

EDITORIAL.

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MONICA HUGHES, VI B.

BRENDA HARRISON, VI B.

As it was not possible to publish this Magazine at the end of the Summer Term, owing to delays caused by war conditions, I feel this letter must try to bring our School news up to date.

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Two Higher Certificates, twelve School Certificates, five of them with Matric Exemption, and two Royal Drawing Society Prizes make our exam list a good one.

Since this term began the number of girls in the School has increased rapidly and is, at the moment, 150, and in addition 24 girls and three members of the Staff of West Ham High School have been billeted here. This has made necessary a parallel IV B Form, and an extra bus, to the joy of some members of the School who do not find early rising easy. I am so glad that we can provide a temporary home for so many people from other schools and hope that this year's newcomers will be as happy and as successful as those who joined us last year.

At the end of the Summer Term it was most sad to say goodbye to Miss Millns, whose interest and skill made Art not only a successful exam subject but a real pleasure to many. Her maths work is now being undertaken by Miss Bacon, and the Art by Miss Madge Liddiard, who is already well known to many Old Girls. It is also delightful to have Miss Cockrell

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back again. After her year in Africa and Australia she managed to arrive just in time for term, with a good assortment of outlandish stamps and stories.

To all Old Girls, especially those in dangerous places, and difficult jobs, this Magazine brings the very good wishes of Staff and School. It has been a real pleasure to see so many during the summer, please remember we are never too busy to see you. The larger the School grows the more glad we all are to see those who have built it up in the twenty years of its life.

ANSTACE H. MOORE.

SPEECH DAY.

This, our first distribution of prizes in the new hall, was performed by J. W. Roberston Scott, the editor of *The Countryman*. He spoke most interestingly, and advised us to cultivate some hobby which would be a source of pleasure not only now, but also in the future; books had always been his own, and he could think of no better to recommend to us. The afternoon ended with a programme of songs and dances by the various Forms, followed by tea, and everyone in the large audience seemed to have found it a very pleasant function.

THE GYMNASTIC COMPETITION.

Owing to the fact that we now have the large new hall, parents and friends were able to watch the gymnastic competition this year. The judge this year was Miss McConnell, the district organiser for physical training. She commented on the high standard throughout, and upon the enjoyment which the School showed in its gymnastic work, and encouraged us to make the effort to go on with it when we should have left School. The senior cup was awarded to Vb, and IVb won the junior trophy.

THE SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION.

This year's competition was held on June 28th, and Mrs. John Betjeman very kindly judged it for us. It was the first to be held in the new hall, and the larger stage did much, we felt, to raise the standard, which the judge said was high. Form VI won the competition with their performance of a scene from *Hamlet*, though VB's beautifully-staged woodland scene from *As You Like It*, and a very funny performance of Act V of a *Midsummer Night's Dream* by IVb, made the judge's task difficult. IVa's scene from *The Merchant of Venice* was rather stilted and lifeless, and while the murder of Duncan, from *Macbeth*, was acted

with great spirit by Va, their effort was marred by a lack of proportion, so that the essential points were not sufficiently emphasised. Everyone enjoyed the performances, and Mrs. Betjeman's encouraging advice about them was most helpful.

PARENTS' DAY.

At the end of the summer term we held a very successful Parents' Day. Various Forms arranged a pets' show, a fruit and flower stall, treasure hunts and a tennis tournament. Teas (plus very popular ices!) were also supplied, and Forms II and III gave a percussion band performance, followed by *Toad of Toad Hall*. The VI wound up the afternoon with their scene from *Hamlet*.

As a result of all this, we were able to add £12 11s. 9½d. to our Refugee Fund, and £10 to the VI Form Loan Fund.

THE SNOWDROP.

It was still winter. The land lay under a white, heavy cover of snow, and the rivers had grown silent under their ties of ice. The earth wept for her dead flowers, and her tears hung in crystal drops on all the trees.

Winter sat in his castle in the North. The glance of his eyes chained the rivers under thick ice, his cold breath flew in grey clouds over the earth and fell upon the trees as white snow. However, Winter's most dreadful weapons were his hands; as soon as they touched a living being, it felt a fierce pang of pain in its heart, and its body became cold and paralysed so that it died. So the winter ruled the country.

