

# Extracts from **THE CESTREFELDIAN**

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If you can provide any missing year's copy, please contact the Webmaster.

**Chesterfield Local Studies Library holds bound copies of Cestrefeldians from 1908 to 1966.**

## COMMENT - 1970

### Why Comment?

The old editorial was becoming rather parochial in its attitude and because of this some immediacy was lost. In the new format it should be easier to comment on a wider range of activities, internal and external. What we say may not always please, nor do we believe that it should, since a platitudinous magazine is a dead one.

Having said this it is perhaps necessary to state that views expressed here and throughout the magazine are not necessarily indicative of Editorial or School policy.

### Professor C. B. Cox

We are pleased to include our first 'celebrity' interview and we are grateful to Professor Cox for giving it. Professor Cox is well known in literary circles for his criticism and the Critical Quarterly. More recently he has acquired some notoriety as co-editor of the Black Papers on Education.

### "40 Years On"

Last year saw the publication of a book of School Songs—a copy is available in the Library—and it was pleasing to find our song recorded. Less pleasant was the review of the book—and of our song—which appeared in The Listener. Admittedly the song has no literary merit, but it is ours—though it would probably be hard to find a boy who knows it.

### Teachers on Strike

The past six months have seen unprecedented militant action by teachers in support of an interim pay-claim. It seems to us strange that the education of thousands of children should have been interrupted whilst the authorities inched their way to the figure asked by the teachers. If the claim could be met after six months of strikes, it could have been met at the beginning. We now await with interest next year's appraisal of the salary structure.

### Cestrefeldians Abroad

Since the last issue of the magazine, boys have enjoyed holidays in St. Malo where they were joined by the Headmaster and his family—and in Austria. The latter, a winter sports holiday, was an extremely successful new venture.

### Staff Changes

In July we said good-bye to Mr. I. Newsome, Mr. D. A. Clark, and Mr. P. O'Brien. At Christmas Mr. C. A. Bryars left after 21 years for better weather in South Africa and, at Easter, Mr. T. H. Sidebotham left. We have welcomed Messrs. W. Walker, D. Gower, R. E. Orris, J. Hargreaves, and R. D. Moon; we hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

### Congratulations

First, the Old Cestrefeldian's Football Team on reaching the final of the A.F.A. Junior Cup, and especially to their captain Mr. T. E. King. Next, to the newly-formed Table Tennis team on its outstanding performance. Then to those boys who have won Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, and to those who have been awarded places, exhibitions and scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge Colleges. Lastly, to ourselves! Among the number of letters we received congratulating us on the new style Cestrefeldian was one from Mr. Robin Gregory, the editor of Orbis, a regional magazine centred on Youlgreave. We value his opinion since Orbis is one of the most interesting magazines to come our way for some time and we commend it to our readers.

### Copy Date

The Copy date for the next issue of The Cestrefeldian will be Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1971.

## AVE ATQUE VALE

### C. A. Bryars

At the end of the Christmas Term 1969 the School said farewell to its Musical Director, and Hall and Common Room heard of due regard and esteem for a Master and Colleague of more than twenty years standing.

Charles Bryars, son of a Cutler, was nurtured in the tradition of Methodist Choralism, Henry Coward and the Philharmonic Chorus. Complementary was his very early initiation as an habitue of Bramall Lane.

So came the teenage L.R.A.M., a University Degree in Music, a Prizemanship at the Royal College of Organists and an unswerving allegiance to Yorkshire Cricket, not forgetting an inbred disgust of all affairs conducted at Hillsborough.

Like Johann Pachelbel who sang tunelessly whilst playing, Charles sang whilst conducting. None dared call it tuneless, but many regarded it but hardly as *bel canto*. It was indeed a measure of his infectious enthusiasm still treasured by many who still sing and make music. May its magic be known at Selborne College, East London, South Africa.

For us, memories; the avuncular figure of so many Edinburgh Festivals; the survivor of marathon Teutonic music makings; that Michelin-man referee gear.

For this writer, and many more it will ever be the five beat resolution which closes old Pearsall's setting of "In Dulci Jubilo".

