

Headmaster's Report.
Southgate County School.
Dec. 1933.

I have the honour to-night of presenting to you my fifth Annual Report. Some time ago Mr. Chairman you said that we had the reputation of being a very modest school, well on their own merits modest schools are dumb - with one single exception - Speech Days then the Headmaster is given poetic licence to trumpet forth in no uncertain manner his school successes. On this occasion you would be disappointed if I neglected to show you what an exemplary school we are.

We commenced this term with 513 pupils on the roll, and since then 17 pupils have left to take up situations and there are still several who are continuing their studies meanwhile awaiting suitable openings. Owing to the economic situation we have had more difficulty this year in placing our leavers, this despite the best endeavours of the school authorities, the Employment Bureaus (Headmasters, Headmistresses and Local). May I say that I am always glad to discuss with parents the question of careers for their boys and girls and further I would ask employers who have posts to fill to communicate with me. I will give them full information about suitable candidates and will do my utmost to find them pupils best suited for their requirements. Whilst on the subject of careers I think that Francis Bacon is in many ways a better guide than many of our modern psycho analysts. He writes "let parents choose be- times the vocation and course they mean their children should take for then they are most flexible and let them not too much apply them- selves to the disposition of their children as thinking they will take best to that which they have most mind to. It is true that if the affection or aptness of the children be extraordinary then it is good not to cross them, but generally, says Bacon, the precept choose what is best habit will make it easy and pleasant is a good one." May I make three comments upon this quotation. Comment No. 1. Note in the first place that it is the parent and not the schoolmaster that makes the choice. In these days the schoolmaster is too much in loco parentis and although there are quite enough societies at present I personally think Mr. Chairman that there is just room for one more and that is the S.P.C.S. - the society for the prevention of cruelty to schoolmasters. Comment No. 2. That in the majority of cases it should be the parent and not the child that chooses the career the only exception being when the child has very pronounced aptitude or ability. Comment No. 3. Passing whims and transitory fancies are generally disregarded by the wise parent - we all know how Tommy is considered a born engineer because he is fond of fiddling about with his Meccano but later on when it is too late to remedy we find that Tommy has only to look at a machine for it to go wrong. The most troublesome cases both for parents and school- masters are those of pupils who on attaining leaving age do not know what career to take up and who have no decided preferences. The misfits in life are not so much round pegs in square holes and vice versa as small pegs in big holes and vice versa, but after all the peg metaphor is inappropriate and wooden when applied to human beings whose essential characteristics are growth and adaptability. I am old fashioned enough to hold that for the majority of boys who have not been favoured with extraordinary endowments - and I came well inside that category when a boy and am still in the same category as a man - the best course is for the parent to make the choice. I speak from experience for my father's choice for me was that of a schoolmaster, my choice was - well something very different - con- sequently my first headmaster's report which I have to-day was not at all flattering, in fact he questioned my aptitude for the teaching profession. The fact of the matter was I did not want to be a schoolmaster but seeing that my father was adamant on the matter like a sensible fellow I got down to it adapted myself to my environ- ment, collected a modicum of knowledge and teaching technique, dis- ciplined my temper - which then was very uncertain and which now is so mild that at times I am astounded at my own moderation - and so by the end of my apprenticeship that same headmaster was the first to acknowledge that his original judgment was premature.

I regret that our various Sixth Forms are in some cases not as large as last year - for a boy who can stay on even if only for an extra year the most valuable part of his education begins in the Sixth Form where working more independently and under less continuous supervision he has the opportunity of acquiring a habit of self-reliance, a sense of responsibility and a wider outlook. As Commentator says in the current School Magazine "In pre-General School days pupils are necessarily tethered so that they may crop closely over a circumscribed area of the fields of knowledge, but in post-General School days the tether is lengthened - but not indefinitely - so that they may the more leisurely browse bask, and it is hoped ultimately become mature scholars." I think that without exception if I were to ask our pupils who stay the whole course which were the most profitable - and incidentally the most pleasureable - years of their school life, the unanimous verdict would be the year or years spent in the Sixth Form. One point before leaving this topic. I find that some parents are under the impression that an Award gained by their boy or girl automatically stops at the age of 16. This is not so; the Award may be held subject to a satisfactory report of conduct and progress until the age of 18 plus.