In one place, far off in the forest, Spring had dared to come—a snowdrop had pushed its way through the hard ground and stretched its fine green leaves up, like the thin arms of a child crying for help. On the stem a tender white blossom hung. Suddenly the trees lifted their heads; the sound of a bell rang through the forest—

"Ding, ding, dong, it won't be long,
Winter's power will flee away
Spring will come with flowers gay."

The trees raised their branches higher, so that the heavy snow fell off, and buds began to break open. The river tore apart its ice-chains, and the shining golden sun broke through the heavy clouds. A dreadful rage seized Winter when he heard the bell and saw all this happening, and in his fury his deadly hands gripped the tiny snowdrop.

The snow had melted, gay flowers blossomed in the valley, and the air was full of the sweet songs of birds. Under a tree, far off in the forest, lay the snowdrop, its head snapped, its leaves broken, and low, very low, a sound rang among the trees—

“Ding, dong, ding, lovely Spring!
Winter’s chill has fled away,
Spring has come with flowers gay.”

ELSDETH HERZSTEIN, FORM V. B.

TO A SICK PERSON.

O thou who liest on thy bed
Securely snug and pamperèd,
Who dost not have that morning dread—
Remember me—

For I get up at seven o’clock,
To face the early morning shock
Of sponges—thou hast cause to mock
Poor me!

O thou who liest on thy bed
On daintiest foods and jellies fed,
When next you raise your eager head
Remember me.

For I on plainest fare do sup;
No glasses, but a plain white cup,
Although I’m mentally “fed up,”
Poor me!

To thee I write this, yes, to thee,
Indulging with the utmost glee
In universal sympathy—
Remember me.

For I am one of the healthy things
Who envy joys that illness brings—
Yet all I’ve had’s a cold—with wings!
Poor me!

CHRISTINE EDWARDS, FORM VA.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

In the heart of the busy town,
Among the noise and roar and rush,
Past sable fur and silken gown,
Walking amid the city’s crush,
Here you find, when Springtime comes,
A splash of colour, fresh and bright,
Which brings to dusty streets and homes
A joy that makes them seem more light.
The flower girl, with basket brown
Filled with stately tulips red,
Sweet primrose stars, and pressed close down
Shy violets, fresh plucked from their bed;
Tall daffodils, of golden hue,
Mixed with lilies, white and clear,
Forget-me-nots of coolest blue—
And suddenly the country’s here!

AUDREY SPINAGE, FORM IV. A.

HAZEL CATKINS.

Yesterday I walked to town,
Across the green and o’er the down,
Field and hedge I looked at then
Seeing neither lark nor wren.
Winter’s grip was holding still
In the vale and on the hill.
Trees were bare and white with frost—
Hope of summer days seemed lost.
To-day I woke to see the sun
And wondered, had the Spring begun?
I rose, and threw the window wide,
And almost in excitement cried.
Across the garden, in the wood,
Groups of slender hazel stood,
First glad signs of Spring I’d seen—
Tassell’d catkins faintly green.

BRIDGET HORTON, FORM IV. A.

A JOURNEY FROM GERMANY TO ENGLAND.

We started from Berlin on a Sunday morning, and were all excited,
for I think that none of us boys and girls had been to England before.

First we passed through all the big railway stations of Berlin, and then we passed through suburbs and factories until we were in the country, which looked very lovely, but not half as beautiful as the English country in summer. In the train we had a good deal of fun, for we were more than a hundred children, and there were only a few grown ups to look after us. The country we passed through was not very hilly, and when we went into Holland at Bentheim it was completely flat.

Holland is a pleasant country, and it looked very peaceful; there did not seem to be any big and busy towns. The people we saw all looked very kind, and everybody waved to us. The Dutch bicycles looked rather funny, but nothing else seemed strange. At night we reached Hook van Holland, where we went aboard a boat called the "Prague." It did not leave till 12 o'clock, but we were all too excited to go to sleep before that. It was lovely to look at the black water and the reflection of the lighthouse on it; I think it is one of the most lovely things to see water at night.

