

SOUTHGATE COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

ANNUAL SPEECH DAYS DECEMBER 6th & 7th 1951.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT.

THURSDAY, 6th DECEMBER

Mr. Chairman, Professor Bullough,

My first pleasant duty is to welcome all our guests, among whom I would mention our Chairman, Alderman F. E. Cooper, the Education Officer, Mr. Healey, members of the Education Committee here on the platform with me, old members of the staff including, I am glad to say Mr. Auger, and last but not least our Guest Speaker, Professor Geoffrey Bullough, Professor of English Language and Literature, King's College, University of London. I have known Professor Bullough for many years and he is a man for whom I have always had the highest admiration. He is a fine scholar and yet endowed with much practical wisdom. Perhaps the highest tribute I can pay him is that I have always regarded him as a man worth inviting to give the address at a school Speech Day, and I am very grateful to him, as I know you will be, for coming as our guest speaker to-night.

FRIDAY, 7th DECEMBER

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor and Mayoress, The Rev. L.M.Charles-Edwards.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My first pleasant duty is to welcome all our guests, among whom I would mention our Chairman, Alderman G. Peverett, the Education Officer, Mr. Healey, members of the Education Committee here on the platform with me, old members of the staff including, I am glad to say Mr. Auger, and last but not least our Guest Speaker, the Rev. L. M. Charles-Edwards, Vicar of St. Martin-in-the Fields, where he is most worthily upholding the tradition established, I might suggest, by the man we all knew as Dick Shepperd.

I am especially grateful to Mr. Charles-Edwards for coming since he stepped into the breach more or less at the eleventh hour. We had invited, as I think you all know, the Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University. I had a letter from him a short time ago saying that his doctor had insisted that he cancelled all outside engagements. It is not too easy to get hold of a speaker of some eminence at short notice, and I was more than delighted that a man of Mr. Charles-Edwards

calibre accepted my invitation - I use the word calibre designedly, having myself heard him in action at another school Speech Day. When he has addressed you I know you will agree with me that this word most fittingly describes him. In the meantime I ask you to join me in welcoming him in this, his first visit to our school.

I would now like to add a few words of my own about Mr. Auger, who retired from the Headmastership of this school after a life time of devoted service. I have two touchstones by which I can judge Mr. Auger. The first is the week I spent with him during last Easter Holidays when I plagued him with every conceivable question about the school. He knew all the answers, and I never caught him out. I was most impressed by the extensive and detailed knowledge he had not only of the school as a whole, but also of the individuals in it. It proved to me, Ladies and Gentlemen, that he had lived for the school, I can put it no better than that.

My second touchstone is what I have found in the school since I myself began here, what people have said about him or inferred about him. I can assure you that these things have only served to strengthen the opinions I had already formed. I am deeply grateful to him for handing over to me a school that had the rare privilege of his leadership, the leadership of a man whose capability, knowledge and sincerity were so clearly an influence for the good: I can assure him that I will do my very best to live up to the standards of service he set himself.

The school said goodbye to Mr. Auger at the end of April. At the end of last July we were also very sorry to lose Mrs. Smith from the Science Staff. As her husband moved away from this part of the County, she, of course, went with him. We have, however, been happy to welcome Miss D. A. Earle who took her place at the beginning of this term.

And now for my Report on the year 1950/51. I will not duplicate matters by reading out all the successes you will find on your programme but I would like to call your attention to certain features. In the first place to the six University Scholarships that

have been won, five "States" and, best of all, one Open Scholarship. Academic Distinction at this high level is, in my opinion, one of the most important symptoms of health in a Grammar School, and I hope that this success, of which Mr. Auger must feel justly proud, is an earnest of good things to come.

Last July we had our first experience of the new General Certificate of Education. Details of individual performances you will find on your programmes, but it is most difficult for a Headmaster to summarise the results or make comparisons with previous years. You see, a certificate is now awarded if a candidate passes in only one subject. The pass mark on the other hand is higher than it was in the old days. I think, however, I could say that the performances at Advanced Level by candidates in the 2nd and 3rd year VI's were extremely good, but at the Ordinary Level the standard was not that which I would wish to see. Too many candidates failed in subjects which they should have passed. I am not suggesting that success in General Certificate of Education is the only thing that counts, far from it, but I refuse to play it down. It does provide evidence that a boy or girl has ability, and far more important, has worked steadily and with determination. Success in General Certificate of Education is a proof of character as well as brain, and I would like to see a realisation among all the boys and girls from the 1st Forms upwards (and by the parents) that steady application to work throughout their school career is the first essential of a Grammar School education. Those that realise it will leave school with a far more valuable gift than a General Certificate of Education or a scholarship, desirable though these things are.

