

Madam Chairman, Sir Frederick, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A year ago you had a Speech Day that surely must have been unique in the annals of speech days, for then in the absence of the principal speaker (Sir Frederick Mander); of the proposer of an omnibus vote of thanks (Councillor William Skinner) and of myself I understand you had a refreshing and memorable experience. In self defence I may tell the school that I was not playing truant; in point of fact in all three cases quite a good reason was submitted for absence from school. It was a case of men proposing and microbes disposing (or perhaps better indisposing). At a distance of a year I am still grateful to you Madam Chairman, to Mr. Walton, Secretary of the Middlesex Education Committee, and to the Senior Master, Mr. Auger, for the great service you all rendered to the school on that occasion. Good sailors are known in bad weather. *I got this speech day*
would appear to be unique for the 3 missing principals - have turned up so - day - in their same robes -

Before another Speech Day comes round I hope to fold my tent and like the Arab steal silently away, drawing to a close my 48 years apprenticeship to the teaching profession. But before coming to my swan song in Annual Reports, I would like on behalf of the school to extend a cordial welcome to all our distinguished visitors. To our speaker, Sir Frederick Mander who is a man after my own heart, an apostle of the gospel of Education. Some time ago I heard him give what to me is the most aptly summarised objective of Education in the following words; - "The objective of Education is to get the best possible teachers in contact with the greatest possible number of children in the best possible schools for the longest possible time." There you have in a nutshell the four requisites and in the right order. I propose to examine this seemingly innocent sentence later on in my report. It is because I believe that Sir Frederick has the cause of Education shut up in his bones as a burning fire that I ask you to give him a specially warm greeting this afternoon. I next welcome His Worship the Mayor of Southgate, Councillor Lauder, and her Worshipess the Mayoress of Southgate, Mrs. Lauder. They really need no introduction to the school for they are friends of very long standing but I would sincerely wish them early in their new year of office the supreme joy of seeing the end of this deadly war and the laying of the foundations of a just and lasting peace.

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I must say a word about my colleague, the Headmaster of Minchenden School, Mr. Gibbs, who is about to pass on - to a well earned retirement. They say Madam Chairman that two of a trade never agree. Well Mr. Gibbs and I are the exceptions; we are a well assorted couple; co-workers in an educational vineyard where there have been no grapes of wrath. There has been, shall I say, diversities of gifts but the same spirit. He is indeed a fortunate man for to gain respect is good, to gain affection is better, but to gain both respect and affection as he has done is surely adequate compensation for the troubles and trials incidental to the practise of that noblest of professions and sorriest of trades - teaching.

You all know that - Reports are partial affairs. Whilst it is true that facts are given, they are selected facts. As the moon shows only its bright face to the earth, there is always a tendency for Headmasters to reveal the high lights only. I shall follow precedent. I propose to say little of our war-time difficulties which I take it have been no worse than other schools have endured; indeed in many ways we may count ourselves fortunate. Our home base is at least inviolate. True our social and corporal activities have been drastically abbreviated. The arrival of V.1. towards the end of the Summer Term made it advisable to cancel several eagerly awaited events, e.g. the Swimming Gala and the Athletic Sports, the Inter-House Musical festival; outside visits to places of interest such as the Houses of Parliament which our M.P., Mr. Beverly Baxter was going to conduct a visit to the Middlesex Guildhall through the good offices of our Chairman, Mrs. County Councillor Fairfield. It is true that we are still cabined, cribbed and confined within our inadequate surroundings. True also that the assembly kitchen which was to have solved our dinner problem did not materialize because of the incidence of V.2's but we realize that urgent as our needs are they must give place to the still more urgent national needs.