We had a quiet night, and woke up early in the morning. At 16 minutes past 5 on Monday morning, May 22nd, we first saw the English coast; at 6 o'clock we reached Harwich, where we had to stay till mid-day, when we took a train to London. I cannot say much about my first impressions of London, for I did not see much of it, but when I sat in the train to Oxford in the evening I received a lovely idea of the English country, and later on of Oxford itself. The next morning I had a still better sight of the English country on the way to Faringdon, and since I have been here I have grown to love it very much indeed.

RUTH ISRAEL, FORM IV A.

MY DOLL.

Two big blue eyes
That stare so bold,
With bright red cheeks
And hair of gold.

With hands out straight,
And feet quite still,
She's never late,
And never ill.

She's always good—
I call her Poll.
Now, have you guessed?
She is my doll.

MARJORIE WEBER, FORM IV B.

THE TROUT.

In our new laboratory we have been keeping trout. Miss Sturdy brought the eggs so that we could watch them develop.

The trout eggs took some time to hatch out, but eventually they did, into small fish with a huge yolk-sac, on which they fed, underneath their body. Before they hatched out, you could see the trout forming inside the egg, until the shell broke and they gained their freedom. The eggs took about a fortnight or three weeks to hatch, and when the fish inside each grew bigger, you could see its heart beating.

The trout have been hatched some time now, and instead of being yellow, they are now the colour of a full-grown trout, and they have lost their yolk-sacs.

We have to use an apparatus which will make the water flow in and out of their large wooden case, because if the water were still, the trout would die. When they grow bigger, we will take them to a trout stream, where they can make their homes among the other fish.

GWENDA BURBIDGE, FORM IV B.

MY DADDIE'S CAR.

My daddie had a tiny car,
It never would go very far.
He'd pushed it forward with a bar
And poured in petrol from a jar,
But when it still stuck in the tar
He saw his temper it would mar
And so he shouted at it "Pah!"
And went and smoked a fat cigar.

BETTY LANSDOWN, FORM II.

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL.

Brigadier Leslie sent us an *Illustrated Bible Commentary* and a *History of Art*. Betty Cahill gave us a book, *From Anne to Victoria*, and Bridget Horton *The Secret Island* by Arthur Ransome. Miss Rainsford presented the Library with a picture, *The Spinning Wheel*, and Miss Millns gave us two by Peter Scott for the art room, where Miss Craig's gift of *The Letter* also hangs. We should like to offer our very best thanks for all these.

DRAKE HOUSE REPORT, 1939-40.

During the year we regretfully said goodbye to Miss Rainsford, who had been an interested and helpful housemistress. Miss Millus succeeded her, and has already proved her zeal in House matters.

Our activities this year have been rather one-sided. We have done very well at sports and games; indeed, our list of trophies reads rather like a silversmith's catalogue—members of the House won both junior and senior tennis championships, the cricket, netball and hockey shields and cups, and the Sports Cup—but proud as we are of this record, we wish that there were less disparity between it and our achievements in our studies.

Our aim for next year should be not only to go on with our sports successes, but also to work harder, so that we may achieve a really high standard all round.

C. WHITEFIELD, HOUSE CAPTAIN.
J. MATTHEWS, VICE-CAPTAIN.

SIDNEY HOUSE REPORT, 1939-40.

This has been rather a disappointing year for the House, in some ways. Our standard in games was not as high as in previous years, so that although we were in the running for some of the honours, the junior tennis trophy was the only one actually gained by a member of the House. Our scholastic results, while they have improved a little, show that what is needed is a little extra effort from the whole House to make what is just "good" at present into "very good" next year. With seniors and juniors working alike with this aim, we should achieve the higher standard which is our ambition.

G. HAWKEN, HOUSE CAPTAIN.
N. VINER, VICE-CAPTAIN.

GRENVILLE HOUSE REPORT, 1939-40.

We have been pleased this year to add many new members from all parts of the country to the House. There have been several changes, owing to the loss of our most enthusiastic House Captain and other seniors. Our games and sports results have been better; three of our members won sports colours, and the juniors won the rounders matches. As usual, we have had a higher standard in work than in games, and this, we feel, has brought us the All-Round Cup. The House should aim at a still better games record to balance our other activities.

R. HARRISON, HOUSE CAPTAIN.
D. HARRIS, VICE-CAPTAIN.

SCHOOL CALENDAR, 1939-1940.