B.B.A.

## COMMENT - 1972

This has been another year of strikes and industrial disputes during which unions, management and government have restated and reinforced their essentially 19th century attitudes and fought again the battles of last century. The old clichés have been brought out and polished a little, the old solutions have been dusted and given a lick of paint and the old faces have been called in to bring peace with honour to both sides. In Ireland the centuries old problem remains unresolved and the shootings continue, but though the weapons are modern, the war-cries and causes are those of an age long past. How much longer, one wonders, must we listen to the arrogant nonsense of the politicians, the unions, the I.R.A., Miss Devlin, Mr. Paisley? How long will it be before these self-seekers realise that the world they inhabit no longer exists, that social conditions are changing, that the individual grows daily more jealous of his individuality? No doubt when the very structure of social order falls about their ears, they will look up, baleful in their innocence, and wonder what went wrong. In Education things are little better and the worst educational decisions are inspired by the meanest political motives. Everyone it seems knows more about education than those actively engaged in it; everyone, from minister herself to those local worthies who creep unwillingly to school, when staff and children have long gone, to exercise their gubernatorial functions, knows better what should go on in a school than those who spend their days there. This year the school leaving age will be raised to sixteen. In his book "Deschooling Society", Prof. Ivan Illich remarks that substance is often confused with process and that once this occurs the false logic that more means better is assumed. This is clearly the case in this issue, a false logic has been assumed and while the politicians clap each other on the back — they have, after all, postponed the unemployment crisis — the public is required to believe that an extra and often unwilling year at school will produce a better educated person. If true educational motives had existed that year would have been added at the nursery school end where it is desperately needed and would genuinely serve a useful purpose.

This picture is not happy, nor is it meant to be meant to be, and one can only hope that the next twelve months will see the emergence of a little common sense and integrity amongst those who order our lives.

## AVE ATQUE VALE

### J. H. A.W. Woellhardt

Walter Woellhardt took over the teaching of German at Chesterfield Grammar School in 1949 and was solely responsible for the language in the school for 22 years. His forceful personality impressed itself on many hundreds of pupils and was always sought out by boys returning on visits.

He combined firm discipline with a very personal sense of humour. He maintained the highest academic standard and was a grammarian in the classic tradition. Unfortunately, the organisation then obtaining did not bring him very many highly gifted linguists.

Outside the Classroom - and he taught English, French and Spanish in his time, he was widely known for his devotion to school swimming, at a time when it involved a walk from Sheffield Road to the Central Baths after school hours. In the face of considerable difficulties he kept the spirit alive and enabled us to make a show in local competitions.

Like others who come to driving in middle age, he became an enthusiastic driver and travelled the Sheffield Road with great élan; one suspects he became well known to other regular road-users.

"Willie", as he was universally known, was a man of wide reading and great practical ability. With his interests and hobbies we are sure he will find in retirement a full and enjoyable life. We wish him many happy years and extend our best wishes to Mrs. Woellhardt, who was a faithful supporter of school functions.

### Staff changes

Last year we said goodbye to Messrs. J. Clutterbuck, D. Gower, J. Hargreaves and E. J. Sweet, and welcomed Messrs. D. Grafton, T. Grimshaw, I. V. Hartley, D. Hinam, P. Page, G. Poulton, J. C. Richley and Monsieur G. M. Vincent and hope their stay with us will be happy. We also lost Miss Joan Goodwin, our Secretary for a long number of years. We thank her for her loyal service and wish her well. In her place we welcome Miss A. M. Turner and hope she will be happy with us.

## **The Cestrefeldian**

This issue of the magazine differs from those of the past sixty-odd years in that it is the first produced wholly in school, a change brought about by sharply rising costs. We hope that readers will find the new style satisfactory.

## AVE ATQUE VALE – 1973

### **Brian O'Kelly M.B.E.,M.A.**

Faced recently with the problem of doing justice to range of Brian O'Kelly's interests, the local press despaired, and simply gave his hobbies as walking and gardening. It was probably Bok himself who mentioned these; he could have added paintings, an enormous variety of music, European literature (but he wouldn't have used such a pretentious expression), or sport; and many men would have been glad to give wine as their hobby if they'd had his acquaintance with it.

