

In setting out to write my eighth annual Report I determined that on this occasion I would emulate Peter Bell to whom you will recollect

"A primrose by a river's brim
A yellow primrose was to him
And it was nothing more"

and make my Report a Report, and nothing more, it should be - sans admonition, sans fatherly advice, sans lay sermonising and sans educational theorizing. Well - the discipline has been salutary, but as I proceed you may discover minor lapses here and there - such is the tyranny of habit. It may be in the near future Headmaster's reports will take the form of a film thrown upon the screen - for preference a silent film - featuring the principal activities of the school year. The thin end of the wedge has been introduced in the cinema record made for us by Mr. Paull of some of the outstanding athletic and travel events of the last school year. This film was shown at the Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Staff Association in October and was much appreciated by all who saw it.

We started the term with 542 pupils, 298 boys and 244 girls. The problem of overcrowding is still with us, but I see a glimmer of light on the distant horizon, the barometer is now I believe set fair, and we trust that no depression financial or otherwise will cause our hopes to be further deferred, and that "anon out of the earth a fabric huge will rise like an exhalation".

Examination results for the past year - 1935 - 36 have been once again highly satisfactory both in the General and in the Higher School. Lest I be thought to be unduly prejudiced the previous sentence is taken from the annual report submitted by the examiners of the University of London. During the Year 107 candidates were presented for the General School Examination; 97 passed and 10 failed, 53 gained exemption from matriculation. This year the University Authorities in their unwisdom - as I think - decided to do away with honours and distinctions. Two performances of

outstanding merit in this examination were those of Olive Bayley with 7 Very Goods - the present equivalent of distinction - and that of D. Vandenberg also with 7 Very Goods.

In the Higher School Examination 7 candidates sat in the Science group, all passed, and 5 gained the Intermediate B.Sc. Certificate. There were 5 distinctions in Mathematics: Two of the Science candidates have been awarded State Scholarships by the Board of Education. The successful students were Joan Evans who in addition was awarded the Arnott Science Scholarship tenable at Bedford College, London. The other State scholar was J. D. W. Janes.

At first I thought that two State Scholarships in one year was a record for us, but the Honours Board shows that in 1920 Jessie Butterworth and B. D. Edwards each gained a State Scholarship. Alas! in the words of the Red Queen "one has to do a lot of running to stay in the same place" particularly when the pace set by one's predecessor is a strenuous one. But I will not be denied my record, since 1932 the school has won eight major scholarships, by that I mean scholarships of the value of £80 per annum for 3 years and this eight includes five State Scholarships. A record unequalled in the school's history. A word on the value of these State Scholarships which are the hall-mark of secondary school academic achievement. At their maximum value they are worth £240 together with tuition and maintenance in the case of necessity.

In the Commerce Group two candidates sat, both passed the Higher School, and one C. D. Tosh, gained Intermediate B.Com. Certificate. A very commendable achievement. This examination is a severe test for the subjects of the examination are difficult ones for young people to tackle; they are more easily compassed by more experienced and maturer minds.

In the Arts Group Joan Appleby completed her Intermediate Bachelor of Arts. I should here like to put on record the generosity of the Priscilla Ingram Trust in making a grant to this student of £100 in order that she might enter

Whitelands College and thus fulfil her ambition to enter the teaching profession. May I remind parents to bear in mind the possibility of help from this fund in case of need, as well as the better known awards granted by the Middlesex Education Committee, and our own Memorial Scholarship Fund. For the possibility of such financial assistance may be the deciding factor when they are deliberating whether to allow their children to remain at school for our Higher Courses which prepare pupils for ^{the} University and the more ambitious careers. Whilst on the subject of examinations I would add that this year our post-General School Commercial Form in addition to the ordinary time-table subjects will be taking the Royal Society of Arts Examinations in Book-Keeping, Commerce, and Economics, together with Pitman's Shorthand. These subjects along with the training in Touch Typewriting should give those pupils who intend to take up a commercial career a good foundation. You are all familiar by now with my oft repeated conviction that serious education at this school really begins when the General Schools or the Matriculation, as the case may be, has been successfully passed. The preliminary years here are formative and disciplinary, and the post-General School years are those of vital importance for the ambitious student. Parents may think that this is a hard saying but it is worthy of their serious consideration.

Coming now to the corporate life of the school, the Athletics, Games, and Sport, are in a healthy and vigorous condition and when we get our new Gymnasium and Pavilion we shall look for still greater activities in these essential features of school life. Those parents and friends who took the opportunity of being present at our recent Drill Display organized by Miss Simmonds and Mr. Fawcett will know that we are not neglecting the physical side of our pupils education. I am adopting a suggestion made at the Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Staff Association that a certificate be granted to all pupils on leaving

showing the athletic record for the whole of their school career. This certificate, however, will not be given automatically, it will be necessary to make application for it when the pupil is leaving. I do not wish to comment in detail on the Games and Sports as full particulars may be found in the current issue of the school magazine but I may mention that three new records were made at the School Sports last July. These were the 1 mile open 5 mins.; $\frac{1}{2}$ mile open 2 mins. 11 secs. both by Charrot; and the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Junior 2 mins. 19 secs. by R. Ward. The school performance last year at the Middlesex Secondary School Sports was very creditable. We were second out of 35 for the Junior Shield; 9th equal out of 25 for Field Events, and 13th out of 34 for the Bowlos Cup. The 2 Cups bought with the legacy of £10 made by the late Mr. S.B. Walter Gay for Physical Training, one for the Girls and one for the Boys, have stimulated the rivalry of the different houses. The thanks of the school are specially due to Miss Simmonds, Mr. Wardhaugh, Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Armstrong in connection with the Sports and Athletics.