In reviewing the past year's Examination results I will deal first with the General School. During the School Year 1932 - 1933 - 85 candidates were presented, 75 passed and there were 10 failures. 45 obtained Matriculation Certificates; there were 58 Distinctions and 14 Special Credits in the Oral Examination and 3 Honours Certificates. These results are below last year's record of 107 General Schools and 67 Matriculation Certificates but are well up to our average attainment. On the other hand the results of the different Sixth Forms in the Higher Schools Examinations are more varied than last year. In this school we have 5 post-General School Groups. Group 1 - Arts. 2 candidates were successful in Higher School and one obtained the Intermediate B.A. with Special Credit in Oral French. Group 2 - Science. 5 passed Higher Schools and 4 of these gained in addition Intermediate B.Sc., Certificates. J. F. Hughes had 3 Distinctions - Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Chemistry - and it is safe to say that had he been proceeding to a University he would have been awarded a State Scholarship. P. G. Walsh gained 2 Distinctions - Pure and Applied Mathematics. I should like to mention here that N. L. Spoor who last year gained his Inter. B.Sc. at school soon after leaving won an Entrance Scholarship in Chemistry to the Royal College of Science. Group 3 - Commerce. 3 candidates were successful in gaining Higher Certificates and 2 gained exemption from the Intermediate Bachelor of Commerce - S. F. Ingle and Dorothy Smart. The third candidate passed Part 1 of the Intermediate Certificate in Commerce. This is the first occasion on which pupils of this school have passed the full Intermediate Bachelor of Commerce. Dorothy Smart has the distinction of being the first girl of the school and S. F. Ingle the first boy. Group 4 - Commerce. Those taking our one year course. In July we completed the first year of this special course for those able to stay one year only after passing General Schools or Matriculation. This course is designed for business and industry and the curriculum includes Shorthand, Typewriting, Spanish, French and English, Accounting, Economics, Economic History and Geography. The examination is an internal one with the exception of Shorthand and in this subject 14 candidates gained Pitmans Shorthand Speed Certificates at 50 and 60 words per minute. Certificates of merit were granted to those who obtained 5 credits - that is a minimum of 50%. In granting this (Southgate County Commercial Certificate) I believe we are pioneers so far as Middlesex Secondary Schools are concerned. Group 5 - The Specials - pupils working on individual time-tables and requiring special tuition. In this group the outstanding results were those of B.D. Stutter who was successful with his First M.B. A. V. Austen who passed Part 1 of the Pre-Medical Examination of the Royal College of

Physicians and the London and Royal College of Surgeons England. R. P. Dell who gained his Inter. B.Sc. Engineering. In the Clerical Officers Examination of the Civil Service since my last Report the following have been successful:- Grace Baldwin, A.J. Mills, Mary Norman and R. Shearer (1932) and recently Daisy Ashton, N. Wright, Phyllis Wright, Marian Woollaston. Of these Mary Norman was 36th, Shearer 38th, and Mills 44th out of 3,241 candidates. This year Marian Woollaston was 24th out of 750 successful candidates. I should like to mention here the special award given by the Town Clerk, A. E. Lauder Esq., for the best Essay on "What the Charter means to Southgate" competed for by all the schools of Southgate, Elementary and Secondary. This was gained by M. W. Seppings of this school.

The list of pupils who have gone from this school during the year to pursue Higher Studies is given on the back page of your programme together with a list so far complete as we have been able to make it of the successes gained by Old Pupils during 1932/33. My friend, the Historian F. S. Marvin, in his recent book "The National at School" says that the most successful school educationally is the one that annually produces the largest crop of learners - those who keep on keeping on. If this be so we may claim to be in the list of successful schools. I would draw your attention to the variety of careers chosen by ex pupils of this school.

Passing on to Sports and Games. The Annual Athletic Sports in July there were 4 new school records established on the boys' side. 200 yards Open S. Calcraft 24.2 seconds; 200 yards under 16, D. Dyer 24.2 secs. 200 yards Junior B. Benger 24.8 secs. 120 yards Hurdles G. Renvoize 18.2 secs. The Victor Ludorum was S. Calcraft; The Junior Cup was won by B. Benger; the A. T. Warren Cup was awarded to D. Miller and the Old Boys' Race was again won by J. G. Stubbs. On the girls' side the Senior Games Shield was won for the second time by the White House who also won the A. T. Warren Challenge Cup, the Red House taking the Junior Games Cup. Championship Cups for the highest individual aggregates were won by Lorna Ray, Joyce Brown, Mavis Gay, Isobel Murray and Vera Patrick.