It is much harder to describe his contribution to the life of the school in the last forty years. He came to us after only a few months in his first post, at St. Albans, and has served since with a devotion which must be unsurpassed in any school. As a schoolmaster he was proud of his profession, keen to maintain its dignity, and superbly good in the practice of it; as first formers we responded with excitement and a certain awe to his seemingly effortless teaching of French, and in the sixth we admired the efficiency with which, having introduced Spanish as a subject into the curriculum, he brought people up to 'A' and 'S' level in two years.

It was in the sixth, in fact, that we were really able to appreciate what he had to offer. He was already starting to develop the oral side of French teaching – later we would have the Language Lab. with the tapes and records. But he also showed us more effectively than anyone else what lovely things were there for us to enjoy: besides his French he had a close knowledge of all sorts of attractive, sometimes recondite English works, that we were glad to learn about. He would seem to lose his temper quite violently when we were specially idle, but he and we quickly recovered. We revelled with him in his rich and exotic vocabulary, and caught from him a lively interest in words. Sometimes, I think, he would set out to provoke us, with some such remarks as, "D. H. Lawrence? I don't think I know of any writer so incapable of self-criticism"; and we would rage for a time, then decide on reflection that there was truth in what he had said.

It would take too long even to list the out-of-school activities in which Bok has played an invaluable part. I suppose first would come his work for the A.C.F. (later C. C. F.) in its heyday; he was Commanding Officer for thirteen years, and was awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday List in 1959. Not being a soldier by nature I can only admire from a distance his achievements in this field, as also his expertise in an astonishing variety of sports, notably rugby and athletics; it was he who also introduced standard times in the latter, and took charge of charge of athletics during Gordon Jephcote's absence; It was Bok who started the Inter-Grammar Schools' Tournament, and for four years he was Secretary of the Athletics Section of the Derbyshire Schools Sports Association, and ran the County Sports. He had occasionally spoken at the Literary and Debating Society before he took over the Society from Leonard Lodge in 1957; his appearances were memorable, and I clearly remember him making mincemeat of the motion that "Those were the Days", after it had been stormily proposed by a Prospective Labour Member of Parliament. It's good to remember, also, that it was Bok who founded the Erasmus Darwin Society.

As a colleague in the Staff room in the early sixties, one saw other aspects; he was then busy as Chairman of the East Midlands C.S.E. Board, playing a leading part in planning the French syllabus; and several of us benefited from the beautiful way in which he organised school trips abroad, so that while the boys were always well-mannered and civilized, a master who went with him could enjoy a luxurious, relaxed holiday. And as Second Master he has been kind, helpful and characteristically efficient, patient with all kinds of boys and their sometimes petty troubles, and treating hardened offenders with sympathy and understanding, but never sentimentality. What is more, he has brought to the Staff room, as well as some straight thinking, the much needed air of a bigger, less-confined world: his conversation was redolent at times of milieux very remote from Chesterfield: Dublin in the Troubles, London in the early Thirties, and especially pre-war King's, which he regarded with great affection.

It is tempting to try to pin Bok down and label him, but he confounds all one's efforts. He seems to hold together in himself, quite comfortably, so many seeming contradictions. There is, for instance, the dignified, reverend figure, who naturally gets respect, yet for much of his career he has been content to work from a subordinate position, giving support where it was often sorely needed; there is the apparent figure of the Establishment, clearly an ex-military man, but with a refreshing iconoclast attitude to clay-footed idols; and there is the talented teller of ribald stories, who succeeded when he took morning assembly in making it into a devotional occasion.

Seven years ago, when a colleague was retiring, Bok wrote of him in the Cestrefeldian that he was "a professional. Whatever he undertook he did with extreme confidence." The words applied equally well to Bok himself; but at the same time he was always an amateur, affectionately at home in all kinds of fields.

In fact, the retiring member of staff about whom he was writing is still very actively teaching at school. I hope Bok will think of following his example: he has such a fund of good things to offer, it would be a great pity if for the rest of his life he kept them to himself.

