

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT.

NUMBERS. The average roll for the School Year 1948-1949 was 585. We started last September with 594.

There are 91 pupils in post-first certificate forms, 59 in first year sixth forms and 32 in second and third year sixth forms.

EXAMINATION RESULTS. This year 82 pupils obtained the General School Certificate of whom 37 qualified for exemption from matriculation. Outstanding results are those of Cope with the "Very Good" mark in seven subjects, Joyce Caplin in six, Protheroe in five, and Thomas in four.

At the Higher School Examination the number of pupils who obtained the Higher School Certificate was 30, 20 in Science, 7 in Arts and 3 in Commerce. In addition two boys and one girl gained University Awards. King won an Entrance Scholarship to the Imperial College, Luck an Entrance Scholarship to St. Mary's Hospital Medical School and Elizabeth Hocking an Exhibition at Queen Mary College.

Our two entrants to Civil Service Examinations were successful, Brenda Love in the Clerical Class and Ring in the Executive class.

Another success I should like to mention. Two years ago I recorded our first success at the Special Entrance Examination for Naval Cadets entering the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. To-day I record the second. When the results of the written part of the examination were published, the first place was occupied by Whitaker of Southgate County School. Then came the interview and aptitude tests, and when the final results were announced, the first place was still occupied by Whitaker of Southgate County School. The following three places were occupied by boys from Winchester, Charterhouse, Eton respectively. Whitaker was our efficient head boy and in first teams for Cricket and Football. We congratulate the young man on his success and we shall follow his career with interest.

If Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, the history of our land may yet assign the origin of a major victory in some future struggle for freedom to the muddy slopes of Southgate County School.

17 of our boys and girls went from school to University Colleges this year and have started courses for degrees in Arts, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, Agriculture, Law, Commerce. Others have left for Training Colleges for Teachers, School of Art, Technical Colleges and Polytechnics.

We can thus claim to be fulfilling what is one of the important functions special to the grammar school, namely, discovering, fostering, and developing academic talent in our pupils, and passing on suitable entrants to Universities and other institutions for higher education.

This year, 1949, is the last year of the General School Examination under all the old regulations. In 1950 the General School Examination as now constituted will be held for the last time, but a new restriction is to be imposed. No pupil who is under 16 on 1st December will be allowed to take this external examination. This restriction will exclude some pupils to whom the examination would present little if any difficulty, solely because their 16th birthday is the wrong side of 1st December 1950. Hence the number of pupils taking the examination next year will be smaller than our usual entry. In 1951 the date will be advanced to 1st September.

The new examination scheme will introduce one major reform with which I am in full agreement, namely, the raising of the standard required for University entrance, with the consequent raising of the age at which this qualification can be obtained. Some modification in our curriculum in the upper part of the school will become necessary but in making these adjustments I do not intend to depress all to the speed of the slowest.

PRIZES. Last year I expressed our thanks to Mr. Fairfield for his gift of a prize for Modern Languages. To-day I thank Alderman Barker, last year's Mayor, for the gift of another prize to be awarded at my discretion. The Richard Bell prize goes to J. C. King of 6 Science who obtained the school's best result at the Higher School Examination; the Fairfield prize goes to Cicely Eason of 6 Arts, the only candidate who offered both French and German at the Higher School Examination (and she obtained a special credit in the oral examination in both languages) and I have awarded the J. H. Barker

prize to K. H. Thomas of 6 Commerce, who obtained the best result in commerce subjects.

SPORTS AND GAMES. These continue healthy and vigorous. Games activities and physical training are part of the normal curriculum, and matches are played on Saturday mornings and at other out of school times. At Football and Cricket there are usually six teams playing on Saturdays.

Each football team won more than half of the matches played while this term so far the under 14 team is unbeaten. Baker gained a place in the Middlesex Schools Xl and was appointed captain for the County match against Gloucestershire. Deller played for Middlesex boys versus Hampshire, and a few weeks ago was playing on the Tottenham ground for London Schoolboys versus Glasgow.

At Cricket the 1st Xl played 9, won 7, drew 1 and Clark was a member of the Middlesex Schools Xl.

In Athletics also keenness is exhibited and the standard of performance has improved. The first magnitude stars here were Reed at throwing the discus, and Pearce and Sutton in the 100 yards. Sutton represented Middlesex at an all England Schools Meeting, and gained a medal for 100 yards under 16.

The Cross Country runners had their best year. At the local schools meeting at Clay Hill, they gained first place and put Southgate County School on the Southgate Harriers Cup for the first time.

The girls Hockey did not have a good season for results, but has now staged a recovery and this term the first eleven has won 5 out of 8 matches played.

Tennis, Netball and Rounders produced good scores.