At the Annual Swimming Gala the White House carried off both the Boys and the Girls Cups. We must congratulate the White House on their unique record. Last year was their annus mirabilis for they were first in the Inter-House Musical Festival, Athletic Sports, Swimming, Hockey, Netball and Tennis. Congratulations to the White House and to their Captain, Lena Chivers. The Victor Natationis was D. Gray and the Victrix Natationis was Joyce Glasgo.

At the North Middlesex Swimming Gala at Wood Green Baths the senior girls team were runners up for the Shield being one point behind the winners - Hornsey County School and at the combined Secondary Schools Gala at Westminster the girls were placed third. Unfortunately at the Broomfield Swimming Gala, Southgate County was the only entry so that the cup and medals gained represent merely a swim over.

The Boys Football and Cricket seasons were in both cases "mixed successes" calling for no special comment on my part. At Cricket the parents again won their annual encounter with the schools First Eleven but the boys sought their revenge at the expense of the Staff whom they defeated by a large margin. J. F. Hughes scored a century at the expense of the Staff's bowlers. Before quitting the physical side of our education I will again voice my annual plaint to the Governors - we sorely need (1) a properly equipped pavilion; (2) a gymnasium; (3) Hard Tennis Courts of our own

School Societies. The School Operatic Society now has to its credit 4 Gilbert and Sullivan productions, - Iolanthe, Mikado, Gondoliers and the Pirates of Penzance, and as a result of its efforts has since 1929 added £81, £85, £93 and £76. 10. 0d. = £335. 10. 0d. to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. When we took over this fund in 1929 it stood at £134. 9. 3d., since then £418.18.6d has been added so that the present total stands at £552. 7. 9d. £400 of this is invested in $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ War Loan. Annually two awards of £10 each are made from the fund and these amounts will be enlarged as the interest on the capital increases. It is very gratifying to find that contributions come in occasionally from Old Scholars. A few weeks ago I had a letter from an Old Boy enclosing a cheque for Two Guineas to celebrate his success in passing the B.Sc. in Honours. We have set our hands to the task of raising £1500 and we do not propose to take our hands from the plough unless some one comes along and offers us the money for our two annual scholarships. I mention this because some time back I had the privilege of being present at the annual Prize Giving of a neighbouring school. One of the best of the Middlesex Secondary Schools in fact Mr. Chairman I might say the second best, and mention was made of providing an open-air bath for the two Southgate Secondary Schools. "We want a bath" said more than one speaker and it was hinted that the schools should help to find the money. Well however badly we need this bath I think we need still more these leaving scholarships.

To return to the Operatic Society, next March on 20th, 21st 23rd and 24th, we hope to produce Gilbert & Sullivan's Yeomen of the Guard. This will tax all our resources, as admittedly it is the most difficult demanding as it does for its successful production accomplished singing and mature acting. These annual productions are only made possible by the excellent team work of the Staff and we are extremely fortunate in having a producer of the excellence of Mr. Knowles.

The Dramatic Society under the enthusiastic guidance of Mrs. Polishuk did extremely well at the Enfield Musical Festival. In the Shakespeare Class 7 groups were entered. D. Miller was placed first in the senior class and Form 4 was awarded an Honours Certificate. To-night the fairy play is by the Junior Section of the Dramatic Society. Here may I interpolate a criticism. The Dramatic Society wished to produce the whole of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream but the response from the senior boys was inadequate and the scheme had to be abandoned - one word to those boys; a boy who comes to school merely to receive instruction or merely to have a better chance of securing a good post later is not getting full value from his education. Full advantage should be taken of opportunities afforded; our efforts are stultified if they are not adequately supported. On the social and corporate side of the school a boy gets out of his school very much what he puts into it and I would urge parents to encourage boys to take their full part in the school life.

