

Mr. Chairman,

First, Sir, it is my pleasure to extend to you as Chairman, and to your colleagues of the Education Committee a warm welcome.

THURSDAY.

Regarding our chief guest, this is a happy occasion for us, for we have one of our Old Boys, Air Vice Marshal Addison. Reference to past records tells me that at school he figured in prize lists for both work and athletics, and left school in 1915 to join the Royal Flying Corps. He saw active service in France in the first world war, and after demobilisation spent three years at Cambridge. He took his degree there and then obtained a commission in the Royal Air Force as pilot. Since then he has had flying duties, staff duties, command duties in this country and in India, the Far East, Palestine, Egypt. At the present time he is Air-Officer-Commanding a Signals group with Headquarters at Harlow. He was made O.B.E. in 1937, C.B.E. in 1941, C.B. in 1946, Commander of Legion of Merit (U.S.A.) in 1947, and is a M.I.E.E. - indeed a distinguished career.

It is generous of him to give this evening to us. We are delighted to see him and thank him for coming.

Then we are honoured by having with us the Mayor and Mayoress of Southgate, Alderman and Mrs. J. H. Barker. The Mayor has many calls on his time and we are highly favoured by having him here this evening.

I should like to make another personal reference. Everyone who has had any connection with this school for the past 35 years heard with very great pleasure last September that the honorary freedom of the Borough had been conferred on Alderman Grant. Parents, teachers, scholars have cause to be thankful to Mr. Grant for his many years able service as a member of our Governing Body, on many occasions Chairman.

Then I would like to rectify an omission of mine last year when we had here for the first time in his new capacity, the chief Assistant to the Borough Education Officer, Mr. Hastings. He is here this evening and we are pleased to have him with us.

FRIDAY.

Then I should like to say how pleased we are to have with us this evening Professor Hughes Parry, Professor of English Law at the London School of Economics. On past speech days we have been honoured by visits from distinguished professors at the older London Colleges, but this is the first time we have had one from the London School of Economics. I particularly welcome this as for some years now there has been a steady if thin stream of our pupils going to L.S.E. One such appears in our list of old scholars successes, two more have started there this term, while others at present in the school hope to be entrants in the future.

Professor Hughes Parry is also director of the University of London post-graduate School of legal studies, and last year was Vice Chancellor of the University of London. I considered myself fortunate when he accepted my invitation, and we are all most grateful to him for coming.

NUMBERS. Our numbers have shown little variation in the past three years. In 1946 I reported 607, in 1947 609, and at the present time we number 601. I admitted three forms in September and we are full.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

During the year, 76 pupils obtained the General School Certificate, of whom 35 qualified for exemption from Matriculation. These General School results are not among our best.

At the Higher School Examination, we had our best year on record. 33 pupils obtained the Higher School Certificate at the summer examination, and two others who had previously obtained the certificate completed their Intermediate Science qualification before proceeding to Military Service. Of these 35 successes, 25 were in Science, 5 in Arts and 2 in Commerce.

In open examinations for University awards we also had our successes. Christine Orr qualified for an Exhibition at University College, Exeter. Margaret Carr gained an open Scholarship at University College, Southampton. Pyett won an entrance Scholarship to the Imperial College of Science, and on the results of the Higher School Examination State Scholarships were awarded to Bullen, Pyett, Ray and Christine Orr.

At Civil Service examinations of sixth form standard, Bromberger qualified as Assistant Experimental Officer, the first of our pupils to compete in this examination, and at the Executive Class examination, Ray, our Head Boy, was placed second in all England.

I am sure you would like to offer your congratulations to these boys and girls who have added industry and perseverance to their innate ability, to their parents, and to their teachers.

These successes demonstrate to these young people the academic ability which it is their good fortune to possess, and should be an introduction to careers in which they can render service and accept responsibility to the limit of their capacity, and find their satisfaction. We look forward to having good news of their future progress.

To what careers do they intend to proceed? Of the 35, 21 boys and 7 girls either have already gone to Universities, or hope to do so before or after their military service. They will take

degree courses in Science (Physics, Chemistry or Biology), Arts (English, French or Geography), Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Surgery, Economics. Of the remainder, teachers training colleges claim 2, The Royal Navy 2, Civil Service 1, Nursing 1, and business 1. I notice that Dentistry is not represented this year.

What of the others of our pupils - those whose special gifts are such that the stately portals of a University are not the gateway to a useful and happy life - those who leave at about 16 years of age?

Of the girls, over 70% have taken clerical posts. 4 girls have gone to the Northern Polytechnic for training in domestic subjects with canteen management as their probable future, and one to the Hornsey School of Art. The remainder have gone to Nursing, Civil Service, laboratory technician, one to farming, and one to hairdressing.

Of the boys, 13 have gone to Accountancy, Banking, and Insurance, 11 to business houses. 6 have entered technical institutes 3 for engineering, 1 for architecture, one to learn the meat trade, and one to learn bakery and confectionery. Others have started work as laboratory technicians, engineers, draughtsmen.

I started this reference to careers by stating, with pleasure, that some of our pupils had become University scholars. I finish it by stating, also with pleasure, that 3 boys have left to become apprentices to the printing trade, one for cabinet making, one for building, one for scientific instrument making, and one for press photography.

