

# Spring Term 1946

## ASTRONOMY.

We arrived back at Orwell last Summer to find that the soldiers had broken into the Observatory, smashed the delicate mechanism of the clock which compensates for the Earth's movement, broken the pulleys which work the opening of the dome, fouled the wheel which controls the lateral movement of the telescope and stolen the best of the eye-pieces. All this was very discouraging. However, the admirable Crichton (Chandler) has managed to repair all except the clock, and so we have been able to do some Astronomy this term.

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All the school down to and including II Lower have observed the Moon, while the senior boys have also looked at Saturn and Jupiter. Mars, unfortunately, faded rapidly during February and March and therefore was not worth studying, though it would have been if we had had the pre-war eye-piece.

Saturn, with its rings and Jupiter, surrounded by its four moons and marked with its belts, are both wonderful sights.

Enthusiasm for Astronomy is reviving in the school and many boys have been reading books on the subject. It is a very worthwhile hobby and it is hoped to get back to the 1939 standard, when the senior part of the school could recognise and name all the principal constellations, stars and planets and had a fair knowledge of the working of the Universe.

Next term, the evenings are, of course, too light for observing, but by the Autumn term, if we can procure a new and satisfactory eye-piece, we shall look forward to seeing such beautiful things as the star-cluster in Hercules, the nebulae of Andromeda and Orion and the lovely double star Albireo in Cygnus.

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## Autumn Term 1946

Mr. Robinson's apparatus for the teaching of swimming, based on that in use at the Kingston Baths, proved very successful.

All the cricket grounds have now been levelled and re-turfed or re-sown, and the work on the football grounds will be continuing all the holidays.

A new X 500 eye-piece for the telescope has been got from Newcastle-on-Tyne to replace the one stolen, which should be a great help to the Astronomy next Winter.

After long and patient work, Chandler has managed to repair the Carillon cylinders, and we hope, next term, to hear the chimes and tunes again from the Clock Tower.

Under Mr. Robinson's guidance the printing has developed now into a definite industry. The room always seems full of workers and apprentices, and the output is increasing every term.

Shooting and dancing are starting up again next term; carpentry in the Easter term.

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