Addressing!
to the Council
with the school
Their
Worshipful
of the Council
have both M.P.
we have in
both hands

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rehearsals. I once again appeal to parents to encourage their musically minded offspring to learn to play one of the many musical instruments we have in stock and are willing to lend to pupils for the duration of their school career. If one has some skill in music one has at least an inner life that does not require the ministrations of others. The making of music is one of the most harmless of leisure-time hobbies. Browning you may remember in his poem entitled "Shop" gives others for in stanza 21 he says:-

I want to know a butcher paints
 A baker rhymes for his pursuit
 A Candlestick-maker much acquaints
 His soul with song, or, haply mute
 Blows out his brains upon the flute.

~~In this connection~~ I would mention that the Middlesex Education Committee are offering scholarships at the Trinity College of Music for musically gifted children in secondary schools, over the age of 12; already 2 of these have been gained by pupils of this school.

S.D.I.A. & the Dramatic Societies. I group these societies together for they are under the same efficient management - Mrs. Pole. The Dramatic Society produced in March this year Oliver Goldsmith's comedy "She Stoops to Conquer". Of this performance an independent outside critic wrote:- "It was a most excellent performance and did credit to the actors and to the producer alike." The society is now busily rehearsing Shakespeare's "The Tempest" which it hopes to give in this Hall next February 1, 2 and 3. A few days ago some one said to me I hear you recently gave a magnificent performance of "The Tempest". I had to point out that the praise, no doubt this praise would one day be correct but at the present time was somewhat premature. ~~Scenes from this production will, I understand, be given by the society during~~ S.D.I.A. It will not be the fault of members of this society if members go wrong with schemes for post-war reconstruction for they

are quite prepared to put the world right but I would not have you think that these young folk are know-all's. They are in all seriousness endeavouring to fit themselves for to-day's tasks, to inform themselves to answer to-day's questions and to equip themselves to help solve to-day's problems. No less an authority than Goethe said "the destiny of any nation at any time depends upon the opinion of its young men and women under 25". You may say that we are beginning in time but surely the time to begin is whilst the edge of intellectual curiosity is still keen, for all too soon comes along that monumental incuriosity so characteristic of far too many adults. Some of the speakers ~~the society has had~~ include an Ex-Minister of Mines, on the coal question; the present Mayor of Southgate - upon Local Government; two Headmasters of local secondary schools - upon the Government of England; a Doctor of Science on scientific advances in the U.S.S.R. In International Youth Week we had a French speaker, an American and a German speaking upon Europe as it was and Europe as it might be. The society is organizing a party for the Second and Third Forms to raise money for the Inter-School Fund for the rehabilitation of schools in Europe.

School Games. In the absence of Captain Fawcett the Boys' games have successfully carried on under the direction of Mr. Johnston for Football and Mr. Swire for Cricket and this despite war restrictions and the scanty supply of material. The Girls' had a successful tennis season though we did lose the "Fairfield" Rose Bowl by a narrow margin to our friends at Minchenden. The Hockey team so far this season has been beaten on one occasion only and that by the Old Girls Hockey team. The efficiency of the girls' Physical Training and Games is due to the enthusiasm of the Games Mistress, Mrs. Fawcett, and no fewer than 3 of our girls are destined to become Drill Mistresses - such is the infection of a good example.

Old Scholars Societies. S.A.M.Y.O. (Southgate & Minchenden Youth Organization) which was a war time amalgamation of the old scholars associations of the two schools is in process of dissolution and the two schools will, in the future, resort to the status quo. - S.C.O.S.A. has social evenings every Friday in the School Hall and has

White Tennis. Hockey

arranged a concert and ~~dance~~ re-union dance for early in the New Year. The Old Boys interested in cricket should get into touch with A. Gudgin and the Annual General Meeting will be held on January 12th 1945. All old scholars are urged to be present at the General Meeting. The general secretary is Joyce Benbridge, 54 Old Park Road, N.13.