All this represents a diversity of talents, a variation of academic ability, of attainment, and of aptitude, but all I hope share the same ideals and have caught a vision of the same spiritual values.

It is a special function of the grammar school to discover, guide, and inspire the future entrants to Universities and the professions, but it is our duty, as it is of all schools, to see that as far as our influence extends all our pupils shall receive a fair deal, and that the interest of none shall be made subservient to any false and sentimental doctrine of an unreal equalitarianism.

PRIZES. I wish to express my thanks for the gift of the prizes. From its surplus funds, "Sarpea" has provided a prize to be awarded

for meritorious dramatic or musical performance. I have divided it between two who took principal parts in the Pirates of Penzance, Maureen Collier and Stokes.

The second is a prize for modern languages, very kindly presented by Mr. Fairfield. I found it impossible to distinguish between two girls who were proficient in French and German. The Higher School Examinations were also unable to separate them so I am dividing the prize between them - Margaret Carr and Christine Orr.

SPORTS AND GAMES. The sports and games of the school continue to be healthy and vigorous. On the girls' side the outstanding triumphs have been the winning of the Fairfield trophy by the tennis team, and the winning of the North Middlesex Schools Swimming Shield for the second year in succession.

The boys have had an excellent year. At both cricket and football some of our boys have been selected to play in representative teams, the latest being Peter Baker who has been selected to play for the Middlesex Youth Football XI.

At the Middlesex Grammar Schools Athletic Sports meeting in the summer, 24 County standard certificates were won, while Tosner for the Seniors and Pearce for the Juniors both won the 100 yards with new County records.

We appreciate all the time and energy put into the games and sports of the school with such good results by Mr. Robertson, and also the help we receive from Mr. Clarkson.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES. These continue to thrive, and I have noticed an increase in membership and enthusiasm in an aeroplane-modelling group which meets in the mid-day dinner interval.

THE OPERATIC SOCIETY. After being in abeyance since 1939 this society was revived a year ago. It was soon as alive and vigorous as in pre-war years, and "The Pirates of Penzance" was performed last March. We were well supported by parents, governors, old scholars and other friends of the school, and though expenses were heavy a profit of £20. was made

Rehearsal for the next performance is going strong, and we hope you will come along in the Spring to "The Gondoliers". We are much indebted to the many who contribute to these extensive communal

efforts and particularly to the hard and long working musical director, Mr. Baggarley, and the energetic and capable producer, Mr. Knowles.

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY. This has also been busy and will be presenting a short play later in this evening's programme. This adds one more to the long list of dramatic productions which we owe to Mrs. Pole.

Before leaving reference to Operatic and Dramatic performances, I should like to put in a special word of thanks to our arch-stage constructionist, Mr. R. Pratt.

OLD SCHOLARS.

A memorable event occurred last May, when in the presence of a large and representative gathering, an extension to the War Memorial, recording the names of old scholars who lost their lives in the second world war, was unveiled and dedicated. I was grateful to the Vicar of St. John's Palmers Green for the help he gave in compiling the order of service and conducting the ceremony.

No special effort was made to raise a large sum of money, and my appeal sent to those most likely to be interested brought in all the funds I needed. Donations amounted to £91. 14. Od. The memorial cost £71. 7. 6d, printing £12. 10. Od., stationery and postage £1. 13. 6d., making total expenses £6. With the remaining £5. 14. Od. I bought two vases for £2. 10. Od., and some flowers for 10/- so that I now hold £2. 14. Od. This I propose using in connection with the Memorial or the annual commemoration.

When discussing careers, and parents and children are hesitant to adopt a more ambitious course than first proposed, on account of length of training or cost, I sometimes find myself saying that things worth having often have to be worked for, waited for and paid for. In the presence of this memorial I go further and say that the best in life has often to be worked for, waited for and paid for and sometimes died for.

At remembrance time each year the school will be reminded of its inheritance, the sacrifice made for the preservation of it, and the call to us to be worthy of it.

The Old Scholars Sports Clubs are alive but some are having more difficulty than others. The Tennis Club has been

able to return to the Brackendale<sup>6</sup> ground and is well established again. The Football Club is flourishing and usually has four teams out on Saturday afternoon. The Old Girls Hockey Club surmounts its difficulties and keeps going, but the Old Boys Cricket Club is in a serious position. After many years of healthy life it is threatened with extinction for want of a home ground. We are hoping that a solution to this problem can be found and a ground obtained.

#### STAFF.

Two mistresses have left. Miss Righton after a stay of eight years, moved to a post nearer to her home, and Miss Tofield after three years as a most efficient mistress in charge of the girls physical training and games left, also for a post nearer her home. In their places we have Mr. McKnight and Miss Colombo to whom we wish a happy and successful stay here.

I wish to express my warmest thanks for all their service and co-operation to the Senior Mistress, Miss Jeans, the Senior Master Mr. Knowles, the teaching staff, the secretary, Mrs. Long, the School-keeper, Cook, and all other workers.

That ends my report, of necessity selective, and referring to part only of what we do and what we are. I hope, Sir, that it can be your judgment that we are more than a machinelike institution, that we are a healthy, active, living community.