P.T.

### **John North B.Sc.(Econ.)**

Mr. North began his teaching career in Nottingham and, after war service in the R.A.F., came here as Head of Geography and

Economics in 1946. He brought to the task considerable skills of organisation, the enviable gift of an ordered mind, meticulous attention to detail, an infinity of patience, and has used these qualities unsparingly in the management and teaching of his subject and in his unselfconscious devotion to the School.

Outside the classroom he will be remembered by generations of boys as Housemaster of Large House, for his ordering of prizewinners, as an organiser of school journeys, as Treasurer of the Dramatic society and by his grateful colleagues for his devoted work as Treasurer of the Common Room. His flair for the keeping of accounts made him, for fifteen years the Treasurer of the Derbyshire Senior Schools F.A. and, more, recently, the Treasurer of the National Senior Schools' F.A., a position he held for seven years. To all these tasks he brought a quiet efficiency.

There will be many, the writer included, who value the friendship of this quiet man, who will remember him and his wife, Muriel, with gratitude for many acts of kindness. We wish them both a long and happy retirement, during which he will no doubt develop still further his remarkable gift for making things.

## **SCHOOL NOTES - 1973**

In July 1972 we lost the services of Messrs. R. Blagg; D. H. Bramley; T. E. King; R. Dobson; C. Turner and S. E. Davey who retired. In September 1972 we welcomed Messrs. P. Turner; M. G. Lewis; A. Moore; S. D. Atkins; M. G. Botham and P. Robinson. In November 1972 Mrs. J. W. Glossop joined the Art Department on a part-time basis.

We also welcomed M. Roger Amar, Herr Werner Freltag and Senor Pedro Ramirez Villen as Assistants.

In July 1973 Messrs. B. O'Kelly; J. North; N. Rowbotham and P. Robinson left and we welcomed Mr. J. Smith as the new Second Master and Messrs. P. Drinkwater; R. P. Chapman and M. Spencer. Mr. B. O'Kelly returned part-time and M. Amar returned for another year as French Assistant. Herr Hans-Georg joined the staff as German Assistant.

### **The Magazine**

Last year's 'Cestrefeldian' - the first produced wholly in school - was well received. This year we have been rather more adventurous in that we have used several colours and tackled the difficult business of reproducing photographs. We are grateful to Mr. Searcy and Mrs. Glossop for the basic design, much hard work preparing art-work and their encouragement and advice to boys contributing drawings and to Miss Turner for typing the text.



## SCHOOL NOTES - 1974

### Staff Changes

It is with great sadness that we have to record the deaths of two members of staff, Mr. F. I. Chapman, Head of Biology, and Mr. W. H. Jones, Head of Economics. Obituaries are on the next two pages.

Since the last issue we have said goodbye to Mrs. B. Gostling, Mr. B. Chinnery, Mr. I. V. Hartley and Hr. G. Botham. We also lost M. Roger Amar, our French Assistant for two years, and Herr Schildhorn, our German Assistant. This year we welcome Miss V. Stubbs, Mr. M. Bride, Mr. C. Thompson, Mr. R. Bayliss, Dr. M. Desforges, Mr. D. Pollard, Mr. H. Williams and Fraulein Ekert. We trust that they will enjoy their stay with us.

### Formal Occasions

Speech Day was held last year on December 10th. The speaker was Sir William Armstrong, G.C.B., H.V.O., Head of the Home Civil Service. The prizes were presented by Lady Armstrong.

The Founders' and Benefactors' Commemoration Service was held in the Parish Church as usual, as was the Annual Carol Service which for the second time took place in the evening. This new arrangement is proving most successful since many parents and friends, hitherto unable to attend in the afternoon, can now come. This year's service will follow the same pattern and all parents, Old Boys and friends will be most welcome.

