

# School Societies

During this term there have been varied and interesting activities amongst a number of the societies although some have, perhaps inevitably, been somewhat inactive.

The **Railway Society** has held three meetings this term. At the first meeting members showed slides and photographs taken during the summer; on 18th October Mr. D. G. Pateman presented a talk entitled "How to fit a quart into a pint pot", examining the subject of locomotive design. The last meeting was a film show and films of British and French Railways were shown. The first edition of the society's magazine *Locomotive* appeared at this meeting; this was prepared under conditions of secrecy, and to most members it came as a surprise.

Also this term it has been helping to dismantle a disused signal box at Wilstead, which has been moved to Sittingbourne, in North Kent, where it is being restored to use on the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway. (*President*: A. J. Ivett; *Secretary*: C. S. Jowett.)

At the present time, the **Philatelic Society** is in a state of rapid reorganisation. New activities are being introduced and a future proposal is that members of the Lower School Stamp Club should attend the meetings. So far this term there has been a prize-page competition, and T. Davies gave an entertaining and informative lecture on the stamps of New Zealand. (*President*: K. J. Bonugli; *Secretary*: A. M. Yogasundram.)

Membership of the **Astronomical Society** has increased again and now stands at well over forty members. Full use is being maintained of the society's telescope, and members are kept informed of future activities via *Quasar*, the society's own monthly journal. On 1st November thirty boys visited the Cambridge Radio Observatories at Lords Bridge and the Optical Observatories of the University of Cambridge. (*President*: K. J. Bonugli; *Secretary*: C. S. Jowett.)

Although the **Judo Club** was boosted by an influx of new members at the beginning of term, weekly attendance has again been rather poor. After half-term, the club joined with the Modern School, so that they might have the services of Mr. Knight, and it could use the facilities of their gymnasium. (*President*: J. B. Knight; *Secretary*: W. H. Williams.)

At the first meeting of the **Modern Languages Society**, talks were given on various parts of the world, including "Outer Mongolia" and a brief but amusing discourse on Japan (in Japanese!). The second meeting was a joint play-reading with the High School when "Knock" by Jules Romains was read. (*President*: D. C. Hulse; *Secretary*: S. J. Endersby.)

The **English Society** were joined by several members of the Dame Alice School Society at their first meeting and a play "The Ascent of F6" was read. At the second joint meeting an attempt was made to explore the theme of "Poetry to Music", by hearing and discussing examples of

possibly suitable jazz and modern blues records. (*Secretary*: S. J. D. Gedge.)

Mr. John Gardner, a composer, addressed the first meeting of the **Mitre Club** this term, held in Mr. Barlen's study, on the subject of his own career and music. On 3rd November the club was addressed by Professor Warnock, Professor of Philosophy at Magdalene College, Oxford, on the topic of "Discipline, a philosopher's approach". His aim was to give some idea of philosophical method by clarifying the issues of this specific, but extremely relevant, topic. (*Convenor*: C. A. Fowler; *Secretary*: S. J. A. Gedge.)

The Under-15 team of the **Chess Club** gave a creditable performance in coming second in the Bedfordshire Chess Festival, especially the fourth-formers. *Results*: v Haileybury 3½-6½; v Oundle ½-5½; v B.M.S. 4-6; Chess Festival U.15 12½ pts., U.17 2 pts. (*President*: C. A. G. Pickton; *Secretary*: L. N. T. Littler-Jones.)

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## SHOOTING

### BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTRY S.R.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Service Rifle Championships took place on Sunday, 9th November, in as ferocious a gale as we would ever wish to encounter. The wind howled and battered at us all day long, and made accurate shooting an extremely difficult proposition. Indeed we thought it would prove a splendid excuse if we did badly. We had managed to put in a certain amount of practice, including one open range shoot at Cambridge, and we were reasonably prepared for a long shoot without the slings we usually rely on so heavily. But we had to set out without I. A. Clarke in our team, with T.J.E. standing in for him for the Roberts Shield.

As the day progressed, we became increasingly gloomy over our individual scores, and increasingly bruised and sore as we fought with the huge 500 yard targets down in the butts. The wind was so strong that it took sometimes as many as three people to pull a target down. When the last shot had been fired, and we were putting all the kit away, we reckoned that we had picked up a few prizes; but we were totally unprepared for the actual results we had achieved. We won the Roberts Shield—awarded to the best team—and D. R. H. Steen retained the Stebbings Cup for the Champion Cadet, won for the School last year by R. S. C. Hockly. We also netted an additional haul of 14 individual prizes. Among the teams we defeated were A.C.F. Stotfold, the 1969 Bisley champions, and R.A.F. Henlow. It was a most creditable performance by everybody, and a fine end to our first season of full bore shooting.

*Roberts Shield*: D. S. Tansley, D. R. H. Steen, A. P. Sykes and T.J.E.

S. L. Smith and D. A. Lord also competed in the individual events.

T.J.E.