in English of the other, the non-Shakespearean kind of poetry in English.

It has become common in recent years to accept Mr Eliot's view

that a great poet must be a great "reformer of the English language". And whether this is altogether true or not, it certainly happens that great poets *change* the language in which they write, because their work acquires an exceptional position in determining the usage of their readers over many generations. It is well known that Shakespeare has contributed greatly to English, both in quotations that have become proverbial, in phrases, and in single words. It is equally well known that Milton contributed remarkably little to English. And it might appear at first sight that Wordsworth too contributed very little. But these notes may suffice to suggest that the Wordsworthian contribution, though quite different from the Shakespearean, was not by any means negligible. The difference between their linguistic influences is entirely characteristic of the difference between their styles. Whereas Shakespeare used a very large vocabulary, in which many words now in standard English occur for the first time in writing, Wordsworth used a much more limited vocabulary, in which there are no new words, but rather old words either brought to life again, or transformed and deepened in their sense by being linked together in the main framework of his thought and feeling. He exerted an influence on English less wide than Shakespeare's, less obvious, perhaps less rich; but in its own way, the more profound and penetrating because of its limitations. And this general influence on language is typical both of his own specific quality as a poet, and of the kind of poetry which he supremely embodies.

* * * * *

(This article is rather like a lecture delivered at the University College of Hull in 1950. The College had been invited to nominate a lecturer to mark the centenary of Wordsworth's death.)

H. S. D.

COEXISTENTIAL BALLADE OF MILD CONFUSION

"THE TIMES" said "ought" last week instead of "might",
And pushed the global balance quite askew.
The ghost of Metternich appeared all white
And threatened very nastily to sue.
This was a sign. The battle is in sight.
The barricades are up at Waterloo.
Another drink? I feel the creeping blight.
The war's at six. It's nearly quarter to.
Prince, for Heaven's sake stop playing with that kite.
You know we've far more vital things to do.
Make sure your loins are girded for the fight.
The war's at six. It's nearly quarter to.
The Black Sea Fleet has reached the Isle of Wight.
Augmented Cossack choirs have circled Crewe.
The T.U.C. has cut off all the light
Till damages are paid for Peterloo.
There's no means now of telling left from right.
A MIG 15 has just obscured the view.
The glass has dropped. Or is it merely fright?
The war's at six. It's nearly quarter to.
Prince, you really should stop fiddling with that kite.
The Master would be livid if he knew.
I never dreamed they'd leave us in this plight.
The war's at six. It's nearly quarter to.
Stiff upper lips from peer to troglodyte!
The Cam's acquired a faintly pinkish hue.
The price of petrol's reached a hopeless height.
Why don't the Campbells come? They're overdue.
The prospect on the whole is far from bright.
Freedom farewell! Dear friends, this is my cue.
I'm making for the nearest Satellite.
The war's at six. It's nearly quarter to.
Prince, I wish you could forget about that kite.
Your flippancy has shocked me through and through.
We've sixteen thousand books to burn tonight.
The war's at six. It's nearly quarter to.

BERNARD SMITH

THE PIG CLUB

THE COLLEGE has kept pigs for many years, but they have lived in the decent obscurity of the Kitchen Gardens in Madingley Road, a matter of great concern to the Head Gardener, the Kitchen Manager and the Steward, but not to the College as a whole except for the annual audit—and until food rationing and the 1939–45 war. I had had experience of Pig Clubs in the R.A.F. during the war, and when I took over the Stewardship in 1946 I set about trying to organize a College Pig Club. Until then we had been unable to eat the meat of the pigs we fattened during the war in the Kitchen Garden. Martin Charlesworth, the President, encouraged me in my efforts, and a Pig Club was formed on 4 September 1946. The rules which the Club would have to follow were summarized in a letter which I circulated to members at that time:

Institutional Pig Clubs exist to fatten pigs from the waste of the institution. They are limited to a membership of 20. The membership fee is one shilling per year. Pigs cannot be killed until they have been the property of the Club for three months. Half the pigs must be sold to the Ministry of Food. A meeting of the Club must be held every six months.

The Club started with an advance of capital from the Steward of £100, and twelve pigs were purchased from the College Garden. The Club prospered, and whenever pork appeared on the menus in the rationed years following 1946 it bore a reference to a footnote saying "By courtesy of the Pig Club". The supplies of pork to the College kitchens were much appreciated and helped materially to eke out the rations. Meetings of the Club were held, as required by the rules, every six months. The Steward's advance of £100 was paid back. Interesting piggy subjects were discussed like visiting pigs, seedy cut, fish taint, deadweight certification, boars, rigs, stags, and gilts, and the Government's Transit Shrinkage Allowance.

On Martin Charlesworth's death, Professor Jopson took his place as President and Chairman of the Club—which he still is. Throughout the Steward acted as Secretary, Mr North of the Kitchen Office as Treasurer, and Messrs Wolfe and Thurben of the Bursary acted as Auditors, with Mr Thoday, the Head Gardener, as Keeper of the Pigs.

In November 1953 the end of meat rationing was in sight and the Secretary at a meeting of the Club said "it was probable that the Pig Club might cease to be necessary if and when food rationing ended".

After some discussion it was resolved that if meat rationing ended, an extraordinary meeting be summoned and that

- (i) a special party of some kind be held,
- (ii) a short account of the Club be written for *The Eagle*,
- and (iii) some consideration be given to retaining the Pig Club as a Club although the purpose for which it came into existence would have ceased.

Meat rationing came to an end and an Extraordinary General Meeting was summoned for 11 June 1954 at 12 noon. The business before the meeting was "arrangements for winding up the Club necessitated by the end of meat rationing", and the notice of the meeting went on to say: "It is hoped that the meeting will not take more than a quarter of an hour, and at 12.15 the President and Chairman has kindly invited all members of the Club to a farewell reception at which products of the pig will be served. . . . At 12.30 Professor H. A. Harris will make a short speech on 'The Place of the Pig in Human History' and propose the health of the Club." But before the meeting of the Club the following was received signed by Mr Farmer and Mr Crook, two faithful and energetic members of the Club: "It being customary in matters of University business to circulate a fly-sheet when changes are under consideration, we consider it appropriate to circulate a pig-sheet. . . . We think it desirable that the Club, far from being wound up, should continue its existence as a society for convivial purposes (there being in our view abundant precedent in the University for bodies—such as Colleges—which continue in existence although the original purpose of their foundation has been lost sight of). It would indeed be a valuable historical exercise for posterity to illuminate the origins of a Club with so peculiar a title." For these reasons Mr Farmer and Mr Crook gave notice that they would *non-placet* the winding up of the Club.

The meeting endorsed their view, and, by a joint resolution of the President, Secretary and the two Pig-sheeters, decided that the Club "should continue in existence for social and unspecified purposes as a glorious anomaly". Professor Harris then gave his address and spoke eloquently and with characteristic charm and directness about pigs, the origin of agriculture, Vergil, sausages, salami, King's College Chapel, Egypt, cosmetics, cowrie shells, missionaries, and civilization. Professor Jopson then pronounced the word 'pig' in all known (and several unknown) European languages and it was resolved that this should be done at all meetings of the Club. Maupygernons and wine were then served.

It is often wondered where lies the power in a complicated ancient institution like St John's College, and it is clear that, whatever the legal status of Council and Governing Body, ultimate power does not

lie there. It has been suggested that the power resides in the Book Club, or the Junior Book Club, or the 1945 Club—that dining club of war veterans, the Wine Committee, or even the Editors of *The Eagle*, or the six unnamed Fellows who, each year, set the Christmas Competition in *The Spectator*. The newly constituted Pig Club is clearly bidding for power, and with its pretence of only social activities, its broad representation, and its infrequent meetings, is to be watched carefully by future historians of College politics.

G. E. D.

THE L.M.B.C. HISTORY

THE Lady Margaret Boat Club has now been Head of the River for five years in succession, an achievement only equalled by two other boat clubs in the history of Cambridge rowing. Sir Hugh Casson has been asked to suggest improvements to the boathouse and to design a weather vane—the traditional privilege of such a record. With this triumph in mind, it has been decided to bring up to date the history of L.M.B.C. It is recorded at the moment only up to 1927, the last occasion when L.M.B.C. held the headship.

To this end some 400 Old Johnians, to the best of our knowledge all those who were in First and Second Boats during the period, have been circularized, in the hope of making this edition of the history an interesting and amusing account of the times and events recorded as well as a statistical record. The response to this circular has far exceeded the Editors' fondest hopes. So far over a hundred replies have come in, full of stories and reminiscences which make delightful reading, and we wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who have contributed so wholeheartedly. But this flow of information leads us to renew our request to those who have not replied, to wrack their brains and in any case to return the proforma which is our only reliable guide to the accuracy of essential particulars such as names and initials. Also may we take this opportunity of appealing for advice and assistance in the actual production and printing of the book, for in these times the expense of such a limited edition is likely to be high. However we feel sure that with the support of all those who have pleasant memories of rowing for L.M.B.C. no difficulties will be insurmountable and we hope that the result will be worthy of that support.

J. F. HALL-CRAGGS

D. W. T. HAGUE

Editors

A SET OF ROOMS

PART II

THE STORY FROM THE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

A PREVIOUS article left us with a number of puzzles connected with the history of the set of rooms now known as K6 Second Court. Who was responsible for panelling the large outer room in 1727, making use of a lot of earlier wainscot? What was the date and history of this? Whence came the chimney-piece, so similar in decoration and yet apparently originally higher than the old wainscot? Why was a cupboard planned in the wall between this room and the study, and then permanently closed up before the doors were even hung? When was the internal staircase made to give access to the three rooms on the second floor? Who panelled and papered the study at some date around 1735?

At first sight most of these problems appear insoluble, by reference to the College records or otherwise, but at least it seemed worth while to attempt to discover who occupied the set during the first century and a half of the building's existence, when the changes we have considered were taking place. Mr Moore Smith's "Lists of Past Occupants of Rooms in St John's College" begin in this case in the Michaelmas Term 1810, so that we have to examine the original records. Fortunately there are available a series of four "prizing books" and a "transfer book" which cover most of the period in which we are interested.