### The Cestrefeldian

This is the third issue to be produced entirely in school - a venture which seems to be proving popular and one which allows greater participation by a larger number of people. Naturally we don't satisfy everyone's requirements in the magazine - what commercial enterprise would undertake to produce a publication for boys aged twelve to eighteen, their parents, friends of the school, and Old Boys aged up to ninety, comprising sport, poetry, art, etc.? But if you don't find what you want, the answer is in your own hands - write it! And if you still don't like it the next item may interest you! Some facts may be of interest: we have made about 150 metal plates, printed 56,000 sheets of paper, many of them up to four times where colour has been used, and, working practically every day after school, taken about four months to complete this issue. We must offer grateful thanks to Mr. Searcy for his guidance and layout, to Mr. Richley for his hours of work, to Miss Turner for typing, and to Rotaprint Ltd. for technical assistance.

### Waste Paper

Elsewhere appears a note on the Eco-action Group and its work. Anyone can help this by collecting together old newspapers and waste paper and bringing them to school. Mr. Bates will be most grateful - and if you really didn't like the magazine you can at least put it to good use!

## OBITUARIES

### F. I. Chapman B.Sc.

It was with stunned sadness and a universal feeling of personal loss that the Headmaster, the staff and boys heard of Mr. Ian

Chapman's sudden death on 19th November, 1973.

As Head of Biology at the School for ten years, Ian's work and influence has left a deep impression on the society of the School and bestowed a legacy of concern for the environment. Ian was motivated by a passionate belief in education: not in the traditional academic sense of the word but as the growing realization within the individual of our responsibilities towards our fellow men and towards our natural and unique environment.

Ian eminently had the courage of his convictions and an integrity of life which did not hesitate, indeed found every opportunity, to put these convictions into action. His involvement in the work of the Conservation Society, The Derbyshire Naturalist's Trust, and in the Wingerworth Community Association, no less than his work in School bore witness to his deep concern with societies and activities that were dedicated to conserve what was vital and humane. "Involved" was one of Ian's characteristic words, almost a first principle in his philosophy of life.

To those of the staff and students who shared his interests and benefited from his teaching: those who were companions on field courses and camps at Breton or Robin Hood's Bay; those who watched through the night as the moths flew in to the circle of light; those who worked on the original projects in Biology, many of which were given wider circulation by the School Science Review; those who adopted ducks or grew potatoes from peelings; will remember an individual and creative companion.

We remember FIC with gratitude and warm affection.

### **W.H.Jones B.Sc.(econ)**

After struggling bravely for more than a year with an incurable illness, Bill Jones died quietly at home on June 12th.

A graduate of the University College of Wales, Aberystwith, Bill fought in the Spanish Civil War - on both sides he often claimed - and later in the Far East, where he attained the rank of major. After a short period with the Port of London Authority he came to Chesterfield School to teach economics and geography. As a teacher of economics he can have had few rivals, as the large number of his ex-pupils now holding senior economics posts throughout the world will testify; as a schoolmaster he will be remembered by generations of boys for his wisdom, sense of humour, fairness, and above all, his humanity. He also represented his discipline on the Secondary Schools Examination Council until its replacement by the Schools Council. '

In many areas of school life Bill played a valuable part. A keen sportsman, he was much in demand as a referee and an umpire, boys and staff alike recognising his knowledge of the game and the impartiality of his decisions. But it was perhaps in drama that Bill made his greatest contribution to the school and to the town. After many years as Leonard Lodge's assistant, he became producer of the annual play on Leonard's retirement and maintained the well-established tradition, eventually equipping and 'breaking-in' the long-promised stage at Brookside. He was producer for the Caledonian Dramatic Society, a member of the Management Committee of the Civic Theatre, a past president of the Chesterfield and District Welsh Society, and a churchwarden at St. John's, Newbold, where he had found the faith that so helped him through the last difficult year,

Often a solitary man, Bill loved the hills of Derbyshire no less than those of his native Wales, and in all weathers his lonely figure was to be seen striding over the moors, head lifted into the wind. Paradoxically, he was also a sociable man who delighted in conversation and none would ever guess that English was his adopted tongue. Latterly it was sad to see this proud man humbled by disease.

He extend our sympathy and kind wishes to Kathleen and his children. We shall remember him.

