

I wish first on behalf of staff and pupils of the school to voice a welcome to all our visitors, both on the platform and off it. A word Mr. Chairman to yourself. By again undertaking the Chairmanship of Southgate Education Committee you have yet further increased the debt of gratitude which the residents of the Borough owe to you for your public services. You and Mrs. Lauder are always assured of a warm welcome at Southgate County School.

This is the first time that the Borough Education Officer, Mr. Healey, has appeared on this platform. He takes up his duties at an interesting time in the history of education in Southgate, and we wish him success and satisfaction in his work.

Now for our chief guest. To-day we make history, for our chief guest on this Speech Day 1946 is a former pupil of the school, Mr. G. E. Lloyd Jacob. He finished his school career with a scholarship to East London College, but did not take it up as he left school for military service in the first world war. He was commissioned in the Royal Flying Corps and was wounded in 1917. After the war, he went to Christ Church, Oxford, and read Law. He practised at the bar from 1924, specializing in patents, trade marks and copyright. In 1938 he was appointed Junior Counsel to the Board of Trade in Patent matters. In the second world war he was honorary patents adviser to the Radio board, and Government representative attached to the British Embassy in Washington to negotiate matters arising from the Patent Interchange Agreement. This necessitated four visits to America. I have recently learnt that in his spare time he commanded an A.T.C. Squadron. Last year he attained the high distinction of becoming a K.C. He has often been a cheery visitor at old scholars gatherings. I know not to what height he may yet ascend but I assure him that those who knew him here will always hear of his success with interest and pleasure. I thank him for coming this afternoon.

Then I would draw your attention to another domestic feature this afternoon. If the principal speaker is an Old Boy then the other speakers are old parents, for Chairman, proposer of vote of thanks, and headmaster, have all had children at the school.

Now for some reference to our record.

Numbers. The number of pupils at present in the school is 607, 310 boys and 297 girls. We are not overcrowded Mr. Chairman, but we are full. There was again last year a large number of children qualifying for admission to a secondary grammar school and I was glad to be able to contribute to the problem of finding places for all of them by admitting four forms in September.

The number of pupils in our Sixth forms is 92, 57 in first year sixth forms and 35 in their second or third years.

Examination Results. In the General School Examination this year 85 pupils obtained the General School Certificate and 41 obtained exemption from Matriculation. Outstanding performances were those of Pyett who reached "Very Good" standard in seven subjects, and Bullen who did so in six subjects.

In the Higher School Examination, 33 candidates entered and 31 were successful, 19 in Science, 9 in Arts, and 3 in Commerce. On these results, three of our pupils qualified for State Scholarships. On two occasions since these Scholarships were instituted in 1920, we have obtained two of them, but this is the first time that three State Scholarships have been won here in one year. The three winners are Josephine Dolan, who will be entering the London School of Medicine for Women, to follow medicine as her career, John Pryke with the excellent performance of three "distinctions" and one "good" mark, who has elected to do his military service first and proceed to a University later, and Alan Eggleton with the even more outstanding result of "distinction" in each of his four subjects. Since Eggleton had already won in open competition a Royal Scholarship which is of equal value, the State Scholarship was not actually awarded to him. A fourth winner of distinction is John Bagg, who was awarded a Studentship at the Imperial College of Science. Eggleton and Bagg are now at the Imperial College, taking degree courses in Chemistry.

A London County Council Clerkship was won by John Wise, who was placed 11th in 100 candidates.

At the Royal Society of Arts and Pitmans examinations, taken by pupils after one year in our Six Commerce form, 14 certificates were obtained in Shorthand, 17 in Typewriting, 12 in Book-

Keeping, and 4 in Economic Theory.

Some of our pupils sent in essays in two competitions held in the borough during the year. Three won prizes for essays on "Safety First", while two girls won second and third prizes for essays on the United Nations Organization.

Sports and Games. All the games and sports of the school are in a healthy condition. The best performances were those of the 1st Hockey team which lost only one match, the one against the Old Girls, the 1st Tennis team who lost only one match, and that appropriately against the staff, the 1st Netball team which lost only one match; the 2nd tennis team which went through the season undefeated, the under 14½ football team which played 17 matches and lost only 5, and the first year swimmers who between them accumulated 70 certificates for distances from 25 yards to half a mile. Two of our boys, Clark and Dumayne, were chosen to be in the party of footballers, representative of North London Schools, which visited Norway in May.

Thanks may here be expressed to Miss Tofield for her vigorous and encouraging direction of the girls' games and to Mr. Johnston and Mr. Swire for their management of the football and cricket respectively, during the absence of the Games Master in the Army.

Clubs and Societies. These continue to flourish.

The Dramatic Society produced Thackeray's "The Rose and the Ring" last Spring, and hopes to be inviting your support for a production of "The Devil's Disciple" by Bernard Shaw next March.

The Orchestral Society will perform later this afternoon. I should like again to make another appeal to parents to do all they can to foster any musical talent their children may show and in particular encourage them to learn to play musical instruments. The school possesses a number of these, which can be loaned to pupils on condition that they have tuition in the playing of them.

The Art Club meets every week, and here special mention can be made of the excellent posters which appear whenever there is a call for them, and also of a group of pupils interested in puppetry who delighted audiences at the Christmas parties.

Discussion Society, Choral Society, Music Society, Chess Club, Table Tennis, Junior Dramatic Society, and a new one the Rhythm Club, all have their followers.

Dinners. The position here has improved. The Congregational Church Hall has been hired for serving school dinners, and by sending two parties there and having one here, all pupils who have asked for dinners, numbering 416, are now accommodated. A dining room is now in course of construction on the school field, and we are hoping it will be ready for occupation in a few months' time.