When Second Court was built Fellows were responsible not only for the decorations and furnishing of their rooms (as now), but also for their general equipment and for repairs—the College, indeed, provided little more than a shell. It was clearly only equitable that the cost of long-term repairs and improvements should be shared by the succession of Fellows who benefited from them, and some such arrangement must have existed from an early stage in the history of the College. The construction of Second, or as it was then called, Lower or New Court, with its numerous sets of rooms, each fitted up by a different Fellow, must have brought home the need for some system to keep track of all these transactions, and provide a regular means of steadily writing down the value of any particular improvement. A prizing (= appraising) book was started for the purpose, and p. 5 of this in its present form has the note "Memorandum that another appoyntment was made by the Maister and Seniors for the prizings of all chambers by the 2 Bursars and the 2 Deans or their deputies Decemb. 8. 1606. both in the Upper and Lower courts".

This system once started was carried on until towards the end of the eighteenth century, and the four volumes are a little-worked mine of information on the furniture, fittings and occupants of rooms during this period. The standard short account of these books was prepared by Mr A. F. Torry, at that time Dean, for this magazine (Vol. XIV, pp. 143 *et seq.* June 1886, and xv, p. 3, 1889) in connection with his account of the founders and benefactors. It is not entirely accurate; for example, he gives 1608* as the date of beginning the prizing books. This account is quoted in James Bass Mullinger's *History* (1901) and in the Preface to G. E. Moore Smith's lists of Occupants of Rooms (1895), though the latter made no use of these books in compiling his lists.

As in so many such sequences of records, the ideas of the keepers of the prizing books developed as their work went on. At first the entries are simply chronological, sometimes two to a page, made whenever necessitated by a considerable improvement or a change of occupant. A further change of occupancy of a particular room meant a fresh entry. It was soon found convenient if space allowed, to make this fresh entry below the previous one; one set of particulars then served for a whole series of changes of occupant, and it was only necessary each time to allow for depreciation on the total sum involved. Before long it became customary to allow a whole page, and then a double page, for each new set of rooms. At first many entries have a heading of the form "Mr Cecill's chamber in ye New courte prized to Mr Lane", without either date or any further identification of the rooms—after all, everyone knew where Mr Lane's rooms were, and how long he had kept there, so why bother to write it down? However, as time went on dates became commoner and identifications

* This date is probably derived not from the prizing books themselves but from the following annotation in the College copy of the Elizabethan statutes of 1580, printed from MS. Harl. Mus. Brit. 7050 in App. B to 5th Report from the Select Committee on Education etc., 1818, p. 405. "An. 1608. Feb. 23. A Decree, by Ric. Clayton, Master, and the seniors, That all fellow's chambers, with all studies &c. not already prized by the Deans and bursars, &c. shall be prized before the 6th of May next, by the two deans and bursars, or two of them at least,—and the prices set down in a booke—upon pain that not being so prized, every fellow [so neglecting] shall have nothing allowed for his chamber, study &c., but his successor may freely enter, without paying anything for them;—and that every fellow afterwards shall take the price of his chamber, studies, &c. out of the College booke aforesaid, &c."

Vol. XIV of *The Eagle* has other features of interest. It marks the introduction of the present form of cover in place of the old purple one with the list of subscribers on the back: and the frontispiece is an architect's view of the "New Wing" (now the old Chapel Court building), work on which was just beginning.

more precise, until in the third and fourth volumes both are available throughout.*

The systematic index in book 4 lists, among the rooms in the New Court "the Low Chamb: on ye left hand of the entrance into the South West Corner" and then "the Middle Chamb. above it, page 157". This page tells us that Dr Chester occupied the rooms from some unspecified date to the 13 December 1718, and then gives a full list of occupants up to the 20 December 1763, when the rooms passed to Mr Robinson.

The corresponding reference in book 3 is p. 5, now missing; and at the same time books 1 and 2 contain no reference sufficiently specific to identify these rooms by itself. However, by a process which we need not consider in detail of eliminating the other two possible sets in the south-west corner, it can be shown with certainty that the corresponding entry in book 2 is p. 218, where under the heading "Mr. Pryse's chamber in ye new court being ye middle chamber next ye south west corner, prized to Mr. Coates. Jun. 1. 1641" we find a fascinating series of entries dealing with the fitting up both of the main first floor rooms (outward chamber, study and bedchamber) and of the upper chamber on the second floor. The sequence dealing with the former is given in full as an appendix. First, there are three entries dealing obviously with the first, basic, equipment of the set—the cost of doors, casements, locks and partitions—itemized and added up as a total. There are reasons (given in full in the appendix) for thinking that these refer to the first state of the rooms. They are followed by four sets of additions, with headings such as "Layd out since by Dr. Lane In ye outward chamber", indicating that Dr. Lane added wainscot, a chimney piece and a press to the bare outer room, bookshelves to the study, and painted wainscot to the bedroom; while Mr Price subsequently added shutters and another press in the outer room.

* If you had to deal with the first prizing book you were expected to know your way about in it. The second, third and fourth books had an index, but as the earlier books have suffered considerable attrition, only part of the index to the second remains, though those of the third and fourth are intact. Beginning with the second book there are references to the last page in the previous book dealing with the same set of rooms and in the fourth book these references (to the third book) are included in the index. Thus the easy way to identify entries in the first two volumes is to look up the rooms concerned in one or other of the last two, and trace the references back, providing that no page in the sequence is missing. All these peculiarities of the series will be found to concern our investigation, and one further peculiarity of the first volume must be mentioned—at some time it must have fallen to pieces and been rebound with some of the pages in the wrong order; then someone went through it, renumbering the pages in the new order.

Before considering the significance of these particulars, let us refer back to the "old book, page 196", the reference given at the head of them. There we find "Mr. Cecill's chamber in ye new courte prized to Mr. Lane", and underneath in a different hand: "The same chamber prized from Dr. Lane to Mr. Price May 8 1629." The entries are not dated, but as pp. 185-92 all relate to prizings in April and May 1616, p. 194 to October 1616, p. 199 to April 1618, p. 201 to 1614, and p. 203 to May 1618, we may conclude that Mr Lane (as he then was) first occupied the rooms between 1616 and 1618. Furthermore, as the entry on p. 63 is headed "Mr. Gwyn's chamber in ye lower court prized to Mr. Lane June 23 1612. The same chamber prized from Mr. Lane to Mr. Grace April 17 1616", and as there is no record of Mr Lane having occupied any other rooms about this time, we may conclude that he probably moved into K6 for the Easter Term, 1616. The entry in the prizing book may well have been delayed because of the extensive alterations which he contemplated.

Pages 196 and 197 of "the old book" contain, but for the sums of money, the same entries as book 2, p. 218, but in a different order, with a reference to "Mr. Lane" instead of "Dr. Lane". There are two sets of money columns, the sums being shown in Roman numerals, and we will compare them with those of book 2, taking the most interesting entry, "Layd out since by Mr. Lane in ye outward chamber", as an example.

	THE OLD BOOK		BOOK 2	
	First list	Second list	p. 218	
ffor firre deale boards...	viiij℥. iiij s. id.	viiij℥.	7.	15. 11.
ffor working 69 yards of wainscot...	lvij s.	lvs.	2.	13. 0.
ffor ye chimney peece	xxiiij s.	xxij s. vid.	1.	1. 0.
ffor iron worke to the three portalls	xxs.	xixs.	0.	18. 0.
ffor iron work to ye presse		xxd.	xviij d.	0. 1. 4.
ffor nayles, bradds...	iiij s.	ii s. viij d.	0.	3. 4.
ffor turning of knoppes		xij d.	x d.	0. 0. 8.
ffor turning 8 columnes	ij s. viij d.	iis. vd.	0.	2. 2.
ffor 2 new iron casements	xiiij s. iiij d.	xijs. vid.	0.	11. 8.
Sum	14℥. 7s. 9d.	13℥. 17s. 5d.	13.	7. 1.

The entries in the last column relate to the prizing to Mr Coates in June 1641; consideration of the totals shows that those in the second column relate to Mr Price in May 1629; the first column must accordingly be Mr Lane's initial outlay, and if the rate of depreciation allowed were uniform, the work must have been done about 1617.

Putting together the information from the first, second and fourth books we have the following list of occupants, and dates at which the

tenancy began. The subsequent "Transfer Book" adds no new name to the list but continues Mr Robinson's tenancy to 1789.

	1602	Building ready for occupation	Prizing
before April	1616	Mr Cecill	
May	1616	Mr (afterwards Dr) Lane	47s. (Probably)
May 8	1629	Mr Price	£24. 10. 10.
June 1	1641	Mr Coates	£25. 18. 0.
June 22	1649	Mr Clarke	£22. 16. 0.
April 8	1650	Mr Worrall	£22. 16. 0.
November 16	1660	Mr Clarke (the former tenant)	£22. 16. 0.
April 30	1664	Mr Worrall (the former tenant)*	£21. 10. 0.
		[Gap in the record]	
before December	1718	Dr Chester	
December 13	1718	Mr Smith senr.	£13. 18. 3.
May 10	1720	Dr Edmundson	£13. 2. 9.
November 28	1724	Dr Lambert	£12. 5. 0.
May 27	1727	Dr Drake	£11. 10. 3.
September 20	1734	Dr Newton	£10. 11. 6.
March 20	1734 (?7)	Mr Parnham	£10. 0. 6.
March 21	1738/9	Mr Cayley	£9. 3. 6.
		"with ye Bill for a new floor makes in all"	£17. 5. 2.
September 22	1743	Dr Taylor	£15. 19. 5.
June 25	1751	Dr Price	£14. 3. 5.
December 20	1763	Mr Robinson	£11. 17. 11.
December	1789	End of the old prizing system	
		Mr Robinson still in occupation	

* All these men played their parts in the life of the times. Thomas Cecill wrote a play *Aemilia* which was performed by Johnians before King James I on one of his visits to Cambridge, and made the College funeral oration for Dr Clayton, during whose Mastership Second Court was built. Robert Lane was a cronym of Dr Gwyn, the next Master, and Price a member of the Welsh party which secured his election under the able leadership of Williams, the donor of the Library. Coates vacated his Fellowship in 1643, though he appears to have retained his rooms—did he foresee the troubles ahead?—and Worrall took his place. Clarke was ejected by the Parliamentary visitors to the University in 1650, and brought back at the Restoration, in 1660, which no doubt explains the Clarke-Worrall alternation. But of all these Dr Lane was the most colourful character. In 1633, at the centre of the disputed election to the Mastership, which dragged on for nine months involving the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the King, he was at various times accused of drinking in his rooms when he should have been listening to sermons, singing drunken catches and having the nickname "Bottle", all of which he strenuously denied. Finally on 14 February 1633/4 King Charles I himself wrote to the Fellows: "...oathes were returned almost directly against oathes, and as many (if not more) depositions concurred for Dr Lane's iustificacion and sober carriage as for the contrary. . . by meanes whereof the fyer begon in that Colledge is in danger to spread it selfe into the whole Vniversity, if some powerfull remedy be not speedily applied", and he appointed Dr Beale Master. (The letter was reprinted in full in *The Eagle*, Vol. xxiii, No. 128, p. 30.) Dr Lane died in 1634.