The Orchestral Society under the leadership of Mr. Smith has rendered the school valuable service on many occasions; Morning Assembly, Speech Days and at the productions of the Dramatic Societies of both the School and the Old Scholars Associations. In the Orchestral Society at the moment there are vacancies for learners of the following instruments:- Flute, Viola, Double Bass. I hope that parents will encourage such of their children as are musically minded to become makers of music - not hearers only. The instruments are loaned to the pupils for the term of their school life. All we ask is that the pupils shall receive adequate tuition for which the parent has the privilege of paying. I know of no more engrossing and harmless

hobby for one's leisure hours than music. Once the rudiments are mastered the accomplishment becomes a life-long possession a joy for ever. Those who have not experienced the thrill of team work in orchestral playing have missed one of the joys of life; listening to machine-made music - of the gramophone and wireless variety - is no substitute for making a joyful noise oneself.

Last July the third Inter-House Musical Competition was adjudicated by Dr. Harold Watts and the Walter Gay Challenge Cup was awarded to the White House with 80%; Green and Black Houses came 2nd with 77%; Blue third with 73% and Red fourth with 70%.

The chief excursions of the year have been two. 1. Botanical expedition to Wells at Whitsun of a party of 18 senior girls under the leadership of Miss Slee. (2) Visit of senior girls last Easter to the Benedictine Convent at Bayeux under the leadership of Miss House. I am sorry to report that the proposed interchange with the Oberrealschule at Steglitz on the lines of our 1931 interchange did not materialise.

Old Scholars Associations. The re-organization scheme mentioned in my last Report has been a pronounced success and the Old Boys Association is now a vigorous body. The recently formed tennis section is a very welcome addition and the football club with its three elevens in the Secondary Schools league represents a further advance on last year's effort. Before long it is hoped to form an Old Girls Hockey Club. The Old Scholars Dramatic Society successfully produced their first play last January and next February they are to give us Ian Hay & Wodehouse's "Leave it to Psmith". A full account of the of the activities of both sections of the Old Scholars Associations will be found in the current issue of the School Magazine.

Before my next annual Report is presented it is probable that the two sections of the Old Scholars Ass. will have amalgamated. F-

I have again to thank the Parents and Staff Ass. for the lively interest it takes in all our school activities. The Association's latest gift to the school is a carpet for our platform.

Here I will acknowledge my indebtedness to the Governors for the support they have given me and for the keen interest they take in this school. I am particularly indebted to our Chairman; if I may say so in your presence Mr. Chairman you have many excellent qualities but to my mind the outstanding one is staunchness or stickability. Once our Chairman sets his hand to the plough only an earthquake will move him and I may say of him as Longfellow said of John Endicott "he is a man who is not afraid to say his say though a whole town is against him." Last Speech Day he said we should have our Pavilion; it has not arrived yet but I am confident it will come. To every one of my colleagues for their loyal assistance - in the classroom, in the games, and in the various school activities I tender my cordial thanks. The success of a school must ultimately depend very largely on the loyalty, efficiency, enthusiasm, mutual co-operation and forbearance of the Staff and I would express to them and I particularly mention the Senior Mistress, Miss Barham, the Senior Master, Mr. Auger, and my Secretary Mrs. Long - my appreciation and I am sure your appreciation of the work they have done for the school and of their devotion to its interests. I have to record one change on

the Staff. Mr. Hands left us last term to take up duties at Stowe Public School. This was a promotion for Mr. Hands and I think that when a Public School of the standing of Stowe finds it necessary to recruit its staff at our expense, we may also regard it as an honour for the school. I should like to pay tribute to the work of Mr. Hands during his short stay of two years. Thoroughness characterized all his work and he gave very valuable service to the Operatic Society. We welcome our new Master Mr. Fawcett from Durham University who has taken over the physical training and games of the boys and who promises to be a very decided acquisition to the Staff.

Owing to the unfortunate length of my Report the little homily I had promised myself must be omitted and indeed I fear it would be superfluous for on reading through this Report I find that advice suspiciously like sermonising bulks very largely therein and did I persist in my original intention I should lay myself open to a similar rebuke to that administered by Charles Lamb to Coleridge. You will remember Coleridge said to Lamb "Charles did you ever hear me preach"? My Myadear Coleridge came the swift reply I am sorry to say that I have never heard you do anything else.~~but~~

But if you will allow me in conclusion to re-state the aim of this school and you will see that the more it changes the more it remains the same. We read in Eccles. 4.12. "A threefold cord is not quickly broken". The threefold cord we are endeavouring to weave in this school has as its constituent parts (1) A well disciplined body; (2) a well stocked and well trained mind; (3) a sound healthy character.