Sept. 14th.	Term began.
Oct. 30th.	Half Term.
Nov. 3rd.	Junior House Entertainments.
.. 14th.	Puppet Show by Sherwood-Moore players.
.. 22nd.	Concert by the Northcourt Singers.
Dec. 4th.	School Certificate Examination began.
.. 21st.	End of Term.
Jan. 11th.	Term began.
.. 22nd, 23rd, 24th.	School went skating on Faringdon Lake.
.. 29th, 30th.	School buses unable to run because of ice and snow.
Feb. 5th.	Dr. Haughton's Lecture on Astronomy.
.. 8th.	Gym. Competition.
.. 16th.	Evelyn Martin talked to Form VI on children's nursing.
.. 26th.	Half Term.
March 2nd.	Staff v. School Netball match.
April 8th.	Speech Day.
.. 9th.	Term ended.
May 8th.	Beginning of Term.
.. 31st.	Sports Day.
June 7th.	Visit to "Murder in the Cathedral" at Christ Church, Oxford.
.. 17th.	Half Term.
.. 28th.	Shakespeare Competition.
July 11th.	School and Higher School Certificate examinations began.
.. 25th.	Parents' Day.
.. 26th.	End of Term.

SCHOOL PRIZES, 1938-39.

FORM VI: N. Mulford, Governors'; G. Hawken, Average, Higher Certificate; C. Whitfield, Average, Art; N. Viner, Hobbies.

FORM Va: L. Baldwin, Average, School Certificate; B. Harrison, Average, School Certificate; T. Gardner, Essay; P. Wilson, Music.

FORM Vb: M. Nobbs, Average; D. Martin, Average; J. Hancock, Needlework.

FORM IVa: J. Cripps, Average; M. Vine, Average.

FORM IVb: M. Hughes, Average; M. Legge, Average; M. Palfrey, Average; M. Willes, Art; R. Willmer, Art; B. Horton, Reading; R. Israel, Essay; E. Westcott, Hobbies.

FORM III: R. Davis, Average; H. Winney, Average; C. Leslie, Essay; R. Whitfield, Hobbies; J. Willis, Needlework.

FORM II: J. Gantlett, Average; B. Weber, Reading.

EXAMINATION RESULTS, 1939.

OXFORD HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE:

Gwen Hawken, English, History, French.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS ADDED TO SCHOOL CERTIFICATE:

Nona Mulford, English, History.

Peggy Spimage, English, subsidiary French.

OXFORD SCHOOL CERTIFICATE:

WITH MATRICULATION.

Lois Baldwin, Brenda Harrison, Alison Porter.

PASS:

Nancy Evans, Mary Farmer, Dorothy Harris, Monica Hughes, Kathleen Nicholson, Joan Ward.

OXFORD SCHOOL CERTIFICATE, CHRISTMAS, 1939.

Theresa Gardner, Betty Harvey, Olwen Williams, Nancy Wilson.

ROYAL DRAWING SOCIETY EXAMINATIONS, 1939.

102 Honours Certificates.

FULL CERTIFICATES:

Molly Willmer, Theresa Gardner, Gwen Hawken, Nona Hobbs, Nona Mulford, Peggy Spimage, Nancy Viner, Cicely Whitfield, Joan Willmer.

SPECIAL PRIZE PRESENTED BY THE SOCIETY:

Cicely Whitfield.

TROPHIES, 1939-40.

Hockey Shield, Drake; Netball Cup, Drake; Tennis Cup, Drake; Cricket Cup, Drake.

All-Round Cup, Grenville.

Inter-Form Netball Cup, Form VI.

Gymnastic Cup. Senior, Form Vb; Junior, Form IVb.

Sports Badges. Senior, Nancy Viner; Middle School, Sybil Hayward, Junior, June Willis.

Tennis Champions. Senior, Lois Baldwin; Junior, Sybil Hayward.

PREFECTS, 1939-40.

Gwen Hawken (Head Girl), Cicely Whitfield (Senior Prefect), Joyce Matthews, Nancy Viner, Lois Baldwin, Mary Farmer, Dorothy Harris, Brenda Harrison, Monica Hughes, Kathleen Nicholson, Audrey Instone, Olwen Williams, Nancy Wilson.