The Operatic Society's production of H.M.S. Pinafore last March added £71 to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Seven Gilbert & Sullivan productions, Iolanthe, Mikado, Gondoliers, The Pirates, Yeomen, Ruddigore, and Pinafore, have been given since 1931. £559 - an average of approximately of £80 per annum has been added to the Memorial Scholarship Fund by the efforts of this society alone. The fund now stands at £771 and since my last Report a further £100 of War Stock has been purchased, making £700 now invested. The interest from this fund is annually awarded to scholars leaving the school to pursue courses in furtherance of their education. I have to record with gratitude two recent gifts to this fund - a grant of £17. 2. 4d. from the Parents and Staff Association and that of Five Pounds from a generous parent. For the present year

the Operatic Society is imitating Tom Sawyer. You will recollect that he hid himself under the table and kept as quiet as a mouse thinking that thus he might be able to hear the kind things that his aunt would say about him when she thought that he was lost. This is the Society's "Grace Year" and the privilege of raising funds for the Memorial Scholarship is being shouldered by the Dramatic Society. In March next they hope to present "Emil and the Detectives" which play I am told is full of interest and devastatingly funny. We wish them success and assure them that they can rely upon the same whole-hearted support that the Staff and School have always given to the Operatic Society. I must pay my annual tribute to the members of the Operatic Society, to the Staff, and the Producer, Mr. Knowles, for all their devoted labours.

The Dramatic Society under the enthusiastic guidance of Mrs. Pole has had a very successful year. Their outstanding successes at the Enfield Festival were :- the Silver Cup awarded to the Girls' Choir and the Challenge Cup won by members of the Dramatic Society for their presentation of a scene from Shaw's "Saint Joan".

The Orchestral Society has again rendered the school yeomen service. Our cordial thanks are given to its Conductor, Mr. Smith. I have several instruments in the Study awaiting learners - a pair of Clarinets, a Cornet, a Flute, 'Cello, and a Violin. Parents little know the pleasure they are denying their musical offspring and themselves - ultimately - by not encouraging their children to take up and master a musical instrument. The Pundits tell us that "music is the only pleasure given to man to which no pain or penalty is attached". Of course this presupposes a certain mastery and skill. The Sixth Inter-House Musical Festival was this year adjudicated by Madam Elsie Duniam-Jones. The winning House was White. This is the fourth time that this House has carried off this trophy.

The year's excursions were three in number. (1) the fifth annual visit at Whitsuntide of a party of senior Girls under the leadership of Miss Slec to Wells for Field Botany.

(2) the visit of 23 boys to Belgium organized by Mr. Knowles who was accompanied by Mr. Paul. I strongly recommend parents to take advantage of these organized tours to the Continent. They are admirable in every way and a necessary part of a generous education. Provisional arrangements are being made for a tour to Switzerland for next August. Full details will be available at a later date. (3) French Holiday Course at Eastbourne last Easter, arranged by our Senior French Mistress, Miss House. I here give preliminary notice of a proposed interchange with our German friends of the Oberrealschule at Berlin-Steglitz in July - August 1937, on similar lines to our 1931 interchange. This is being organized by our new German Master, Mr. Rolfe.

Old Scholars' Association. This year is the jubilee of the Old Scholars' Association and we wish to celebrate this event by raising £100 as a nucleus for a Ground Equipment Fund, in order that a good start may be made next Spring when the Association's new ground will be officially opened. I appeal to all old scholars to show their gratitude for what the school has done for them by sending along their donations to the Secretary, to the Vice-President to my predecessor, Mr. Warren, or to myself. May I say how grateful I am to the Southgate Borough Council and in particular to the Parks Committee and its Chairman for their work in connection with our Sports Ground. True there have been delays and disappointments but all's well that ends well. I predict that once the Association is safely lodged in its new home that the future will be full of great things, both for the Association and the School. We now need a large influx of new members both to the parent association and the subsidiary clubs - Tennis, Hockey, Badminton, Netball, Football, Cricket and Dramatic. Join on leaving school; no friendships are sweeter than those made at school and carried along through life. This section of my Report would be incomplete without

an appreciation of the excellent work of the officers of the Association and in particular to its Vice-President, Mr. C.J.R. Allen and its Secretary, Clifford Dean.

Staff. In the Spring Term of this year we were sorry to lose the services of our German Master, Mr. H. V. Groves, who forsook the teaching profession for more remunerative work. Mr. J. Rolfe B.A., was appointed to succeed him and we hope he will be faithful to his first love, teaching, and not be lured away from the noblest of professions and sorriest of trades. At midsummer Mr. E. Hunt resigned after serving this school devotedly and efficiently for 26 years. The severance was keenly felt both by the school and Mr. Hunt. We miss his genial, kindly, and obliging personality but we still have the double pleasure of seeing him with us occasionally and of knowing that he is in good health enjoying a well earned retirement. In September we welcomed Mr. R. E. T. Pratt, who came to us from Oakwood Senior School to take up the post relinquished by Mr. Hunt. I compliment him when I say that he is following in his predecessors footsteps.

My best thanks are offered to our Chairman, Mr. County Councillor Robert Grant, and to the Governors of the School for their enthusiastic support at all times, and more particularly do we thank them for their recent efforts to expedite matters in connection with our new Hall and Gymnasium. If the path comes, can the Hall be far behind?

To every one of my colleagues on the Staff my sincerest thanks, in particular to the Senior Mistress, Miss Barham, the Senior Master, Mr. Auger, and to my Secretary, Mrs. Long, my deep gratitude for their splendid support and unswerving loyalty.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I trust I have not given you the impression in this Report that the year's work has been "one grand sweet song" rather would I have you infer that we are progressing towards our goal with the inevitability of gradualness.

December 1936.