The increase in the number of children having dinners here has brought a new situation - over 400 children on the school premises throughout the mid-day interval. To meet this, various pastimes and recreations have been organized, for the organization and management of which, we are indebted to Mr. Knowles and Miss Jeans.

Staff. Of the five masters who were in the Forces, two had returned at this time last year. During the Spring Term the remaining three, Mr. Rolfe, Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Pratt were demobilised and in May we had a full staff.

During the year, three members of long service have retired. Last December Mr. Mayne retired after thirty-four years' service. In April Mr. Wardhaugh said goodbye to us. He had been appointed when the temporary boys' school was started in Broomfield House, and his years of service totalled thirty-nine.

To the great regret of us all Miss Burr resigned in the Spring, after 30 years service, on account of ill health. It was a great disappointment to me and to the rest of the staff that we prematurely lost her efficient work, her influence and her genial company.

To these long service colleagues we say thank you for all your service, and we wish you health and happiness for many years to come.

Mr. Toplis after eleven years, and Mr. Fawcett after thirteen years, left us when posts were offered to them near their homes. Miss Scott after two years preferred to return to a girls school, and Mr. Clamp after an all too short stay of one year, was appointed lecturer in Science at a new training college.

Seven departures. It may be true that there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out, but they are not always swimming off the end of the pier on the day you are fishing there, so I considered myself fortunate when all these vacancies were filled, and I started again in September with a full staff.

To fill these vacancies we have Mr. Warburton for French, Mr. Prichard for English, Mr. Gibbs for Chemistry, Mr. Robertson for Boys' Physical Training, Miss Davies for History, Miss Morris for Art and Miss Johnston for Mathematics and Science. We wish these newcomers happy and satisfying years here.

What of the future? In accordance with the 1944 Act, the Middlesex plan has been published within the last few months, and also the development proposals for Southgate. If these are realised, they will materially affect this school. It has been obvious for many years that this school is in need of extension. Plans for extension, consistent with the education policy of that time, were produced in 1939, but the outbreak of war cancelled all school building proposals and since then there has been a new Education Act. The 1939 plan necessitated encroachment on a field already too small, and though providing much needed amenities such as hall, gymnasium, staff rooms, secretary's room, changing rooms etc., yet would not have provided accommodation for more children. It is therefore proposed that, to enable us adequately to do our part in the education of the children of Southgate in accordance with the spirit of the new act, we be transferred to new buildings on a larger site where extension will be possible.

If and when new plans are put into effect, one reform will result which I for one will cordially welcome. It will then be possible to say that never again shall the type of education offered to a child, and therefore to a large extent the choice of career open to him, be finally and irrevocably determined, regardless of all other circumstances past present or future, by a few marks more or less, obtained at what has become in effect a competitive examination, taken at the tender age of 10 or 11. Never again shall parents and young children be caused weeks or even months of worry and anxiety in this matter when the examination time for entry to the grammar schools draws near. Never again shall it be possible for a young man to say, my brother got into the County School when he was eleven but owing to some accident or other I did not, so I never had his chance.

This does not mean identity of curriculum and syllabus for all. If some members of a large family can deal only with a light diet, it is foolish to restrict the whole family to Bengers food and dry toast, and also foolish to insist that the whole family shall partake liberally of roast beef and plum pudding.

So the educational fare offered must be varied to suit the intellectual and practical digestive powers of the pupils.

There is another matter of organization of the schools of the future, concerning which opinion must be formed and policy decided. Some planners wishing to secure equality of opportunity, visualise separate schools, with different specialisations, and large scale transference of pupils from school to school to meet different needs. I will not enlarge on this, but would like to register my opinion that children need stability and continuity in their school years, opportunities to form and develop loyalties and friendships, and it is greatly to be desired that the whole of a child's school life, after his transference from the primary to the secondary grade, should be spent in one school.

If the application of these ideas requires larger schools than the 500 to 600 size to which we have become accustomed, then larger schools there must be. Institutions are expressions of the ideas of their day. There is always a time lag of institutions behind the best thought, but the institutions do progress, and as after 1870 and after 1902, so again after 1944 the organization of the schools must be adapted to new social concepts and not be regarded as bound by the immutable education code of the Medes and Persians.

What will be the form of the Southgate County School of the future? I see it surrendering nothing, absolutely nothing, of what it has acquired, firmly retaining in all its fulness the whole of what has come to be known as its grammar school education for which it now stands, yet reaching out to a greater range of Southgate's children, and with enlarged equipment and varied syllabuses, giving to all, equal opportunity of discovering capacities and limitations, of discovering and developing talents of both head and hand.

This is at present but a vision of a promised land, which many of us here may see but will not enter, and we must get down to the stern realities of the here and now. The present generation must be educated with present equipment and facilities. Time and life do not stand still, and what ought to be done and is not done for children at the age of 11, often cannot be done for them when they are 16.

In conclusion I wish to pay a tribute to the work of all the staff. I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to my two chief assistants, Miss Jeans the Senior Mistress, and Mr. Knowles the Senior Master for their ever ready co-operation and support, to all the teaching staff for their excellent services in school hours and out of them, to the secretary, Mrs. Long, whose third headmaster as gladly acknowledges her worth as did her first and second, to Miss Dowsett who assists in the secretarial department, to the Caretaker, the Cook, and all the non-teaching workers. All have a vital part to play in the smooth and efficient working of this school, and with the continued co-operation of all, we may face the future with confidence.