

# WARDROOM NOTES

The winter has been more than kind to all but the hardy few who hoped for ski-ing and other winter sports activity. In fact, the tennis court, recently resurfaced at a large cost, has been more in the picture than is usual at this time of the year.

The Christmas dance was a great success, while another entertaining evening was the visit of fifteen W.R.N.S. officers from Burghfield. A Conga up the main staircase was proof that it is stronger than it looks, even if there was a six-inch rise and fall in places. Our neighbours from H.M.S. *Dryad* dined in the Mess on the final guest night of the Long Course. One speech was of the "or something" quality and proved that twelve months on course are enough for any man.

The tapestry in the Ante-room is now uncovered. The general opinion is that it is unsuitable, so it is being removed shortly, which will cause upheaval when S.C.E. start plastering and painting. Curtains are being made from material provided by the Admiralty for all the main rooms, which will brighten things up and save Mess funds. It is hoped that all will be ready for the Signal Officers' Reunion in the summer.

Officers who at any time were members of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers' Mess, Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, will undoubtedly remember the magnificent mahogany dining tables which were such a striking feature of that Mess. When the latter closed, on amalgamation with the Wardroom, the tables were transferred to H.M.S. *Mercury*, where

their imposing appearance, particularly on guest nights, is a marked improvement on the war-time "ersatz" products which for so long marred the Wardroom.

The usual number of departures occur with unfailing regularity. To name them all is impossible, but such stanchions as Lt. Kelly, Mr. Webber and Third Officer Fergusson are sadly missed.