December 21	1789	New system of room rents instituted No more names entered in the first Transfer Book [Gap in the record]
Michaelmas	1810	Mr Moore Smith's list begins

Let us now see what light is thrown on the problems of the history of the set which emerged from a consideration of the rooms themselves. In the first place it is clear that by the eighteenth century only repairs were allowed as additions to the prizings. There is no mention either of the work done on the panelling of the keeping room in 1727, or of the subsequent panelling of the study, while Mr Parnham was allowed to include a bill of £8. 1s. 8d. for a new floor.

Thus we have no direct evidence for the date of construction of the internal staircase, nor for the panelling and papering of the study, though there is a strong suggestion that the two coincided. Owing to the number of changes of occupant we cannot even decide with certainty who was responsible, though our independent dating points to either Mr Parnham or Mr Cayley, with the balance of probabilities in favour of the former, on the grounds that the new floor may well have been part of a more general reconstruction, the bulk of which was not allowed as a prizing on the grounds that it was not a repair.

On the other hand there can be no doubt that we owe the main keeping room in its present form to Dr Drake, who took over the tenancy from Dr Lambert when the latter was elected Master in 1727, the date we have already assigned for the reconstruction of the panelling.

The question now arises as to what were the respective contributions of Mr Lane and Mr Pryse to the "outward chamber". Mr Lane provided 69 yards (square yards) of wainscot and a chimney piece in addition: Mr Pryse 14½ yards of wainscot for shutters for the three windows, and "a presse and iron worke adioyning to ye Portall".

It will be remembered that an examination of the stained surface of the older panelling as revealed when the paint was burned off led us to the conclusion that it had originally been about 8 ft. 6 in. high, and raised to the ceiling in 1727 by the addition of new work below. The exact height is conjectural, depending on the height of the old skirting board, if any, which would have disappeared at the time of the alterations.

Measurement shows that the distance round the room, including the window reveals but excluding the windows themselves and the chimney-piece, is 69 ft., which would make up to 65 sq. yd. of panelling 8 ft. 6 in. high, or 69 sq. yd. of panelling 9 ft. high. At the same time the panelled areas under the three windows total 4 sq. yd.

The coincidence enables us to solve with confidence the problem

of the provenance of the old panelling altered by Dr Drake. It was designed for the room and installed by Mr Lane in one of two forms—either 9 ft. high leaving the areas below the windows bare, or 8 ft. 6 in. high and continued below the windows. Of these the latter is much more probable.

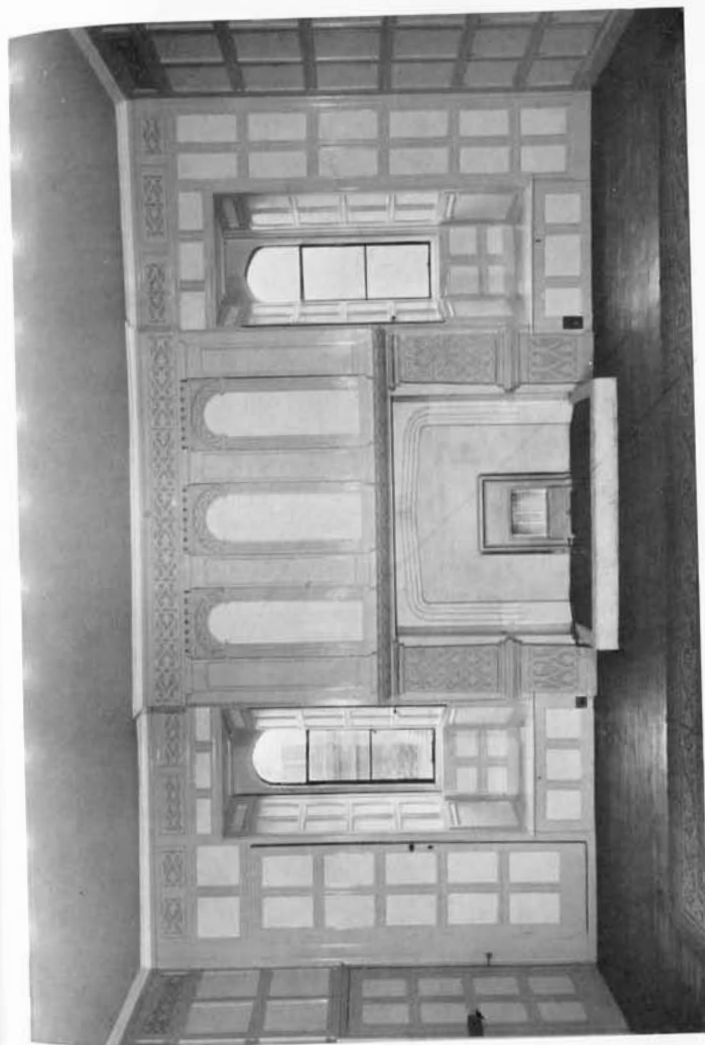
The reason for the exact fit of the long piece of strap-work across the top of the chimney-piece is now clear—it was made for this position; nor do the proportions of the original chimney-piece now present a problem, since it may have been much higher than the rest of the panelling. At the same time the areas of new wood in the middle section show that it was altered by Dr Drake—perhaps the “8 columnes” for which Mr Lane paid 2s. 8d., and which have now disappeared, formed part of the original middle section.

When Dr Drake altered the panelling some rearrangement of the strap-work decoration at the top became inevitable: at first it had run into the window reveals; when shutters were made the corresponding pieces were no doubt transferred to the top of the shutters. Now it had to run above the windows all round the room, interrupted only by the pilasters.*

As for Mr Pryse’s work, the shutter area (including the panelled back of the housing) works out by measurement at 12 sq. yd., whereas he paid for fourteen and a half. There may, therefore, have been some extra work, possibly to the window seats, one of which is probably meant in the reference to “ye cupboard in ye window next ye court”. At the same time the difference is not big enough to account for the whole panelled area under the windows (4 sq. yd.), thus reinforcing our conclusion that this formed part of Mr Lane’s original panelling. The “presse adioyning to ye Portall” must be the tall cupboard at the east end of the south side, next to the study door and seen in the Plate. At 12s. it must have been a considerable affair and it is likely that Mr Lane’s press is represented by part of one of the closed-up doors in the east wall.

It is convenient to summarize our conclusions thus far. The room was originally panelled by Mr Lane, probably in 1616–17, the

* The problem seems to have been solved as follows: (i) on the east and west walls the new pilasters running up to the ceiling made unnecessary two short pieces each of two units of the motif, and probably originally situated over the doors, which were worked in on the south wall just west of the fireplace; (ii) the tops of the shutters provided six still shorter pieces, each of one unit of the motif. Three of these went at the east and west ends of the south wall, as can be seen in the photograph, the remaining three going in a row over the north window; and finally (iii) the panelled door of the press in the south wall and the narrow piece of panelling at the west end of the same wall provided two short pieces, probably those worked in just east of the fireplace, slightly cut down.



K 6 SECOND COURT, THE SOUTH WALL OF THE KEEPING ROOM
AFTER REDECORATION

The original three-quarter panelling of Mr Lane (about 1617) was rearranged and raised to ceiling height by Dr Drake in 1727

panelling being 8 ft. 6 in. high, running into the window reveals and under the windows, without having shutters, and forming the upper part of the present panelling. There was also a chimney-piece, which may have been higher. Three doors (of which only the one in the south-east corner remains) gave entrance from the staircase and opened into bedroom and study. There was a cupboard in the east wall. In 1629 Mr Pryse took possession, adding shutters to the windows and the tall cupboard in the south-east corner.

We are now in a position to consider the problem of the closed up cupboard in the east wall. It will be remembered that not only were there shelves behind the closed cupboard doors, but also behind the adjacent panelling and pilaster, where no access to them from this side can have been possible since the panelling was put up; furthermore that the cupboard doors have no marks of hinges, so that they must have been closed up without ever being hung; and yet the bead projecting at the front from the case, unlike the rest of the panelling, was not at first painted green, so that this alteration must be later than the first coat of green paint put on in 1727. The shelves behind the uncut panelling give us the necessary clue. Ever since Mr Lane panelled the room there is no suggestion that there was any access to these shelves from the outward chamber. Instead they almost certainly faced the other way into the study, and formed part of one of the two frames of shelves which he set up there (see Appendix). In this case the shelves now in the closed up cupboard must have done so too; the lowest shelf is about a yard from the ground, and Mr Lane's press in the outer room could have opened into the space below it. We may, therefore, conclude from the position of the shelves in the southern part of the partition wall, that the study faced south on to Kitchen Lane, and the bedroom into the court. On this interpretation the present back of the closed cupboard is formed by the boards put up in the study as a basis for the flock wallpaper of about 1735, and the apparent mystery of the post-1727 casing for the closed-up doors is simply explained. If up to 1735 access to these shelves was from the study, Dr Drake in 1727 had no occasion for doors giving access to them from the outer room. Accordingly his alterations to the panelling, culminating in the green paint, closed up Mr Lane's old press and had new panelling carried straight across below it. But the subsequent alterations to the study covered over these shelves with boards and wallpaper; it would then be natural to decide to make a new access to them from the outer room and the doors and casing were no doubt made then, but never hung. However, the bead projecting round the closed doors would be new work: it was not touched in to match the old green, and we may, therefore, conclude that the panelling of the outer room was first painted white at this time.

