

In making my ninth annual Report I am going to behave as I did when a little boy - eat my cake first and leave the bread and butter until last. My slice of cake which I am generous enough to share with you is this:- In the not too distant future these school buildings are to be re-conditioned, renovated, and in large measure re-built. The Middlesex Education Committee and the School Governors have realized the truth of J. S. Mills saying "for a great evil a small remedy does not produce a small result it produces no result at all. Unless we do the big thing we do nothing worth while." They have seen that out of date buildings, and defective accommodation have hampered the progress of Southgate County School for a long time past and that a little pottering here, and a slight tinkering there with the buildings would not remedy the defects. And so the plans which are now well advanced show the school - as it is to be - a completely modernised three-form entry school, equipped with a new Hall which will seat 750 people, a kitchen and dining room, a gymnasium with latest apparatus and facilities for changing and washing; a lecture theatre to seat 100 students, a Library so that at last I can, before I retire, get to work to collect the necessary 10,000 volumes which we are told is the minimum number that constitutes a library in these modern times; a medical inspection room, new Staff Room accommodation, Prefects' rooms, and the re-equipment of the Physics and Chemistry Laboratories.

We have waited long and anxiously for these plans. In the words of the politicians we have explored every avenue, and left no stone unturned, but had we been obstreperously impatient we should in all probability have obtained something much less adequate. Truly virtuous patience is its own reward and we raise the still small voice of gratitude. I say still small voice because Governors and Education Committees are more accustomed to the strident voice of criticism than to that of gratitude even though

that gratitude is in some measure a lively sense of favours to come. It would be unwise of me to say to whom we are most indebted, for Governors and Committees are human and I should only be asking for trouble. It only remains for us to hope very sincerely that no depression will come from the Continent or elsewhere, otherwise we know from bitter experience that forward movements in Education are the first to be nipped in the bud (can a movement be nipped in the bud?).

Now to more prosaic matters.

Examination Results for the School Year 1936/37.

On the whole these are well up to our traditional standard but 1936/37 was not one of our best vintage years. 114 candidates were presented for General Schools, 98 passed and 57 gained exemption from Matriculation - 4 more than last year. For those who are fond of comparisons, and there are such, they will find that no Middlesex Secondary School exceeded that number; but the only consideration that weighs with us is that we are able to keep up year by year the consistently high standard which we have set ourselves. In the Higher School Group B (Arts) 4 candidates sat - 3 passed and those 3 also gained the Intermediate B.A. certificates. There was one Distinction in Latin and one Special Credit in Oral French. Group D (Science) 8 candidates sat, 7 passed - there were 3 Distinctions in Mathematics and one in Botany. The consistently excellent results for years past in Mathematics reflects the highest credit upon the mathematical staff. One candidate sat for and passed the First M.B.

Scholarships Gained. There were 2 Science Scholarships gained during the year. (1) Joyce Brown who was awarded the Millicent Fawcett Scholarship tenable at Bedford College, London. (2) Malcolm Stutter who gained a Drapers' Science Certificate Exhibition tenable at Queen Mary College, London.

Senior Awards have been made by the Middlesex Education Committee to:- Joyce Brown, Grace Hatcher, M.R. Stutter, and an Old Boy - M. W. Soppings-Lister. I should also like to record the generosity of the Priscilla Ingram Trust in renewing

last year's grant to Joan Appleby who is now finishing her her teacher's course at Whitelands College, and in making a first Grant to Grace Hatcher. Grants from our own Memorial Scholarship Fund have been made to Margaret Auger and Grace Hatcher. Page 4 of your programme gives the names of other students who have gone forward to Higher Education. Other Post-General School Examination results include our own School Commercial Certificate to 12 pupils and the Royal Society of Arts Examinations in Book Keeping and Arithmetic and Pitman's Shorthand Speed Certificates. These Commercial Courses are very popular with Post-General School pupils and afford a good training for those who intend to take up a commercial career.