GAMES REPORT, 1939-40.

TENNIS, 1939.

Team: 1st Couple, L. Baldwin, M. Smith. 2nd Couple: N. Viner (Captain), G. Hawken. 3rd Couple: K. Nicholson, M. Weber. Matches:—

May 20th.—Home. Burford Grammar School. Scratched.

June 3rd.—Home. St. Helen's, Abingdon. Lost 7-4-43.

June 10th.—Home. Wychwood School. Won 4 matches to 1.

June 17th.—Home. Witney Grammar School. Won 30-40.

June 24th.—Home. Wallingford Grammar School. Scratched.

July 8th.—Away. Witney Grammar School. Scratched.

July 15th.—Home. Milham Ford School. Scratched.

UNDER 14. ROUNDERS. 1939.

Team: B. Horton (Captain), B. Richings, M. Legge, B. Drew, P. Nicholson, B. Freeman, E. Westcott, R. Willmer, M. Palfrey. Matches:—
June 3rd.—Home. St. Helen's, Abingdon. Won 15-8.
June 10th.—Home. Wychwood School. Won 16-4.
July 15th.—Home. Milham Ford School. Scratched.

HOCKEY, 1939-40.

Team: C. Edwards and B. Horton; G. Hawken, B. Harrison; K. Nicholson, L. Baldwin, D. Harris; N. Wilson, J. Lansdown, O. Williams, M. Willmer, N. Viner (Captain). Matches:—
October 21st.—Home. Burford Grammar School. Scratched.
November 10th.—Home. Mrs. Ferris' Team. Lost 2-1.
November 25th.—Home. Witney Grammar School. Scratched.
February 10th.—Away. Oxford High School. Scratched.
March 9th.—Home. Milham Ford School. Won 4-2.
March 16th.—Home. A.T.S., Shrivenham. Won 6-0.
March 27th.—Home. Old Girls. Lost 6-7.

NETBALL, 1939-40.

1st Team: G. Hawken, K. Nicholson, J. Lansdown, N. Viner (Captain), M. Willmer, L. Baldwin, H. Geary. 2nd Team: B. Horton, D. Harris, B. Cleaver, H. Gantlett, R. Willmer, S. Hayward, E. Harvey. Matches:—
October 14th.—Away. Wychwood School. 1st and under 15 VII's. Scratched.
October 28th.—Away. S. Helen's and S. Katharine's. 1st and 2nd VII's. Scratched.
December 2nd.—Home. Milham Ford School. 1st and 2nd VII's. 1st lost 9-12; 2nd lost 11-12.
January 27th. Home. Wychwood School. 1st and 2nd VII's. Scratched.
March 2nd.—Home. S. Helen's and S. Katharine's. 1st and 2nd VII's. Scratched.

S. VINER, FORM VI.

OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

This year has been a difficult one in many ways, owing to the war, with some of our members far afield, and one of changes, for four of our Committee have married and left the town. Audrie Chamberlain, who was our Secretary for some years, was married in October, and in appreciation of her work and never failing willingness to help the Association, we sent her a cheque for £3 10s. 0d., which we had collected among the members, as a wedding present. Kathleen Viner, now Mrs. Knapp, was also married in the Autumn; Kathleen has been our Games Captain for the last five years, and was invaluable; during the whole of that time she never once failed to produce a team to play against the school. We are very sorry she did not feel she could spare the time to carry on, and so now we are now looking, so far unsuccessfully, for a new Games Captain. Mary Ballard and Gladys Carter, too, have married and left the town; Gladys, in Cardiff, is too far away to help us, but we are glad Mary is still living near enough to stay on the Committee.

The Summer Meeting last year took the same form as the year before, of an open Ladies' Doubles Tennis Tournament on the School courts. Members of the Society and of the present School took part, and we were able to give about £2 to the School for the Old Girls' Loan Fund.

We had hoped to have an Old Girls' lunch in January, instead of the usual evening meeting, because of the difficulties of the black-out, but unfortunately there was not enough support for it; so many people could not afford petrol to come and others were evacuated too far away, and we therefore had to cancel it, much to our regret.

Although we could not play a Netball match against the School for the same reasons, the annual Hockey match was played on March 27th, when the Old Girls won by 7 goals to 6—after a close game.