There remains only one of our original collection of puzzles, that of the staircase, and as this raises the whole question of the "upper chamber" it will be well to postpone consideration of it for the present.

G.C.E.

APPENDIX

There follows a copy of the entry in Prizing Book 2, p. 218, relating to the first floor of the building; the marginal letters have been added for ease of reference. This entry is itself a transcript of that in book 1, p. 196, with the sums of money reduced in the manner shown above on p. 153. There are other interesting differences. In book 1 entries (a), (b) and (c) are added up and prized separately as "Sum totalis xlvij s. prized by us { Dan: Horsmanden vi: Deane" [vice Dean] with, unusually,

only a single signature, although the bracket indicates that it was intended that there should be a second. There follows "Layd out synce by Mr Lane", and the other entries in order omitting (e) ("Added by Mr Pryse in ye outward chamber") and then, after some further particulars relating to the upper chamber, a further total and "prized by us { Dan: Horsmanden vi: D." We may argue from the coincidence of

unusual signature and the fact that all entries up to this point are in the same hand that they were all made at the same time; and hence, from their position in the book (see p. 153 above), before 1618. This fixes the date of the original panelling as the first year of Lane's tenancy, a conclusion already reached independently from the writing down of values, and also makes it highly probable that the first sum total and signed prizing relate to the rooms as Lane took them over from Cecill, the second to a total immediately after his additions had been made. When the rooms were transferred to Price in 1629, a second set of money entries was made in the right hand margin with all the values reduced as we have seen, and there was a further prizing entry "Sum total of the middle and upper chambers is xxiiiij £. xs. xd.

Pryzed by us Tho: Smith Sen: Dec:
William Bodurda Ju: De:"

This brings us almost to the bottom of p. 197, and then, scribbled in the corner, we find entry (e) relating to Price's additions in the outer chamber.

I have preferred to give the later version, prepared when Coates took over the rooms in 1641, in spite of these significant differences, because its neat arrangement makes easy an accurate transcription into type: only a facsimile would do justice to the older entry with its additions and interlineations in different hands. There is the added advantage for the modern reader that the sums of money are given entirely in Arabic numerals. It must be remembered that they are about 7 per cent below the original prices.

	" Imprimis for wood, nailes, workmanship, a bolt & hinges	o.	1.	o.
(a)	to ye outward doors, above ye allowance	o.	4.	10.
	Item for a lock with screws, 3 keyes & a ring for ye doore	o.	3.	2.
	ffor an iron casement			
	Sum	o.	9.	o.

In ye Bedchamber

	ffor lathes & nayles & playstereing ye partition wall	o.	1.	o.
	ffor a woodden casement	o.	1.	o.
(b)	ffor a board to the window	o.	1.	o.
	ffor leaves to ye window	o.	7.	2.
	ffor a portall with lock & key to ye study doore	o.	6.	2.
	Sum	o.	16.	4.

In ye Study

	ffor ye partition between ye studie & coalehouse	o.	7.	6.
(c)	ffor lock and key with screws	o.	3.	4.
	ffor a board in a window	o.	1.	4.
	Sum	o.	12.	2.
	Sum total	1.	17.	6.

Layd out since by Dr Lane

In ye outward chamber

	ffor firre-deale boards to Atkinson p billam	7.	15.	11.
	ffor making 69 yards of wainscot at 10d. ye yard	2.	13.	o.
	ffor ye chimney peece	1.	1.	o.
	ffor iron worke to the three portalls	o.	18.	o.
(d)	ffor iron worke to ye presse	o.	1.	4.
	ffor nayles, bradds & holdfasts to set up ye wainscot	o.	3.	4.
	ffor turning of knoppes	o.	o.	8.
	ffor turning 8 columnes	o.	2.	2.
	ffor 2 new iron casements	o.	11.	8.
	Sum	13.	7.	1.

Added by Mr Pryse in ye outward chamber

	ffor 14 yards and an halfe of waynscot p. 2 s. 8 d. } ye yard for shuts for ye three windowes	2.	2.	o.
(e)	ffor 6 payre of joynts			
	ffor a presse & iron worke adioyning to ye Portall	o.	12.	o.
	ffor 2 boards & two partitions in ye cupboard in ye window next ye court	o.	o.	10.
	Sum	2.	14.	10.

Added in ye Bedchamber by Dr Lane

To Atkinson for quarter & halfe inch boards to mend ye wainscot	o.	11.	o.
To Dowsing for his worke about ye wainscot to fashion & sett it up	1.	10.	4.
(f) ffor a wooden casement	o.	1.	8.
ffor painting ye wainscot	o.	6.	o.
ffor ye iron to the portall	o.	3.	4.
Sum	2.	12.	4.

Added to the Studie

(g) ffor 10 boards for ye great frame of shelves	o.	5.	6.
ffor 9 boards for ye lesser frame	o.	3.	10.
ffor setting them up; & ye shelves under ye window	o.	4.	2.
Sum	o.	13.	6."

TO THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON

WE left Santarem, bound for a citio called Cuçuru on the Rio Paetuna, whence we were to trek north-eastwards to the hills. Were we to find the insects, the ferns, snakes, lizards, and the bird-eating spiders that we had travelled so far to collect for the British Museum and for Cambridge? Were we to find the true rain forest in which we had intended to do most of our investigation when we got to Cuçuru? This was the area where we should spend most of our time, and on which the success of the expedition depended.

That day, 26 July, was much the same as all the others that we spent in our two months' stay during the early part of the dry season on the Lower Amazon: a shade temperature in the nineties, no clouds to ward off the vertical rays of the sun, and an oppressive sticky humidity coming up from the flooded, swollen, waters of the river.

We had to pass many miles downstream, keeping well to the north bank in order to avoid the dangerous whirlpools in the centre of the swift-flowing yellow Amazon, which here, five hundred odd miles upstream, is still two or three miles wide.

To reach the Paetuna was not easy in this labyrinth of waterways. We cut northwards first into a narrow canal through which water was pouring into a vast inland lake, the Lago Grande. This lake was forty miles wide then, but six months later it would be a mere pool. It was only with great persuasion that our boatmen took us across that day, for a breeze had blown up and our thirty-foot launch was in grave danger of being swamped. Besides, this area was renowned as a home of the sucuruju, the anaconda or great water-serpent, and few were those who would pilot a boat across at night. There was a strong likelihood that we should not reach the other side by nightfall.

We attempted the crossing, however, and as dusk approached great masses of floating grass and water-hyacinths came into view, blown by the south-westerly wind up to this part of the lake. These "barrancas" break away from the edges of the rivers and aggregate in slower-moving water during the dry season, thus making travel doubly difficult. Mile after mile we poled at night through this morass, not stopping for fear of the alligators and anacondas. The oppressive whine of the mosquitoes was offset by the chorus of innumerable toads and crickets. The swamp was illuminated by countless fireflies, and periodically the great yellow eyes of an alligator would be reflected in the rays of our lamp.

On either side stretched the campo country, now waterlogged, but at the end of the dry season good cattle country. Here was the breeding-ground of many species of water-bird. Frequently we would

put flocks of egrets to flight, sometimes up to five thousand in number; cormorants, darters, ibises, duck and herons crossed and re-crossed overhead, flew up as we approached and alighted again farther on.

Eventually the mouth of the Rio Maycuru was reached, a narrow river running down from the Guiana highlands. Campo gave way once again to the "Igapo" or swamp-forest, and several stretches of clear water told us that the barrancas were coming to an end. To reach the Paetuna it was quicker, owing to the fast unimpeded water of the Maycuru, to travel up this river and then across to the sluggish Paetuna, running parallel some miles eastward, through swamp forest.

We reached our destination one morning at three o'clock, having poled ourselves through the miles of swamp forest which separate the river itself from the dry land. Here was the base around which we made most of our collections, and from which we later journeyed farther north-east by land to the mountains. It was a hut built on a hillock, rising some twenty-five feet out of the Igapo, constructed in the customary manner from mud, bound together with a trellis of sticks, and supporting a roof of matted palm-leaves which was surprisingly waterproof. On three sides lay the expanse of the Igapo; the great trees with their heavy luxuriant dark-green canopies struggled with the sinuous lianas and strangling figs to reach the rays of the sun. The intertwined chaos of vegetation high up over the water cast a perpetual twilight over the dark brown swamp below, such that bats flew up and down the narrow channels by day as well as by night. Great deep blue calligo butterflies flapped languidly from thicket to thicket, and our torch made out the eyes of the alligators, staring at us from the impenetrable swamp.

The rain forest to the north of the hut stretched in deep green monotony to the horizon. In the daytime there was an ominous silence in the still, close air, save for the occasional screech of a red and blue macaw as it flew overhead. The forest seemed, in spite of its luxuriance, to be quite devoid of animals. Bands of marmosets and cebus monkeys we saw high in the trees, but where were the weird animals about which we had heard before coming to the Amazon? Were they absent or in hiding?

We were soon to find out, for as dusk approached on our first night there the whole matto began to wake up from its heavy sleep. The stillness of the air was broken first by the increasing hum of the myriads of mosquitoes coming out from the swamp, then by the crickets, toads, and frogs, the loud croaking of the tree opossums, and the whine of cicadas. The frogs and crickets caused a steady rhythmic beating in the forest, and an awful palpitation in the clammy air.