I will conclude my remarks on the academic achievements of the school by referring to the two last paragraphs of your programmes. It is a pleasure to congratulate those old pupils of the school who have won distinctions for themselves and thereby brought credit to their old School. It is also a pleasure to record that ten boys and girls who left last July are proceeding to Universities. I hope that this number will grow, as I am sure it can, when we have got over the difficulties of the transitional period, I mean the transition from the old Certificate Regulations to the new General Certificate of Education.

I will now refer to other aspects of school life, all of which contribute to the education of our boys and girls. In the first place, - games. In view of the two great handicaps - the weather, and our school field out of action, - I think it is fair to say that we have had a successful year. We ran five Football Elevens who played a total of 62 matches (if it had not rained so much they would have played 84). Of these 62, 41 were won, 5 drawn and 16 lost. I think the first XI is especially to be congratulated in that they won 17 out of their 18 games. Deller, the 1st XI Captain, and Ovenden played for the Senior Boys County XI and B. Cook again played both for the District and County XIs. Owing to bad weather we were unable to complete the inter-house Football Competition. In Cricket we also ran 5 teams who played a total of 40 matches. Of these, 19 were won, 8 drawn and 13 lost, and the school was honoured in that Clark was chosen to play for the County and Grant, Middleditch and B. Smith for the district XIs. I would also congratulate Green House in winning the Senior Inter-House Cricket Competition.

The Inter-House Cross Country Race which was held last November was, I understand, reported last Speech Day. School Cross Country teams also competed in the annual races sponsored by the Highgate and Southgate Harriers coming 5th and 6th respectively. In the Middlesex Grammar School Championship the School Team came 3rd, and **B. Ward** was the individual runner up.

We had a successful season in Athletics. At the School Sports, which we had to hold in Broomfield Park, Red House emerged the winner among the boys and excellent individual performances were put up by Pearce, Collier, Middleditch and Ginn. The school team successfully defended their middle and senior team Championships at the Southgate and Potters Bar Schools A.A. meeting, and 14 of our boys represented the district at the All Middlesex Schools Championship meeting.

In the Middlesex Grammar Schools meeting held at the White City, the school team was runner-up of the Middle School Championship, and Collier and B. Cook were individual winners.

In the North Middlesex Grammar Schools A.A. meeting, the Senior and Middle School teams each gained 3rd place, while Collier and Cook each set up new records.

Collier is also to be congratulated in winning the 440 yards at the Middlesex County Junior A.A.A. Championship, while an Old Boy of the school, G. Reed won the Discus.

Finally Collier and Middleditch each broke the record in the Senior and Junior $\frac{1}{4}$ mile respectively at the All England Schools Championships at Southampton.

So much for the boys' Games and Athletics.

Compared with this the Girls have had a thin time. The one and only Hockey pitch was out of action and the weather caused the cancellation of every hockey match in the Easter Term. The two Hockey Xls however played a total of 8 matches in the year, of which one was won, one drawn and six lost - not really surprising when there was no chance of practice and coaching. Except by the teams, no Hockey whatsoever was played in the school last year. Colours were awarded to Jill Marriage and Judith Matsell.

Five Netball teams were run and again results were not good. Only one full sized court was available for all five team practices. Of a total of 28 matches, 7 were won, 5 drawn and 16 lost. Pamela Sinclair won her colours.

In Tennis our two teams played 16 matches. Each team won 4 and lost 4 and in Rounders our three teams also played 15 matches of which 5 were won, 2 drawn and 8 lost. The Inter-House Competitions were held with a victory for Green House both in Netball and Tennis. In Athletics the school was well represented in a team of girls from local schools which competed in the Middlesex Sports at the White City. In our own Athletic Sports the Inter-House Girls' House Competition was won by White House.

Both boys and girls have taken part in swimming events. It is unfortunate that we are unable to arrange regular swimming as part of the school curriculum above Form I. There are, however, voluntary swimming periods after school hours twice a week which receive a certain amount of support. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Fettes and Mr. Laxton for their help in instructing and coaching our swimmers on these occasions.

The Inter-House Swimming Competition was held in July, Green House being the eventual winner of both the boys and girls events. In October 1950 an under 15 boys' team won the Linstead Shield at the local schools Gala and last term school teams took part at the North Middlesex Grammar Schools Gala held at Wood Green and the All Middlesex Grammar Schools Gala held at Marshall Street. Though our boys and girls acquitted themselves well at this last named event, they were overshadowed by the South Middlesex schools whose standard of swimming was definitely higher.