This summer we played a Tennis match against the School again, after a lapse of about two years, at the School's Parents' Day, and for the first time for years we lost, by 41 games to 58. Perhaps we shall do better next year! This time, owing to the war, we did not feel we could hold a separate Summer Meeting, and it was held on the same afternoon as Parents' Day. This was a good Summer Meeting, for several Old Girls who had not visited the School for eight or nine years came back, some with their children, and commented upon the great changes they saw everywhere in the School buildings. We enjoyed seeing them and wish it were easier for others to come.

This year we welcome as new members :—P. Spinage, N. Hobbs, N. Mulford, N. Evans, R. Peers, M. Raines, M. Phipps, S. Matthews, N. Viner, N. Saunders (née Bowler).

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS.

Kathleen Nicholson is a probationer at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Evelyn Martin is working in a new Municipal Day Nursery in Tottenham, the only one of its kind still open in London.

Chris Hawken is taking a Secretarial Course at Oxford.

Betty Harvey has taken a clerical post at the Faringdon Rural District Council offices.

Jean Jeffries has a post as a Nursery Nurse in Cheltenham.

Brenda Rhodes, who until the Spring, was on the Staff of the *Faringdon Advertiser*, is now working in the Chippenham Post Office.

Joyce Skinner, who trained at Hereford Training College, has been appointed to teach Art and Physical Training at Oldknow Road School, Birmingham.

Audrey Wyatt has a secretarial post in Wantage.

Betty Cahill has finished her three years' training at King's College Hospital, and is now a state registered nurse working at Godalming.

Jean Willmer is doing clerical work in the County Architect's office in Oxford.

Ruth Bright, who has just finished her training at Hereford Training College, has started work as an infants' teacher at Dry Sanford, Berks.

Cecily Bailey, who has also trained at Hereford, has been appointed infants' teacher at Henley.

Stella Proctor has been working for some time as a clerk at the Express Dairy, Faringdon.

Rhoda Keylock, who has just finished her training as an elementary teacher at Salisbury Diocesan Training College, has accepted a post in a school in Hampshire.

Pam Harris, whom many of us still remember, although she left us in Form II, has been taking a secretarial course with some of our other Old Girls in Oxford.

Faith Tucker is Gyn. and Games Mistress at St. Austell County School, Cornwall, after gaining a P.T. Diploma at Chelsea Physical Training College.

Nancy Viner and Joyce Matthews have been accepted at Hereford Elementary Training College, and go there in September.

Nona Mulford has begun her second year's training at Brighton Municipal Training College for Elementary Teaching.

Peggy Spinage is continuing her training at Furzedown Elementary Training College.

Nora Hobbs, who took a secretarial training in Oxford, has been working in the Anaesthetist and "Iron Lung" department at the Radcliffe Infirmary since the Spring.

Mary Smith is training as an Elementary teacher at the Dudley Training College.

MARRIAGES.

Marion Elliott to C. E. Clark. September 9th, 1939.

Kathleen Viner to L. H. Knapp. October 14th, 1939.

Vera Knapp to K. H. Bellinger. December 26th, 1939.

Finola Fitzgerald to Captain S. Philpott. January 25th, 1940.

Muriel Ferridge to W. A. Iles. January 27th, 1940.

Betty Knapp to P. Haynes. May 7th, 1940.

Mary Ballard to N. Wheeler. June 1st, 1940.

Stella Watson to J. W. Fallon. June 22nd, 1940.

Gladys Carter to Rev. H. W. Langham. August 3rd, 1940.

Jean Knapp to W. Weston. August 3rd, 1940.

Brenda Rhodes to 2nd Lieut. B. Henson, R.E. August 10th, 1940.

BIRTHS.

To Stella Kidd (née McIver), a daughter, Jessica Mary. October 26th, 1939.

To Mary Field (née Church), a daughter, Angela. December 19th, 1939.

To Anne Montgomery (née Higgins), a son, William Howard Clive. January 18th, 1940.

To Doreen Lillies (née Chamberlain), a son, Jeremy. August 3rd, 1940.

To Sheena Kelly (née Wilkinson), a son, Gavin Robert. July 26th, 1940.

P. CHURCH, *Hon. Secretary.*