Now was the hour for hunting. One of us at a time, accompanied by a native hunter, would go into the forest in search of animals. In contrast to the daytime the forest was now alive with activity. As one's ears became accustomed to the hubbub, the grunting of the agoutis could be heard as they scampered off into the thickets, and frequently, on waiting in silence for a period in darkness, the armadillos which we heard all around us muzzling in the dead leaves would suddenly dash across the path in front of us, lit up in the moonlight for a moment like small white tanks. Armadillo meat is considered a delicacy among the native Caboclos, and after a diet of rice and manioc for several weeks it is delicious to anybody. Our torch picked out bands of animals high in the trees. Every so often the hunter would stop, and pointing the beam upwards we would see several pairs of orange eyes looking down on us, fifty or so feet up in the branches of the canopy. "Macaco da noite", he would whisper—the natives think that any animal living in a tree must be a macaco, or monkey. Usually, on firing one down, we would find that they were a party of yellow-brown fructivorous kinkajous. Occasionally a great grey form could be made out way up in the topmost branches of a *Secropia* tree. This was the three-toed sloth, a large long-haired animal, whose life is spent upside down hanging to the branches of the tree whose leaves supply its only food. There were also two common carnivores in the forest; the onça or jaguar, and the maracaja or ocelot. They are as much at home in trees as on the ground, and no animal is safe from them. One night, when out hunting several miles from our hut, unarmed but for a small stiletto, I came face to face with a full-grown jaguar. My hunter had a .410 double-barrelled rabbit gun with him but he was so agitated that he missed at two yards range! Three times the animal returned before he finally killed it.

After spending some time here we journeyed north-east, partly on foot and partly on horseback, making our way to the Serra da Lua, or Mountains of the Moon. We had heard rumours from the natives that there was a series of rock paintings, no one knew how old, along a cliff on the far side of this range, and it was from one of them that the mountains received their name. As we travelled farther from the water the forest became lower, and by the time that the Serras were reached it had given way to open sand and thickets of scrubby bushes which had now lost their leaves. *Cereus* cacti rose up in columns from the bare sand and the heat reflecting from the white surface made walking unpleasant and exhausting. Once we were separated from our food supply for some time, but found that these cacti, on removal of skin and spines, were cool and refreshing, and their flesh, similar to a bitter cucumber, was fairly palatable.

The Serra da Lua did not rise to a height of more than 1500 feet. The rocky hills, of volcanic origin, supported little vegetation but for the gnarled trees, tussocks of coarse grass, and cacti. Here rattlesnakes were common, and climbing was made doubly dangerous by their presence.

On the far side of the range, sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly winds, we found the paintings. Here, over an area of four or five miles, a more or less uninterrupted cliff face bore a series of primitive Indian pictographic inscriptions. The highly stylized figures could sometimes be made out; men and women, and the iguana—a great delicacy among many Indian tribes—were depicted, and also fish, dolphins, and most commonly of all, the sun and moon. But the great majority of figures were undecipherable to us. This was the only relic of an Indian tribe that must have existed here for at least a hundred and fifty years. We measured and photographed as many as we could, and obtained a comprehensive and accurate record of them. Though this could hardly be called the remains of a lost civilization, we felt it would satisfy the expectations of our friends who had read of Colonel Fawcett and who felt that we should try and solve some of his mysteries!

This is an interlude in the journey that J. P. Woodall (Clare), G. A. H. McClelland (Selwyn) and I made during the long vacation as members of the University of Cambridge Amazon Expedition in 1954. We learnt far more about the plant and animal life of the equatorial forest in these months than many years of reading could teach us, and we brought back a very satisfactory collection. Cuçuru and the Serra da Lua proved to be a little-worked area, and the great variability of the country there made it an extremely interesting one.

PETER SHAW ASHTON

IN THE HOT BURSTING EARTH

IN the hot bursting earth
 Rock is thumped upward, splaying
 All the hard wedded crystals—flaying
 Fingers of the sun.

In the hot bursting earth
 Waters pulse hairlike lurching—
 Into fine fissures crimson searching,
 Blood-roots throbbing run.

In the hot bursting earth
 Barren is blessed with breeding—
 Clay into man's apparel kneading,
 Primal creatures moil.

In the hot bursting earth
 Hack weapons harsh advancing—
 Crudely the vivid fingers lancing,
 Tillers kill the soil.

MICHAEL DOWER

THE SPITTING IMAGE

MOST rooms are far, far too big and I feel utterly unfulfilled when in them: I must feel the surface of my own body before I am really content. *Solution:* people-shaped rooms into which one could creep, and sitting in the uterine grasp of a well feel GOOD and WHOLE. People-shaped rooms in a thousand postures. You courrant, me rampant, him couchant. No more square holes for round pegs like me, say I.

Some time ago I seem to remember making a desperate plea for people-shaped rooms; all this was in the cause of proprioceptive self-realization, a *good* cause! Well shortly afterwards, gloomy, miserable people came running and said, "But there wouldn't be room to swing a cat in such a room". I hadn't thought of this at the time, largely, I suppose, because I hadn't realized how many people genuinely loved to swing cats. Short of making cat-swinging extensions, I see no way out of this one. No! This tendency should be curbed anyway, and what better way, than living, morning, noon and night, in the restrictive custody of a person-shaped room. For those stubborn enough to want the best of both worlds, it would be possible to have a sort of gymnasium, with hundreds of bars into which one could weave oneself at will; or glass helices into which one could



creep and lie snaillike and quiet, confidently aware of the geographical extent of one's limbs. Meanwhile, in the middle of the room would be an eager crowd of cats all waiting for you to rush out of your niche, jump amidst them with choked cries of enthusiasm, seize a lucky one and swing it madly round and round, until, vertiginous with exertion and revolution, one would sink exhausted into a soft pile of appreciative cats.



Cats apart for a moment, why all this fuss about people-shaped rooms, spirals and parallel bars? Glib Freudian psychologist Sir Alexandar Buldingden Knuk-Knuk replied to this question (glibly): "It's a primitive desire to get back to the womb, where for a few precious months we were clasped on all sides by uterine warmth."

Shrewd existentialist Squillian Bandazoo finds Sir Alexandar's explanation slick, and said in his Paris flat yesterday: "It is only when I am made aware of the surface of my own body, only when I am conscious of my body image, only then do I know who I am; until then I feel 'angoisse': for as Sartre says 'L'homme est ce qu'il se fait' and I make myself best in a close-fitting, skin-tight soup tureen."

Well, there you are, soup tureens, snail shells, wombs, tombs or telephone booth, there's no place like home.

This body image desire is queerly elaborated in other ways: not

only do we feel satisfaction in knowing the extent of what body we have but we yearn to assume other limbs and pour our awareness down into their most intimate contours. Why otherwise would one ever get the Woolworth's lust. I have often wandered gleamy eyed into this Aladdin's cave of "things" and strolling from counter to counter, have fondled sundry lengths of thin pink flex, cupped bulbs in my sweaty palm and clattered amongst the meaningless brass "fitments" almost comatose with acquisitiveness: and an hour or so later I emerge laden with useless but potentially "marvellous" things.

Hold them in your hand, they grow warmer; soon there is little temperature difference between the two of you: before long you can almost sense a pelmet-frame shaped extension to your body: you could move amoebically through the world engulfing everything until your body image was co-extensive with the Universe.....

JONATHAN MILLER

HOLIDAY IN HELLAS

THIS story only affects a few of the seventeen people from Cambridge who landed at the port of Athens in September 1954. Eight of these were Johnians, one from Clare, five from Girton, two from Newnham and one from the city where spires dream and Morris works.

Now the Piraeus shares certain features with Hell: that is, it is hot, amoral, and difficult to leave; so we were glad to find the Metro which took us to Athens, eight miles inland. On the train we had our first lesson in Greek manners versus Greek politics.

Someone had asked the way to the University Hostel, and soon a grand babble of Greco-English clacked round us. Various people suggested we must be on our way to luxury hotels like the Grande Bretagne, or the King George: at last a helpful little man shouted: "I know, they want to go to that place off University Street—Hotel Enosis."

A momentary silence followed the fatal word—then a roar of laughter. That was the last most of us ever heard of the Cyprus union movement in conversation with Greeks: the papers were full of it, Constitution Square spelled out "Enosis" in neon lights, posters at every street corner denounced the English—yet as individuals the English were still friends.

Every visitor to Athens sooner or later climbs up to the Acropolis. Once upon it he has the choice of looking out over the white roofs of modern Athens to the encircling mountains and the sea, or in at the mellow columns which have dominated this dusty plain for so long.

For some reason it has a great fascination for the young conscripts of the Greek Forces. One young Greek Air Force corporal does not know how close he came to a quiet push over the cliff in his well-intentioned efforts to show a rabid Classic round the Parthenon.

There was plenty to see and do in modern Athens, which no longer shows the traces of a foreign and a civil war that were so obvious a couple of years ago. But on the whole we all preferred the country places and the islands. Between us we covered Greece from north to south and visited many of the Aegean islands and Crete.

The Greek transport system is not one of the most efficient in the world; as a result many of the most delightful spots in Greece have sunk into our memories as places that we were happiest to leave.

One of these was Delphi. A couple of us stayed a night at a small hotel there ("Très moderne, messieurs; voyez—l'eau courant!") and after a pleasant morning looking over the various abominations

of desolation, with pauses to drink fizzy lemonade cooled in the Castalian spring, they went off with their reserved tickets to wait for the 2 o'clock coach.

It came and went without them: "Restez tranquilles, messieurs, un autre partira en dix minutes"—and at 7 p.m. exhausted after violent tirades, appeals and menaces directed at bus officials, "tourist" policemen and innocent passers-by, they were lying on the steps of the Delphi Museum with just enough strength to hold their noses as the garlififerous local artisans passed to and fro, an eyesore and a hissing to earnest German parties making their pilgrimage.

Mycenae shared these travel problems, and sunny Corinth claimed other victims. But Mycenae, for many of us, was the greatest experience of the trip. It took little imagination to conjure up the ghosts of kings and warriors long dead when you stood on the summit of the steep hill which holds the massive ruins of the citadel and the royal tomb, and looked west into the sun setting redly over the black mountain ridges. This must be one of the finest views in a country of fine views. To the south-east the valley widens out into the flat Argive plain and the bordering sea: mountains and silence fill in the rest of the world—until a line of ponies silhouette themselves on a hill's long skyline, led by a gaucho-like horseman.

Later you walk back down the Royal Way through the Gate with its ponderous lions, surprised playing pat-a-cake, and take the valley side-track to the lights, the good food and drink of "La Belle Hélène de Ménélas" and the pleasures of a softer age. Not that there is anything soft about the proprietors of this famous little hotel. Agamemnon and his brother Orestes both did good work for partisans and British S.A.S. during the war, and have a citation from Field-Marshal Alexander to prove it. The local red retzina, "Hercules' Bloom" is drinkable enough to prove anything.