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War Savings. A special effort in "Salute the Soldier Week" resulted in a total of £4,709.19. 11 The total of the four efforts during the war amounted to £11,733. 14. 1d. This total owes much to the ~~enthusiasm-ef-~~ enthusiastic work of four members of the staff - Mrs. Holt, Miss Watts, Mr. Pratt and Mr. Knowles who has now taken over from Mr. Pratt who is in the R.A.F. but I may say that I am far from satisfied with the week by week contributions and the membership numbers. My school can always be relied upon for a special effort but it is the regularity ~~ef-the-~~ and number of the ~~week-by-week~~ weekly payments that is the ^{by} ~~greatest~~ value. I appeal to parents to support the school War Savings Group.

The Senior Mistress, Miss Jeans has supplied me with the following report of the school working party for comforts for the forces. There are still willing hands in the senior school to knit for the R.A.F. Comforts Fund, to which the party was affiliated in 1940, and generous juniors to supply the money with which the wool is purchased. At the end of each term a parcel of garments is sent to the Central depot and the total number of garments despatched to date is 395. We received a certificate of special commendation from the Air Ministry in January 1944, recording its appreciation of our continued efforts. There was a ready response to the appeal for girls to knit garments for the distressed peoples in the liberated countries in Europe, but unfortunately the Southgate branch of the W.V.S. which made the appeal is unable to obtain sufficient wool for our volunteers to be able to take part in that week work.

Prisoners of War Fund. Our own 12 prisoners of war have not been forgotten. From time to time the school has generously subscribed to replenish this fund and parcels of cigarettes, tobacco and books have been despatched at intervals. Latterly a different method has been adopted, that of handing over to the parents a sum of money in order that they, ~~may purchase-a-~~ with the inside knowledge of the needs of their sons, may spend the money on some useful gift which may be included in the next parcel they send as a present from the school. The almoners of this fund are Miss Burr and Mrs. Long.

Memorial Scholarship Fund. Last year I reported that this fund stood at £1,063. This year we have added the sum of £98 by various school efforts and the present total of the fund is £1138. Grants are made annually from this fund to leavers proceeding to Higher Education. In the past school year £40 has been awarded to two pupils who left us in July and are now pursuing Higher courses - one at Queen Mary College, London and one at Berridge House (Domestic Science). Whilst on the subject of Awards I should like to acknowledge my gratitude to the Trustees of the Priscilla Ingram Trust for the generous way they have helped our students to realize their ambitions in life. As I reported last year these grants are made despite the fact that the Headmaster of Southgate County School is one of the trustees. I would also remind parents of the generous help given in the form of grants by the M.E.C. to those going on to Higher Education. This year ¹⁵ pupils have benefitted therefrom. *been granted Senior Awards.*

STAFF. Four members of the staff are still serving with H.M. Forces. The German Master, Mr. Rolfe, the Art Master Mr. Toplis, the Handicraft Master Mr. Pratt, and the Physical Training Master, Mr. Fawcett. I am pleased to say that we have our Music Master, Mr. Baggarley back with us having been discharged from R.A.F. W As an example of how staffing difficulties have been overcome, the only ~~adequate~~ applicant with adequate qualifications

to my advertisement for a Mathematics Mistress, was a married woman with an 11-weeks-old baby who told me over the telephone that there was a slight difficulty and that was she had an eleven weeks old baby and she could find no one to look after it. I said that was quite a minor affair, bring along the baby and we will look after it. This was excellent practice for our two pupils preparing for the Pre-Nursing examination.

She looks pleasant & nice but...

