

able that this particular house sparrow lived to the grand old age of 12 years and 7 weeks. The details of his ageing are also interesting. He seems to have reached the peak of physical perfection, intelligence and beauty between the age of four and six, and enjoyed excellent health until soon after his eleventh birthday, when he would sometimes fall off his perch and have occasional attacks of what Mrs. Kipps describes as hysteria.

Unfortunately from birth he had had a deformed foot and a fan wing, but these disabilities never affected him in the least, and he even learnt to steady his food container with his feet; when, in his old age, he found hopping too great an exertion, he learnt to walk, using his feet alternately—something quite unheard of in a normal sparrow. The most extraordinary fact in the book is the sparrow's song. Wild house-sparrows merely content themselves with a series of chirps and calls, but this bird spontaneously and without any deliberate teaching, started to sing. Mrs. Kipps records his obvious excitement when she played the piano, and suggests that this regular musical appreciation provided the stimulus for his singing. She also adds that her hair provided him with a substitute outlet for his dusting instinct, and he habitually indulged in imaginary dust-baths in it. Sometimes he would do the same in, or rather on, the front page of *The Times*, and once attempted to pick up the letters one by one and put them under his wing, apparently as a substitute for "anting"—a curious habit of many birds, who pick up ants and put them under their wings, possibly to get rid of parasites.

But I have said enough, I hope to make people want to read the book for themselves, not only for its scientific value but for its general appeal, both in the account of Mrs. Kipps patient devotion to her sparrow, and in the many details, often unexpected and fascinating, of the sparrow's behaviour and individuality. D.M.P.

## THE C.C.F.

### Promotions and Appointments

The undermentioned promotions are made with effect from July 27th, 1954 :—

<i>To be C.S.M.—</i>	
Sgt. E Howard	Sgt. A Burton i
<i>To be Corporal—</i>	
L/Cpl. Hasdell	
<i>To be Lance-Corporal—</i>	
Cadet K Brooks	

\* \* \* \* \*

The undermentioned promotions and appointments are made with effect from September 29th, 1954 :—

<i>To be A/C.S.M.—</i>	
Cpl. Bushell i	
<i>To be Sergeant—</i>	
Cpl. D Clark	Cpl. Proudfoot
" Goldsworthy	" Pugh i
" W Harrison	" Richards
" Montgomery-Smith i	" Seeger
" Moss	" Srinivasan
" H Murray i	" D Williams

<i>To be Corporal—</i>	
L/Cpl. Ayrton	L/Cpl. Marriott
" Floyd	" Meadows
" Howlett	

<i>To be Lance/Corporal—</i>	
Cadet Armour	Cadet Salt
" J Clarke	" Simco
" Grainger	" Spring
" Heaton-Armstrong	" Steele
" Nealon	" Swannell
" Orchard	" Thom i
" J Paine i	" Webb
" Phillips i	" White i
" Rooke	

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### Signals

The undermentioned passed the examination for Signal Assistant Instructors Certificate on July 21st, 1954 :—

D Clark	McClelland
Hasdell	Montgomery-Smith i
Hill i	

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### Shooting

#### JUNIOR HOUSE SHOOTING COMPETITION (Highest possible score—80 points)

1st	Crescent ... ..	65 points
2nd	St. Peter's ... ..	64 "
3rd	St. Cuthbert's ... ..	63 "
4th	Paulo-Pontine ... ..	60 "
5th	Ashburnham ... ..	58 "
6th	Bromham ... ..	57 "

#### SENIOR HOUSE SHOOTING COMPETITION (Highest possible score 280 points)

1st	Crescent ... ..	275 points
2nd	St. Peter's ... ..	252 "
3rd	Paulo-Pontine ... ..	232 "
4th	Bromham ... ..	223 "
5th	St. Cuthbert's ... ..	214 "
6th	Ashburnham ... ..	194 "

The "H. L. David" tankard for the best individual shot in the Senior House Shooting Competition was won, after a tie shoot, by H Murray i.

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### Camp, 1954

The Corps Camp this year was held at Pirbright, Surrey, from July 27th to August 4th. Some 111 boys attended and all enjoyed the good food and excellent accommodation. The training areas were good and provided much scope and enterprise for Platoon and Section Commanders. This was very apparent on the night exercise, when one small party of the attacking force exercised their cloak-and-dagger tactics to some effect, their victims only being saved from complete destruction by the timely intervention of one of the Umpires. The demonstrations were very good, particularly the one by the Royal Air Force, when it was said that some boys adopted an excellent kneeling-cum-prone position to avoid losing their berets!

We were very pleased to see the Head Master who, with Mr. Lee, paid us a visit once again, giving up some of his limited holiday to do so.

A word also about R.S.M. J. Blincow who accompanied us on what will be his last camp.