Three of our party climbed Olympus. They had been told that the mountain, which has four peaks, the highest 9600 feet, presented no serious rock-climbing difficulties, but some waterless country must be crossed before climbing could start. All maps of the Olympus area are restricted for military use by the Greek Government.

By devious routes the three arrived at Litochoron, the large village which is the nearest railhead to Olympus. Here the mountain massif rises abruptly from the flat coastal plain. Litochoron boasted a hotel, listed as "pas convenable" by the Guide Bleu, and a single restaurant whose unvarying menu of fish, omelette; omelette, fish, did not deter the proprietor from behaving like a dinner secretary of the Wine and Food Society.

By a series of heated conversations with the local agent for the Greek Alpine Club through a runcible American-Greek from Chicago,

mule and muleteer were hired and arrangements made to set off at 5 a.m. the next morning.

Being Greece, it was seven before the party were away. They had a large four-gallon jerry can of water loaded on the mule, five huge drum-shaped loaves of the general consistency of cement, and a large variety of Greek canned food liable to explode at any moment.

It was something above twenty-five miles to the Alpine shelter at 7000 feet, and the way was along a narrow track which climbed over hills and the sides of valleys, sometimes dropping down to the arid rocks of the valley floors.

The only spring this side of Olympus, Priene, made a welcome stopping place at 4000 feet, for the sun was hot. Many of the hillsides were covered with pines which brought shade and the slight breeze which always seems to linger in pine woods. There were mountain flowers here and there, but no roses in this region of Pieria.

Once, through a gap in the trees, they saw suddenly the famous and ancient monastery of St Dionysius, which looked like a white toy castle among its dark woods far away on the valley bed. The Germans bombed the monastery during the war in reprisal for the help the monks gave the partisans on Olympus.

The night was spent at the Alpine shelter, and early next morning the not very arduous scramble was made up three of the four peaks. From Mityka, the highest, the view was splendid: to the east the valleys and foothills wound down to the sea, thirty miles away, whose expanse climbed far into the sky. On the north-west the massif ended abruptly, and the whole of Macedonia spread out her lesser mountains, brown and green dappled with flecks of cloud floating below.

A Lady Margaret tie and two dirty handkerchiefs claimed the peak for Britain; but the United Nations have disallowed the claim. It was sad how disillusionment followed disillusionment on this trip. Not only were there no roses in Pieria, but another Johnian reported no grass on Parnassus. So much for a first-rate classical education.

No one is likely to forget the visits we paid to the Aegean islands, or indeed one particular trip which we failed to pay to them.

A professor at Athens University claimed he could charter a small "battleship" to take a large party to the famous volcanic island of Santorin. Everything was fixed and the fare paid to him. But when the whole party of English, Greeks, Germans and Frenchmen got back to Athens on the sailing day from every corner of Greece, they found no "battleship", no professor, and no money. The last was soon returned, but it is worth remembering that when your Supervisor next talks of hiring the *Queen Mary* to take a mixed party to the Isle of Wight you might be safer in the ordinary ferry.

Of the islands, many of us visited Aegina and used it as a stepping-stone to the Peloponnese, but it was the Cyclades that made the greatest impression; Mykinos, with the lovely curve of its sea-front, and behind, the white houses varied by the azure and lake-red cupolas of hundreds of tiny chapels and churches; Delos, the home of Ionian Apollo, once the religious centre of the South Aegean and much of the coast of Turkey: Tenos, the modern religious centre, with its nineteenth-century Italianate cathedral housing a miraculous Ikon of the Virgin. Every one of them bathed in the clarity of a Mediterranean sun, a sympathetic sun which brings out the charm in quite ordinary colours and ordinary people.

Unfortunately we had the tourist's worries about a time-table, and there was the usual element of uncertainty about transportation. Between the islands rusty little steamers ran to an indefinite schedule, and getting on board was something of an event.

The boat, due to leave at 10 p.m. would nose in cautiously at about 1 a.m. Amid yells and cries of encouragement a large and heavy gang-plank would fall unexpectedly from above, cutting a swath among the hopeful passengers on the quay beneath. The crew, who felt that to survive they must keep on the offensive, would then drive a bad-tempered mule prestissimo down the gang-plank, meanwhile keeping up a continuous hail of large crates from the deck above.

Finally peace, blessed peace, followed by queasy sleep in a deck-chair; then pandemonium as brilliant seamanship chipped off more paint against another island quay. Next, an invasion of raucous voices belonging to the fanatical missionaries of a novel sea-sickness cure, Seros Turkish Delight at three o'clock of a stormy morning.

Greece and its islands seem surprisingly arid to an Englishman; the white houses of the villages and towns stand out against a parched brown country of bare hills; but the sunlight, the magic air and the natural and unmercenary kindness and friendliness of the Greek country people to the stranger make Greece attractive in itself, bare of all monuments.

"Viva laeta, Margareta, beatorum insulis."

Perhaps the Happy Islands have an Aegean home.

D. C. B. P. P.

TAIL-PIECE



AN IMPRESSION OF THE COLLEGE BUTLER

COLLEGE NOTES

Fellowships

JOHN BARTLET BREBNER, Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, Professor of History at Columbia University.

JOHN DENNIS BIGGERS, Lecturer in Veterinary Physiology in the University of Sydney (Dominion Fellowship for 1954-5).

Prizes, Awards and other Honours

On 3 July 1954 the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred by the University of Birmingham upon Sir JOHN COCKCROFT (B.A. 1924), Honorary Fellow.

A Royal Medal of the Royal Society has been awarded to Sir JOHN COCKCROFT (B.A. 1924), Honorary Fellow.

On 24 September 1954 the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred by Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, upon Mr A. S. KIDD (B.A. 1896), Emeritus Professor of English.

Mr A. G. LEE (B.A. 1940), Fellow, has been awarded a prize for a Latin verse composition on the subject of "an ascent to the moon in an aircraft", in a competition organized by *Latinitas*, a Latin magazine published in the Vatican.

Dr J. W. MARTIN (B.A. 1949), Fellow, has been elected into an Imperial Chemical Industries Fellowship.

The following University awards have been made to members of the College:

Raymond Horton-Smith Prize: Dr P. A. G. MONRO (B.A. 1940).

Grant from the Marr Memorial Fund: A. HALLAM (Matic. 1952).

Frank Smart Studentship in Botany: D. A. HOPWOOD (B.A. 1954).

Bell Exhibition: A. S. LYNCH (Matic. 1954).

Henry Arthur Thomas Travel Exhibitions: H. M. CURRIE (Matic. 1953), A. T. DAVIS (Matic. 1953), B. M. HEDGES (Matic. 1952), A. L. JONES (Matic. 1953), J. P. MURPHY (Matic. 1953), and R. D. SYKES (Matic. 1952).

The following medals and other awards of the Royal Horticultural Society have been made in the last three years to Mr R. E. THODAY as Head Gardener of the College. An account of some earlier awards to Mr Thoday will be found in the article "Portrait of a Head Gardener", which appeared in *The Eagle*, Vol. LIV, No. 237.

- 26 Feb. 1952 Silver Hogg—for collection of apples.
 Dec. 1952 Silver Hogg—for collection of grapes.
 3 Feb. 1953 Silver Hogg—for collection of apples.
 1 Dec. 1953 Silver Gilt Hogg—for collection of apples, pears and grapes.
 2 Nov. 1954 Gold Medal—for collection of apples, pears and grapes.
 30 Nov. 1954 Silver Knightian Medal—for collection of 14 varieties of onions.
 1954 Gordon-Lennox Cup for the best exhibit of fruit shown by an amateur during the year.

During this period the College was also awarded two Cultural Certificates for tomatoes and the Award of Merit for *Sprekellia Formosissima*.

Academic Appointments

Mr W. L. ELSWORTH (B.A. 1930) has been appointed headmaster of King Edward VI Grammar School, Morpeth.

Mr J. R. GOODY (B.A. 1946) has been appointed a University Assistant Lecturer in Anthropology.

Mr A. L. HALES (B.A. 1933), professor of applied mathematics in the University of Cape Town, has been appointed Director of the Bernard Price Institute of Geodesy and Geophysics, Johannesburg.

Mr D. M. JOSLIN (B.A. 1947), Fellow of Pembroke, has been appointed a University Assistant Lecturer in History.

Mr C. R. KULATILAKA (B.A. 1953) has been appointed lecturer in mathematics in the newly founded Catholic University, Colombo, Ceylon.

Mr J. B. MILLER (B.A. 1952), assistant master at St Peter's College, Adelaide, has been appointed lecturer in mathematics at the New England University College, New South Wales.

LORD MORTON OF HENRYTON (B.A. 1909), Honorary Fellow, has been appointed Deputy High Steward of the University.

Mr K. F. NICHOLSON (B.A. 1933), housemaster at Leighton Park School, has been appointed to succeed Mr G. Littleboy (B.A. 1921) as headmaster of Saffron Walden School.

Mr C. W. OATLEY (B.A. 1925), Fellow of Trinity College, and Mr J. H. PRESTON (M.A. 1946), have been appointed Readers in the Department of Engineering.

Mr L. D. REYNOLDS (B.A. 1952) and Mr J. P. SULLIVAN (B.A. 1953) have been elected to junior research fellowships in the Queen's College, Oxford.

Dr R. E. ROBINSON (B.A. 1946), Fellow, has been appointed a University Lecturer in History.

Dr M. R. J. SALTON (Ph.D. 1951) has been appointed a University Demonstrator in Biochemistry.

Mr W. SCHAFFER, formerly Fellow, senior lecturer in physics in the University of Cape Town, and Mr M. J. POLLARD (B.A. 1926), senior lecturer in applied mathematics, have been promoted to be Associate Professors in that University.

Dr R. A. SMITH (B.A. 1950), lecturer in mathematics in the University of Sydney, has been appointed lecturer in mathematics in the University of Durham.

