

# Headmaster's Report

## Xmas 1931

In this my third annual review I am happy to be able to report a year of continued progress towards the realization of our ideals. At Southgate we have at least one of the fundamentals of greatness - aspiration. On these occasions there is a temptation to jubilate, to see things through rose-coloured spectacles. I will endeavour to avoid jubilation on the one hand and jobation on the other and to give you - narration: the plain unvarnished account of the year's work; postulating if I may that our achievement, however noteworthy, has fallen short of our desire. I have long held the view that a great deal of the education given in modern secondary schools is too heavily biassed on the academic side. In the house of secondary education there should be many mansions: too much of our education is the old three R's writ large. It is time the three H's were substituted for the three R's i.e. ~~the~~ education of the head, hand and heart, particularly the hand and heart. Had I been H.M.I. in charge of the recent Inspection of Southgate County School this term, I should have drawn the Headmaster's attention to two sentences of Robert Bridges. These are the two sentences:- "I too will something make; and joy in the making" and I would have suggested in my friendliest manner that therein was a solution for the more satisfactory development of some of the non-academic type of pupils in his school. It is positively easy for us to give information, it is comparatively rare for us to develop intelligence but it is superlatively necessary for us to train character. So much by way of self criticism.

Our numbers have been more than maintained; we commenced this school year with 512 pupils, 262 boys and 250 girls. Last year I noted that more pupils were staying on after taking matriculation in order to pursue one of the three Advanced Courses of our senior school but this year I also note with considerable misgiving that some parents are removing their children prematurely - that is before the age of 16. I do not wish to criticise their action as no

doubt it is prompted by the economic stress of the times but even so might I offer advice based on experience - the frantic haste of a boy to seize any little job immediately he is 16 is often unwise; not infrequently I find that in a short time either he has given it up or it has given him up. This does not happen to those who have the patience and perseverance to prepare themselves thoroughly. There is no lack of little jobs but a far wider range of possibilities is open to those who prepare adequately. A young plant which blooms too soon, in full growth is sickly and withered; or to change the figure - in school education we are laying the foundations for life's building - the foundations for a cathedral will need to go far deeper than those for a cottage. I need not labour the comparison. So much by way of advice.

I will pass briefly in review our academic record this year. In the Higher School Certificate Examination we presented 10 candidates and 8 passed, 5 of the 8 in addition gaining the Intermediate Certificate in Science and one passing in Part 1 of the Intermediate Certificate in Commerce. The 5 passing Inter. B.Sc. were G. S. Davis, J. D. Huffington, H. R. Hurd, A. H. Leckie and D. F. Spooner, and the one in Inter. Commerce - Nancy Alexander. This year we did not present any candidates for the Intermediate Certificate in Arts. 94 candidates were presented for the General School Examination and 81 passed, 5 in Honours and there were 81 Distinctions in individual subjects. Last year I mentioned that 7 Distinctions were gained by Joan Ennals, this year the highest number of Distinctions gained by any one pupil was 6 and this by Margaret Bennett. In addition 15 candidates sat for the School Commercial Certificate, all passed, 4 in Honours. There were 40 new matriculation certificates gained this year. In June and July of this year 119 pupils, that was approximately 25% of the whole school were sitting for University Examinations.

University Examinations.

May I give preliminary notice that we hope to arrange next year for post-general school and matriculation pupils a special one year course on commercial lines, the curriculum to include English and Mathematics, Spanish, French, Economics, Geography, Accounting and Business Methods, Shorthand and Typewriting. This course is to meet the need of those who ~~have~~ obtained the minimum qualification, that is the general school certificate, and who cannot stay the full two years necessary to complete one of our three Advanced Courses in preparation for the Higher School Certificate, are desirous of taking up a commercial or secretarial career.

The list of pupils who have gone from the school during the year to pursue higher studies is given on the back page of your programme, together with the list as far complete as we have been able to make it, of the successes gained by Old Pupils during 1930 - 1931. The Church, the Law, Teaching, Medicine, Architecture, Accounting and Banking, Engineering and Estate Management each of these professions is there represented.

Now to a most important aspect of our school activities the corporate and social life of the school. In the school games cricket, football, tennis, hockey, netball, the various teams have acquitted themselves adequately. The cricket elevens this year had the benefit of professional coaching from the Kent County Colt - Mr. Whitelaw - and last year's triumph of the parents was short lived for the boys this year in their annual encounter overwhelmed both the parents and the staff and made no mistake about the result. The Fairfield Rose Bowl for Tennis has a temporary lodgment - for this year only - with our friendly rivals at Minchenden. In Swimming the girls won the Junior Shield at the North Middlesex Secondary Schools Gala held at Barrowell Green Open Air Baths last July. The outstanding success gained for the school at the Inter-Schools athletic meeting at Stamford Bridge was that of W. Slate

who established a new record for the Junior High Jump, clearing 5' 1". Certificates of merit were awarded to J. D. Huffington (Senior Long Jump and High Jump), A. Owers (Junior 220 yards and Relay), S. Calcraft (Junior 440 yards), D. Davis (Junior Relay), G. Latham (Junior Relay), W. Slate (Junior High Jump, Long Jump, and Relay).

