

My first words are to the parents. I am acutely conscious that it is a duty I owe to you parents to see that the school to which you send your children shall not be lacking in the amenities and hygienic facilities enjoyed by neighbouring schools. I, therefore begin my tenth annual Report with the same evergreen subject that I began with last year, viz., Our School Extensions. The schoolmaster needs to be a man of cheerful yesterdays and confident to-morrows; in addition if he wants to get anything done he must act upon the advice contained in the Arab proverb "That the child who does not cry gets no milk". For several years past I have done my full share of crying, and I am still hopeful that ultimately I shall get my portion of milk.

For me the opening sentences of my last Report make melancholy reading for there I wrote "Anon out of the earth, a fabric huge will rise like an exhalation". Alas! for anon! which according to the dictionary means, at once, or at the latest, in a little while; but according to actual experience has a meaning I do not find in the dictionary - some time in the distant future.

My spirits rose considerably during the summer term when builders arrived but instead of beginning to build they made four huge holes in the playground and in the field and then departed. However, as Spurgeon once said "By perseverance, the snail reached the Ark and the Fabians familiarised us with the process known as "the inevitability of gradualness" but with regard to our extensions it has seemed to us in our impatience rather a case of the infinitesimability of gradualness. Yet Ladies and Gentlemen I assure you we can say as Galileo said in different circumstances "and yet it moves". There was a time a month or so ago when the fate of our scheme hung in the balance and the Board of Education and the Middlesex Education Committee appeared to be playing the well known game of Spenlow and Jorkins with the Governors. You may remember that Dickens describes these two business partners who when in difficulties found it convenient to put the blame on to each other. I am not at liberty to consult my own wishes said Mr. Spenlow (M.E.C.) as I have a partner Mr. Jorkins (B. of E.) who is not to be moved. Believe me said Mr. Jorkins, Mr. Spenlow is immovable.

But that crisis is now over thanks to - well thanks to several people - at present we are not distributing bouquets. Suffice it to say that unless a major national emergency arises necessitating the "axing" of all approved schemes of Extension to Secondary Schools, our scheme will receive the same consideration as those equally deserving schools in other parts of Middlesex and this is all we have a right to ask but which at one time we did not seem to be getting. We shall now I am confident not only view the promised land from afar, but enger into it, if not anon - shall we say some time in 1940.

EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1937 - 38.

GENERAL SCHOOL. In June 1938 100 candidates were entered for the University of London General School Certificate and of these 89 passed, 44 gaining Exemption from Matriculation. Over 80% of these who passed took the Examination after a four year course. This four year course has the great advantage of allowing those who pass the General School at 15 or 15 plus to spend at least one year in one of our Sixth Forms e Science, Arts, Commerce, or Civil Service. This year often does more for the educational development of the pupils than the whole of the four preceding years. Perhaps the greatest waste in Education is to stop too soon for as Browning says "You cut probation short, and being half instructed; In the stage of life you shuffle through your part as best you can".

The success of this policy of not "dawdling" through this General School course and getting on to the higher work as soon as possible, is shown I think in the fact that this year our

Higher School Results are the best in the county of Middlesex. 13 candidates were entered in different groups - Group D Science 8 entered, 7 passed the Higher School Certificate and in addition 6 gained the Intermediate B.Sc. certificate.

Group B. 3 sat and one attained both the Higher School Certificate and Intermediate Bachelor of Arts, with Distinction in Latin and a Special Credit in Oral French.

Group E. Commerce. Two candidates sat and both obtained the Higher School Certificate and the Intermediate Bachelor of Commerce certificate.

OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS GAINED DURING THE YEAR. There have been two major scholarships gained this year, both by girls; (1) that of Stella Schooling who was awarded a major scholarship in Science at the University College of the South West. The value of the scholarship was £100 per annum tenable for three years at University College, Exeter. (2) That of Olive Bayley who was awarded a State Scholarship by the Board of Education on the result of the Higher School Examination. These State Scholarships carry a maximum grant of £80 per annum plus fees and maintenance for three years. This makes the Sixth State Scholarship gained by pupils of the School in recent years. I have one thing only to say about these results - I submit that they are in the same category as Mrs. Poyser's pork pies - You will remember that George Elliott's Mrs. Poyser said of her pork pies - "my pork pies don't turn out good by accident." Our results don't turn out good by accident.

SENIOR AWARDS. J. F. Aylard, J. Blake, Stella Schooling.

PRISCILLA INGRAM AWARDS. Joan Appleby, Grace Hatcher.

Other post-General School Examination results include those of our Southgate County Commercial Certificate; this is of the General School standard, the subjects being selected from a curriculum which includes Accounting and Banking, Typewriting, Shorthand, Economics, French, English, Geography. This certificate was awarded to 13 pupils. In addition whilst at school there were 16 candidates successful in Civil Service Examinations, one candidate being placed 6th out of 1500 successful candidates. There were also 9 successes in the Royal Society of Arts Book Keeping Examination and 5 in Typewriting, and 8 Pitman Shorthand Speed Certificates.