I will now make a brief reference to the various other school activities that have taken place.

Four Verse Speaking Choirs and Eight Drama Groups were entered for the Enfield Festival. First Prizes were won by the 111 Form Choir and by 1st Form, 111rd Form and V1th Form Drama Groups.

The School Orchestra continues to meet regularly and plays twice a week at Morning Prayers. Last term they also provided incoming and outgoing voluntaries on these occasions. May I say that the School Orchestra would very much like some more recruits - particularly violin players.

The Recorder Club, with about 20 members, has met on an average once a week and has accompanied the morning hymns each Thursday.

We have also had a Senior Choir in action at Morning Prayers together with the Orchestra. It has also performed at certain school functions, such as the Open Day for Parents last term, and it forms the nucleus of the Operatic Society.

The usual Inter-House Musical Competition was held last term and we were fortunate in having as our Adjudicator, Mr. T.B. Everard, the Headmaster of this school who proceeded Mr. Auger. He awarded first place to Blue House.

Last but not least in the sphere of music and entertainment, "The Mikado" was produced last April and the performance was of the high standard we have come to expect from the Operatic Club.

Among the other clubs and societies I must mention the Discussion Group which has met regularly during the year, and also taken part in Inter-School meetings.

The Art Club has also met each week and one section of

it performed a puppet play at the Christmas parties.

The School Christian Union, the Photographic Club and the Chess Club have continued their respective healthy existences, and useful contacts with outside speakers have been arranged.

I am glad too to report more "Holidays Abroad". In the Easter holidays, 5 boys and 4 girls joined a party of 600 senior schoolboys and girls from all over the British Isles and spent 12 days in Paris. They attended conversation classes and lectures on French literature at the Sorbonne, and visited various places of interest. Also at Easter 28 girls went to Annecy and had an enjoyable time which included three long excursions. At the end of July 29 boys spent an eight day holiday in Paris and a number of visits were made to places of cultural interest in and near the city.

I mentioned a few minutes ago the list of successes gained by old pupils of the school. Might I also refer to something else connected with those that have left the School, namely the Old Scholars Association. Within this Association are contained the various clubs - the Cricket, Football, Tennis and Hockey Clubs and the Dramatic Society. All these have completed a successful year, details of which are to be found in our School Magazine. I wish to emphasize, however, that we would like to see all boys and girls who leave the School both joining the Association and also playing an active and energetic part in the conduct of its activities. A strong Old Pupils Association can do so very much good to the school, and apart from its desirable function in preserving school friendships and links with the School, it can provide so much scope for useful and enjoyable service and gives boys and girls an opportunity to repay the School for what it has given them. I would leave that thought both with present pupils, and with their parents.

I have a few words of thanks to say now. ~~Through the good offices of Miss D. E. Barham, who was Senior Mistress of the school and on the staff for 27 years.~~ The School has gratefully received the Pater Memorial Prize ^{to be awarded annually for English or Divinity.} ~~for English.~~ This has been presented by the former pupils of Wynaud House ^{school} in memory of Elizabeth Sophia Pater who was the ^{Founder and} ~~the~~ Principal ^{of} of Wynaud House and a pioneer in Education in this district at the end of the last and the early part of this century.

I must also express our gratitude to two other donors. To Miss Christine Pirrie an old pupil of the School, who has given us a

cup to be presented annually to Victrix Ludorum at the Athletic Sports. Then to Mr. F.J.C. Ingram who has presented a plaque to be awarded each year for Handicraft. This is to be known as the Ingram Handicraft Trophy.

I must also offer sincere thanks to all those whose hard work and interest in the school have played such a vital part in ensuring its continued success, the Chairman and members of the Education Committee, the Education Officer and his staff, the School Staff both teaching, administrative and domestic who have given so unsparingly of their time and energy to the School on countless occasions long after school hours.

It has been a great pleasure for me to come to this School near the end of Mr. Auger's last year, and receive from him an organization that has, I feel, both the spirited backing of the Authority, and the devoted service of the staff. Materially we have not got all we want. Forms are too large, the buildings are far too small, and certain services which all would agree are vital to any school, and certainly to a grammar school, just do not exist - I refer to such things as proper washing and changing accommodation, sufficient form rooms, adequate laboratories, especially for VI form work, and above all a proper library, without which VI form work of real maturity can never be attained.

These material deficiencies are a grievous handicap and make heavy demands upon us all. I am sure, however, that I can speak for us all when I say that, though we look to the Authority to take every possible step towards putting these things right, we ourselves will strive to maintain and indeed improve the good standards of achievement the School has heretofore produced.