The various school societies have continued to flourish. The Debating Society's meetings have been full of vitality and originality. At the beginning of the winter session an offer of a wireless set to broadcast for the society the B.B.C's introductions to debates was rejected with scorn - the society preferred to make its own programme.

The Verse Speaking Choir won for the second time the Silver Cup at the Enfield Musical Festival, and at the Guildhouse Musical Festival obtained an Honours Certificate for Choral Speaking.

The Dramatic Society. Three proficiency certificates for drama were gained by the society at the Guildhouse Musical Festival and certain members of the society have been busy this term rehearsing the play which is to be presented to-night. This young society is ambitious to produce a three act play and has given notice that it is not prepared to play second fiddle indefinitely to the Operatic Society. I foresee a considerable degree of diplomacy will be needed to accommodate the rival claims of these two school societies.

The Orchestral Society has been re-inforced by additional string, woodwind, and brass instruments thanks to last year's gift of £14 from the Parents and Staff Association, enabling us to purchase second-hand instruments - cello, viola, two clarinets, a flute and a cornet. The Orchestra now is a very workmanlike team, and as they can now blow their own trumpet there is no need for me to do it for them.

One innovation of interest was the inter-house musical competition held in July for the S. B. Walter Gay Silver Cup. Dr. Harold Watts adjudicated upon programmes presented by the four school

houses and after a very close struggle the Cup went to the White House. This inter-house musical competition will be an annual event in the summer term.

The Operatic Society in March produced Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera the Mikado in aid of the Memorial Scholarship Fund and we then realized a net profit of £85. £100 was the sum we anticipated we might make, and our Senior Mistress, Miss Barham, in order that we should not be disappointed voluntarily set herself the task of producing a school quotation calendar for 1932. Over 400 copies of this have been sold and copies may still be obtained from Miss Barham, price 2/6d or 2/8d post free. Up to date £16 profit has been made so this year's contribution towards the required £1500 is - £85 plus £16 equals £101. The Memorial Scholarship Fund at the present time stands at £318. 7. 10. One Old Boy who last year sent 10/- has this year contributed a further 5/- as he says in a letter to me "to celebrate his good fortune in being placed first at a recent University Examination. Next March the society hopes to present Gilbert & Sullivan's opera the Gondoliers on the four evenings, March 15th, 16th, 18th and 19th and here I should like to thank the Parents and Staff Association for their gift of £6 towards carrying out the alterations necessary to make it at all possible for the society to produce the Gondoliers on this stage. Some day we may have a Hall and stage adequate to our needs. Judging from the paid-up membership, the two Old School Societies, that is the Old Boys and the Old Girls are both in a flourishing condition - Old Boys greater than 200 and Old Girls <sup>just under 200</sup> more than 160 whilst the Parents and Staff Association has a membership of over 300.

I have left our interchange with the Oberrealschule of Berlin-Steglitz to the last because to my mind it is the most important educational experience of the school year. The idea was Mr. Farnsworth's, and his disappearance on the arrival of our visitors cast a cloud over the school. We all felt and still feel

the effects of that severance for Mr. Farnsworth was loved and respected by us all. Thanks to the indefatigable labours of Studienrat Herf Salewsky who was in charge of the German party we were able to carry on and bring to a successful issue the programme mapped out for the months of July and August. May I refer those of you who may be interested in this interchange to the school magazine wherein further details may be found. Here, it must suffice to say that our boys received at the hands of their hosts the greatest consideration and kindness. As a reliable criterion of the mutual appreciation of the interchange 10 out of the 15 couples that participated, before leaving Berlin, fixed up a private unofficial interchange for next year. On the occasion of the last school celebration arranged in our honour, Dr. Pann, the Headmaster, presented us with the complete edition in 4 volumes of the Folk Songs of Germany as a souvenir of the first interchange between the two schools. I firmly believe that this interchange will be of lasting benefit; the boys were in the truest sense ambassadors of their respective countries and they learned to understand and respect one another and established what may well be life-long friendships. If education is to help to mend the world the coming generation must realize that civilization is a collective achievement and a common responsibility and that an intelligent knowledge of other countries and other peoples is an essential part of the equipment of the modern citizen.

The Staff. We have welcomed to Southgate since last Speech Day Miss Tippett's successor, Miss Winifred Slee M.Sc. Durham University and Mr. J. R. Hands B.A. Cambridge University who has taken over Mr. Farnsworth's work; they are both doing valuable work and ~~we~~ are very decided acquisitions to an excellent staff. We hope they will long remain with us.

In conclusion it remains for me to thank the Governors for the deep interest they take at all times in the welfare of the school; I am particularly indebted to our Chairman whose advice and counsel throughout the year has been invaluable. He has indeed been for me a very present help in time of trouble. To my colleagues on the Staff, and my Secretary, my sincerest thanks for their splendid support and unswerving loyalty. One remark made by H.M.I. in charge of the General Inspection of the school recently carried out by the Board of Education gave me the greatest possible pleasure - please do not think it was the only pleasant remark made during the Inspection - the remark was "Mr. Headmaster you have a very loyal staff". Those who know me will be disappointed unless they have the inevitable quotation. Here it is:- John Masefield recently wrote:-

"All things longed for in youth  
Beautiful things of truth  
Are found before we die  
If we but try."

We of Southgate School are trying.

December 1931.