Few know the educational limitations of Examinations better than schoolmasters, nevertheless I am a confirmed believer in their disciplinary value; and believe me to achieve anything at all worth while achieving one must learn to endure drudgery. Only an idiot will try to play a Beethoven Sonata unless he has first learned to play his five finger exercises. Roughly, very roughly Examinations are to Education what five finger exercises are to Beethoven Sonatas. May I here ask for the co-operation of parents in helping us on the staff to give their children this invaluable training in the discipline of study by seeing as far as lies in their power that the strain which during adolescence must of necessity be considerable is not made greater by the curtailment of hours of rest, by allowing too many evening engagements, late nights, and visits to the cinema and that their hours of study are not invaded by that bugbear the blatant loud speaker. It may be a hard saying but in many cases it is a true one that very few adults (parents and non-parents) work as hard or as long as the adolescent school boy and girl.

CORPORATE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL. It will make for brevity if I refer you to the current issue of the School Magazine for details of our activities in sports, games and athletics. I wish only to say that the year's record on this side of the school's activities has been satisfactory and that much valuable work has been accomplished on this side of the school's activities. A word of

appreciation of the Drill Display given at an Evening meeting of the Parents and Staff Association provides me with the opportunity of making the observation that if our pupils can give a display of such excellence whilst having to do their physical training in a Hall which is at times almost as busy a thoroughfare as Piccadilly Circus, then they thoroughly deserve the new Gymnasium they are to get, and furthermore this new Gymnasium will be a great consolation to the denizens of the Physical and Chemical Laboratories, for they will bless the day when they are able to get a long a fervently desired peace and quietness from the vocal exuberance of the P.T. ites working off their superfluous animal spirits in the Hall.

The most notable event of the year in Athletics I think has been our Cross Country Racing. In addition to winning matches against Southgate Harriers, junior, and our neighbours of Minchenden, our teams took part in three inter-school races, the season closing with the winning of the Pulham Cup, the race promoted by the Shaftesbury Harriers.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY. The Dramatic Society has been busy throughout the year reading plays and repeating at local functions the play they produced for us at the last year's Prize Distribution - "The Last War". Their chief success at the Enfield Festival was the winning of the First Place and Silver Cup by the Second and Third Forms.

OPERATIC SOCIETY gave as their eighth Gilbert and Sullivan production "The Mikado". The proceeds of this production added £71. 7. 2d. to the Memorial Scholarship Fund, which now stands at £862. 9. 7d., £800 of which is invested in War Stock. My best thanks are due to the Staff and the operatic society for their fine effort and particularly to Mr. Knowles for his inspired production; nor must I forget those Dr. Derry describes as the handy fellows, the scenery and lighting experts - Messrs. Paull, Toplis, Pratt and company. Our next opera will be "Iolanthe" which was our first love. The dates are March 28, 29, 31st and April 1st 1939.

EIGHTH INTER-HOUSE MUSICAL FESTIVAL. was adjudicated by my friend, Dr. Derry, in July last. The competition between the houses was keen, three marks only separating the top and bottom houses. Winning House . . . Green with 81%, Red and Blue bracketed second with 80%, White 4th with 79%. The "Ney" Cup was awarded for the first time to Dennis Shea for the best individual musical performance.

ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY continue to give acceptable service to the school. Their programme has included weekly rehearsals throughout the greater part of the year, help with the Mikado, the Prize Givings and Old Scholars Dramatic Performances. Once again I appeal to parents to encourage their musical children to take up the study of some musical instrument. I am willing to supply any really musical orchestral instrument providing the parent is willing to pay for tuition. The latest recruit to the string department of the orchestra is a double bass.

CHESS CLUB. This is the only new society formed during the present year, Membership of which is restricted at present to members of the Sixth Form as this is no game for callow youth.

DEBATING SOCIETY. Under the chairmanship of Mr, Johnston this has held many popular debates. One such that appeared to arouse considerable interest was to decide which of several famous persons should be jettisoned from a balloon falling to destruction in order that it might rise and take the others to safety. It was decided that Epstein was least worthy of salvation but Lord Nuffield, Dorothy Round, Hitler, Greta Garbo and Henry Hall were to be saved. Alas! there is no accounting for the tastes of modern youth.

The S. D. I. A., that is the Society for the discussion of International Affairs which came into being last year has had a successful and useful year's work. Talks by competent speakers have been given on China, Germany, Palestine, Russia, India, and Czechoslovakia. Funds have been raised for relief work in China and Spain, the last effort being as recently as two weeks ago when £2. profit was made as the result of a Film Display.

THE YEAR'S HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS have been two. (1) There was the usual visit at Whitsuntide when a party of senior girls under the leadership of Miss Sleejourneyed to Wells for Field Botany. (2) Visit to Paris of a small party of boys and girls at Easter. I understand that according to the School Magazine, this holiday in gay Paree was a most interesting and thrilling experience and our best thanks are due to Mrs. Pole and Miss Crabb for organizing this educational trip.