There are increasing numbers of pupils taking Civil Service Examinations from school and for those who ask for a guaranteed, pensioned, sheltered, standardized, safety first post in these precarious times, I would say this - Owing to the vast number of candidates who sit for these examinations, and the limited number of vacancies, the competition year by year becomes more severe, particularly in the Executive Class, and only those who pass the General Schools at a matriculation standard should be encouraged by their parents to sit for the Clerical Class. Of those whose ambition it is to rise from the Clerical to the Executive Class (and only 3% are successful in doing this) my advice to such is - Enter one of our Sixth Forms, Science, Arts or Commerce, and lay a deeper foundation than is afforded by the narrower syllabus of the Clerical Examination, for many subsequently fail to qualify for the Executive because their school instruction stops short of the higher work in such subjects as science, mathematics, English, foreign languages, History and Geography. Coming now to the corporate life of the school, I do not wish to comment in detail on the Games, Sport and Athletics, as full particulars may be found in the current issue of the School Magazine but may I mention that 7 new records were made

at the School Sports last July; half-mile junior, 1 mile junior, 100 yards open, Inter-House Relay (Senior), Putting the Shot, Throwing the Discus, and Throwing the Javelin (137' 9") D. Ryan. At the White City Athletic meeting R. Ward established two new records -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile Junior in  $55 \frac{1}{5}$  secs. and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile Junior in 2 mins.  $10 \frac{2}{5}$  secs. The Certificate showing the athletic record for the whole of a pupil's school career that I spoke of in my last annual Report is now available and will be granted to all who make application for it in writing upon their leaving school. I should like to add a word of appreciation of the combined Drill Display organized by Mr. Fawcett and Miss Sperrin and held recently at an evening meeting of the Parents and Staff Association. The Display was a triumph of enthusiasm and organization over a cabined and cribbed environment. In Cross Country runs a very creditable performance was put up by the school team when they recently beat the Junior section of the Southgate Harriers. Of the Boys' Games the cricketers had the most successful season, two games only being lost. Much valuable work has been done throughout the year on the Sports side of the school by Mr. Fawcett, Miss Sperrin, Mr. Wardhaugh and Mr. Armstrong.

The Dramatic Society. This has been their peak year, for in March last the Society produced "Emil and the Detective". The play proved to be an excellent choice and the profits which were given to the Memorial Scholarship Fund realized £26. 4. 1d. This fund after making the awards for the current year now stands at £778. 13. 8d. The members of the Dramatic Society are to be congratulated upon their successful production. In particular Mrs. Pole for her artistic presentation, Mr. Pratt for his Stage carpentry and Mr. Toplis as Art designer and Mr. Paull as Electrician. I include also the School Orchestra for effective musical interludes. Altogether a hundred per cent home-made production. A further success of this society was the winning of the first place and silver Cup by the Fifth Form Drama Group at the Enfield Festival.

The Operatic Society The Operatic Society resumes its Gilbert & Sullivan productions next year when we purpose producing The Mikado. The provisional dates fixed are March 29th and 30th, and April 1st and 2nd. This will be our eighth Gilbert and Sullivan production and I think we can promise that it will be well up to previous standards.

The 7th Inter-House Musical Festival adjudicated by Dr. Harold Watts resulted in the White House again winning by a narrow margin of points, for the 5th time, Whites 80, Blacks 77, Reds 76, and Blues 75.

Orchestral Society. In the capable hands of Mr. R. Smith the Orchestra has again given distinguished service to the school. Mr. Smith tells me, however, that for the first time in 15 years he has no new recruits from those who entered the school last September. We will supply the instruments on loan for the duration of school life if the parents will undertake to pay for the initial tuition, such tuition as will enable the candidate to pass the necessary preliminary test in order to enter the Orchestra as a harmonious member. These recruits are particularly wanted in the strings. We are well off in the brass and woodwind departments.

New Societies. A Science Society for boys and girls of the senior school has recently been formed. (a) S.D.I.A. which being interpreted means - The Society for the discussion of International Affairs. This is a successor to our school branch of the League of Nations Union and if I interpret the object of its founder, Mrs. Polc, rightly, its object is not so much to make our youths politically minded as to afford an opportunity of formulating their own ideas on selected current affairs. I have given my sanction to this society because I realize that we should at school not only inform our charges of their glorious literary and intellectual heritage but of their social and political heritage so that they may not take for granted that freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of conscience that we in this country enjoy. Neither should we be nebulous about the responsibility of the individual to the State. Our

youth must be taught to have ideals which call for the highest standard of self discipline, ideals which it is their duty to cherish and protect however great the sacrifice that may be entailed. A great heritage entails a great responsibility. Youth should be encouraged to do its own thinking and not to think by proxy - which is the characteristic of slave mentality. There never was an age when so many agencies were anxious to save youth the trouble of thinking, newspapers, wireless, cinemas, parents, and schoolmasters. The very wealth of their environment may result in poverty and leanness of soul.