## SCHOOL NOTES - 1975

### Staff Changes

During the last year we have lost the services of Adrian Moore, Roy Parkin, Francis Elgar, Mike Lewis, John Owen and Mrs. Glossop. A special mention should be made of Jerry Owen, who first retired nine years ago when he was Second Master.

This year we are happy to welcome Mrs. P. Barber and Messrs. D. Spencer, R. Bannister, M. Watson and Mr.] R. Barron. Mr. J. B. Nion is the French Assistant.

We hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

### School Events

Speech Day was held on December 5th, when the speaker was Mr. R. B. Dunn, B.Eng., C.Eng., F.I.Min.E., Director General of Mining, N.C.B., and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Dunn.

The annual Carol Service was held in the Parish Church on 17th December and the Commemoration Service on July 4th, when the sermon was preached by the Rev. V. Watt-Jones of St. Thomas' Church, Brampton. Various school parties have been abroad to France, Germany and Belgium, the annual exchange with the Lycee Lalande in Bourg-en-Bresse was again a success, and some of our young musicians enjoyed a working cruise to North Africa. Next year it is hoped that a football team will visit Darmstadt and a Mediterranean cruise to Egypt is planned.

### Re-organisation

Now that the school is finally on the road to re-organisation we have fewer pupils than for many years past. Although much of value has been lost - the choir, for instance, has suffered greatly - it is noticeable how much more pleasant the school is with smaller numbers, and the temporary advantage of some smaller classes has been welcomed by boys and staff alike. What a pity it is that the advantages are temporary whilst the losses seem permanent.

### The Magazine

Last year's magazine was again well received. This year another innovation has been made. The type, instead of being produced on the school's electric typewriter, has been set on the I.B.M. Composer newly acquired by Chesterfield College of Art. We are grateful to be allowed to use this amazing machine and we extend our thanks to Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lovelock. We also owe a great debt to Miss Turner who undertakes this mammoth task each year, and this year has had to learn how to use a new and complex machine. For the technically minded the type-face is Baskerville 10pt with heads in Palatine 24 and 36pt.

## FAREWELLS

### F. J. Elgar B. Sc. Hons

That Francis Elgar is old enough even to contemplate retirement seems incredible to anyone who has seen him coach hockey so recently. Nevertheless, after giving 29 years of devoted service to Chesterfield School, Mr. Elgar has decided to retire.

Somerset born - as if there was any doubt about it! - and after graduating at Bristol in 1936 and teaching for a year or two in Watford, he came to School in 1946 fresh from the Burma War. He had served six years as an infantry officer in India, in the Arakan Campaign and on the advance on Rangoon in Burma, and was demobilised with the rank of Major.

Recent members of the school will know Mr. Elgar only as Head of the Chemistry Department but for many years he combined the teaching of Botany with Chemistry. This may account for his keen interest in gardening and formerly in the North-East Derbyshire Field Club which he served as President.

F.]E. has always been a keen player of hockey, cricket and tennis - allegedly 'for enjoyment only.' He captained Chesterfield Hockey Club for three years and has been its President. He was in charge of school hockey for many years and stories of his prowess are legion - and often legendary. He is accused for instance of 'upending'

unceremoniously three boys simultaneously in a Staff v School hockey match. An alternative version seems the more likely; with stick in front of closed heels he 'jump tackled' the centre-forward and the two wingers fell over his toes!

Mr. Elgar was a founder member and almost an ever-present at meetings of the Erasmus Darwin Society. He and Mrs. Elgar rarely missed a social or recreational occasion of the Common Room, the Committee of which he was Hon. Secretary for many years.

A keen gardener, philatelist and photographer and with two daughters and two grand-daughters, one each in Australia and in Germany to visit, F. J. E. will find much to do in his retirement. We wish both Mr. and Mrs. Elgar good health and every happiness in the future.

*J.J. Higgins*

### **R. Parkin B. A. Hons**

Roy Parkin left the Staff in March of this year to take up an appointment as Adviser in the County of Humberside: he had been a member of staff for almost fifteen years, and his association with the school goes back over thirty years in all to the time when he first arrived as a pupil.