The Rev. W. A. WHITEHOUSE (B.A. 1936), Reader in Divinity in the University of Durham, has also been appointed Principal of St Cuthbert's Society, Durham.

Mr D. M. WILSON (B.A. 1953) has been appointed an assistant keeper in the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum.

Mr A. W. E. WINLAW (B.A. 1936), assistant master at Rugby, has been appointed headmaster of Achimota School, Gold Coast.

Mr J. G. YATES (M.A. by incorporation 1945), formerly of Trinity College, Dublin, University Lecturer in Engineering, has been elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Ecclesiastical Appointments

The Rev. C. L. DUNKERLEY (B.A. 1914), rector of Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, to be rector of Collingtree with Courteenhall, Northamptonshire.

The Rev. O. R. FULLJAMES (B.A. 1923), chaplain of Rugby School, to be rector of St Mary, Hornsey, London.

The Rev. Canon N. W. HAGGER (B.A. 1915), rector of Coningsby, Lincolnshire, to hold therewith the perpetual curacy of Tattershall.

The Rev. R. K. HASLAM (B.A. 1912), vicar of St Mark, Surbiton, to be rector of Aller and Pitney-Lortie, Somerset.

The Rev. G. A. POTTER (B.A. 1940), vicar of Marton-cum-Grafton, Yorkshire, to be vicar of All Saints, Alton, Hampshire.

The Rev. E. SIDDALL (B.A. 1949), vicar of Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire, to the united benefice of Alexton with East Norton, Leicestershire, and to be vicar of Loddington.

Ordinations

On 19 September 1954 the Rev. D. R. HOWE (B.A. 1951) was ordained priest by the Bishop of Winchester and the Rev. P. M. LLOYD (B.A. 1949) by the Archbishop of York; and Mr D. S. PAINE, M.B. (B.A. 1954), Ridley Hall, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Portsmouth to the curacy of Rowner, Hampshire.

On 26 September 1954 Mr D. A. REED (B.A. 1948), Wells Theological College, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Durham, to the curacy of St Luke, West Hartlepool.

On 19 December 1954 the Rev. J. W. P. HOLDSWORTH (B.A. 1947) was ordained priest by the Bishop of Liverpool.

Public Appointments

Mr H. BRAMWELL (B.A. 1947), assistant senior solicitor to the Hampshire County Council, has been appointed assistant senior solicitor to the Devonshire County Council at Exeter.

Mr J. N. COOPER (B.A. 1942), civil engineer, has been appointed to the Air Ministry Directorate of Works, Singapore, with the rank of squadron leader.

Mr W. P. M. FIELD (B.A. 1950) has been appointed assistant research and defence officer, Australian Department of Defence.

Mr E. R. R. HOLMBERG (B.A. 1939) has been appointed a deputy chief scientific officer in the scientific civil service; he has been with the Department of Operational Research since 1950.

Mr M. A. H. ISPAHANI (B.A. 1923), High Commissioner for Pakistan in London, has been appointed Minister of Industry and Commerce in the Government of Pakistan.

Mr L. A. LICKERISH (B.A. 1940) has been appointed a senior scientific officer at the East Malling Research Station, Kent.

Mr R. J. MOXON (B.A. 1941) has been appointed Director of Information Services in the Gold Coast.

Legal Appointment

In the examination for honours of candidates for admission on the Roll of Solicitors of the Supreme Court, Mr P. H. MELLORS (B.A. 1948) was placed in the second class.

Medical Appointments

Dr ROBERT CRAWFORD (B.A. 1935) has been appointed part-time consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist to the Tilbury and South East Essex group of hospitals.

Mr P. M. DANIEL (B.A. 1938) and Mr D. WISE (B.A. 1949) were admitted Members of the Royal College of Physicians on 28 October 1954.

Dr J. F. GOODALL (B.A. 1932), of Skipton, Yorkshire, has been appointed a factory doctor.

Dr J. N. MILNES (B.A. 1938) has been appointed part-time consultant neurologist to Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End.

Other Appointments

Mr D. G. W. ACWORTH (B.A. 1923), manager of the Export Department of the General Electric Company, has been appointed a director of the overseas companies of the G.E.C.

Mr A. D. C. BAYLEY (B.A. 1934) has been appointed assistant consulting metallurgist to the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, Limited, at Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia.

Mr R. A. BECHER (B.A. 1954) has been appointed an assistant secretary of the Cambridge University Press.

Mr T. K. VIVIAN (B.A. 1948), assistant master at Christ's Hospital, has been appointed to a mastership at Rugby School.

Marriages

DAVID EUSTACE BLAKE (Matric. 1943) to SALLY RUTH NICHOLSON, daughter of John Nicholson, of Catisfield, Hampshire—on 21 July 1954, at St Peter's, Titchfield.

ARTHUR HENRY BRIND (B.A. 1947) to BARBARA HARRISON—on 31 August 1954, at Biddenham Church, Bedfordshire.

RICHARD GOLDING CONSTABLE (Matric. 1953) to ELAINE NAOMI GOOD, elder daughter of A. P. Good, of Three Fields, Felden, Boxmoor—on 16 July 1954, at St John's Church, Boxmoor.

GEOFFREY CAREW CURTIS (B.A. 1941) to MARGARET SHIRLEY SNELLING, eldest daughter of E. S. Snelling—on 25 September 1954, at St James's, Riding Mill, Northumberland.

ANTHONY RUSSEL PONTIFEX ELLIOT (B.A. 1952) to DAPHNE WILKINSON, only daughter of H. A. Wilkinson, of Oakwood, London, N.—on 2 September 1953, at Winchmore Hill Congregational Church.

ANTHONY JAMES PEVERIL HALL (B.A. 1953) to SUSAN ROE, elder daughter of George Flaxman Roe, of Carfax, Long Road, Cambridge—on 25 September 1954, at Little St Mary's, Cambridge.

JOHN REID KENNEDY (B.A. 1932) to DIANA MARGARET PASS, daughter of Douglas Pass, of Wootton Fitzpaine, Dorset—on 6 November 1954, at Wootton Fitzpaine Church.

ALLAN RONALD MACDONALD (B.A. 1929) to MARY SHAW, younger daughter of the Rev. Canon Vernon Shaw—on 10 December 1954, at Trinity Church, Bristol.

ROBERT EDWARD MALINS (B.A. 1948) to JEAN MARY SMITH—on 12 August 1954, at St Mary's Church, Cheveley, Cambridgeshire.

PHILIP NESBITT (B.A. 1950) to BRENDA FRANCES HILL, youngest daughter of B. R. Hill, of Wimbledon—on 18 September 1954, at St Edward's, Cambridge.

GEORGE THOMAS PULLAN (B.A. 1949) to AUDREY LILLIAN ABBOTT, only daughter of W. C. Abbott, of Kingston on Thames—on 20 June 1953, at St Paul's United Church, Toronto, Canada.

JOHN PATRICK SULLIVAN (B.A. 1953) to MARY FRANCES ROCK—on 16 July 1954.

GEOFFREY WALTON TAYLOR (B.A. 1947) to MAUREEN HAZEL JACQUES, only daughter of J. R. Jacques, of Sawbridgeworth—on 10 July 1954, at Great St Mary's Church, Sawbridgeworth.

WILTSHIRE DALL WARE-AUSTIN (Matric. 1953), Colonial Agricultural Service, to ELSA GALE, only daughter of Dr G. W. Gale, of Durban—on 18 June 1954, at All Saints' Church, Hartford, Huntingdonshire.

JAMES FAULKNER WRIGHT (B.A. 1948) to MARIE HURDITCH STEPHENS, second daughter of Charles Stephens, of Towcester—on 15 July 1954, at St Lawrence's Church, Towcester.

Deaths

WILLIAM RUSKIN ALLEN (B.A. 1921), formerly inspector of schools, Gold Coast, died at Kokstad, South Africa, 26 June 1954, aged 58.

RICHARD SEYMOUR CRIPPS, B.D. (B.A. 1907), vicar of Horningsea, Cambridgeshire, from 1918 to 1929, and vicar of Burwell from 1944 until his resignation in 1954, died 23 September 1954, aged 68.

ERNEST ALFRED EARL (B.A. 1895), of Reigate, solicitor, died 7 November 1954, aged 80.

WILLIAM GASKELL (B.A. 1895), C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, retired, died at St Mary Bourne, Hampshire, 30 September 1954, aged 80.

FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY GOYDER (B.A. 1899), F.R.C.S., orthopaedic surgeon, died at Bradford 18 October 1954, aged 77.

WILLIAM RICHARD GRIMES, clerk of the works to the College since 1952, died suddenly 1 July 1954, aged 49.

ALFRED WILLMOTT BALFOUR HATTON-ELLIS (B.A. 1923), formerly agricultural economist, Seale Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, Devon, died 7 March 1954, aged 55.

JOHN THEODORE HEWITT (B.A. 1890), O.B.E., F.R.S., professor of Chemistry at East London College, University of London, from 1894 to 1933, was struck by a motor-car and killed in Reading on 9 July 1954, aged 85.

VERNON YATE JOHNSON (B.A. 1913), rector of St Cuthbert, Colinton, Edinburgh, from 1939 to 1953, died at Edinburgh 11 October 1954, aged 63.

EDWARD HOWARD PARKER MUNCEY (B.A. 1908), vicar of Haresfield and rector of Harescombe, Gloucestershire, headmaster of King's School, Gloucester, from 1930 to 1942, died at Haresfield Court 13 December 1954, aged 68.

GILBERT NORWOOD (B.A. 1903), formerly Fellow, Professor Emeritus of Classics in the University College, Toronto, died in Toronto on 16 October 1954, aged 73.