Mr. Blincow joined the School from the Grenadier Guards in 1918, and some five thousand boys have passed through his hands in the Corps. One cannot hope to express adequately the great help he has been to the Corps, not to mention his great value to and interest in the School. Versatile and practical in his methods he has always produced a high standard, and both past and present members will remember him as the mainstay of the Corps. We all wish him very good luck in the future and thank him for all he has done.

W.M.W.C.

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## SCHOOL SOCIETIES

### The Alchemists

At a committee meeting held at the end of the Summer Term the following new officials were elected for the Christmas Term: to be President, B. E. Howard; to be Secretary, C. J. Bushell; and to the Committee, J. C. H. Tate and R. Clarke.

The first meeting of the Christmas Term was held on Sunday, October 17th, when R. Allard, B.Sc., a research worker at Hayward Tyler Ltd., Luton, gave an illustrated talk on "Pumps". This seemingly uninspiring title led to a most interesting evening, which began with a film taken at Hayward Tyler's illustrating their work. Mr. Allard then described to us several different types of pump, including one for pumping solid matter, like coal. The accuracy with which the pumps were made astounded all present. An example of their accuracy was shown by the fact that seemingly perfectly spherical ball bearings are useless owing to their lack of roundness. After several searching questions from those present, B. E. Howard thanked the speaker and the meeting was adjourned.

C.J.B.

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### Art Society

This term, the chief interest of the Art Society has been in oil painting. It has been greatly encouraged by an annual prize which Mrs. Seaman has very generously offered for the best oil painting of any School activity, and for this the Society is extremely grateful. Last term, our President, W. R. Dalzell, Esq., started the idea of oil painting in the School, and by the end of the term two paintings had been completed. This term, in order to enable boys who do not attend art classes to do oil painting, the art room is to be open on Sunday afternoon to anybody who wishes to paint. It is hoped that if oil painting becomes increasingly popular, the art room will also be open immediately after morning chapel.

On October 13th, members of the School were invited by the Bedford Historical Association to a lecture on Byzantine Art by Mr. Whitting, and several members of the Art Society attended. It was a very interesting lecture on a subject about which most people know very little. Mr. Whitting explained that Byzantine art mainly consists of mosaics of an exceptionally lavish and beautiful kind, made on the walls or ceilings of Byzantine churches. These mosaics were not made in the style of the Ravenna mosaics, namely of flat pieces of coloured marble, but of projecting pieces of coloured glass set at an angle in plaster so

that the light from the windows should shine through them. He illustrated this with slides of mosaics which he had photographed himself.

Later in the week, on Sunday, October 17th, the Mitre Club invited some members of the Art Society to a lecture on Picasso by Mr. Alister Campbell, the curator of the Cecil Higgins Museum. The lecture was very enjoyable and illuminating, and the Society is very grateful to the Mitre Club for their kind invitation.

M.R.S.

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### Caving Club

This year's Summer Camp was from September 7th to 17th, and despite what seemed to be the wettest period of the year it was a great success. Our tents were again pitched by Priddy Pool, near Wells, and they managed, some rather better than others, to survive the weather. At one point the proposition of abandoning camp and "squatting", in a dormitory of Wells School was proffered but indignantly rejected.

This time we were equipped with our own ropes and lightweight ladders, made by ourselves last term. These were regarded at first with a slight suspicion, but they served their purpose well. They enabled us to make several independent trips down caves requiring tackle.

We returned to our usual caves—Swildons, Eastwater, and those on Burrington Combe. We were also taken for the first time down Stoke Lane sloker, which provided a new experience for most of us. This entailed a complete submergence in water of suspect purity. We were, however, rewarded by the sight of some of the best formations on Mendip on the other side.

We also had an interesting afternoon being shown round a coal mine. We watched miners working at incredible speed. Four of the more hardy of us tried a hand at the picks and shovels, but were soon exhausted and returned our picks to the miners, amazed at their energy.

The Senior members have now gained a reasonable amount of experience, and it now remains for them to pass this on to the younger generation.

R.A.M.S.

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### Debating Society

Mr. P. J. C. Pengelly has been elected President, Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary, and Messrs. P. J. Ricketts and D. Scott Sergeants-at-Arms for the term. E. H. S. Dillon, Esq., succeeds A. G. A. Hodges, Esq., as the Hon. Vice-President of the Society.

The first debate of the Christmas Term, 1954, was held in the Memorial Hall at 7.15 p.m. on Sunday, October 10th, when the motion that "This House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government", was proposed by Mr. A. Symes and opposed by Mr. P. J. C. Pengelly.

The motion was lost in the preliminary voting by 76 votes to 8, with 12 abstentions.

The Hon. Proposer favoured the statistical approach, and cited examples of the Conservative Party not adhering to their election promises. The only instance in which they had even been remotely successful, he claimed, was in the Housing Programme.