Write a resolution among the girls

STAFF CHANGES. We were very sorry to lose the services of the Senior History Mistress, Miss M. Pringle, B.A. who left us in July to take the post of Senior Mistress at a Southampton County School. Miss M. Scott M.A. of Abergavenny was appointed to succeed Miss Pringle. Miss Seward who was temporarily taking the place of Mr. Toplis and Mr. T. Cleghorn part time visiting P.T. Instructor have both gone to the (other place) (As the Commons say of the Lords and Cambridge of Oxford) - I refer to Minchenden. As both were very efficient teachers and their services were well appreciated by me, this would appear to be a purely altruistic action on my part but in both cases Minchenden had permanent posts to offer and I had not. Mrs. Richards B.Sc., Senior Biology Mistress left at the end of the summer term after an all too short tenure of that important post and she has been succeeded by Mr. Miles B.Sc., from Redditch Grammar School. We were also sorry to lose Miss Atkin who for many years had been Visiting Mistress for commercial subjects; she also has obtained a full time post and has been succeeded by Mr. Clarkson from the Regent Street Polytechnic. Mr. Clarkson is already trying out interesting experiments in the teaching of Shorthand and Typewriting. Typewriting to the rhythm of musical records and the early elimination of vowels in shorthand outlines. Miss Lingwood has succeeded Miss Seward in the Art Department and Mr. Crabb from Loughborough College has been appointed temporarily to take over Mr. Pratt's work Handicraft and Physical Training. The boys are ~~have~~ particularly missed their wood-work since Mr. Pratt joined the forces in January this year. Now they are happy.

My best thanks to the staff for their unswerving loyalty to the school. Particularly do I thank the Senior Master, Mr. Auger, and the Senior Mistress, Miss Jeans, as well as indispensable secretary, Mrs. Long and once again I must tender my best thanks to you Madam Chairman for all the support and encouragement you have at all times given to me during my term of office.

Mr. Gollins

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The 3 members of our Staff who are appearing at the R.S. School - the 1st of them

Recs. in mind

The Secondary Schools A.T.C. Squadron No 973 Since its inception 4 years ago this Squadron has done magnificent work in the pre-entry training of cadets & deferred service recruits destined to enter the RAF & it would be difficult to over-praise those members of the staff of both schools - Minchenden & Squire County who have enthusiastically given of their time & knowledge to make this Corps one of the most efficient in the Central Command. The Squadron has received very generous financial support from the Squire A.T.C. Supporters Assoc. their latest contribution enabled me to produce the film recently exhibited at much school showing the progress of training involved & the various activities entered upon. So successful indeed have these Squadrons been throughout the country that the supply of trained recruits has outstripped the demand & it would appear that for the time being the A.T.C. is providing more than one or two comments. At this point I would like to examine in some detail on Sir Frederick Mander's sentence to which I referred in my opening remarks, namely:- "The objective of Education is to get the best possible teachers in contact with the greatest possible number of children in the best possible schools for the longest possible time". The governing phrases are (1) the best possible teachers; (2) the greatest possible number of children; (3) the best possible schools; (4) the longest possible time. First, the best possible teachers not necessarily the present generation of teachers but a better type, in fact the best the nation can produce. Education succeeds or fails mainly through the personality or the lack of personality of the teachers. They should like Socrates be burning advocates for the truth or they are nothing. The greatest problem in every grade of education is to find and to train men and women with the vocation and the passion for teaching. Education remains what Thring called it - the transmission of life from the living to the living. I would have every teacher say to himself, that in the forms that he teaches there may be some future Beethoven or Handel who will be able to lift the soul by the magic of divine melody to the seventh heaven of ineffable vision; some Newton who can weigh the far-off stars in a balance, and measure the heavings of the eternal flood; some Milton

Remind when he goes into the form room to teach his pupils there may be some future Beethoven or Handel who will be able to lift the soul by the magic of divine melody to the seventh heaven of ineffable vision; some Newton who can weigh the far-off stars in a balance, and measure the heavings of the eternal flood; some Milton

embryonic

Burke.

or Blake who can awaken mens hearts as with the note of an organ trumpet; some ^{Burke} Voltaire who can scorch up what is cruel and false by a word as a flame. So give of your best Mr. Schoolmaster as in your great Taskmaster's eye.