The year's excursions were two in number. 1. The Sixth annual visit at Whitsuntide of a party of senior girls under the leadership of Miss Sleo to Wells for Field Botany. 2. The visit of 38 boys to Lugano at the beginning of the summer vacation organized by Mr. Knowles who was accompanied by Mr. Paull, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Fawcett. A cinema record of this successful trip was made by Mr. Paull and this record together with others of outstanding athletic events of the year was shown at the Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Staff. This is our second annual film record. This provides me with an opportunity of thanking the Parents and Staff Association for their gift of £10 to start an Equipment Fund for the fittings of our new Hall.

Old Scholars Association. The 1st of May 1937 was a red letter day in the annals of this Association, for on that date the new Sports Ground and Pavilion at Brackendale was opened by His Worship the Mayor of Southgate, Alderman Weuthier. The Association has had its most successful year. The Parent Body, and all its minor clubs - Football, Hockey, Tennis, Badminton, Dramatic, are in a flourishing condition, and wd have an enthusiastic body of officials shepherded by their genial Vice President Mr. J. C. Allen. Old Scholars desirous of joining should get in touch with the Association's indefatigable secretary, Geoffrey Parkinson. I am sure the O.S.A. would wish me to thank all friends who contributed to the Ground Equipment Fund which set out to raise £100 and raised well over £200, particularly to

the anonymous giver of £100 and to the Parents and Staff who contributed £35, the result of a special Whist Drive together with contributions from parents. As President I extend a hearty invitation to parents to visit the Brackendale Sports Ground and to become honorary members.

STAFF. 1937 has been a very chequered year. We have suffered loss through retirement of three of our most highly esteemed members. Our Games Mistress, Miss Simmonds, who retired last Easter on breakdown pension; our Senior History Mistress, Miss Philipson retired prematurely at the end of the Summer Term, and finally our Senior Mistress Miss Barham. This school must be thankful to have enjoyed for so long a period the benefits from the labours of these Mistresses and their unstinted work and thought for the boys and girls will long remain in the minds of those who have been privileged to work with and under them and I place them all very high on the list of faithful servants of this school. In addition my Senior French Mistress, Miss House, has been absent since June Miss Crabb having been appointed in the meantime to take over Miss House's time-table. To crown my troubles my Senior Master, Mr. Auger, was absent in hospital for the first half of the Autumn Term, Mr. Knowles stepping in the breach to deputise for him. No wonder that I was constrained to compare my predicament with that of Casabianca who stood on the burning deck whence all but he had fled. My predecessor and I have been blessed with a staff which if I may do violence to a couplet of Wordsworth and say that they are:-

Type of the wise who soar but do not roam  
True to their first love S.C.S. their home.

We were very pleased after half-term to have Mr. Auger back with us after his serious illness. Mistresses may come and Mistresses may go but Headmasters and Senior Masters are expected to go on for ever. Miss Jones was appointed by the Governors to succeed to the Senior Mistressship upon the retirement of Miss Barham and we all congratulate her and wish her success in this most responsible post. Miss Sisco became Head of the Biological Department and Miss McCollin B.Sc. was appointed Junior Biology Mistress. Miss Pringle B.A. succeeded

Miss Philipson as Senior History Mistress, and Miss Sperrin succeeded Miss Simmonds as Physical Training and Games Mistress. Three retirements before pensionable age - it does not appear that teaching is such an easy task - on the contrary this rather indicates that it is a strenuous life or perhaps - that I overwork my Staff. I hope not. But of recent years there has been an enormous increase in the number of extraneous non-teaching duties that has accumulated year by year - the milk ration - the Ophthalmic and the Dental Clinics, the fixing up of boys and girls in careers, the unnumerable forms required by the Education Office and the Board of Education. Believe me very soon there will be very little time for us to do the most obvious thing which you send your children to school for - namely instruction. My best thanks are offered to our Chairman, Mr. County Councillor Robert Grant and to the Governors of the School and to every one of my colleagues including my secretary, Mrs. Long, and to Miss Dowsett (who con amore gives her help in the secretarial department) my grateful thanks for splendid support and unswerving loyalty.

Finally may I say one word to all parents and Governors and those in authority in education. The key industry of this country is not coal, or shipbuilding, or cotton, or even armaments; the key industry of key industries is education and the school are the industrial centres. In these schools are our future citizens. Here are those who are ultimately going to move in to take charge of your borough councils, corporations, churches, factories, universities and parliament. The future destiny of this country is in their hands. So it behoves us to see that they get the right sort of training for their colossal task. Are we as a nation? are our leaders as youth conscious as some of our Continental friends whose direction of youth we think misdirected? I leave each one to answer this searching question for himself. For myself I am more conscious of incompetency and failure than of competency and success.