He was born in Sheffield, 23 November 1880, and came up to St John's as a Minor Scholar from the Royal Grammar School, Sheffield, in 1899. He was placed in the first class in both parts of the Classical Tripos, and was awarded the second Chancellor's Medal in 1903. He obtained the Powis Medal in 1900, the Porson Prize in 1901 and 1903, and the Members' Latin Essay Prize in 1901. He was elected a Fellow of the College in 1904. After some years as lecturer in classics in the University of Manchester, he was in 1908 appointed Professor of Greek in University College, Cardiff, and it was here that he produced his earlier works, *The Riddle of the Bacchae*, and *Greek Tragedy*, now in its fourth edition. In 1926 he was appointed Professor of Latin in University College, Toronto, and in 1928 Professor of Classics and Director of Classical Studies; he retired in 1951. In 1943 he was the first resident Canadian to become Sather Professor of Classical Literature in the University of California; and the resulting volume of lectures, published in 1945 with the title *Pindar*, has been acclaimed as his masterpiece. A volume of essays in his honour was published to mark his seventieth birthday and his retirement by the Classical Association of Canada and the University of Toronto Press.

HERBERT PARKER (B.A. 1910), late of the Indian Civil Service (Burma), died at Nottingham 8 December 1954, aged 65.

LEONARD ALFRED POLLOCK (B.A. 1884), rector of Great Munden, Hertfordshire, died at Bushey Heath 11 December 1954, aged 92. As recently as November he had been in correspondence with a Fellow of the College concerning the Hebrew name of God; he had been a pupil at St John's of Peter Hamnett Mason (B.A. 1849), President of the College, in whose memory the Mason Prize for Biblical Hebrew was founded.

ROBERT RICHARDS (B.A. 1908), M.P. for Wrexham, Under-Secretary of State for India in the Labour Government of 1924, died at Llangynog, Montgomeryshire, 22 December 1954, aged 70.

ERNEST ROSHER (B.A. 1882), of the Middle Temple, barrister at law, died at Fernhurst, Sussex, 31 July 1954, aged 95.

JOHN EDWARD SEARS (B.A. 1905), C.B.E., formerly superintendent of the Metrology Division of the National Physical Laboratory, died in hospital at Teddington 21 December 1954, aged 71.

JOHN STURGE STEPHENS (B.A. 1913), formerly lecturer in history in the University of Birmingham, died at Witney, Oxfordshire, 12 July 1954, aged 63.

CHARLES BRODRICK THOMPSON (B.A. 1911), of Newcastle upon Tyne, died in London 29 June 1954, aged 65.

HARALD NORRIS WEBBER (B.A. 1903), consulting anaesthetist to University College Hospital, died in London 24 December 1954, aged 73.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Buildings of England: Cambridgeshire. By N. PEVSNER. (Penguin Books, 1954. 5s. paper-bound, 8s. 6d. cloth.)

Nowadays we all walk with Pevsner, and it is particularly pleasant to welcome the addition of a volume on Cambridgeshire to the dozen or so he has already published. Henceforth our walking in Cambridgeshire will be more profitable, even though the instinct which tells us that the architecture of the county is dominated by the religious buildings at Ely and the collegiate buildings in Cambridge proves in the main to be correct. Nevertheless, we now have a handy directory to guide our hobbies—the study of stained glass, wall paintings, church memorials or windmills, the pursuit of brass rubbing or the collection of strange epitaphs. Nor shall we miss lesser known things which are still well worth seeing: St Bene't's Saxon tower, the Norman churches of St Mary Magdalene by Newmarket road and St Mary at Ickleton, the double hammerbeam roof at March and the Jesse window at Leverington, the perfectly Georgian North Brink at Wisbech, Eric Gill's memorial tablet in Trumpington Church, and the work of Gropius and Fry at Impington Village College. We shall even learn to quench our thirst in surroundings of architectural interest, for there is the Crown and the George at Caxton, the Red Lion at Duxford, the Black Horse at Elm, the White Hart at Ely, the Three Tuns at Fen Drayton, the Bell at Linton, and the Black Bull at Whittlesey as well as the better known Green Man at Trumpington.

In due course, however, it will be time to return to College, which may be a chastening experience. The first court, as we enter from the main gate, is a "disappointment". Its original unity was destroyed by alterations to the south range by Essex in 1772-5 and the changes necessary for the building of the present chapel in 1863-9. As for the chapel itself, it appears "so alien in the community of collegiate buildings" (the late Professor Bonney was more categorical: "from first to last it was a mistake"). Second court and the library have more to commend them; but the rest of third court is distinguished by "playful battlements" and the "extremely odd design" of the central frontispiece of the cloister front which "gives a most unclassical effect of corpulence". Its most important innovation, the building of the south range two rooms deep, seems to have been almost accidental, "an afterthought while the building was going on". Then new court, placed across the river ("a momentous step and one on the whole to be regretted") and of a size "somewhat detrimental to its effect" though it has virtues none the less. Returning to still newer parts of the college, the Master's Lodge has "no particular merit in itself" and Penrose's part of chapel court is "inoffensive". Sir Edward Maufe's new buildings are another matter. Despite their success in providing a unifying motif for chapel court they have also "regrettable short-

comings" which it would hardly be fair to present in summary here. Instead a sanitary note: "1912 baths proposed, 1921-3 baths built", indicative perhaps of the leisured way in which our corporate body receives the impact of new habits.

Having described the past Professor Pevsner spares time for a glance into the future, receiving last minute encouragement from the recommendation in favour of Sir Hugh Casson's and Mr Neville Conder's designs for the development of the Sidgwick Avenue site for new university buildings. He hopes that Cambridge will face the fact that "the Backs will cease to be backs and become the campus of the future, a campus more beautiful than any in America, a precinct much larger than the precincts of individual colleges. . . in the past, yet a precinct all the same. On this precinct the old college buildings will look from the east, the new from the west". He hopes too that these new buildings, no longer driven to architectural compromise by the near proximity of older buildings, will be "in the style of our century". Here is one basis for discussion about the ultimate destiny of the buildings of Cambridge.

E. M.

Studies in Christian Social Commitment. Edited by JOHN FERGUSON.
(Independent Press, 1954. 8s. 6d.)

The contents of this book are more accurately indicated by its subtitle, *A Christian Pacifist Symposium*. It consists of six essays prefaced by a longish foreword by Dr L. W. Grensted. The writers are all men of some scholarly distinction; they do not base their reasoning on isolated or collected texts of Scripture, but upon the fact that for the Christian the ultimate obligation is the love which is the fulfilling of all law; they would all agree with Dr Grensted that for Christian to go to war against Christian is to deny Christianity. They all realize that they are inescapably involved in other loyalties having a legitimate claim upon them, and they face the painful difficulties involved, not without heart-searchings and misgivings. One of them states the source of perplexities by pointing out that the proposition "war is un-Christian" does not contradict the empirical judgement that, in particular circumstances, "war is the lesser of two evils".

These essays are not intended as propagandist for the conversion of individual persons to pacifism but rather appeal to the Church, in the widest sense of that word, i.e. to the oecumenical Church, now sufficiently self-conscious to have an organization. The individual Churches comprising it have condemned resort to war, but have given no clear guidance to their members, who are also loyal citizens, about taking up arms in any particular war. This is a problem which perplexes all considering men hardly less than all thoughtful Christians, and the probable use of modern weapons of mass destruction seems to intensify the dilemma, whatever be the logic of the argument that they introduce no new moral issue. These essays make an honest and scholarly attempt

to face various aspects of the problem in a way equalled by no comparable small book known to the reviewer.

There are reservations. Dr Nels Ferré's essay has the pretentiously meaningless title "The Distinctive Dimension of Christian Social Action", which is more than enough to discourage any reader; and if it doesn't, the essay soon will, for it successfully obscures the writer's thought in a mass of superfluous verbiage. No editor could have rendered much of it readable without re-writing it, and Mr Ferguson should have declined to include it. His own contribution, and that of Professor H. D. Lewis, are the most careful and the best. But, after all that Mr Ferguson says about justice and love, it remains true that if "justice is a nebulous and misleading term", love, apart from righteousness, is more nebulous and more immoral. It would be absurd to say that the National Union of Railwaymen ought to "love" the British Transport Commission, or that the general body of citizens ought to "love" either. Nor is it seriously considered whether, for the Christian, the preservation of human life, apart from all that gives it dignity and value, is the supreme duty of the Christian. Again, it may well be that if all Christians refused to take part in war or in preparations for it, war would be impossible; but the day when the oecumenical Church will achieve any effective measure of unity, or direct all Christians not to take any part in a war, or when the mass of those who profess Christianity would follow any such direction even if it were given, appears to be far distant. It will probably not arrive until enough of mankind are such that resort to war would already have become unthinkable.

There is too much in this book which suggests that conscience is a sacred flame at all costs to be preserved from the blasts of contradiction and experience. There is no escape from the fact that the State must concern itself with the moral judgements of its subjects; it generally limits the term "matters of conscience" to a small variety of activities, such as religious worship, which it can safely tolerate, whereas conscience disdains all such limitations of its sway. It is for these reasons that no State can concede to its subjects the legal right to do whatever their consciences dictate, even if those consciences call themselves Christian. Men have an unavoidable moral duty to act on their convictions, but no right to exemption from the legal consequences of doing so. We think these writers would accept this position, which makes their book worth reading and pondering.

J. S. B.

Popski. A Life of Lt. Col. Vladimir Peniakoff. By JOHN WILLETT.
(MacGibbon and Kee, 1954. 18s.)

This is a discerning book about an unusual man. It will be welcomed by those who came into contact with Peniakoff's activities in Africa and Italy during the last war and by those—far more numerous—who were stirred by his own account of those activities in *Popski's Private Army*.

But it should also be read, and would be appreciated, by all who admire restrained and skilful writing or are interested in the problems created by the impact of the modern state on the individual. Mr Willett provides such writing; Popski was unusual for the understanding that he came to have of those problems.

The book has a further interest for readers of *The Eagle*. Few of them will be aware of it in advance. When Peniakoff entered St John's College early in 1915 the College's numbers were down to 74, the University's to 825. He remained at the College, reading for Part I of the Mathematical Tripos, for only one term; for he went down at the end of the Lent Term, 1915, though he spent that Easter vacation at the Southwark Boys' Club then run by the College Chaplain. The rest of his life, except for the few final years after 1945, was spent in Belgium, France and Egypt, out of touch with what few Cambridge contacts he may have made. But if few old Johnians can have known him, he must still be counted an old Johnian, and a distinguished one; and it is pleasing to be able to record, in return, that his experience of life at Cambridge, though so short, was one that "carried away his heart".

F. H. H.