It was characteristic of Roy's energetic involvement in the life of the school that within a year of joining the Staff he had organized and led a successful school journey to Norway, and the pace never slackened. Over the years, Transport Society, Elizabethans and Erasmus Darwin Society all owed much to his enthusiasm - to say nothing of Oxfam collections and the occasional star performance in a Masters' debate. School cricket, soccer - even hockey - teams derived benefit from his active encouragement, and he was no mean performer either. Many a staff cricket team, facing a fiery school XI, based such slender hopes of survival as it ever nourished on Roy's malicious bowling and rugged rearguard actions with the bat; and if we lost, as we usually did, his revenge could come on the morrow when he re-appeared for the Old Boys. Fives, of course, was (or were) his particular enthusiasm, and his choicest sarcasm was reserved for any misguided philistine who used a fives-court as an all-weather goal-mouth for soccer practice.

As Head of the History Department, he revolutionised both the content of the syllabus and the methods of teaching it, directing the emphasis away from the acquisition of historical knowledge and towards the understanding of historical method. Within the last couple of years he secured the school's participation in the Schools Council's 13-16 History Experiment, and energetically involved himself and his department in the development of the methods and resources required by it.

A barbed wit, more readily appreciated by the observer than by the victim, may sometimes have disguised but never completely concealed that sympathetic understanding of the pupil's abilities, difficulties, and background which made his advice particularly valuable. The Old Cestrefeldian Society, and many Old Boys individually, will remain grateful for his unflinching support. For his colleagues in the Common Room, too he has been the expert and friend to be consulted on a vast range of professional matters, and he has been Chairman of the Social Committee, AMA correspondent, and a representative of secondary teachers on TAC and the Re-organisation Consultative Committee.

The Cestrefeldian' for December 1951, under the heading '1st XI Cricket Characters', includes a comment which still deserves to be quoted - both as a verdict on Roy's achievement here and as a recommendation for his new role:

'PARKIN, R: consistently good in the field, and a source of invaluable advice.'

We offer to him, and his family, our very best wishes for the future.

*R. E. Young*

## **OBITUARY**

### **J. R. Owen B. Sc. Hons**

Mr. John Richards Owen died in hospital after a very short illness on August 9 at the age of 74. "Jerry" Owen had taught in all for 49 years at Chesterfield School, his first teaching post. To Mrs. Owen and to David we extend our deepest sympathy.

Born at Tenby, Pembrokeshire, J. R. Owen was educated at Aberystwyth where he graduated in science and gained his teaching diploma at Cambridge in 1926. He took up his post at Chesterfield Grammar School, as the school was then named, in the same year teaching chemistry. He became deputy headmaster in 1956. He retired after holding the post for 10 years but continued to teach chemistry on a part-time basis right up to the end of the present Summer Term

He was a past President of the Old Cestreladians, a past Chairman of the Chesterfield Welsh Society, a former playing member of the Chesterfield Hockey Club and was well known in county hockey circles, regularly umpiring matches up to the last season. He served with the Royal Ordnance Corps during the 1939-45 War, attained the rank of Major and was officer-in-charge of the School Cadet Corps for several years.

J. R. O.'s service to the Assistant Masters Association was in many ways outstanding. He attended meetings of the Derbyshire Branch with unfailing regularity throughout his career. He was first appointed Branch Secretary in 1927-28, only managing to pass on this office, as he explained subsequently by accepting in the thirties the "more prestigious less onerous" post of Branch Chairman. He was a Council Member of the Branch on very many occasions and had a long and entertaining memory of Council meetings held in most parts of the country.

Colleagues and pupils alike will treasure memories of the firm laboratory discipline which this small, slender man extended into general school life a discipline so perfectly fair and administered with puckish good humour throughout. At the Derbyshire AMA Dinner given in his honour on his first retirement, JRO jocularly gave missionary as his profession; recently at his second Common Room presentation, he reminded us that he had not retired but had been declared redundant, though, he added, unlike a certain industrial Chairman, he had not received a golden handshake.

John Owen, the missionary who never retired, will be long remembered.

*From the AMA*