PARENTS AND STAFF ASSOCIATION. The most noteworthy event has been the retirement of the Chairman, Mr. H. C. Wright, after 19 years splendid service. We would like to congratulate the new Chairman, Mr. Nisbett and wish him a long and happy tenure of that office. I would like to thank the Association for its gift of £14 towards the new Hall Equipment Fund and their gift of £16 to the Old Scholars Association, the proceeds of a special Whist Drive held in March last.

Perhaps in this connection I might mention that on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Staff Association there was shown the third annual film record made by Mr. Paull of the chief social and athletic events of the school year.

GIFTS. This year I have to thank Mr. Ney for a gift of Three Guineas with which we have purchased a Cup to be awarded for the best individual effort at the Inter-House Musical Competition, I have also received a sum of Five Guineas from an appreciative parent to be spent during the next five years in book Prizes.

THE OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION have had a very successful year and their activities in the realm of sport and culture are recorded in the School Magazine. I understand that there are several secretarial changes impending in the personell of the minor clubs of the O.S.A. As President of this Association I should like the retiring officers to accept my sincere thanks for the excellent work they have done for this Association. There is one festival that does not receive the support that it deserves and that is the Old Boys Supper. This is held annually on the first Tuesday in December.

STAFF. 1938 has brought severe losses to the Staff in the retirement of Miss House and Miss Martin. Miss House made an ideal Head of the French Department and her quiet persistency and gentle persuasion continued over a number of years resulted in coaxing hundreds of our pupils through the French section of their General School Examination. Miss Martin retired at the end of the summer term and I fear the loss is irremediable. There was only one Miss Martin - a great believer in the scriptural saying "whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might". She believed in training up a second former in the way he or she, mostly he, should go; then when he is a fifth former he will not depart therefrom. This term we welcomed a new member of the Staff Miss E. M. Druce, B.A. We trust her stay with us will be a long and happy one.

My best thanks are again due to the Governors, and particularly to our Chairman, His Worship the Mayor, whose enthusiasm for the cause of Education in Middlesex in general and Southgate in particular is so well known. Also to every member of my staff, particularly to the Senior Master, Mr. Auger, and the Senior Mistress, Miss Jeans, and to my Secretary, Mrs. Long, for indispensable support and unswerving loyalty.

Finally you have come to expect from me a short homily in these Reports and I would not have any one disappointed. I have said before but I make no apology for repeating that we cannot be too grateful in this England of ours for our priceless heritage; priceless for us but bought with a great price by our forefathers; for our liberty in Education, liberty of speech, of writing, of thought, of belief. This liberty carries with it responsibilities, duties and sacrifices - (uncomfortable word). We live at a time when the one unfortunate - unforgivable crime is as Browning said the unlit lamp and the ungirt loin. There would be no fears for the future if as the result of their school training the youth of this country could say with conviction "The world's no blot for us, nor blank, it means intensely and it means good." If we wish for peace, righteousness, and a spirit of fairplay in the world, we must first put these into our schools for when our testing time comes nothing is surer than that this nation's most dreaded foes will be within and not without - That is a man's foes will be they of his own household. It would be well if at this time of our crisis we could call to our aid a Cromwell to drill us in discipline; a Wesley to teach us a more practical religion; a Carlyle to rid us of our shams; a Ruskin to ring out the dignity of man.

Much is heard to-day about class warfare; so far as Educationalists are concerned, the really vital and significant class warfare that has existed throughout all time in every country and every clime is the warfare between those who are in the world to get all they can by hook or by crook - the Snatchers and Grabbers; and those who are here to serve give and to serve all they can - Givers and Servers. The question that I have to ask myself when a boy or girl leaves this school is - to which of these two classes is he or she likely to belong? If to the snatchers then our efforts in training here have so far failed and no mumbled - "Ye cannot gather grapes of thorns; nor figs of thistles" - will console us.

But if on the other hand our leaver is likely to join the small select band, the salt of any society or nation - the band of Servers then great is our reward. I wish I were wise enough to be able to tell Youth what the summum bonum - (supreme good) of life is! I find it much easier to tell Youth some of the things it is NOT. It is not Comfort, it is not Civilization, it is not Education, it is not Money indeed it might be a disastrous thing for one of you to win £10,000 easy money in a football pool, it is not Efficiency, it is not Success, it is not Power, it is not Prosperity, it is not Security, it is not even happiness - the greatest sons of men have not been noticeably happy. At first sight it may appear paradoxical but I think that Goethe gets nearer to the solution of what is the supreme good in his exquisite little poem entitled "REST" and with this I will bring my Report to a close.

Rest is not quitting	'Tis the brooks clear motion
The busy career	Clear without strife
Rest is the fitting	Fleeing to ocean
Of self to its sphere	After its life
	'Tis loving and serving
	The highest and best
	'Tis onward, unswerving
	And that is true Rest.