Secondly ^{the phrase} - the greatest possible number of children. Where we have fallen short in the past is in trying to run an Empire on about 10 per cent of its brain power. The privileged classes only being allowed to pursue their education to the years of discretion. As Edmund Holmes said we have no evidence whatever that there is any native inequality ~~or~~ inability between class and class; the lower strata of society is no more base born than the higher. Their natural ability is ~~not~~ ^{as} great, so is their latent capacity for self sacrifice and disinterested devotion - given equality of opportunity. It follows then that the masses which are at least ~~as~~ ten times as numerous as the classes if given equal opportunity for self development might produce ten times as many poets, artists, thinkers, men of letters, statesmen and scientists as we now have. The tragedy of tragedies is to die ~~as~~ a mute inglorious Milton with all ~~your~~ powers ^{in the an} embryonic stage. _{over undervalued, undervalued.}

Thirdly the phrase "the best possible schools". Here comes the opportunity of the State to plan and ~~be~~ equip school buildings in a congenial environment - a green setting with open views of fields and sky. Buildings and environs matter and matter enormously in ~~these times.~~ We are, like it or not, very apt to take our colour from our surroundings like the chameleon. I hear and now state my profound conviction to parents, to Governors, and the M.E.C. ~~and to others whom it may concern~~ that if this school had been lucky enough to have its £33,000 extensions in 1939, it would have undergone nothing short of a renaissance - a re-birth. Why am I so positive? Well, I have seen it happen elsewhere when a fortunate school has received a windfall in the shape of a substantial instalment of new buildings from a beneficent County Council.

Fourthly the phrase "for the longest possible time". The most conspicuous defect in our national education is WASTE particularly at that desperately important period of life - 14 to 18, when emotion rather than reason is at the helm. You might ~~also~~ ^{as} almost as well have a feeding system that stopped feeding its children at 14 or 15 as an educational system that stops there. The mind and the soul no less than the body requires feeding all through life. I have elsewhere quoted Dr. A. E. Morgan's scathing indictment when he says "we are as a community doing a wicked and profoundly stupid thing in allowing youth to come on the labour market before its time. British industry may be shaky but it will not be ruined by being deprived of the privilege to exploit half educated boys and girls." I also find that some parents are apt to look upon a girl's education as less vital than a boy's. Fathers in particular are fond of saying "I don't see why my daughter requires higher education; ~~look at the waste;~~ she goes to college and soon after leaving ~~marries.~~ What a wicked waste. What becomes of all her education? Ah! yes what! I ~~would~~ ^{would} briefly tell ~~you~~ ^{you} in one sentence - an educated mother in one generation means an educated family in the next.

You will have seen recently in the local press of the posthumous award of the M.C. to one of our old scholars. I should be lacking in the sense of the fitness of things - however pressing the time - did I make no mention of the cruel losses in the ranks of our Old Boys, ~~that we have sustained.~~ Our records show that ^{42.} Old Boys have made the supreme sacrifice. There is no scale by which we can measure losses like these, of great and varied gifts, of high hopes and promise, to their community and country and perhaps to civilization, who knows? The seed that might have yielded a great harvest has been destroyed. Yet we believe that They dying do LIVE. I daily ask myself who am I that I should go on living, breathing the bright air, enjoying the pleasures of life, when these young men have laid down their lives at the very outset of their careers, laid them down so very generously in order that the flame of freedom should not

modern Education

and
be quenched, that the pestilential flood of barbarism should be driven back from the shores of civilization. Our Glorious Dead will ask what are you going to make of our sacrifices? - What did we make of the sacrifices of those who died in the Great War and whose names are inscribed on the school Roll of Honour? We had the experience then, but did not learn the lesson. May we do something better this time to justify our survival. And let us also realize that winning the Peace will be no jot less arduous than winning the war for in very truth it is harder to make a good citizen than a good soldier and it is high time we realized that good citizens are not born, they are made.

Finally our objective should be in the words of John Oxenham:-

" To enforce and make secure a peace that shall endure
Safeguard it well lest once again this horror we endure
Bind all the peoples in a bond that nought can break or mar
And rid the world for ever of this feuld- foul red curse of war. "