Our girls competed in the Southgate & Potters Bar School meeting and brought home three cups.

At Swimming, the boys team was first at the Southgate Schools Gala, and for the third year in succession the girls won the shield for first place at the North Middlesex Grammar Schools Gala.

I mention all this to indicate that we have here a scheme of physical education as comprehensive as our facilities allow; A variety of games and sports is provided, and the boys and girls make

good use of their opportunities to become proficient in them if they have the aptitude, and to enjoy participating in them.

I am sure the girls would like to show their appreciation of the work of Miss Colombo, and the boys similarly of all the efforts of Mr. Robertson.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES. The varied assortment of these continue to thrive and I would like here to express my appreciation of the time and effort so freely given by members of the staff who undertake responsibility for their management and guidance.

This term a new one has been started - a Recorder Club. This group meets regularly for the playing of recorders under the leadership of Mr. Smith. It accompanies the hymn singing one morning per week, but is not yet ready for more public appearances. It will develop.

The ORCHESTRA, also under Mr. Smith, continues to thrive, but we are in need of more violin players and we should welcome some one who will learn to play a viola. Please encourage your children who show aptitude for playing musical instruments, and we will have them in the orchestra as soon as they are ready.

The OPERATIC SOCIETY is as lively as ever. Last spring "The Gondoliers" was presented to full audiences on four evenings and the performances were accorded high praise by the critics. The opera selected for next spring is "Ruddigore" and we shall again be inviting the support of our friends.

JOURNEY ABROAD. We are planning an exchange visit of some of our older boys with boys of the same age at a school in Austria. Austrian boys will spend three weeks of July here living in the home of our boys and the pairs will then spend three weeks living in Austrian homes. We should like to have a few more applicants to join the party. The visit is being organized by Mr. Rolfe, the German master, who will go abroad with our boys.

STAFF. In the summer we lost the service of Mrs. Penney who had helped us over a difficulty, and of Mr. Pratt who had been our most efficient Biology Master for four years. He wished to live in a seaside town and he has moved to a post at the Varndean School, Brighton.

I have recorded successes by pupils, and now I will record a staff success. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, for work in the department of the History of Chemistry was conferred on our Chemistry Master, Mr. Gibbs. We congratulate him on this distinction. We shall however not be having him here much longer as he has received an appointment under the British Council and will be leaving at the end of this term. I congratulate Dr. Gibbs on his appointment, I thank him for his services here and for his ever ready co-operation with me during his three years here, and I wish him well.

I must now refer to another impending change. Mr. Paull who has been our Senior Physics Master for 38 years wishes to retire from teaching at the end of this term, on account of ill health. Mr. Paull's service has been of the very highest order. He is a teacher of distinction and possesses remarkable practical gifts as is shown by the equipment he has assembled in his Laboratory and the ingenuity with which he has overcome difficulties. His share in the long list of examination successes proclaims the excellence of his work, while many are the school activities which have benefitted by his help and skill. I know that I speak for the whole school, past and present, staff and pupils when I express appreciation of his many years of distinguished service, and wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.

New members of the staff are Miss Carter and Miss Lake for Biology and Mr. McCarthy for Mathematics. I wish them a happy and successful stay here.

An important event during this year was the full inspection by His Majesty's Inspector and his assistants last May. The previous inspection was in 1931 and the one before that in 1921.

In 1921 when the school numbered about 440 attention was called to certain deficiencies and inadequacies in our premises and accommodation. Shortly afterwards some additional rooms were built and our numbers increased.

In 1931 we had grown to about 520, and in that year the inspector's report again drew attention to our deficiencies.

In 1949 with some 580 pupils the same things are still lacking

Development plans I know have to be revised with changing circumstances, but whatever re-casting may be introduced into a development plan for Southgate, I would urge that one item remain firm, be regarded as beyond discussion or dispute, and be accorded high priority, and that is that, when possible this school, with unchanged constitution be moved to a new building on a larger site, taking with it its forty years of history and tradition, its triumphs and its trophies, its lares and penates, the loyalty and regard of its old scholars, and of course its name. With such re-housing, this school - to quote some words used by Mr. Everard on a former speech day - this school would experience a renaissance, a re-birth, and become an even more effective instrument than it is, for the education of the boys and girls of this borough.

I know that coats must be cut according to cloth, but when some cloth is available, our needs - our due - will not be met by a patch or a gusset, but only by a new suit of clothes, to replace the present garments, well used but now outgrown; but fit for a smaller wearer.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the work and services rendered by all my colleagues - the Senior Mistress Miss Jeans, the Second Master, Mr. Knowles, the teaching staff, the Secretary Mrs. Long, the School-keeper, Groundsman, cooks and all manual workers, My warmest thanks for another year of their work, their loyalty and their co-operation.